



THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

MARCH 15-28, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting for the first time or Olivet is your church home, you are truly welcome. During this Lenten and Easter season, we invite you to pause, reflect, and experience the hope and love of Christ as we worship together. If you're new or would like to learn more about life at Olivet, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Atrium or fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We would love to connect with you.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of vibrant plants, lilies, and palms to be used throughout the Sanctuary and Atrium for Easter, please complete and return the form inside your weekly worship bulletin or stop by the church office. Your donation may be given in memory or in honor of someone or something special in your life.

CEREAL SUNDAY WAS A SUCCESS

We are incredibly grateful to our entire congregation for making Cereal Sunday such a wonderful success! From our Sunday and Wednesday School students to confirmation families and every member who brought a box (or several!), your generosity truly filled our shelves.

Because of you, the Olivet Food Pantry is now stocked with an amazing variety of cereals that will help provide simple, nourishing breakfasts for families in our community. Every donation makes a difference, and this outpouring of support is a beautiful reflection of who we are together. Thank you for showing up in such a big way. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring and generous church family.

BE PART OF HOLY WEEK & EASTER

As we prepare for some of the most meaningful worship services of the year, we're seeking a few more volunteers to serve as ushers, greeters, readers, and communion servers. Holy Week and Easter bring many guests and families to worship, and your presence helps create a warm, welcoming experience for all. If you can lend a hand at one (or more) services, we would truly appreciate it. Visit olivet.org/signup to view available opportunities, or contact Carrie at cschieve@olivet.org with any questions. Thank you for helping make this season special at Olivet.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY (March 29)

9-11:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion & Palm Parade

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion & Palm Parade

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 2)

12 p.m. Worship with Communion

5-5:55 p.m. Dinner

6 p.m. Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY (April 3)

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

EASTER SUNDAY (April 5)

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship with Communion

8 a.m. Traditions Easter Worship with Communion

9:30 a.m. Traditions Easter Worship with Communion

11 a.m. Celebrate! Easter Worship with Communion

NURSERY HOURS DURING HOLY WEEK

Children are always welcome in worship at Olivet. However, if you prefer to use the nursery during worship, it will be available at the times listed below. Our nursery welcomes infants through 3-year-olds and provides a safe, caring space for your little ones.

Maundy Thursday: 6 p.m. service

Easter Sunday: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

10 a.m. radio broadcast on WDAY 970 AM & 93.1 FM

Wednesday: 6 p.m.

Online anytime at Olivet.org

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Senior Pastor

Kris Gorden

Pastor

Bill Boelter

Pastor

Hope Deutscher

Visitation Pastor

Mark Asleson

CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 701.235.6603

Email: info@Olivet.org

Web: www.Olivet.org

Facebook.com/[olivetlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/olivetlutheran)

Instagram.com/[olivet_fargo](https://www.instagram.com/olivet_fargo)

OLIVET GIVING DAY

On **Thursday, April 9**, Olivet will host a special 24-hour Olivet Giving Day, an invitation for our church family to come together in support of the everyday ministries that make Olivet such a vibrant place of faith, service, and connection.

Every day at Olivet, meaningful things are happening. In worship, we are renewed. In classrooms and youth gatherings, faith is growing. In moments of prayer and pastoral care, comfort is given. Around tables and in hallways, friendships are formed, and lives are strengthened. These moments may feel ordinary, but they are sacred, and they are made possible by a generous and faithful community.

Olivet Giving Day is a simple yet powerful invitation: to give in gratitude for what this church has meant to you, and to invest in the ministry that continues to shape lives here and beyond our walls. Every gift, no matter the size, helps sustain worship, outreach, music, learning, and care throughout the year.

Your generosity supports ministries that touch every generation, from children and youth discovering their faith, to adults growing in community, to those in need receiving care and support. Together, our gifts help ensure that Olivet continues to be a place where people are welcomed, nurtured, and sent out to serve.

