



THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

MARCH 29-APRIL 11, 2026

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS

A blessed Easter to all, and thank you for worshiping with us at Olivet. Whether you are exploring faith more deeply or searching for a church home, we're so glad you're here. Throughout this Lenten season, we have been walking the Jesus Way, following Christ in love, humility, and grace. That journey doesn't end on Easter morning; it continues as we live out our faith each day, shaped by the hope of the resurrection.

At Olivet, you can expect messages rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus, messages of hope and renewal, grace and acceptance, and a call to live with purpose and compassion in the world.

Here, you'll find opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service, alongside a community of people from many different backgrounds and life experiences. Together, we are centered in the crucified and risen Jesus, and we are blessed to live, work, worship, and serve side by side. Our prayer is that all may Encounter Jesus and Experience Grace as we continue walking the Jesus Way together.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

WORSHIP THROUGH HOLY WEEK & CELEBRATE EASTER AT OLIVET

Holy Week is here, a sacred season filled with anticipation, reflection, and awe. It is a week of remembrance, sorrow, and deep joy, as we journey through the story at the heart of our faith. In these holy days, we are invited to pause, reflect, and draw near to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This week, we offer several opportunities to worship:

- **Maundy Thursday: 12 & 6 p.m.** We remember the Last Supper, where Jesus shared a meal with his disciples, washed their feet, and gave the gift of Holy Communion. The evening service is especially meaningful as many of our young people receive their First Communion.
- **Good Friday: 7:30 p.m.** We gather for Tenebrae, a powerful service of light and darkness. Through scripture and music, we reflect on the depth of Christ's sacrifice.
- **Easter Sunday: 6:30, 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.** We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life. Easter is a joyful reminder that hope is alive and made new each day.

To learn more about Holy Week and Easter worship, visit Olivet.org/Easter. Wherever you find yourself, we invite you to walk the way of Jesus this season, rooted in love, shaped by grace, and led by hope. As always, there is a place for you here.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

PALM SUNDAY

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship
12 p.m. & 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

GOOD FRIDAY

Worship
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

EASTER

Worship
6:30, 8, 9:30, & 11 a.m.

Children are always welcome in worship, but for those who prefer, the nursery will be available during the following services:

- **Maundy Thursday:** 6 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday:** 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Senior Pastor Kris Gorden
Pastor Bill Boelter
Pastor Hope Deutscher
Visitation Pastor Mark Asleson

CONNECT WITH US

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

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb...she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus...Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!", (which means Teacher). — John 20:11, 14, 16

There's a place here for you.

Amid the Olivet community, we strive so that all people may Encounter Jesus and Experience Grace. Whether you've been here a short period, all your life, or this is your first visit, may you know there is a place here for you as we trust the Spirit of Jesus shows up among us.

Through Holy Week, we hear the drama unfold from the Palm Sunday parade to the Last Supper, the crucifixion, and finally the victory of Easter Resurrection. How very much like our lives. We experience all these ups and downs throughout our days. Whatever joy or sorrow you bring today, there's a place here for you.

We may all relate to Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Confusion, grief, and the possibility of hope all surround her after viewing the empty grave. So much so that she cannot recognize the crucified and risen Jesus before her very eyes. If you ever experience life situations that cloud the presence of the Divine in your life, there's a place here for you.

From all the biblical characters, we discover the full range of human emotions and experiences. Like trust, doubt, misunderstanding, confusion, faith, courage, cowardice, betrayal, bold following, and questions about what God is up to in the world. At Olivet, we help each other through all these things, worship, learn, and serve together.

If you seek community and somewhere to belong, there's a place here for you.

- Pastor Kris Gorden

UPCOMING WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATE JAZZ SUNDAY

Jazz Sunday is 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!

MUSIC SUNDAY & SUMMER SCHEDULE KICKOFF

We will begin our summer worship schedule on **Sunday, May 10**, with one service at **9 a.m.** This Music Sunday will be filled with amazing music from the youth choir, bell choir, Olivet choir, additional ensembles, and the Celebrate! band.

MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM & FINAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION

Join us at **6 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 6**, in the Sanctuary for a special evening of worship. Our Pre-K through 5th-grade Sunday and Wednesday School students will share a Mother's Day program, coming together to sing one final time this school year. It is also the final evening of Wednesday activities, including dinner, confirmation, Wednesday School, and youth choir. We are so grateful for a year of growth and connection and invite you to join us.

QUILTERS WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

Join us as we celebrate the creativity and dedication of the Olivet Quilters. Quilts crafted over the past year will be draped on the pews in the Sanctuary on **Wednesday, May 6**, and **Sunday, May 10**. Each quilt will be available for purchase for \$100, with proceeds supporting supplies for future quilting seasons.

In addition, a selection of quilts will be included in a silent auction taking place from Wednesday, May 6, through Sunday, May 10. We invite you to stop by the Atrium to view the quilts and place your bids. The silent auction will close on Sunday, May 10.

Any remaining quilts will be donated to local charities and to Lutheran World Relief, sharing warmth, comfort, and care with those who need it most.

OLIVET SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORT OLIVET'S RADIO MINISTRY

Olivet's worship services are shared beyond our walls through our radio broadcast, offering a meaningful way to stay connected in faith, especially for those who are unable to join us in person. You are invited to help support this ministry by sponsoring a broadcast. Each sponsorship is \$230 and may be given in honor or in memory of a loved one. It's a simple way to celebrate someone special while also helping extend the reach of our worship to others in our community. If you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast or would like more information, please contact the church office at 701.235.6603. Thank you for helping us share God's word with those near and far.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We're off to a steady start in 2026! Overall revenue is slightly ahead of budget, even though regular offerings came in just under budget at 98%. Early in the year, an unexpected boiler repair required significant work to keep our building warm and welcoming. Thanks to careful planning, these costs were covered using funds the Council had set aside for capital needs—allowing us to respond promptly without interrupting ministry. Expenses remain closely aligned with the budget, and we are currently in a slightly stronger financial position than expected for this point in the year.

GIFTED FOR MISSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We started 2026 with a mortgage balance of \$384,503. At the March Council meeting, a \$75,000 payment was approved, bringing our balance below \$300,000! This milestone is an exciting step forward in our commitment to long-term financial health.

OLIVET GIVING DAY

We will host our first Olivet Giving Day on April 9, a 24-hour opportunity to support the everyday ministries that shape life at our church. This special day is a simple, meaningful way for all of us to come together and help address our approved budget deficit, without reducing the programs and ministries that matter so much to our community.

Giving Day was designed to provide a simple way to plug in and contribute, strengthening our financial foundation for the months ahead and ensuring that worship, learning, outreach, and care continue to flourish. Your donations support the general budget, which supports the parts of Olivet that mean the most to you—including worship, youth ministry, Wednesday night dinners, special music, and even the simple joy of donuts on a Sunday morning. It's all made possible through the generosity we share.

On April 9, we will come together as a church family to sustain and grow the ministries that impact lives every single day, within our walls and far beyond them. If Olivet has been a place where you've experienced connection, support, or growth in your faith, this is an opportunity to give back and help make that same impact possible for others.

As we approach Giving Day, we invite you to begin preparing your heart for this day of gratitude and generosity. Whether you choose to give early, on April 9, or by simply sharing this opportunity with others, every act of generosity matters. Together, we are part of something meaningful, something that continues to change lives.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and stewardship, which sustain and grow the ministries of Olivet in meaningful ways.

