OLIVET Lutheran Church

THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 11-24, 2026

FAITH AT WORK. LOVE IN ACTION.

2027 ANNUAL APPEAL

Every day at Olivet, generosity becomes ministry in action. It helps young people grow in faith, provides food for neighbors, supports worship and learning, and allows us to care for one another and our community.

As we prepare for 2027, our Annual Appeal focuses on three areas where we believe God is calling us to grow: helping faith grow by strengthening ministry with children, youth, and young adults; feeding our neighbors through the Olivet Food Pantry; and sustaining daily ministry by supporting the staff, programs, worship, and spaces that make ministry possible.

Together, we are seeking $204,000 in additional annual giving, or about $3,924 each week, to strengthen these ministries in the year ahead. Every pledge, whether large or small, is an important part of reaching that goal and continuing the work God has called us to do.

As you consider your giving for 2027, think about the lives touched through Olivet: a young person finding a place to belong, a neighbor receiving food, or someone who is homebound receiving a caring visit. Your generosity helps make these moments possible.

Pledge cards may be returned during worship on Commitment Sunday, October 25, or Wednesday, October 28. You may also pledge online at olivet.org/pledge or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for the many ways you help put Faith at Work. Love in Action.

PLEDGE HERE

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

Our fall worship series, “Faith at Work. Love in Action.” is underway! Together, we’re exploring what it looks like when our faith moves beyond belief and becomes something others can see and experience. Through worship, we’ll discover how God calls us to grow together, encourage one another, and put our faith into action as we share Christ’s love with our neighbors and community.

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.

MINISTRY UPDATES

PASTOR NATHAN TO BE ORDAINED

We are excited to share that Pastor Nathan Adu-Gyamfi’s Optional Practical Training (OPT) authorization has been approved, allowing him to begin his ministry at Olivet soon! We are grateful for this long-awaited step and look forward to welcoming him into the Olivet community.

Before beginning this new chapter, Nathan will celebrate another important milestone. On **Saturday, October 17**, at **3 p.m.**, he will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ordination service will take place at Augustana Lutheran Church in West Saint Paul, Minnesota, with Pastor Kris and Olivet members Tom Eide and Jenna Meyers participating in the service. We invite you to celebrate this special day with Nathan and his family! **Watch from home by scanning the QR code below, or join us at Olivet to watch the livestream together on the big screen in Fellowship Hall.**

Please continue to keep Nathan, Gloria, and their family in your prayers as they prepare for his ordination, their move to Fargo, and this new chapter of ministry at Olivet. We look forward to welcoming them and beginning this exciting journey together!

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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Instagram.com/olivet_fargo

PASTOR'S PEN: OCTOBER 2026

"*A season of abundance.*" When you look at swirling leaves dropping to the ground, leaving trees barren, it doesn't seem like an abundance of anything other than yardwork. Our world is filled with news of economic uncertainty and political conflict, and people are wondering if they can or should pay for gas to drive to work, food for their families, or medicine. That doesn't feel like a season of abundance. What we have is a season of abundant worry, stress, and anxiety.

And yet, we find hope and assurance in God's Word, which is filled with stories of abundance – from creation, to God's provision of manna and quail to the Israelites in the desert, to Jesus multiplying loaves of bread and fish to feed thousands. Jesus says, "Do not worry about your life," pointing to the birds and the flowers that receive what they need from God, who knows what we need. (Matthew 6:25).

Pastor Lana Miller serves at Community Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA, and shares a story of how the congregation was invited to consider how they could cultivate a gift economy – one in which each person shared what they had "more than enough of" at home, such as baked goods, produce from their gardens, homemade cards, etc. They each brought their "extras" to church and shared them. She says, "These actions reflect God's abundance. When we recognize and appreciate all that we have, we are more ready to share with others."

Here at Olivet, we cultivate a gift economy: filling the wagon with food to share with our neighbors, bringing extra fabric for the quilters to turn into a warm quilt, every one of us pitching in and sharing our financial abundance to help not only pay down the mortgage, but to pay it off! I'm excited to see what bold steps of abundant generosity we will take next!

The trees release their leaves, trusting that another season is coming. And perhaps we can learn from them. We don't have to control everything; we don't know what tomorrow will bring, but we can place our worries into God's hands and ask God: "What are you asking of me to do today?" Maybe it's one prayer, a conversation, an act of kindness, a step of faith as we share the abundance God has given to us!

Pastor Hope Deutscher

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

THANK YOU

Thanks to your generosity, our sock box was overflowing by the end of September! Each donation to the Golden Drive Homeless Kids Sock Drive will help provide something warm, practical, and needed for children right here in our community. Thank you for filling the box and for always finding ways to care for our neighbors!

