



# THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

MAY 24-JUNE 6, 2026

## PENTECOST SUNDAY: THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost is a celebration of God’s living presence among us. It is the fulfillment of His promise through the gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out on the Church and still active in our lives today. Pentecost reminds us that God is not distant or silent, but is at work among His people, guiding, strengthening, and empowering believers to live out their faith with courage, joy, and purpose in a world that deeply needs hope. In worship, the color red is often used to mark this day, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit and the passion placed within our hearts to share the love of Christ. It is a visible reminder of the Spirit’s power and the bold calling given to all believers.

As we remember Pentecost, we are invited once again into that same movement of the Spirit. We are called to walk boldly in faith, to serve one another with love and humility, and to proclaim the hope we have in Jesus Christ to all people, trusting that the Holy Spirit goes with us in every step.



## CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Please note that Olivet will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. We give thanks for those who have served and sacrificed for our country, and we hold their families in our prayers. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

## THANK YOU

We are so grateful for Director of Music, Marlys Herring, and Michelle Elness, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, for the incredible care and dedication they poured into making Mother’s Day and Music Sunday so meaningful in worship. Through thoughtful planning, creativity, and many unseen hours of preparation, they helped shape a service that was both joyful and deeply moving for our church family. Their leadership and attention to every detail continue to enrich our life together at Olivet, and we are truly thankful for the many ways they share their gifts in service to others.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### YOUNG(ISH) ADULT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We’re excited to begin exploring new ways for Olivet adults (roughly 30–50ish) to connect and build community this summer. From casual socials and family-friendly outings to volunteering and date nights, we’re trying a few different things to see what fits best.

Whether you’re in the busy season of kids’ activities, looking for more adult connection, or just wanting to meet new people, you’re welcome to join in.

#### Olivet Out and About

**Where:** Brewhalla (1702 1st Ave N, Fargo)

**When:** May 26 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.

A relaxed, come-and-go social evening. Grab dinner, gelato, or a drink on your own and meet up with us upstairs at the Olivet reserved tables. Kids are welcome!

#### Olivet Out and About

**Where:** Junkyard Brewing (409 Sheyenne St, West Fargo)

**When:** June 10 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Bingo is optional, but fellowship is guaranteed! Kid-friendly with pizza and beverages available for purchase. Come and go as it works for you.

We hope you’ll join us as we build connection, community, and a little summer fun together!

## SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: 9 a.m.

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

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

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

## SUMMERTIME... THE CHURCH IS STILL HERE

As the calendar flips to the end of the school year and into summer, our daily rhythms change. School schedules disappear, vacations are planned, gardens are planted, and weekends fill with sports, travel, family gatherings, and later sunsets, allowing us to play outside longer into the evenings. Life feels different in the summer — a little more relaxed as we take a deep breath and enjoy it.

The church is still here, and the Sanctuary feels quieter on a Sunday morning when people are scattered across lakes, campsites, ballfields, and road trips. God meets us in the Sanctuary, but also around campfires, in fishing boats, beside the garden rows, at family reunions, and during quiet mornings with a cup of coffee on the deck. Creation itself becomes a sanctuary that whispers of God's presence.

However, at the same time, summer is also a season when the ministries of the church continue faithfully, sometimes behind the scenes. Olivet Lutheran is more than a building or a season on the calendar. Olivet is a community of people who pray together, grieve together, celebrate together, grow in our faith together in Bible studies, and serve together – in all the seasons of our lives.

Here are a few ways to “be church” this summer:

- Volunteer to help greet, usher, serve communion, or read during Sunday morning worship. We need 19 volunteers per Sunday!
- Help host coffee and fellowship hour. This summer, we have “Cookies for a Cause,” which supports our valuable Ministry Partners in the community. Every dollar you contribute goes to our partners!
- Grab your friends and sign up to help with the Food Pantry packing and twice-monthly distribution.
- Join one of Pastor Bill's trips to Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Jasper's Theatre, or Medora!
- Check out one of the Youngish Adult Fellowship (30-50ish year olds) events!
- Attend one of several Bible studies throughout the week! All are welcome!
- Sign up your kids and grandkids for Camp VBS: Faith on the Trail from June 8-11!

So, enjoy your summer – wherever it takes you! But remember, Olivet is here – worshiping together, serving together, and connecting with one another! You are always welcome!

*Grace and peace, Pastor Hope*

### SUMMER THEATRE TRIPS

Join Pastor Bill, Jeanette, and your Olivet friends for a lively afternoon of musical theatre fun that's guaranteed to have you singing along, laughing out loud, and maybe even dancing in your seat! Space is limited. Stop by the church office today to reserve your seat!

#### GUYS & DOLLS

When: June 13

Where: Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Cost: \$185. Includes transportation and a ticket to the show. *We'll stop for food, but please note that meal costs are not included.*

#### THE GREAT AMERICAN VARIETY SHOW

When: July 16

Where: Jasper's Theatre

Cost: \$110. Includes transportation and a ticket to the show.