On Olivet Giving Day, we invite you to pause for a moment, reflect on the ways Olivet has impacted your life, and consider making a gift that will help carry this ministry forward. When we give together, even in small ways, we become part of something larger, supporting the mission and ministry that continues to bless our church and community every day.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Adventure awaits at Camp VBS: Faith on the Trail! Join us **June 8-11** from **9-11:30 a.m.** for a week of faith-filled fun. Kids 4 years of age through 5th grade will enjoy music, games, crafts, and camp-style activities as we grow together in faith. Registration opens April 1, and the cost is \$25 per child. Grab a friend and join us on the trail!

YOUTH STOCK SALES

On **April 13-16**, from **5:30-8:30 p.m.**, the Olivet Youth will be calling members to invite them to support our youth by purchasing “stock” in Olivet Youth. Each share is \$20, with half of each gift going directly into the student’s individual youth account, and the other half supporting Olivet’s youth ministries.

Youth: sign up at olivet.org/signup to participate. This is a great way to raise funds for upcoming summer trips!

4TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS

Fourth graders and their parents are invited to 4th Grade Confirmation on **Sunday, March 22 (9:30-10:20 a.m.)** or **Wednesday, March 25 (6-6:50 p.m.)** to learn about personal and family devotions. Families will complete a daily devotion book together at home over the course of about a month, providing a meaningful way to grow in faith through Bible reading and reflection.

CELEBRATING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We’re excited to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our high school seniors! On **Sunday, May 17**, we’ll recognize and pray for our graduates during the 9 a.m. worship service.

Following worship, seniors and their families are invited to a special brunch in Fellowship Hall, where each graduate will receive a beautiful quilt lovingly made by the Olivet Quilters.

To feature your graduate in our recognition slideshow, the Emblem, and on social media, please submit a photo and complete the form at olivet.org/signup by Sunday, April 20. We can’t wait to celebrate this special milestone with you!

First Communion

On **Maundy Thursday**, these Olivet students will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion during worship. We give thanks for each of them and invite you to keep them in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ.

- Ben Ackley
- Finn Ackley
- Blakely Anderson
- Joseph Anderson
- Grayce Barbot
- Beck Barnacle
- Ty Barnacle
- Liam Boelter
- Korbin Bruggeman
- Maddon Burgard
- Gavin Eggen
- Levi Garcia
- Caleb Huber
- Elaine Irvin
- Emelyn Jenson
- Aniyah Kargbo
- Avery Larson
- Bria Matzke
- Lilly Medbery
- Melody Meyers
- Ian Mohs
- Easton Redlinger
- Olivia Roland
- Cannon Snow

THE JESUS WAY

What does it really mean to follow Jesus?

Worship shapes us into the likeness of Jesus, renewing our hearts through prayer, scripture, service, and community. During this Lenten season, our Wednesday series invites us to consider what it truly means to follow Jesus. Join us for the final two Wednesdays of Lent as we continue this journey of renewal together.

March 18 Luke 10:25-37 Jesus defines our neighbor
March 25 Mark 10:32-35 Jesus redefines greatness

LENTEN MEALS

Throughout Lent, Olivet youth will serve Wednesday evening meals, the Maundy Thursday dinner, and Palm Sunday breakfast. Meals support youth trips and activities. Join us before worship for good food and fellowship! Suggested donation: \$8/adult, \$5/child. All dinners include rolls and dessert.

March 18: Beef stew, salad

March 25: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn

Palm Sunday, March 29: Egg bake, fruit

Maundy Thursday, April 2: Soups, artisan breads, salad

Confirmation students—looking to earn money toward trips or retreats? You can sign up to work additional Wednesday Lenten meals at www.olivet.org/signup.

