



THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

APRIL 26-MAY 9, 2026

A DAY OF GENEROSITY



April 9 was more than a date on the calendar; it became a meaningful reflection of what makes Olivet such a vibrant and caring community. During Giving Day, we came together in a shared commitment to support the ministries that shape our life of faith, service, and connection.

What stood out most was the depth and reach of that support. It came from every corner of Olivet; members, families, volunteers, and friends, each person showing up in their own way, yet united in purpose. It was a powerful reminder that our strength is found not only in what we do, but in how we show up for one another.

More than anything, the day pointed us back to what we hold in common: the relationships that ground us, the everyday moments that matter, and the faith that continues to guide and sustain us.

Because of your generosity, we raised over \$44,000 on Giving Day, along with an additional \$700 through the Noisy Offering.

Thank you for being part of this day, and for continuing to invest in the life and mission of Olivet.

SUMMER SCHEDULES

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning May 10, we will transition to our summer worship schedule, with one service at 9 a.m. each Sunday. Please also note that after May 6, there will be no Wednesday night worship during the summer months. Our midweek services will resume in the fall. We look forward to worshipping with you this summer!

SUMMER HOURS AT THE OLIVET LIBRARY

The Olivet Library will transition to summer hours on **Sunday, May 10**, and will be open from **8:30 to 10:30 a.m.** on Sundays. We invite you to stop in, browse the collections, and find something meaningful to take with you into the week ahead.

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

QUILTERS SUNDAY

Join us in celebrating the creativity and dedication of the Olivet Quilters. On **Wednesday, May 6**, and **Sunday, May 10**, quilts made throughout the past year will be beautifully displayed on the pews in the Sanctuary. Each quilt will be available for purchase for \$100, with proceeds supporting supplies for future quilting seasons. A select number of quilts will also be included in a silent auction, with final bids closing on Sunday, May 10. Be sure to stop by the Atrium to view the quilts and place your bids before the auction ends. Any remaining quilts will be donated to local charities and to Lutheran World Relief, sharing warmth, comfort, and care to those who need it most.

KICKING OFF SUMMER WITH MUSIC SUNDAY

Beginning **Sunday, May 10**, we move into our summer worship schedule with one service at **9 a.m.** We'll kick things off with Music Sunday, featuring a variety of musical offerings from the youth choir, bell choir, Olivet choir, additional ensembles, and the Celebrate! band. Come be part of this joyful morning of worship and music.

MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM & FINAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION

Make plans to join us on **Wednesday, May 6**, at **6 p.m.** in the Sanctuary for a special evening of worship. Our Pre-K through 5th-grade Sunday and Wednesday School students will present a special Mother's Day program, sharing their gifts in song as they wrap up the school year. This evening also brings our Wednesday schedule to a close, including dinner, confirmation, Wednesday school, and youth choir. It's a wonderful way to celebrate a year of learning, faith, and connection. We hope you'll join us!

Sunday & Wednesday school students: Please meet in the Atrium at 5:55 p.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

Phone: 701.235.6603
Email: info@Olivet.org
Web: www.Olivet.org
Facebook.com/olivetlutheran
Instagram.com/olivet_fargo

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

The gospel is all about hearing and telling. At our Tuesday Morning Coffee Gathering, the first question that is asked after the reading of the past Sunday's gospel lesson is simply this: "What caught your attention in this passage and/or from last Sunday's sermon on this passage?" What happens next always amazes me as those present begin to share and tell what they heard, each with their own experience and understanding. The gospel, the good news, is meant to be both heard, shared, and encouraged.

I love the old hymn: "I love to tell the story", the story of Jesus and His Love. I also love to HEAR the story. I would love to adapt the 3rd verse that might go like this: "I love to 'hear' the story, from those who know it best. Seem hungry and thirsting to 'hear' it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, we sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story we have loved so long."

The journey of faith involves both hearing and telling. So, what do you hear, what catches your attention, and who do you tell and share with others about the wondrous story of Jesus and God's amazing love for us?

May God continue to bless both our hearing and our telling of Jesus and His Love! Amen.

Pastor Mark Asleson

BIBLE STUDIES, CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

THE GATHER CIRCLE

Join us for the Gather Circle on **May 19** from **9-11:30 a.m.** as we explore "Paul's Letters and Yours" by Rev. Angela Shannon. This one-session study invites us to reflect, connect, and discover how simple acts like writing a note can become a meaningful spiritual practice.

