OLIVET Lutheran Church

THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 25-NOVEMBER 7, 2026

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Each year on the last Sunday of October, we celebrate Reformation Sunday, a day that holds special meaning for Lutherans and reminds us of the foundation of our faith. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther sparked the Protestant Reformation when he shared his 95 Theses, challenging practices within the church and calling for a renewed understanding of God's Word. At the heart of his message was the belief that salvation is not something we can earn, but a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ. As we celebrate Reformation Sunday at Olivet, we give thanks for the faith passed down through generations and the ways God continues to work through our congregation. Rooted in the promises of our baptism and renewed by God's grace, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us, strengthen our faith, and inspire us to share Christ's love with our community and the world.

FAITH AT WORK.
LOVE IN ACTION.

2027 ANNUAL APPEAL

Every day at Olivet, generosity makes a difference. It helps young people grow in faith, provides food for our neighbors, strengthens our ministries, and shares Christ's love throughout our community. Through our 2027 Annual Appeal, **Faith at Work. Love in Action.**, we are seeking an additional $204,000 in annual giving to build on this important work and continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Every pledge, large or small, helps us carry out the ministry God has called us to do.

As we make our commitments for the coming year, we give thanks for God's many blessings and the opportunities to share those blessings with others. Pledges may be returned during worship on **Sunday, October 25, and Wednesday, October 28**. You may also make your commitment by scanning the QR code or visiting olivet.org/pledge.

Together, through faith and generosity, may we continue to put our faith to work and God's love into action.

A SPECIAL SUNDAY: PASTOR NATHAN'S INSTALLATION & JAZZ SUNDAY



We are excited to celebrate the installation of Pastor Nathan Adu-Gyamfi as Olivet's new Associate Pastor on **Sunday, November 15**, during both worship services! Bishop Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth of the Eastern North Dakota Synod will join us for this special occasion as we officially welcome Pastor Nathan into his new role and celebrate the beginning of an exciting new chapter of ministry at Olivet.

As we celebrate this meaningful milestone, we give thanks for God's guidance throughout the call process and for the many people whose prayers, dedication, and support have helped bring us to this moment. We look forward with joy and anticipation to all that God has in store for Pastor Nathan, his family, and the entire Olivet congregation as we continue to grow in faith and serve together.

Following worship, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for cupcakes and an opportunity to visit with Pastor Nathan and his family! We encourage you to take a few moments in the coming weeks to introduce yourself, get to know them, and extend a warm Olivet welcome as they begin this exciting new journey with us.

And that's not all! November 15 is also Jazz Sunday at Olivet! Adding to this special day, our worship services will be filled with the uplifting sounds of jazz. Come tap your toes, lift your voice, and enjoy a little extra swing as we celebrate God's blessings through music, praise, and worship. It's sure to be a joyful Sunday you won't want to miss!

LEARNING & SHARING

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth for a special Learning & Sharing session on **Sunday, November 15**, at **9:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This gathering will be an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of ministry, the importance of our shared faith, and the work God calls us to do as a church. Come be part of this meaningful conversation as we celebrate our faith and the ministry we share!

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
Pastor	Nathan Adu-Gyamfi
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

MILESTONES & MEMORIAL: SEPTEMBER 2026

BAPTISMS

September 6, 2026: Halo Azalea Conteh, daughter of Siadu Conteh & Kaylee Erickson
September 20, 2026: Vivienne Kimberly Liljenquist, daughter of Devon & Emily Liljenuist

MEMBER DEATHS

September 7, 2026: Joyce Wallman
September 22, 2026: Doriene Egge
September 24, 2026: Gladys Smith

MEMORIALS

Thank you to those who gave in honor of or in memory of their family and friends.