#### MEDORA SUMMER TRIP ADVENTURE

When: August 15-16

Where: Medora, ND

Cost: \$450. This overnight trip includes transportation, dinner at the famous Pitchfork Fondue, lodging, Sunday morning breakfast, a ticket to the Medora Musical, and a special tour of the brand-new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

### BIBLE STUDIES & BOOK STUDIES

#### SISTERS IN CHRIST BIBLE STUDY

The Sisters in Christ Bible Study will meet on **Tuesdays, June 2–July 21** (no study June 30), from **8:30–10:30 a.m.** in the Upper Room. This summer, we'll study “*Relaxed*” by Megan Fate Marshman, focusing on letting go of pressure and resting in God's grace. Study guides with video access are available through Faithgateway, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and ChurchSource. For more information, contact Joan Rustvang at [jrustvang@hotmail.com](mailto:jrustvang@hotmail.com).

#### THE GATHER CIRCLE

The Gather Circle will meet on **June 16, July 21, and August 18** from **9-11 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This summer's three-part Bible study theme is “I am Worthy” by Rev. Sarah Olson Smith. Together, we will reflect on who we are, who God calls us to be, and how we are invited to live out our faith through our God-given gifts, identities, and relationships.

#### TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you for all your expressions of concern following my knee surgery and my little debacle in the balcony that Wednesday evening. I truly appreciated all the prayers, care, and support during this time of healing. Love you all! -Jeanette Boelter (& caregiver, Pastor Bill)

## MINISTRY & STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

April was a wonderful month of ministry! Because of your faithful generosity, our overall income remains ahead of budget, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. We also give thanks for a successful Olivet Giving Day, which raised more than \$45,000 to strengthen and sustain the ministries we share. As we move into the summer months, we pray this spirit of steady and joyful giving continues to guide and support our life together.

One of the highlights of April was the success of our Youth Stock Sales fundraiser. Together, our youth reached their goal and raised \$11,285. Words cannot fully express our appreciation for the encouragement and support you continue to show our young people. Your investment in their faith and future is truly a blessing.

As we celebrate these successes, we also remain committed to being thoughtful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. With the exception of a little extra “wonderful” spring snow, our expenses continue to stay right on track with the budget.

Thank you for your faithful giving and ongoing support of our shared ministry. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure continue to make a lasting and meaningful impact in the life of our congregation and community.

JANUARY 1-APRIL 30, 2026			
	Actual	Budget	vs. Budget
Offerings	\$581,760.27	\$528,100.65	\$53,659.62
Other Income	\$77,652.32	\$67,027.00	\$7,337.72
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$659,412.59</b>	<b>\$595,127.65</b>	<b>\$64,284.94</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$554,983.08</b>	<b>\$556,313.41</b>	<b>-\$1,330.33</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$104,429.51</b>	<b>\$38,814.24</b>	<b>\$65,615.27</b>

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If you haven't signed up for Camp VBS: Faith on the Trail yet, now's the time — camp is almost here! Join us **June 8-11** from **9-11:30 a.m.** for a fun-filled week of music, games, crafts, camp adventures, and growing in faith together. Open to kids ages 4 through 5th grade, and the cost is \$25 per child. Don't miss your chance to hit the trail with us this summer! Sign up at [olivet.org/signup](http://olivet.org/signup).

## SENIOR HIGH SUMMER TRIP

Attention Senior High Students! Pack your bags for an unforgettable Door County getaway on **July 13-17!** Enjoy beaches, hiking, cliff views at Cave Point, exploring Fish Creek and Sister Bay, plus sunsets, friends, and faith-filled moments. Cost is \$900 and includes transportation, lodging, activities, and 3 meals a day (bring extra for snacks/souvenirs). Questions? Contact Michelle at [melness@olivet.org](mailto:melness@olivet.org) or Eli at [youth@olivet.org](mailto:youth@olivet.org), or call 701-235-6603. Register at [www.olivet.org/signup](http://www.olivet.org/signup).

## ELCA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Olivet Lutheran Church Foundation offers a scholarship program to Olivet students who are enrolled at an ELCA college as full-time students for the first four academic years immediately after high school graduation. Scholarship awards have recently increased from \$500 to \$1,000, providing even greater support for students continuing their education. To apply for this scholarship, visit [olivet.org/resources](http://olivet.org/resources). Full details about the scholarship criteria and deadlines are included in the application. If you have questions about the scholarship process, please call the church office at 701.235.6603.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### BEHIND THE SCENES OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Beginning in May and continuing through the week of Vacation Bible School, Michelle and her team dedicate more than 300 combined hours to planning lessons and activities, creating materials and decorations, and preparing the space. The church basement transforms into a lively workshop, where the giant pile of cardboard that has been collected throughout the year is turned into imaginative decorations that help transform Fellowship Hall into a magical place for almost 100 children each year.