BIBLE STUDIES, BOOK STUDIES & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

IF:ONE NIGHT: FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

On Friday, February 27, Olivet women gathered for IF:OneNight, led by Pastor Hope, for an evening marked by connection, encouragement, and spiritual renewal. The evening began with dinner and fellowship before joining the live IF:Gathering broadcast from Dallas, TX. 2,700 IF:Locals from 50 U.S. cities and 34 countries around the world joined the broadcast to worship and hear powerful messages from speakers, including Jennie Allen, Christine Caine, and Francis Chan. Throughout the night, women were reminded that our time is short, our purpose is clear, and our shared calling is to follow Jesus and help others come to know Him.



WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith will gather to watch three video sessions from “*Feast: A Virtual Event with Kristi McLelland*” and rediscover the beauty of Sabbath as God intended, not just as a day of rest, but as sacred time for presence, renewal, and provision. Sessions meet **March 16, & 23 at 1 p.m.** and **March 19 & 26 at 6:30 p.m.** This study is free; no registration is required, and all women are welcome.

THE GATHER CIRCLE

The Gather Circle meets from **9–11 a.m.** on **March 17** in Fellowship Hall for a morning of fellowship and Bible study as the group continues *Experiencing God’s Presence* by Sarah Young. Come connect, reflect, and grow together in faith. All are welcome, and books are available through Pastor Hope if needed.

RESILIENCE RETREAT

On **Thursday, March 26**, from **3–7 p.m.**, *Building Resilience: Honoring the Broken Pieces of Our Lives* will be held in the Lounge. Led by Pastor Hope Deutscher and Parish Nurse Bev Gravdahl, this retreat provides an opportunity to pause, reflect, and explore how God meets us in life’s broken places with healing, strength, and hope. Through conversation, worship, and guided reflection, participants will be encouraged to see their stories with grace and renewed perspective. Registration is required by March 23. The cost is \$15. Sign up at olivet.org/signup or stop by the church office to register.

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

OPEN FORUM

Join us at 9:30 a.m. for an Open Forum on **Sunday, March 22**, in Fellowship Hall. This will be an opportunity to check in as a congregation, review the approved budget, and share updates on where we are and where we’re headed. We encourage you to attend, ask questions, and be part of the conversation as we continue moving forward together.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

CELEBRATE JAZZ SUNDAY AT OLIVET

Jazz Sunday is returning to Olivet on April 19! We’re thrilled to welcome an outstanding group of jazz musicians from the Fargo–Moorhead area for a morning of vibrant, joy-filled worship. There will be two identical worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Invite a friend and come celebrate the incredible musical talent in our community, and right here at Olivet!

EVENT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.
No Sunday School

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.
Food Pantry Distribution: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Men's Morning Coffee: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Gather Circle Bible Study: 9-11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Quilters: 9-11 a.m.
Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.
No Youth Activities

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Open Forum: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
4th Grade Confirmation Class: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Men's Morning Coffee: 7:30-8:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Quilters: 9-11 a.m.
Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
4th Grade Confirmation Class: 6-7 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Wednesday School: 6-6:50 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Resilient Retreat: 3-7 p.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Breakfast: 9-11:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Palm Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Men's Morning Coffee: 7:30-8:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Quilters: 9-11 a.m.
Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.
No Youth Activities

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship: 12 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
First Communion: 6-7 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship: 6 p.m.

MILESTONES & MEMORIALS: FEBRUARY 2026

BAPTISMS

February 22, 2026: Allison Braun, daughter of Kody and Madison Braun

February 27, 2026: Erin Noelle Vanderburg, daughter of Kyle and Cassie Vanderburg

MEMBER DEATHS

February 5, 2026: Beverly Fisher

February 7, 2026: William Lorenz

February 18, 2026: Gail Leikas

MEMORIALS

Thank you to those who gave in honor or memory of their family and friends.

