

OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 15-21, 2020

GIVING TREE UPDATE

Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the hundreds of volunteers required to man an event of such magnitude, FirstLink will not be holding their annual Giving Tree of Hope this year. The giving tree has been a tradition that many look forward to participating in and we recognize that many in our community will be in need this Christmas. For this Christmas season, we will be partnering with Golden Drive Homeless Kids to collect new items/gifts for children in our community who are homeless. **Gifts will be collected now-December 10** and will be distributed through area shelters and schools prior to Christmas.

If you would like to get involved we have a drop box for **new, unwrapped items** in the vestibule at the church. If you would prefer not to shop in person, we encourage you to visit smile.amazon.com and select Olivet Lutheran Church as your charity. You can then view the wish list and ship the item(s) directly to the church.

Suggested gift ideas include:

- backpacks
- card games
- combs/brushes
- legos
- makeup set
- winter gear
- hygiene items
- hand/foot warmers
- travel games
- sippy cups
- socks/slippers
- fast food gift cards
- dvds (non-violent)
- water bottles
- teen sized sweatshirts
- beef jerky
- granola bars
- pudding
- jello
- pop tarts
- ramen noodles



Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for the kids in our community experiencing homelessness.

ADVENT 2020 GIFTS OF CARE EXCHANGE

During Advent we invite you to consider participating in our upcoming Gifts of Care exchange. Our hope for this activity is to provide opportunities for Olivet members to find unique ways to connect with one another and instill awareness of the many "gifts" each of us has to offer while loving and supporting our neighbors.

This activity is along the same idea as a "Secret Santa Gifts Exchange" however, "gifts" do not have to be material or tangible items. Rather, "gifts" that would be encouraged may include anything from a card, a phone call, baked goods dropped off, simple affirmation, prayers, etc....things that demonstrate an act of care during a time of isolation and what some individuals already find to be a time of loneliness and grief during the holiday season. If you feel compelled to give a tangible item, we ask that you keep the cost minimal and only send small gifts along with a personal note of care. Be creative. All ages are welcome to participate.

How do I get involved? Fill out the form at olivet.org or call the church office before November 19 to express your interest. You will receive your "match" and additional details the week of November 30 and be asked to make at least one connection per week through December. We hope those involved enjoy the connections that will be made and the anticipation of the Advent season.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Mornings: 10 a.m.
Live stream at olivet.org and radio
broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
Wednesday Evenings: 5:45 p.m.
Live stream at olivet.org

WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor Kris Gorden
Pastor Bill Boelter
Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
Deacon Brenda Bauer
Music Marlys Herring

CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 701.235.6603
Email: info@Olivet.org
Web: www.Olivet.org
App: download the MyChurch app
or text "Olivet App" to 77977
Facebook.com/olivetlutheran
Instagram.com/olivet_fargo

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m.-noon

BEHIND THE SCENES

Written by Sarah Lundblad, Director of Operations

Greetings Olivet Family,

I hope this update finds you doing well. Although we continue to ache to be together, we truly believe that pushing pause on our in-person activities is the responsible thing to do at this time. That being said, as we all know, the responsible thing is not always the easy thing. The church building is quiet and that leaves an enormous void in my heart and likely in yours. As staff we continue to report to the church as regularly scheduled, and while we miss the energy of Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and so many busy times in between, we are grateful that we are able to continue our mission within these walls. Your calls and emails are such a blessing to receive and we treasure each conversation and connection we get to make during this different and difficult time.

While the pews may be empty during worship and Fellowship Hall is seeing less activity than it ever has, there is still plenty happening here at the church. October-December is the busiest time of the year at Olivet. From planning Advent activities, Christmas Eve worship services, Christmas Eve dinner, budgeting for the upcoming year, scheduling guest musicians, the various parish health ministries, and community outreach, we each have a role in ensuring everything we would like to accomplish is achieved. This year many of the events and activities we have come to know and love look a little different but our team continues to find ways to share the Good News. Our council, staff, and volunteer planning committees have consistently risen to the challenge of finding new and innovative ways to continue our mission within the parameters that have been set forth.

Here is what we know and ways you can be involved:

- We will not be gathering in-person for Christmas Eve worship (unless we see a steady decline of new/active cases in our state), however, we are working on new and innovative ways to continue our worship with many of the elements you have come to know and love over the years, including familiar hymns, readings, and worship leaders.
- Although there will not be a children's Christmas music program this year, there will be a chance to see some of our younger members in action during the Children's worship service on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to be involved, please contact Michelle Elness at melness@olivet.org.
- While the Christmas Eve dinner will not be taking place within the walls of Olivet, our team is hard at work with community partners to ensure those most vulnerable in our community receive a hot meal on Christmas Eve. To donate to the Christmas Eve dinner, visit olivet.org and click on "give" and select Christmas Eve dinner or mail a check to the church office.
- Although the giving tree as we have known it in the past is not taking place, we have an opportunity to help the homeless children in our community. Check out the article on the front page to find out more.
- Instead of accepting monetary donations for poinsettias for the sanctuary, you will have the opportunity to donate to the "I Love my Church" appeal that supports our mission in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- Our in-house volunteer opportunities are extremely limited, but we do have ways to engage and connect with others in our congregation in safe and meaningful ways, such as the Advent Gifts of Care exchange highlighted on the front page or volunteering as a reader for any of our Sunday worship services.
- We continue to pray. For those in our congregation, for those in our community, and for those around the world. We know and believe in the power of prayer. If you would like to be added to our prayer list or would like to join the prayer chain, let us know.
- And finally, we know that **God is good**, all the time.

