OLIVET Lutheran Church

THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 10, 2026

FAITH AT WORK. LOVE IN ACTION.

2027 ANNUAL APPEAL

Every day at Olivet, we put faith to work and love into action. We see it when children and youth grow in faith, when neighbors receive food, when someone finds a caring community, and in the countless ways people give their time and talents to serve others.

Our 2027 Annual Appeal theme, **Faith at Work. Love in Action.,** celebrates what God is already doing among us and looks ahead to where we are being called next. As we prepare for 2027, we are focusing on three important areas: deepening engagement with youth and young adults, expanding support for our feeding ministries, and sustaining the worship, learning, care, and service that are at the heart of Olivet.

Your generosity makes all of this possible. Every gift, large or small, joins with the gifts of others to support the people, programs, and ministries that help us share Jesus' love within our congregation and throughout our community.

In the weeks ahead, we invite you to pray about these priorities and consider how your giving can help strengthen Olivet's ministry in the coming year. **Commitment Sunday is October 25**, when we will offer our Statements of Intent for 2027.

Together, we can continue putting our Faith at Work. and Love in Action. as we share the story of Jesus' love for all people without exception.

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

Faith is something we carry with us into every part of life, shaping how we think, how we move forward, how we care for one another, and how we serve the world around us.

This fall, our worship series, Faith at Work. Love in Action., invites us to consider what happens when our faith becomes more than something we believe and becomes something others can see and experience through us.

Over four Sundays and Wednesdays, we'll reflect on what it means to share the mind of Christ, to press forward together in faith, and to turn our love outward in service to our neighbors. Along the way, we'll be reminded that we were never meant to live out our faith alone. God calls us together to encourage one another, grow alongside one another, and share Christ's love in meaningful and tangible ways.

Together, we'll discover how Faith at Work. Love in Action. can shape not only our own lives but also our church, our community, and the lives of those around us.

October 4 & 7	Faith at Work: Sharing the Mind of Christ
October 11 & 14	Faith at Work: Pressing Forward Together
October 18 & 21	Love in Action: Serving Our Neighbors
October 25 & 28	Faith at Work. Love in Action.

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

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CELEBRATIONS

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Ministry is often found in the moments that matter most: a prayer when words are hard to find, a steady presence during an uncertain time, a celebration shared in joy, or a message that reaches us just when we need it. Throughout the year, our pastors are present for these moments and countless others. Their ministry extends far beyond Sunday worship. It happens in hospital rooms and quiet conversations, at baptisms and weddings, through seasons of grief and times of celebration, and in the everyday work of caring for a congregation. They listen, encourage, pray, teach, and walk beside us, helping us recognize God's presence and grace in every season of life.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an opportunity to recognize that faithful ministry and to let our pastors know that the work they do, and the care they so generously share, truly matters. **Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 11**. We invite you to take a moment this month to share a note, offer a word of encouragement, say a prayer, or simply say thank you.

We give thanks for our pastors and the many ways they faithfully serve Olivet and our community. Most of all, we are grateful for their willingness to walk alongside us, sharing in our joys, supporting us through difficult days, encouraging us in our faith, and continually reminding us of the love and grace of God.

OLIVET'S PHOTO DIRECTORY: COMING SEPTEMBER 30

After lots of photos, updates, and proofreading, Olivet's new Church Directory is almost here! **Directories will be available beginning Wednesday, September 30**, and we're excited to finally share them with you. More than just names and photos, the directory is a snapshot of the people who make Olivet such a special community and a great way to put names to faces and stay connected with your Olivet family.

Thank you to everyone who had their photo taken, submitted information, and patiently waited while everything came together. Beginning September 30, stop by the church office to pick up your copy. Directories are available for a suggested donation of $15 to help offset photography and printing costs. We can't wait for you to see it!

CELEBRATING SARAH MORRAU

After serving as Olivet's Celebrate! Contemporary Music Director, Sarah Morrau has made the decision to step down from her role. We are thankful for the time and musical gifts Sarah has shared through her leadership of Celebrate! Worship and for the ways she has helped make music a meaningful part of our worship together. On **Sunday, October 11**, we'll take a special moment during worship to recognize Sarah and thank her for her ministry among us. While she may be stepping away from the director role, Sarah isn't going far! We're happy that she will continue to share her voice with us during worship from time to time. Please join us as we celebrate Sarah and show our appreciation for all she has given to Olivet.