JANUARY 1-FEBRUARY 28, 2026

	Actual	Budget	vs. Budget
Offerings	\$307,826.73	\$314,062.65	\$-6,235.92
Other Income	\$34,788.72	\$27,451.00	\$7,337.72
Total Income	\$342,615.45	\$341,513.65	\$1,101.80
Expenses	\$244,843.74	\$244,146.49	\$697.25
Net Revenue	\$97,771.71	\$97,367.16	\$404.55

NOISY OFFERING

Get ready for one of the most fun (and loud!) moments of the morning, Noisy Offering is happening on **Sunday, April 12!** During worship, kids are invited to come forward with their coins in hand and make some noise by dropping them into metal pots up front. It's clanky, it's joyful, and it's a whole lot of fun! Every coin adds up to support the ministry we share, and every clang is a reminder that giving can be full of energy and joy. So bring your coins, because on this Sunday, the louder, the better!

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to all who serve so faithfully at Olivet. Thank you for showing up on weekends, throughout the week, and in the many in-between moments that often go unnoticed. Thank you for sharing your time, your gifts, and your compassion in service to God and this community. The countless acts of care, both seen and unseen, make a meaningful and lasting difference.

Olivet would not be the same without you. Whether you are welcoming others at the door, teaching and mentoring our children and youth, assisting in worship, preparing meals, capturing moments, offering prayer, or serving quietly behind the scenes, your presence and dedication are essential to the life of this church. Through your service, you reflect the love of Jesus in tangible ways and help create a welcoming, vibrant, and deeply connected community. Because of you, people experience belonging, find hope, and grow in their faith.

With sincere gratitude, thank you for all you give and for the countless ways you help shape the life of Olivet.

EVENT SCHEDULE

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

Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 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. (menu: soups, artisan breads, salad, and dessert)
First Communion: 6-7 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship: 6 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Traditional Worship: 8 a.m.
Easter Sunday Traditional Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Celebrate! Worship: 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

Building Closed

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

OLIVET GIVING DAY

MomCo: 9-11 a.m.
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Friday Fellowship: 2-3 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

NOISY OFFERING

Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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!

MENTOR NIGHT

Our final Mentor Night of the school year will be held on **Wednesday, April 29**. Students are encouraged to invite their mentor to join them for Confirmation at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you there!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Adventure is calling at Camp VBS: Faith on the Trail! Join us on **June 8-11** from **9-11:30 a.m.** for an unforgettable week of faith-filled fun. Kids ages 4 through 5th grade will enjoy music, games, crafts, and exciting camp-style activities as we explore and grow in faith together. Registration opens April 1, and the cost is \$25 per child. Grab a friend, lace up your boots, and join us on the trail. It's going to be a great adventure!

BIBLE STUDIES, BOOK STUDIES & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Friday Fellowship on **April 10** at **2 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall, where guest presenter Jay Goos of the Kringen Accordion Band from the Sons of Norway will share "Free-Reed Instruments: Harmonicas and Squeezeboxes." Through a mix of live demonstrations and video, he'll explore the many types of harmonicas, concertinas, and accordions used in music around the world. All are welcome!

OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

March was a record-setting month for the Olivet Food Pantry, with more than 300 families served and 8,000 pounds of food distributed. This impact is made possible by the incredible dedication of our volunteers and community partners.

Service Sunday kicked things off with 150 food boxes packed in under 40 minutes. That momentum carried into Monday as volunteers unloaded two Great Plains Food Bank trucks in record time. During our March 16 distribution, with support from the Growing Together Community Gardens and a special connection thanks to Jack Wood, 140 families were served in just under two hours.

We are extremely grateful for the commitment of our Olivet members and community partners as we continue working together to address food insecurity. **To help keep our shelves stocked, we are currently in need of canned soups, tomato products, pasta sauce, and toilet paper.**

COME EXPLORE THE OLIVET LIBRARY

When was the last time you took a moment to explore the Olivet library? Our dedicated volunteers have been diligently working behind the scenes to refresh and organize our collection. You'll currently find a wonderful selection of Easter-themed books on display alongside titles for all ages, from children to adults. We invite you to stop in, explore, and enjoy this special space. The Olivet library is truly one of our treasures.