BIBLE STUDY OFFERING
- In memory of Joyce Wallman by Jan Judisch, Kathy Braaten

CHOIR
- In memory of Joyce Wallman, by Donald & Janet Meronuck, Randall & Carol Miller Schaefer

I LOVE MY CHURCH
- In honor of Vivienne Liljenquist's baptism by Devon Liljenquist
- In memory of Dale Hertel by Wilbur & Carolyn Wright
- In memory of Nancy Fisher by Bobbi Carney
- In memory of Susan Didriksen by David & Bev Gravdahl

OLIVET FOOD PANTRY
- In memory of Gail Arends by Jeff & Teresa Huff
- In memory of Joyce Wallman by Margaret Tinnes

OLIVET FOUNDATION
- In memory of Verne & Donna Aaker by Lois Lerum, Brian & Karen Bluhm, Jean Berg

RADIO BROADCAST
- In honor of Marion Helbling's 95th birthday from her family by Mari Palm
- In memory of Gary Lindquist & Eugene Hoagland by Jeff & Teresa Huff
- In memory of Lester Helmeke & Jesse Skow by Jason & Kristi McSparron
- In memory of our daughter Sara DCamp by Bob & Rev. Natalie Carlson

YOUTH PROGRAMMING
- In memory of Susan Didriksen by Kris & Erin Gillett

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHILI & CHOCOLATE

Do you have an award-winning chili or chocolate dessert? We want you to sign up today for our Annual Chili & Chocolate competition, which supports our ministry partners! Sign up at **olivet.org/signup** to enter the competition! Not a cook? We're also looking for sides, toppings, and other fixings to help complete the meal.

Bring your appetite and your best recipe to Olivet's Chili & Chocolate event on **Wednesday, November 4,** from **5–6:30 p.m.** 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.

VIKINGS VS. PACKERS WATCH PARTY

It's game day at Olivet, and everyone's invited! Whether you're cheering for the purple and gold, rooting for the green and gold, or just coming for the fun, there's a place for you at our Vikings vs. Packers Watch Party on **Sunday, November 15, with kickoff at noon!** Hosted by Olivet's Young(ish) Adult Group, this afternoon is for fans of all ages! Join us in Fellowship Hall as we catch the game on the big screen and enjoy an afternoon of football, fellowship, and a little friendly rivalry. There will be activities for the kids, too, so bring the whole family, wear your team colors, and get ready for some game-day fun! Watch for more details coming soon!

YOUNG(ISH) ADULTS: CURLING NIGHT

Ever wondered what it takes to send a curling stone gliding across the ice? Here's your chance to find out! Olivet's Young(ish) Adult Group is planning a night at the FM Curling Club on **Friday, November 20**, from **6–8 p.m.** No curling experience? No problem! Come try something new, share a few laughs, and enjoy an evening with friends. Mark your calendar! More details to come.

SPECIAL MOMENTS IN WORSHIP

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

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 NEWS & CELEBRATIONS

A MILESTONE WORTH CELEBRATING

It's time to turn the page on an important chapter in Olivet's history! Thanks to years of faithful giving, generosity, and commitment, our mortgage is officially paid in full! Join us on **Sunday, November 22**, at **9:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall, between worship services, for a special mortgage-burning celebration. This exciting milestone is more than simply paying off a building. It's a testament to the faith and generosity of our congregation and the many people who have helped make Olivet what it is today. Together, we'll give thanks to God, celebrate our blessings, and look ahead to the many opportunities for ministry still to come. Come be part of this special celebration as we honor our past, celebrate the present, and look forward to Olivet's future!

OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE

The new offering envelopes have arrived! If you use offering envelopes for your giving, please stop by the church office to pick yours up. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Olivet's ministries.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving Statements reflecting contributions received from January 1 through September 30 will be mailed by the end of October. Once you receive your statement, we encourage you to take a few moments to review your giving, make sure all contributions have been recorded accurately, and check your progress towards your pledge and annual giving goals.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Are you interested in shaping future leadership at Olivet? If so, please consider serving on the Nominating Committee. This committee consists of six voting congregation members who will identify and recruit members whose gifts and experience align with open leadership positions within our church. If you are interested in serving on Olivet's nominating committee, or in another leadership capacity, please contact one of our pastors or a member of the church council to find out how to get involved. Members of the Nominating Committee will be elected during a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 6**, at **9:30 a.m**. in Fellowship Hall.

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! Check out our upcoming menus below!

October 28: Baked potato bar, salad, dessert
November 4: Chili & Chocolate
November 11: No Dinner

CALLING ALL SNOWBIRDS

Are you heading south for the winter? Before you head off to warmer weather, don't forget to update your mailing address with Olivet. If you'd like to continue receiving church mailings while you're away, please contact Claire in the church office at 701.235.6603 with your winter address, departure date, and expected return date. We'll make sure you stay connected to Olivet, no matter where the winter takes you. Safe travels and enjoy the sunshine!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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.