OUTREACH

OLIVET FOOD PANTRY: SEPTEMBER UPDATE

September was another busy month for the Olivet Food Pantry, with more than 300 families served and over 12,000 pounds of food distributed! The growing need is being felt throughout our community, as other food pantries across the metro area are seeing similar increases in the number of families seeking assistance.

Recently, Olivet joined representatives from several area food pantries to share updates, discuss current needs, and explore ways to better support one another. This includes finding opportunities to share excess perishable food between pantries so it can reach families before it expires. These meetings are a helpful way to strengthen partnerships, share resources, and work together to address food insecurity in our community. Olivet will host the group's next meeting in November.

With more families coming to the pantry, additional volunteers are also needed. We are looking for individuals who can give approximately two hours each month to help with a variety of tasks. Opportunities range from light duties, such as preparing registration materials, stocking shelves, and packing food, to more physical jobs that involve moving boxes and supplies. There is a role for nearly everyone who would like to help.

Volunteer shifts can be found on the Olivet website or app. You may also email foodpantry@olivet.org or speak with Skip or Sherry Espeseth for more information.

Donations continue to be an important part of keeping our shelves stocked. Current needs include canned tomato or pasta sauce, soup, and toilet paper. We are grateful for the many volunteers and donors who make it possible for the Food Pantry to continue serving our neighbors each month.

FINANCIALS: AUGUST 2026

FINANCIAL & STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

August was another strong month for Olivet. Year-to-date offerings continue to be ahead of budget, while expenses remain on track. We are grateful for the faithful generosity, gifts, and service of our congregation that make our ministry possible. Together, we look forward with excitement and gratitude to all God has in store for the remainder of the year.

Gifted for Mission Update

We are grateful and excited to share that, through your faithful generosity and our congregation's commitment to eliminating the mortgage, the Church Council approved an additional principal payment in August, reducing our mortgage balance to $99,891! This is an exciting step forward and a reflection of the generosity and commitment of our congregation. This milestone reflects the dedication and stewardship of our church family. Thank you for helping us move closer to being mortgage-free as we continue God's work together.

JAN 1 - AUG 31, 2026

	Actual	Budget	vs. Budget
Offerings	$966,159.64	$877,295.00	$88,864.64
Other Income	$202,984.96	$173,314.00	$29,670.96
Total Income	**$1,169,144.60**	**$1,050,609.00**	**$118,535.60**
Expenses	**$1,092,708.42**	**$1,112,445.04**	**$-19,736.62**
Net Revenue	**$76,436.18**	**$-61,836.04**	**$138,272.22**

MINISTRY UPDATE

NATHAN ADU-GYAMFI TO BE ORDAINED

On **Saturday, October 17**, at **3 p.m.**, Nathan Adu-Gyamfi will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service will take place at Augustana Lutheran Church in West Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Nathan's ordination marks an important milestone as he prepares to begin his ministry as Olivet's next Associate Pastor. We are grateful to share in this special time with Nathan and his family and look forward to welcoming them to Olivet. Please keep Nathan and his family in your prayers as they prepare for all that lies ahead.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Wednesday night dinners are served from **5–6 p.m.** Come hungry, grab a seat, and enjoy good food and great company before worship and other evening activities begin. Everyone is welcome! Meals are available for a suggested donation of $7 for adults and $5 for children.

Wednesday night meals are a great way to serve and connect at Olivet. Volunteers are needed to help with serving and cleanup, whether occasionally or on a regular basis. To learn more, contact Carrie at cschieve@olivet.org.

September 30 Menu: Deluxe salad bar, breadsticks, dessert
October 7 Menu: Chicken nuggets, veggies with ranch, dessert
October 14: No Dinner

BIBLE STUDIES, BOOK STUDIES, & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Ready for a little music, plenty of nostalgia, and some great memories? Friday Fellowship is on **October 2** at **12 p.m**., and this month we're taking a fun trip back in time! Bring a dish to share for our potluck lunch, then settle in as Larry Gauper returns with "*Magical Moments of Musical Memories"*, featuring another collection of songs and memorable clips from the '40s, '50s, and '60s. Bring your appetite and join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and your favorite tunes!

