

# OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 19-25, 2020

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's assembly will be held virtually and will dwell in the theme of Living Well, based on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. We're excited to be joined by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who will share more about the work of our church, preside over the bishop election process, and preach for our All-Synod Worship on Sunday morning. As we gather together, we'll also celebrate some important milestones, including:

- 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States,
- 40 years of women of color being ordained in our ELCA, and
- 10 years of same-sex married individuals being able to serve freely as rostered ministers

We will gather August 14-16. We have shifted our schedule to focus mainly on essential business, including the election of a bishop. To make this assembly both faithful and fruitful, we've scheduled blocks of time in which to conduct our essential business while also allowing adequate time for voting members to take breaks, eat meals, pray and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

We are looking for seven individuals who would be interested in attending the Assembly as lay voting members on behalf of the Olivet congregation. If you are interested in attending this year's Assembly (virtually), please contact Pastor Kris Gorden at [kgorden@olivet.org](mailto:kgorden@olivet.org) or by calling the church office at 701.235.6603.

*worship with us!*

SUNDAY,  
JULY 19

10 a.m.  
indoor in-person,  
livestream, and  
radio broadcast

WEDNESDAY,  
JULY 22

5:45 p.m.  
outdoor in-person  
worship

SUNDAY,  
JULY 26

10 a.m.  
indoor in-person,  
livestream, and  
radio broadcast

WEDNESDAY,  
JULY 29

5:45 p.m.  
outdoor in-person  
worship

## VOLUNTEERS

Now that we have returned to in-person worship, we are in need of volunteers at our worship services to serve as greeters and ushers. Our volunteers will maintain physical distance and take additional precautions for safety.

For available dates and to sign up, please visit [olivet.org](http://olivet.org) or [click here](#).

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Mornings: 10 a.m.  
Live stream on the Olivet website  
& on WDAY 970 AM  
Wednesday Evenings: 5:45 p.m.  
Live stream on the Olivet website

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Kris Gorden
Pastor	Bill Boelter
Pastor	Tiffany Sundeen
Lay Minister	Grant Vanderford
Deacon	Brenda Bauer
Music	Marlys Herring

### CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 701.235.6603  
Email: [info@Olivet.org](mailto:info@Olivet.org)  
Web: [www.Olivet.org](http://www.Olivet.org)  
App: download the MyChurch app  
or text "Olivet App" to 77977  
[Facebook.com/olivetlutheran](https://Facebook.com/olivetlutheran)  
[Instagram.com/olivet\\_fargo](https://Instagram.com/olivet_fargo)

## COUNCIL CORNER

*Written by Council President, Steve Wood*

Greetings,

I pray that everyone is having a fine summer, enjoying the perfect weather days when we get them, and I think we've settled into what we cannot do in this COVID world.

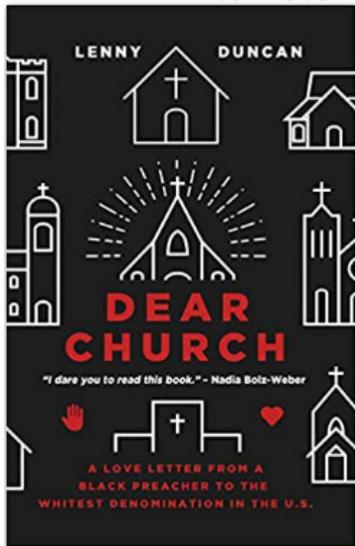
We had our first in-person service last Sunday. When you came in the door, you were greeted and asked to answer a few safety questions. Then, you had your temperature checked with a touchless device. Inside the sanctuary, every other pew was blocked off and seating was designated at the end of the pews to ensure proper distancing. We were all wearing masks and masks were available if you didn't have one. It was great to be back in the building and worship again as a group. Thanks to all those that attended.

The church continues to monitor the trend of cases in Cass county and will continue to adjust our restrictions accordingly. Fingers crossed, cases continue to decline and donuts can be offered in the fellowship hall soon.

The council will be meeting this Tuesday. Although it has been customary to take the month of July off, we felt it important to continue our support of the pastors and staff with the ever-changing opportunities and struggles.

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who continue the support of our mission and thanks to our pastors and staff for their tireless problem-solving. God is great!

## "DEAR CHURCH" BOOK DISCUSSION: SESSION 2 BEGINS THIS WEEK



This summer, we invite you to read and discuss the book [Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.](#) by Pastor Lenny Duncan. Lenny Duncan is a person of color and an ELCA pastor who invites us to honest reflection and holy action as we hear the cries of the crucified body of Christ on earth. There are no easy, simple answers to racism. But that doesn't mean we give up or give in to the sinful pandemic of institutional racism. As we continue to learn and listen together, hear this: we can and we must do better together.

You are invited to sign up to be part of a reading and listening cohort. Each cohort will consist of nine participants and one facilitator, and these groups will meet in person at Olivet under the East Entrance canopy at their designated time for four weekly sessions. Session two cohorts will meet on Tuesdays at either noon or 7 p.m.

Participants are asked to bring your own lawn chair, water, coffee or refreshments, and to wear a mask. We will practice social distancing per CDC guidelines. The church will be open for bathroom use only. In the event of inclement weather, we will move inside the church, still practicing physical distancing.

Each person will purchase the book on their own from the church for \$12 or you are welcome to purchase your copy online. Please call the church office at 701.235.6603 to secure a time to pickup your copy of the book.

[Click here](#) to sign up for a spot in a cohort. Please only submit one sign up per person.

## RETURNING TO IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

Beginning this Sunday, July 12, we shift to Phase 2 of our re-opening plan. This phase includes the addition of Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary with strict physical distancing protocols in place. Outdoor worship will be moved from Sunday evenings to Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. beginning Wednesday, July 15.

For additional details, please visit [olivet.org](http://olivet.org) or [click here](#).