BIO GIRLS REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 10

Registration for the 2027 BIO Girls program at Olivet opens Tuesday, November 10. This empowering program helps young girls build confidence, develop healthy friendships, and discover their self-worth. Sessions will be held on Sundays from 4:30–6 p.m., beginning February 7 and continuing through May 2, and will include the Find Your Kind 5K on Wednesday, April 28. For more information and to register, go to biogirls.org/program.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE UPDATE

Please note that there will be no youth activities or Wednesday night dinner on Wednesday, November 11. Regular Wednesday evening activities will resume the following week. Worship will still be held at 6 p.m.

WREATH FUNDRAISER

Haven't ordered your Christmas wreath yet? There's still time! Olivet Youth is wrapping up their annual Christmas Wreath Fundraiser, and orders are being accepted through Wednesday, October 28. Choose from a variety of beautiful wreaths, swags, candy canes, crosses, centerpieces with cinnamon candles, and garland to add a festive touch to your holiday decorating. Every purchase helps support our youth by offsetting the cost of upcoming trips and retreats. To place your order, connect with an Olivet youth or stop by the tables in the Narthex between worship services. Orders will arrive by Thanksgiving, just in time for the Christmas season!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
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 28
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 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 29
MomCo: 9-11 a.m.
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Moments to Remember: 9:45-10:25 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
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, NOVEMBER 4
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 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, NOVEMBER 5
MomCo: 9-11 a.m.
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith: 6:30-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVMEBER 6
Friday Fellowship: 2-4 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
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.

BIBLE STUDIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Friday Fellowship on **Friday, November 6**, at **2 p.m.**, as we welcome Jack Zeleski for a special presentation, "*A Writer's Journey.*" Jack will share his experiences transitioning from a career in journalism to writing a history book and, more recently, exploring short fiction and memoir. With stories published in the last two editions of the Fargo Public Library's "*Northern Narratives*," Jack will reflect on how writing has become a rewarding part of his semi-retirement. Through readings from his work, he'll offer a glimpse into the different chapters of his writing life and the opportunities that come with discovering new passions later in life.

LEARNING & SHARING: NAVIGATING MEDICARE

Medicare can be confusing, but understanding your options doesn't have to be! Join us for an informative Learning & Sharing session with August Grothmann from Zimmerman Insurance Solutions, who will help explain Medicare and provide helpful information to better understand your coverage and choices. **Two opportunities to attend are Sunday, November 8, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and Wednesday, November 18, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Room.** Whether you're approaching Medicare eligibility, already enrolled, or simply looking to learn more, we hope you'll join us!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OLIVET FOOD PANTRY

Our October numbers rebounded to "normal" as we distributed 9,100 pounds of food to 346 families. While we are grateful to be able to serve so many of our neighbors, we continue to see a concerning increase in the number of first-time visitors to the pantry, reflecting the growing need for food assistance throughout the Fargo-Moorhead community.

As winter approaches, we expect to see our numbers continue to grow. We are incredibly thankful for the ongoing support of the Olivet Church Council and the many congregation members who generously give their time, food, and financial gifts to help keep this important ministry going. Your kindness and generosity make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

We are also grateful for our partnership with Great Plains Food Bank, which will provide additional food items during the upcoming holiday season, allowing us to offer more fresh produce to the families we serve over the next couple of months.

Our pantry continues to need donations of toilet paper, canned pasta sauce, soup, and tuna. Thank you to everyone who helps make this ministry possible. Your generosity allows us to continue meeting the growing needs of our neighbors while sharing God's love through kindness, compassion, and care.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TOAST TO JIM KNUDSON

Join us for a special evening of music and celebration at the **Jim Knudson TOAST Concert** on **Tuesday, October 27,** at **7 p.m.** at the TAK Events Center! Help celebrate Jim, a longtime Fargo musician and familiar face at Olivet, as he takes the stage alongside the FM KICKS Band, jazz combo, and Celebrate! Band. Come enjoy great music, good company, and a well-deserved tribute to Jim! Tickets are available at the door or online at https://givebutter.com/jim-knudson-toast-concert-pkfn5p. Come ready to listen, celebrate, and TOAST Jim!