RE-ENTRY SUPPER

The F5 Project is hosting a Re-Entry Supper at Olivet on **Thursday, October 15**, from **5:30–6:30 p.m.** Enjoy a free meal, connect with others, and learn about helpful community resources. The supper is open to those navigating re-entry or recovery, their families, service providers, and community supporters. The menu includes a baked potato bar, salad, and dessert.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY MONTHLY DINNERS

Each month, Olivet supports Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at NDSU by providing and serving a meal for students. It's a meaningful way to extend hospitality and connect with young adults in our community. Our next meal dates are **Sunday, October 18**, and **Sunday, November 22**. Volunteers are needed to help serve and connect with students. For more information or to volunteer, contact Michelle at melness@olivet.org.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

OLIVERSITY RETURNS

On **October 14**, at **7 p.m**. in the Upper Room, Oliversity kicks off its 2026 season with Dr. Ernest Simmons of Concordia College and a timely conversation about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Dr. Simmons will explore the promises, uses, and potential dangers of AI, including advances in medical technology and the ethical questions surrounding this rapidly changing field. Dr. Simmons is a theologian-in-residence and professor emeritus of religion at Concordia, as well as a retired ELCA pastor. Additional Oliversity programs are planned for this fall. Watch for more details!

SPECIAL EVENTS

TOAST TO JIM KNUDSON

Get ready for a night filled with great music, good friends, and plenty of celebrating! On **Tuesday, October 27**, at **7 p.m.**, friends, fellow musicians, and music lovers will gather at the TAK Events Center for the *Jim Knudson TOAST Concert*, honoring a longtime Fargo musician and familiar face at Olivet. Jim has spent years sharing his love of music throughout our community and at Olivet, and now it's time to turn up the volume and celebrate him! The evening will feature Jim doing what he does best, making music, with the FM KICKS Band, jazz combo, and the Celebrate! Band joining in the fun.

Come enjoy an evening of live music and help raise a glass, or a drumstick, to Jim and the music he has shared with so many over the years. Tickets will be available at the door or online through https://givebutter.com/jim-knudson-toast-concert-pkfn5p. Come ready to listen, celebrate, and TOAST Jim!

EXCITING NEWS FOR CELEBRATE! WORSHIP

We're excited to share that Matt Aakre and Kari Del Rio are stepping into the roles of Celebrate! Contemporary Music Directors! Together, Matt and Kari will help lead our contemporary music ministry, bringing their own unique talents, creativity, and energy to the role. Their shared love of music and passion for worship will help create meaningful and uplifting experiences that bring our congregation together through music and faith. We're grateful for their willingness to take on this new opportunity and we look forward to seeing all the wonderful things ahead for Celebrate! Worship and the music ministry at Olivet!





DÉCOR & MORE SALE

Olivet's Décor & More Sale is back! Stop by the Atrium to browse gently used seasonal and everyday décor and find a new treasure for your home. All items are available for a free-will donation, with proceeds helping purchase seasonal décor for Olivet throughout the year.

- **Wednesday, October 14:** 12-7 p.m.
- **Thursday, October 15:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Friday, October 16:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 18:** 8-11 a.m.

Have décor to donate? Drop off gently used items at the church office by Monday, October 12. We also need volunteers to help sort, set up, and tear down. Contact Claire at cduenow@olivet.org or 701.235.6603 to help.

OLIVET OUT AND ABOUT

Whether you're young, young(ish), or young at heart**,** join us for an evening of fellowship and fun at **Brewhalla** on **Thursday, October 15**, from **5:30–7:30 p.m.** This is strictly social, so come and go as you'd like! Grab dinner, enjoy some handcrafted gelato, or order your beverage of choice, then head upstairs and look for the Olivet reserved tables. Food and beverages are on your own, and kids are welcome. We hope you'll join us!

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Join us on **All Saints' Day, November 1**, from **9:45–10:25 a.m.** in the Upper Room for a special time of remembrance, prayer, and reflection as we honor loved ones who have died. Our traditional Tree of Remembrance will also be available as a meaningful way to remember those who continue to hold a special place in our hearts.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11, and we want to honor and thank all who have served or are currently serving. Olivet will be featuring a special photo tribute before worship services on **November 8** and **November 11**.

If you'd like to include a loved one, please email their photo to swolf@olivet.org by Friday, October 30. Be sure to include their name, rank, and branch of service, and note if they are currently serving.

OLIVET'S PHOTO DIRECTORY

Haven't picked up your new Olivet Church Directory yet? Stop by the church office to grab your copy! Directories are available for a suggested donation of $15. Don't miss out on this great way to stay connected with your Olivet family!