OPEN FORUM

An Open Forum will be held at **9:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, October 4,** in Fellowship Hall. We'll share updates on what's happening at Olivet, provide information about current and upcoming matters, and allow time for questions and discussion. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NEED A LITTLE TECH HELP

Want to stay better connected with Olivet through technology? Join us **Thursday, October 8**, at **12 p.m**. in Fellowship Hall for a hands-on tech tutorial with Eric Heyer, Worship Media Specialist. Learn how to follow Olivet online, worship from home, sign up for emails, use closed captioning, and more. Bring your device, your questions, and your lunch, and Eric will help you get connected!

WOMEN OF FAITH

Take a closer look at the women who encountered Jesus in "*Jesus and Women"* by Kristi McLelland. This seven-week study meets on **Mondays** at **1 p.m.** and **Thursdays** at **6:30 p.m**. in the Upper Room and offers a deeper understanding of Jesus' love, compassion, and ministry. Study guides are available for purchase on Amazon.

THE GATHER CIRCLE

Join us on **October 20,** from **9–11 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall as we continue "*Jesus Calling Bible Studies: Dwelling in God's Peace*." This month, we'll explore how loving and obeying Christ can lead us to a deeper sense of God's peace. All women are welcome! Books are available through the church for $7, and it's not too late to join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Learning & Sharing: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Men's Morning Group: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
GriefShare Support Group: 1-2:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
3rd Grade Confirmation: 6-7 p.m.
Wednesday School 6-6:50 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Confirmation: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
Friday Fellowship: 12 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Open Forum: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
3rd Grade Confirmation: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.
Olivet Food Pantry: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
Men's Morning Group: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
GriefShare Support Group: 1-2:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Flu Shot Clinic: 12-1 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Wednesday School: 6-6:50 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Confirmation: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
MomCo: 9-11 a.m.
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Tech Tutorial: 12-1 p.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.
No Youth Activities

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Men's Morning Group: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
GriefShare Support Group: 1-2:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

THIRD GRADE CONFIRMATION

Third-grade confirmation classes will be held on **Wednesday, September 30**, from **6–6:50 p.m.,** and **Sunday, October 4**, from **9:30–10:20 a.m.** Both classes will cover the same material, so families can choose the time that works best for their schedule. During worship, parents will present Bibles to their children, honoring the promise made at their child's baptism: "As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Scriptures." **Bible presentations will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, October 4, or 6 p.m. worship on Wednesday, October 7.**

NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 11 & 14

A quick schedule reminder for Olivet families! There will be no youth activities on **Sunday, October 11**, or **Wednesday, October 14**. Enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back the following week!

YOUTH SING IN CHOIR

Our Sunday and Wednesday School students will have a special opportunity to be part of worship this October! Sunday School students will sing on **Sunday, October 18**, and Wednesday School students will sing on **Wednesday, October 21**. We love seeing our kids in worship and can't wait to hear them fill the Sanctuary with music!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

A special day is ahead for our 10th-grade students as they celebrate their confirmation on **Sunday, October 25**, at **2 p.m.** During the service, they will affirm their baptismal promises and mark an important step in their faith journey. Confirmands and their parents will gather for a rehearsal and dessert banquet on Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m. The Confirmation service will also be livestreamed through the Olivet website. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they prepare for this meaningful day and the next steps in their life of faith.

SAVE THE DATE

RASPBERRY JAM: A TRIBUTE TO CAROLE KING

Join Olivet accompanist Kari del Rio for Raspberry Jam, a tribute to Carole King, on **October 9** at **7 p.m.** at TAK Music Venue. Making the evening even more special, Olivet's musicians, Marlys Herring and Sarah Morrau, will be joining Kari as special guests. Tickets are available through Eventbrite, with more information on Raspberry Jam's Facebook page.

OLIVET'S DÉCOR & MORE SALE

Olivet's Décor & More Sale is back **October 14–16** in the Atrium! Browse a fun assortment of gently used seasonal and everyday décor and maybe find a new treasure for your home. All items are available for a freewill donation, with proceeds helping purchase seasonal décor for Olivet throughout the year. Have décor to donate? Gently used items can be dropped off at the church office. We're also looking for a few helping hands to sort donations and assist with setup and teardown. Contact Claire at cduenow@olivet.org or 701.235.6603 to volunteer.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

JOIN OLIVET BOY SCOUTS

Looking for fun family activities that help kids learn, grow, and make new friends? Scouting offers adventures, outdoor activities, service projects, and opportunities to build confidence and leadership skills in a family-friendly environment. Whether your child is ready to join or your family would simply like to learn more about Scouting, we'd love to connect with you! Contact Andrew Holmen at 701.866.7202 or andrewholmen@gmail.com for more information about Olivet Pack 215 and Troop 215.