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

As our Wednesday night meals wrap up for the season, we invite you to join us for the final two gatherings of good food and great company. Dinner is served from 5-6 p.m. All are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$7/adult and \$5/child.

April 29 Menu: Chicken patty on a bun, veggies and ranch, chips, and dessert

May 6 Menu: Sandwich bar, pasta salad, chips, and dessert

We are especially grateful for the many hands that have made these meals possible all year long. From planning and preparing to serving and cleaning up, your time and care have created something truly special. These dinners have been about more than just food; they've been a place for connection, conversation, and community. Thank you for making Wednesday nights at Olivet so welcoming and meaningful.

GOLDEN NOTES BAND SPRING CONCERT

Get ready to rock! Join us for the Golden Notes Spring Concert on **Monday, May 11**, at **7 p.m.** at Olivet. This year's show is a throwback through the history of rock and roll, packed with high energy, great tunes, and a fun night you won't want to miss! The concert is free and open to all!

HEART N' SOUL COMMUNITY CAFÉ AT OLIVET

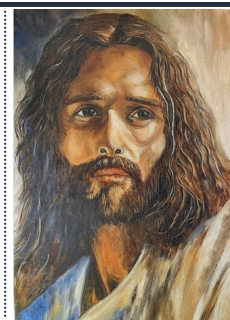
The Olivet Food Pantry is excited to once again partner with Heart-n-Soul Community Café, a local nonprofit dedicated to fighting food insecurity through delicious, pay-what-you-can meals. Beginning May 18, the Heart-n-Soul Café food truck will be at Olivet during each food pantry distribution event, offering meals to anyone who would like to stop by for food and fellowship. Mark your calendar and join us. Everyone is welcome!

OPEN FORUM

Join us at **9:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, May 3**, in Fellowship Hall for an Open Forum. We'll provide updates on the budget, capital campaign, and share highlights and feedback from Olivet Giving Day, along with a look at where we are and where we're headed. This is a great opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and engage in the conversation as we continue moving forward together.

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Friday Fellowship on **May 1**, at **12 p.m.** for a potluck lunch (bring your favorite dish to share). We're honored to welcome local artist Bea Johnk, whose artwork has touched many. What began as a creative passion has grown into a meaningful ministry, as Bea uses her gifts to share faith, hope, and inspiration with others. Bea will share a glimpse into her creative process and the heart behind her work, including one of her well-known paintings of Jesus, an expressive and powerful piece that has resonated with many and reflects the depth of her faith. Come for the food and stay for the inspiration. We'd love to have you join us.



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEACHERS & LEADERS

We are so thankful for our incredible Sunday and Wednesday School teachers and confirmation leaders who pour so much into our youth all year long. Week after week, you show up with time, energy, and heart, sharing your faith and helping guide our students as they grow and learn. Your impact goes far beyond the classroom, and we are truly grateful for each of you.

SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Amber Adler	Chloe Fischer	Gracie Lingle
Caylin Ahrenholtz	Kylie Fischer	James Medbery
Kayley Bischoff	Megan Fowler	Brady Meyers
Sydney Bischoff	Zach Fowler	Jenna Meyers
Autumn Boelter	Ceely Fritz	DeNae Millar
Penny Bruggeman	Emily Henning	Olivia Nordeng
Amber Carroll	Beckett Heyer	Sara Rector
Izzy Derby	Henley Hoff	Pam Redlinger
Veronica Derby	Jonathan Jenson	Kaitlyn Saunders
Flint Dignan	Addy Johnson	Bailey Skarphol
Kendall Durgin	Edward Jystad-Spar	Karter Skarphol
Grace Engebretson		

CONFIRMATION LEADERS

Mike Almquist	Heather Fischer
Kayley Bischoff	Kurtis Foote
Sydney Bischoff	Nicolle Fowler
Trudy Boelter	Ryan Lyson
Flint Dignan	Ryan Nagle
Jess Ebeling	Kjersten Nelson
Neil Ebeling	Connie Rokke
Jess Esperum	Kara Skarphol

SS/WS MUSIC LEADERS

Jenica Boelter
Patti Hall
Jocelyn Mohs

CONFIRMATION MUSIC LEADERS

Eric Heyer
Rob Jenson

SS/WS SUPERINTENDENTS

Heather Fischer
Kara Skarphol

WE HAVE SOME TRULY AMAZING PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH OUR YOUTH, AND WE JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU!

To Michelle Elness, superintendents Kara Skarphol and Heather Fischer, and interns Kayley Bischoff, Sydney Bischoff, and Bevin Schieve for the incredible ways they nurture and guide our children and youth in their faith. Your leadership, care, and dedication make a lasting difference.