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Wednesday night dinners are served from 5–6 p.m. 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.

October 14: No Dinner
October 21: Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice (Boy Scout fundraiser)

CHILI & CHOCOLATE IS BACK

Bring your appetite and your best recipe to Olivet's Chili & Chocolate event on **Wednesday, November 4**, from **5–6:30 p.m**. Whether your specialty is a favorite chili recipe or a delicious chocolate dessert, we invite you to enter the competition and see if you have what it takes to be named this year's Chili & Chocolate Champion! We're also looking for sides, toppings, and other fixings to help complete the meal. **Ready to enter a dish or help with the meal? Sign up at olivet.org/signup.**

Not a cook? No problem! Come hungry, sample the entries, cast your vote for your favorites, and enjoy a fun evening of food and fellowship. All proceeds from the event will support Olivet's ministry partners, making it a great opportunity to gather together while giving back.

WELCOME CHLOE



We're excited to welcome Chloe Fischer to Olivet's Youth Intern team! A lifelong Olivet member, Chloe has been involved in Sunday & Wednesday School and Vacation Bible School and is excited to continue serving our youth in this new role. Chloe is a freshman at MSUM studying Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. In her free time she enjoys soccer, axe throwing, and spending time with friends and family. We're so glad to have Chloe on the team!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Learning & Sharing: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Fall Family Fun Activities: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
No Sunday School
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Décor & More: 12-7 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.
Oliversity: 7-8 p.m.
No Youth Activities or Dinner

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Décor & More: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Re-Entry Dinner: 5:30-6:30 pm.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.
Out & About: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
Décor & More: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Décor & More: 8-11 a.m.
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Food Pantry Packing: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Youth Sing in Worship
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night Live: 3 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.
Food Pantry Distribution: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
Men's Morning Group: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Gather Circle Bible Study: 9-11:30 a.m.
GriefShare Support Group: 1-2:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Dinner: 5-6 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Youth Sing in Worship
Wednesday School: 6-6:50 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
10th Grade Confirmation Dessert Banquet: 7-8 p.m.
Confirmation Service Projects: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
REFORMATION SUNDAY / COMMITMENT SUNDAY
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation: 2-3 p.m.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

YOUTH SING IN WORSHIP

Sunday School students will sing at the 8:30 a.m. service on **Sunday, October 18**, followed by the Youth Choir at the 10:30 a.m. service. Then, our Wednesday School students will sing during worship on **Wednesday, October 21**. We always love having our kids take part in worship and can't wait to hear their voices fill the Sanctuary!

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

We're kicking off a new season of SNL with an afternoon of fall fun! High school students are invited to Lost in the Valley at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds on **Sunday, October 18**, at **3 p.m.** Come take on the corn maze, explore the pumpkin patch, and enjoy some time with friends. And there's more to come! SNL will now be a monthly gathering, with axe throwing planned for November and an Ugly Christmas Sweater Bowling Night in December. Bring a friend and join us for a fun year of SNL!

DONATE YOUR USED EYEGLASSES

Olivet is collecting gently used eyeglasses for a special confirmation service project! On **Wednesday, October 21**, our confirmation students will sort and clean the donated glasses before they are given to the Lions Recycle for Sight program to help people in need around the world. Have glasses you no longer use? Drop them in the collection basket by the church office by October 21.

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.

6TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

It's time to begin your weekly confirmation journey! All 6th-grade students will join us for the first night of confirmation at **7 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 28,** in Fellowship Hall.

WREATH FUNDRAISER

Throughout the month of October, Olivet Youth will be taking orders for their annual Christmas Wreath Fundraiser! Choose from 24", 36", or 48" round wreaths, along with swags, candy canes, crosses, centerpieces with cinnamon candles, and garland in several lengths. Proceeds from the fundraiser help support our youth by offsetting the cost of upcoming youth trips and retreats. To place an order, connect with an Olivet youth or visit the tables in the Narthex between worship services. Orders will be delivered by Thanksgiving, just in time to decorate for the Christmas season!

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

During worship on Sunday, October 4, and Wednesday, October 7, parents presented Bibles to our third-grade students, marking a special milestone in their faith journeys and carrying out the promise made at baptism to place the Scriptures in their children's hands.

- Crosby Colbert
- America Derby
- Hendrix Dwyer
- Elizabeth Everson
- Samuel Garcia
- Esme Hammer
- Daisy Heppner
- Hannah Hoffmann
- Maxwell Huff
- Joella Jystad-Spar
- Tommy Krumwiede
- Monte Lunde
- Michael Nelson
- Rhetton Nordman
- Hunter Olson
- Ella Redlinger
- Charlie Senn