OLIVET HEALTH MINISTRIES

Newsletter

FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- Healthy Aging Month
- National Recovery Month
- National Sickle Cell Awareness Month
- National Preparedness Month

OCTOBER HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Health Literacy Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Global Handwashing Day (October 15)

COMMUNION COMPANION MINISTRY – COME LEARN MORE

Have you wondered what it means to be a Communion Companion? Are you already serving and would appreciate an opportunity to reconnect, ask questions, and refresh your understanding of this ministry?

Join Bev Gravdahl, Parish Nurse, and Pastor Mark Asleson on **Wednesday, October 7**, from **7-8 p.m.** for an introduction and training for both current and future Communion Companions. We will gather in the Conference Room.

Communion Companions help extend the care and connection of our congregation to members who may not always be able to join us in worship. You don't need special experience—just a caring heart and a willingness to spend time with another person.

Whether you are already serving, are curious about becoming involved, or simply want to learn more, we would love to have you join us.

On **Sunday, October 18, we will recognize and bless our Communion Companions during both the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. worship services**. We are grateful for those who faithfully carry Christ's presence, Communion, and the caring connection of our church family to others.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Olivet will host a flu shot clinic on **Wednesday, October 7,** from **12-1 p.m.** in the Conference Room. Annual flu vaccination is one simple way to help protect yourself and those around you as we enter the fall and winter respiratory illness season. Please sign up in the church office.

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Please join us on All Saints **Sunday, November 1**, from **9:45–10:25 a.m.** in the Upper Room for a special time of remembering and honoring loved ones who have died.

During times of grief, prayer, remembrance, and connection with others can bring comfort and peace. Together, we will take time to reflect, remember, and honor those who continue to hold a special place in our hearts.

Our traditional Tree of Remembrance will also be available, offering an opportunity to remember a loved one in a special and visible way.

GriefShare®

GRIEF RESOURCES

If you or someone you love is carrying grief right now, please know that you are not alone. Grief resources and supportive conversations are available for anyone who may find them helpful.

GriefShare Support Group currently meets at 1 p.m. in the Lounge every Tuesday through December 1. This 13-week, Christ-centered group offers support and practical help for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Each week includes a video, discussion, and time for confidential sharing and support. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

A SEASON TO LET GO

There is something about fall that invites us to slow down and notice change. The days become shorter, the air turns cooler, and the trees begin the beautiful process of letting go of their leaves.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in that.



I've been thinking about this idea of "letting go" in my own life lately. Like many of you, I find myself moving through different seasons—some welcomed and exciting, like becoming a grandma to Iris, and others that require a little more adjustment, like helping my parents prepare for a move after many years on the farm—sorting through a lifetime of belongings, deciding what to keep, what to take along, and what it may be time to let go of.

Through it all, I'm learning that we can be grateful for what has been while also making room for what comes next. Throughout our lives, we experience seasons of change. We retire from careers, watch children grow and families change, adjust to changes in our health, say goodbye to people we love, or discover that something we once did easily has become more difficult. Sometimes we even find ourselves holding tightly to schedules, expectations, worries, or responsibilities that no longer serve us well.

Letting go doesn't always mean giving something up. Sometimes it means making room for something new.

Healthy aging involves more than caring for our physical bodies. It also means tending to our emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Learning to adapt to change, accepting help when we need it, staying connected to others, finding purpose, and allowing ourselves time to rest are all important parts of caring for our whole selves.

This fall, consider asking yourself: Is there something I am carrying that I can gently let go of? Maybe it is an unrealistic expectation, an overly full schedule, a worry you cannot control, or the belief that you have to do everything yourself.

The trees remind us each fall that letting go is not necessarily an ending. Sometimes it is simply part of moving into a new season.

"*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*" — Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we enter this new season, may we have the wisdom to hold close what gives us life and the grace to let go of what no longer needs to be carried.

BE YOUR OWN HEALTH ADVOCATE

Write down your questions before a healthcare appointment and bring an updated medication list. Don't be afraid to ask questions or ask for something to be explained again. And when needed, bring a trusted family member or friend along as an extra set of ears.

Remember—your voice matters. You know your body, your concerns, and what is important to you.



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.

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