A big shoutout to our pastors for walking alongside our confirmation students with wisdom and heart. And we couldn't do Wednesday nights without Kelly Heyer, Signe Steier, and Summer Barbot keeping the coffee shop running strong.

We're also so grateful for Kasi Adler, who brings such warmth and care to our littlest ones in the nursery, and to Jeanette Boelter for capturing all the moments we don't want to forget. It takes a whole team, and we're so thankful for every one of you.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to our fundraising events throughout Lent in support of our youth. Your gifts, along with your ongoing support, love, and prayers, mean so much. The proceeds from the youth stock sale fundraiser and Lenten dinners help offset the cost of youth activities, retreats, and trips. Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

CONFIRMATION MENTOR NIGHT

Our final Mentor Night of the year is **Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. We are pleased to welcome Mark Rice from M3, an organization dedicated to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and connecting individuals with mental health resources. Mark will share insights on mental wellness, highlighting key areas such as focus, motivation, mindfulness, emotional regulation, and confidence. Students will attend alongside their mentors as we gather for this meaningful evening together.

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.

If you haven't already submitted your graduate's information and photo, please take a moment to complete the form at olivet.org/signup as soon as possible so they can be included in our recognition slideshow, the Emblem, and on social media. We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Adventure is calling—are you ready to hit the trail? Camp VBS: Faith on the Trail runs **June 8-11** from **9-11:30 a.m.** Kids ages 4 through 5th grade will trek through a week packed with music, games, crafts, and all kinds of camp-style fun as we explore and grow in faith together. Registration is open and the cost is \$25 per child. Grab your trail buddies, lace up those boots, and get ready for a wild and wonderful week. Sign up at olivet.org/signup!



EVENT SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

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 27

Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.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: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Confirmation Mentor Night: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Friday Fellowship: 12-2 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

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, MAY 4

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

TUESDAY, MAY 5

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
Wednesday School: 6-6:50 p.m.
Quilter's Wednesday: 6-7 p.m.
Worship / Mother's Day Program: 6 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Confirmation: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY
MUSIC SUNDAY & QUILTERS SUNDAY
Summer Worship: 9 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 10-11 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 11

Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Age Mastery Class: 1-2:30 p.m.
One Oak Worship Service: 3-4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

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

OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Olivet Food Pantry continues to set records for the amount of food distributed to our neighbors. In April alone, we served 353 families and distributed more than 12,000 pounds of food! For comparison, 131 families were served in April 2024 and 199 families in April 2025, highlighting the significant and ongoing increase in community need.

It is through the dedication of our volunteers and the generous financial and food donations from the entire Olivet family that allows us to keep up with this increasing demand. As costs continue to rise, we anticipate demand for our food pantry items to continue to increase. We are always looking for additional volunteers and are happy to provide training for those interested in serving. Our mission to walk alongside our neighbors and support those facing food insecurity is more important than ever as we continue to walk and follow the Jesus Way!

"MAYDAY" FOR MAY DAY

It is a bit of a "mayday" moment for the Olivet Food Pantry as demand continues to rise, and our inventory has been significantly reduced. As we step into May, we remain focused on being well-prepared to meet the needs ahead and to continue serving our neighbors with consistency and care. At this time, **we are especially in need of pasta sauce, tomato sauce, or any type of tomato product.** To help ensure safe distribution and prevent broken jars in the boxes and bags we provide to our neighbors, we kindly request canned items whenever possible.

We are also working to replenish essential staple items, including cereal, soup, pasta, tuna, and toilet paper. Thank you for your continued generosity. It truly makes a meaningful difference as we care for our neighbors and support those facing food insecurity.

CHURCHWIDE OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly will be held **June 5-7** at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, centered around the theme "Water of Promises, Water of Life." This important gathering will include the election of a new bishop, along with other key business for our shared life as a synod. Bishop Regina Hassanally of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will lead the Bible study, and Imran Siddiqui, ELCA Vice President, will serve as the churchwide representative and oversee the bishop election. **If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office by May 5 so we can assist with registration.**

ELCA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Olivet Lutheran Church Foundation offers a scholarship program to Olivet students who are enrolled in an ELCA college as a full-time student for the first four academic years immediately after their high school graduation. To apply for this scholarship visit olivet.org/resources. Full details about the scholarship criteria, scholarship award amounts, and deadlines are included in the application. If you have questions about the scholarship process, please call the church office at 701.235.6603.