OLIVET Lutheran Church

THE EMBLEM

A bi-weekly publication of Olivet Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 8-21, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to Olivet! We're so happy you're here! Whether you're joining us for the first time or have been part of our Olivet family for years, we're grateful to gather together in worship and faith. If you're new to Olivet, we'd love to meet you and help you get connected! Stop by the Welcome Desk in the Atrium or fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We look forward to getting to know you!

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 and give thanks for God's guidance throughout the call process.

Following worship, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for cupcakes and an opportunity to meet Pastor Nathan and his family. Come help us extend a warm Olivet welcome!

November 15 is also Jazz Sunday! Enjoy the uplifting sounds of jazz throughout worship as we celebrate this special day with music, praise, and thanksgiving. It's sure to be a joyful Sunday you won't want to miss!

LEARNING & SHARING

A special Learning & Sharing session with Bishop Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth will be held on **Sunday, November 15,** at **9:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Together, we'll reflect on the blessings of ministry, our shared faith, and the work God calls us to do as a church. Come be part of this meaningful conversation!

THANK YOU FROM YOUR PASTORS

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who remembered us during Pastor Appreciation Month! Your thoughtful gifts, cards, kind words, and encouragement mean so much to us. We are truly grateful for your kindness, generosity, and continued support. We feel blessed to serve such a wonderful and caring church family!

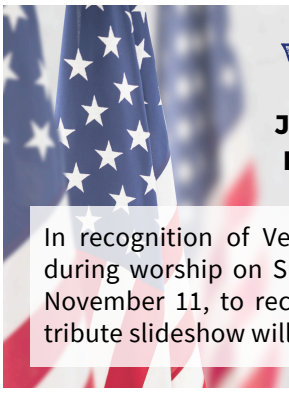
2027 ANNUAL APPEAL

If you haven't yet made your pledge to Olivet's 2027 Annual Appeal, there's still time! Your generosity supports the ministries that make a difference every day, from nurturing faith in our children and youth to feeding our neighbors and serving our community. Every commitment, no matter the size, helps us continue sharing Christ's love through Faith at Work. Love in Action.

Make your pledge today by scanning the QR code, visiting olivet.org/pledge, or turning in your pledge card. Additional pledge cards are available in the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Olivet's ministries!

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 in Fellowship Hall at **9:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, November 22**, 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!



VETERANS DAY

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS WE HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED

In recognition of Veterans Day, we will take a moment during worship on Sunday, November 8, and Wednesday, November 11, to recognize our veterans. A special photo tribute slideshow will also be playing in the Atrium.

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

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PASTOR'S PEN: NOVEMBER 2026

"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." - Mark 10:43-44

November is a busy month. We will gather on the first Sunday of the month, All Saints Sunday, and pause to remember those who have finished their journey in this life. Between services, there will be an opportunity to gather with others who want to remember loved ones at a time we call "Moments to Remember." We will finally put an end to political ads and the deluge of mailings by having an election. We will celebrate the installation of Pastor Nathan. We will honor our veterans and remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. We will gather to give thanks on a national Day of Thanksgiving. We will arrive at the culmination of the church year and celebrate Christ the King Sunday as we transition into a new Church year and the season of Advent.

I find it interesting that when I listen to others talk of those they miss, they recount the times that were spent together, the amusing anecdotes, the eccentric character traits, and the endearing moments that brought laughter and love into life. Seldom do they recall with tenderness the amount of time spent at the office. When I think of our elected officials, I am reminded that they are called 'Public Servants' and, despite the obvious abuses, I believe most hope to serve the country as best they know how. When faithful members talk about their offerings to the church, they speak in terms of service to others, and many voice the attitude that it is more important what we give away than what we keep for our own maintenance. When family members talk about those they love being far away in military zones that are dangerous, there is always, along with the tone of worry and anxiety, a sense of pride that one of their own is willing to serve the country. And when we assemble on Thanksgiving Day, whether around a dinner table or in a house of worship, we are mindful that we do not come to this moment on our own, but we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have gone before us and to our God who continues to preserve us.