My hope is that as you have heard us talking about being Church on Purpose over the past few weeks, you have taken some time to reflect on what that means to you in your life. As we continue to share ideas and suggestions, we invite you to take action to fulfill the needs of our congregation and our community. We encourage you to be intentional, to love your neighbor, and to be generous with your time and resources. Now is the time to be the Church on Purpose.



WAYS YOU CAN BE Church ON PURPOSE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- NOVEMBER 1-30** ● **BE GENEROUS.**
Streaming Equipment Blackout Bingo: Help support the cost of upgrading our streaming equipment.
- NOVEMBER 15-30** ● **BE GENEROUS**
Stewardship: Return your completed pledge card for the upcoming year to assist the Church council with budgeting/mission planning for 2021.
- NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 10** ● **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**
Giving Tree: Donate new items and gifts for the children in our community who are facing homelessness.
- NOVEMBER 19-DECEMBER 31** ● **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**
Advent Gifts of Care Exchange: Create a connection with someone in our congregation.
- NOVEMBER 15** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
- NOVEMBER 18** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org
- NOVEMBER 22** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
- NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 15** ● **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**
Christmas Eve Dinner Fundraising: Provide a warm meal on Christmas Eve for our communities most vulnerable.
- NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 31** ● **BE GENEROUS**
I Love My Church: Participate in our end of the year mission appeal. Donate in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- NOVEMBER 25** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org
- NOVEMBER 29** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
Pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- DECEMBER 2** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org
- DECEMBER 6** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
Pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- DECEMBER 9** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org
- DECEMBER 13** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
Pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- DECEMBER 16** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org
- DECEMBER 20** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
Pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- DECEMBER 24** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 3 p.m. Children's Service - and - 4:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols at olivet.org
- DECEMBER 25** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ
- DECEMBER 27** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 10 a.m. livestream at olivet.org & radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM
- DECEMBER 30** ● **BE INTENTIONAL**
Worship: 5:45 p.m. livestream at olivet.org

CHURCH ON PURPOSE: STEWARDSHIP 2021

Even in a time of great uncertainty, there are a few things of which we can be certain. We are certain the love of God in Christ Jesus for each us is always true and sure. And we are certain that together, we can be Church on Purpose. Through Olivet's 2021 mission plan, our goal is to tend and nourish each other to grow together in that promise.

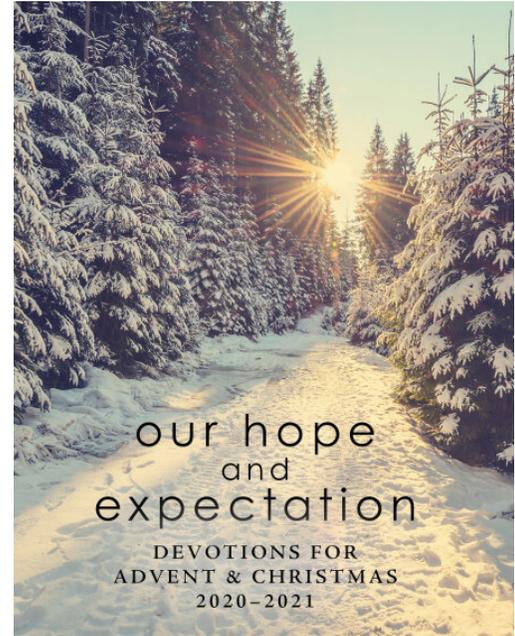
You should have received a pledge card in the mail. We ask that you complete the pledge card and return it to the church office prior to the end of November to allow us to begin budgeting for the upcoming year. You can mail your card to the church or pledge online at olivet.org. The first 125 pledge cards to be returned online or by mail will receive a coupon for a Sandy's donut.

Be intentional. Love your neighbor. Be generous.
Now is the time to be Church on Purpose.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL: AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

Our Hope and Expectation explores the Advent season and celebrates the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany. It includes daily devotions for Sundays and festival days between the first Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2020) and Epiphany (January 6, 2021). In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations.

Although the print format is currently sold out for the season, you can still purchase this as an eBook at the following locations: Amazon Kindle, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble Nook, Google Play Books, Kobo Reader, and Overdrive.



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E	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Q	●	●	●	●	\$80	\$85	●	●	●
U	●	●	\$125	\$130	●	●	\$145	●	●
I	●	●	\$175	\$180	●	●	\$195	●	●
P	●	\$220	●	●	●	\$240	\$245	●	\$255
M	●	●	●	\$280	\$285	●	●	●	●
E	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
N	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

STREAMING EQUIPMENT BLACKOUT BINGO UPDATE

Wow! Your response to our Blackout Bingo appeal is amazing. We are excited to share that we well on our way to a blackout! If you are interested in participating, you can mail a check to the church office or donate via our website at olivet.org and click on "give."

OLIVET BOUTIQUE

Head over to the Olivet Boutique and check out the newest additions to the lineup. Perfect for Christmas gifts or to spruce up your own wardrobe, the online boutique is now open and will remain **open for orders until November 22**. Click on the Olivet Boutique event olivet.org.

COVID-19 UPDATE

In-person gatherings at Olivet are suspended until further notice

Worship Opportunities:

Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m. (livestream at olivet.org & on WDAY 970 AM)

Wednesday Evenings: 5:45 p.m. (livestream at olivet.org)

As an additional precaution, we are limiting outside visitors during this timeframe. Please call 701.235.6603 Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30 & Friday 8:30-noon for access to the church.