Throughout the process, staff and interns invest countless hours drawing, cutting, and painting the pieces that bring this vision to life. In the week leading up to Vacation Bible School, Fellowship Hall is closed as staff and volunteers begin the detailed work of assembling everything, carefully building an environment that reflects months of preparation and creativity.

More than 60 volunteers help make the week possible. From group leaders and snack teams to craft coordinators, game leaders, and music volunteers, each person plays an important role in creating a fun, welcoming, and faith-filled experience. Our pastors and staff also play an essential role, leading daily lessons, managing registration, capturing photos, and preparing take-home materials so families can stay connected to what their children are learning each day.

When VBS comes to a close, the work continues with teardown. For many years, materials have been donated to other churches and organizations, extending their impact far beyond our own walls. Behind every moment of laughter, every game, every song, and every memory made is a community of people who show up, give their time, and make it possible for kids to grow in faith and experience the best week of their summer.

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Summer is here, and with it comes a small change to our Sunday mornings! We've officially transitioned to our summer worship schedule, which means we'll gather together for one combined worship service each Sunday at 9 a.m. Please note that the church doors will not open until 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We look forward to spending the summer worshipping together and hope you'll join us.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, MAY 24

**Summer Worship:** 9 a.m.  
**Coffee & Fellowship:** 10-11 a.m.

### MONDAY, MAY 25

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**Building Closed**

### TUESDAY, MAY 26

**Men's morning Group:** 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
**Olivet Out & About:** 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

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

### SUNDAY, MAY 31

**Summer Worship:** 9 a.m.  
**Coffee & Fellowship:** 10-11 a.m.

### MONDAY, JUNE 1

**Food Pantry Distribution:** 4:30-6:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

**Men's morning Group:** 7:30-8:30 a.m.  
**Sisters in Christ Bible Study:** 8-11 a.m.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 4

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

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**Summer Worship:** 9 a.m.  
**Coffee & Fellowship:** 10-11 a.m.

### JUNE 8-11

**Vacation Bible School** 9-11:30 a.m.

## FILLING THE SHELVES IN GARRY'S MEMORY

We at the Olivet Food Pantry mourn the loss of one of our most dedicated volunteers, Garry Bakken. Since the pantry's opening in 2017, Garry and his wife, Kay, were instrumental in establishing the Olivet Food Pantry and have worked hundreds of hours to keep it stocked and running smoothly. We are so grateful for their faithful service, and to celebrate their dedication and to honor Garry's life, we are holding a food drive in his memory.

Please consider donating items from our wish list to celebrate his life. Let's fill the pantry shelves in memory of Garry. Financial gifts are also welcome.

## OUTREACH

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS SUPPORT THE OLIVET FOOD PANTRY

The Olivet Food Pantry is strengthened through the generosity and involvement of community partners. Did you know that Thrivent members can apply year-round for Thrivent Action Team grants that directly support the Olivet Food Pantry? These grants provide \$250 in seed money to support volunteer-led service projects such as food drives, pantry restocking, and other outreach initiatives that address real needs in our community. To learn more about Thrivent Action Teams or ways to get involved, visit [www.trivent.com](http://www.trivent.com).



*It's pretty incredible to see how far a contribution like this can actually go. \$250 worth of food turns into a real, visible impact, helping stock our shelves and strengthening our ability to support local families in need.*

## OLIVET FOOD PANTRY: WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY

At Olivet, we believe caring for our neighbors is an important part of living out our faith. The Olivet Food Pantry exists to support individuals and families experiencing food insecurity by providing assistance in a welcoming environment rooted in dignity, compassion, and respect. Open to both Olivet members and the community, the pantry has no requirements or barriers to receive help. Every visit is handled with complete confidentiality, and each person who comes through our doors is welcomed with care, understanding, and without judgment. No one should hesitate to seek support when it is needed.

May remained an exceptionally active month for the Olivet Food Pantry, reflecting the continued and growing need within our community. During the month, food assistance was provided to 344 families. Fresh produce reached 137 families, and during our traditional distribution night alone, the pantry marked a significant milestone by serving 207 families. These numbers reflect both the rising level of food insecurity in our region and the ongoing commitment to respond with compassion and consistency.

This work would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. More than 50 active volunteers faithfully represent the Olivet congregation each month, offering their time, energy, and skills to keep the pantry running smoothly. Their efforts include unloading delivery trucks, stocking shelves, repackaging more than 400 pounds of bulk chicken snack sticks, inspecting 180 dozen eggs, transporting cardboard for recycling, assisting with family registration, managing computer data entry, and completing the many essential tasks that happen behind the scenes. Every contribution, whether visible or unseen, plays a vital role in meeting the needs of our community.

### FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST

- Cereal
- Tomato/Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Soup
- Mac & Cheese
- Toilet Paper