GIFTED FOR MISSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- In memory of Bev Fisher by Ken & Diane Rheault
- In memory of Odell Krohn by Bobbi Carney

BIBLE STUDY OFFERING

- In memory of Odell Krohn by Gayle Waale

CHOIR

- In memory of Gary Gonser by Bruce & Janice Anderson, Mark Anderson, Kathy Braaten, Jan Judisch, Bob & Gail Monson, Gary & Mary Ann Ouradnik, Dawn Tyson, Wilbur & Carolyn Wright

I LOVE MY CHURCH

- In loving memory of Donna Suckut & John "Mike" Rostad by Jeff & Teresa Huff
- In memory of Bev Fisher by Bobbi Carney, Randall & Susan Eider, Sharon Heley, Todd & Wanda Meyers, Wilbur & Carolyn Wright
- In memory of Donna Suckut by Wilbur & Carolyn Wright
- In memory of Gary Gonser by Marge Krohn
- In memory of John "Mike" Rostad by Wilbur & Carolyn Wright, Jerry & Tami Rostad
- In memory of Odell Krohn by Betty Patterson
- In memory of Rev. Allan Turmo by Wilbur & Carolyn Wright

MORTGAGE PAYOFF

- In memory of Bev Fischer by Neil & Lois Larson
- In memory of Odell Krohn by his family & friends
- In memory of Gary Gonser by Leonard Fetzer, Donna Lewis
- In memory of Odell Krohn by Leonard Fetzer, Kim Gunderson, Jerry & Deanne Larson, Neil & Lois Larson, Donna Lewis, Norma Jean Neumiller, Gary & Mary Ann Ouradnik, Ray & Lois Shannon, Carol Stensgard, Myrna Wold, Wilbur & Carolyn Wright

OLIVET FOOD PANTRY

- In memory of Odell Krohn by Kathy Braaten, Jan Judisch, Curt & Sue Lindlauf, Bob & Gail Monson, Lisa Udem

OLIVET FOUNDATION

- In memory of Odell Krohn by Roberta Vegoe

QUILTERS

- In memory of Bev Fisher by Mark Anderson, Bob & Gail Monson, Mary Stenson, Rhonda Jordahl, Gary & Mary Ann Ouradnik

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING THIS SUMMER

We are excited to share that we anticipate our new church directory to be ready later this summer. This has been a significant project, and we appreciate your patience as we continue working behind the scenes to bring it all together.

Creating a new directory requires time, coordination, and careful attention to detail. From scheduling photography sessions and gathering updated contact information to organizing layouts, reviewing submissions, and proofreading each page, there are many important steps involved. Our goal is to ensure the final directory is accurate, complete, and a meaningful resource for our congregation.

Thank you for your patience and support as we put the finishing touches on this important project. We can't wait to share the new directory with you this summer!

Newsletter

MARCH 2026

MARCH HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- National Nutrition Month
- National Kidney Month
- National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
- Brain Awareness Month
- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month
- National Poison Prevention Month

LIVING WELL, LIVING LONG

When we hear the word longevity, we often think about simply living longer. But research shows the real goal is a longer healthspan, living more years with strength, independence, purpose, and connection.

Studies of long-living populations around the world have identified several common habits that support healthy aging. Many of these align closely with values we already nurture in faith communities.

Purpose matters. Having a reason to get up each day, through faith, family, service, or volunteering, has been linked to better physical health, lower rates of depression, and longer life.

Relationships support health. Strong connections with family, friends, and community play an important role in both emotional and physical well-being. Faith communities naturally provide opportunities for meaningful relationships and support.

Move naturally. Everyday activities such as walking, gardening, stretching, and staying active throughout the day help maintain strength, mobility, and independence as we age.

Care for mind and spirit. Practices such as prayer, reflection, gratitude, worship, and time in nature support emotional and spiritual well-being.

Research reminds us that while we cannot control everything about our health, the daily choices we make, staying connected, living with purpose, caring for our bodies and spirits, can help support a long and meaningful life.

COMMUNION COMPANION LUNCHEON



Thank you to all who joined us for our gathering in February, sharing a delicious meal, devotions, and fellowship. You are all such a blessing to the Olivet congregation and beyond! If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this ministry, please connect with Bev Gravdahl or one of our pastors.

RESILIENCE RETREAT

On **Thursday, March 26**, from **3–7 p.m.**, join us for *Building Resilience: Honoring the Broken Pieces of Our Lives* in the Lounge. Led by Pastor Hope Deutscher and Parish Nurse Bev Gravdahl, this retreat offers time for reflection, conversation, and worship as we explore how God brings healing and hope through life's challenges. Registration is required by March 23. Cost is \$15. Sign up at olivet.org/signup or in the church office.

AGE MASTERY CLASS

A few spots are still available for the Age Mastery Program, held **Wednesdays from 1–2:30 p.m., March 11–May 13**, in the Upper Room. This free, ten-class series from NDSU Extension explores topics that support healthy aging. Sign up in the church office. Questions? Contact Bev Gravdahl at bgravdahl@olivet.org.

SAVE THE DATE

T'AI CHI CHIH CLASS COMING TO OLIVET THIS SPRING

T'ai Chi Chih is a mindfulness moving meditation. The movements are soft, flowing, and easy to learn. Benefits may include peace of mind, improved health, and, simply joy. Look for more information coming soon!

THE ROLE OF HEALTH MINISTRY IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Healthy aging and wellness do not happen in isolation. They grow within relationships, compassion, and community. This is where the health ministry becomes an important part of the life of the church.

Health Ministry is a unique expression of the church's calling to care for one another. It recognizes that health is not only physical, but also emotional, spiritual, relational, and mental.

As a result health ministry often works quietly behind the scenes, walking alongside individuals and families during times when life feels especially vulnerable.



Sometimes this support looks like offering health education and wellness programs that help people make informed decisions about their health. At other times, it may involve helping someone navigate a difficult diagnosis, supporting a caregiver, visiting someone who is homebound, or connecting individuals with helpful resources during a challenging season of life.

In many cases, health ministry meets people at moments when they may feel overwhelmed, alone, or uncertain. Having someone who understands both healthcare systems and the importance of spiritual care can help bring reassurance, guidance, and hope.

A parish nurse or health minister often serves as a bridge, helping connect faith, health, and community support. This work may include:

- providing health education and wellness resources
- supporting individuals and families during illness or recovery
- offering prayer, listening, and spiritual encouragement
- connecting people with community services or healthcare resources
- supporting caregivers and those experiencing grief or life transitions
- promoting healthy aging and prevention through education, programming, or health clinics on-site

Much of this ministry happens quietly and personally, often through conversations, visits, phone calls, or moments of prayer and encouragement.

In many ways, health ministry reflects the compassionate model of care we see throughout the ministry of Jesus, meeting people where they are, offering comfort, and helping restore hope and well-being.

As our congregation continues to grow and age, ministries that support healthy living, connection, and compassionate care become increasingly important. Through education, encouragement, and presence, health ministry seeks to help our church community live well, care for one another, and walk together through every season of life.

GRIEF RESOURCES

If you or someone you love is experiencing grief, please know you are not alone. Grief resources and supportive conversations are available for anyone who may find them helpful. You are welcome to reach out to Bev Gravdahl or one of our pastors if you would like to connect. Because grief looks different for everyone, support can be helpful at any stage. Our next GriefShare support group will begin this fall.

FOOT CARE

Olivet is a host site for Healthy Feet ND, a mobile foot care program that provides foot care for adults. These services are in conjunction with area nursing and C.N.A. programs and are available by appointment only. To make an appointment or if you have questions, please contact Bev Gravdahl, Parish Nurse, at healthyfeetnd@gmail.com.

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, homebound, or sick and would like a visit, please reach out to one of our pastors or Parish Nurse Bev Gravdahl by calling the church office at 701-235-6603.

AED | FIRST AID KIT

In the event of a medical emergency, an AED and First Aid Kit are located on the wall outside of the main office, at the bottom of the stairway.