As we end this church year and celebrate Christ the King Sunday, we remember that this kingdom is quite different than the kingdoms of the world. It is marked by humble service, grace, and love. Those are the attributes we lift up when we remember those who had an impact on our lives. And even though the wisdom of the world often makes fun of such an attitude and would admonish us that "nice guys (and gals) finish last," this King says that's ok. In fact, it is the preferable place to be. Because in the end, acts of service will be remembered with fondness, pride, and honor. The humble duties of a slave will change the hearts of angry and arrogant people. Love will conquer hatred. Peace will prevail over war. Servants will be remembered as 'number one,' and those who are willing to take on the duties of a slave will be acknowledged as great.

But don't take my word for it; listen to Jesus. He not only announced it; he lived it. And every now and then we see evidence of this Kingdom at work around us and we have reason to give thanks and carry on.

- Pastor Bill Boetter

CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Students in grades 6–8 are invited to Olivet's Middle School Lock-In on **Friday, November 13, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday!** Get ready for a night filled with games, food, laughter, and plenty of time to hang out with friends. It's a chance to stay up late, have some fun, and make great memories! Students should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, and a snack to share. Pizza will be served later in the evening. Please be sure to note any food allergies in the comment section when registering. Don't miss out on the fun! Sign up at **olivet.org/signup**.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

November's SNL is heading to Rough Cut Social in downtown Fargo for an afternoon of axe throwing! Students in grades 9–12 can put their aim to the test, challenge their friends, and enjoy some friendly competition on **Sunday, November 22**, at **3 p.m**. No experience needed, just come ready for some fun! The cost is approximately $20 per person.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Join us for Wednesday night dinners from 5–6 p.m. Enjoy a delicious meal and time together before worship and evening activities. Everyone is welcome!

Please note: There will be no Wednesday night dinner or youth activities on November 11. Worship will be held at 6 p.m., and regular activities will resume the following week.

November 11: No Dinner
November 18: Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, dessert (Boy Scout fundraiser)

RE-ENTRY SUPPER

The F5 Project will host a Re-Entry Supper at Olivet on **Thursday, November 19**, from **5:30–6:30 p.m.** This free community meal is an opportunity to connect with others, build relationships, and learn about valuable community resources. All are welcome, including individuals navigating re-entry or recovery, their families, service providers, and community supporters. On the menu: Chili with all the fixings!

WORSHIP & GIVING

THIRTEENTH MONTH APPEAL

As another year comes to a close, we are grateful for the generosity and faithful support that keep Olivet's ministries thriving. Our annual Thirteenth Month Appeal offers an opportunity to give a little extra before year-end, helping us finish the year strong and continue the work we do together.

Whether it's supporting worship, nurturing faith in our children and youth, or serving our neighbors, your generosity touches every corner of Olivet. If you are able, please consider making an additional gift to the general fund as part of this year-end appeal.

Gifts can be made online at olivet.org/give, mailed or dropped off at the church office, or given by scanning the QR code. Please mark your gift "13th Month Gift." Thank you for being part of all that God is doing through Olivet!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Interested in helping shape Olivet's future leadership? Consider serving on the Nominating Committee! This six-member committee helps identify and recruit members for leadership roles within the church. If interested, contact a pastor or Church Council member. Committee members will be elected at the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 6**, at **9:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP & PIE FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Thanksgiving Worship on **Wednesday, November 25**, at **12 p.m.** as we gather in gratitude for God's many blessings. The service will include familiar Thanksgiving hymns and Holy Communion, followed by a time of fellowship with coffee, pie, and good company!

Help us continue this Thanksgiving tradition by bringing a homemade or store-bought pie to share! Sign up at olivet.org/signup. Pies may be dropped off at the church on Tuesday during office hours. We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together!

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25: NO EVENING ACTIVITIES
12 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship
1 p.m. Fellowship, pie, and coffee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Building Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Celebrate! Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 of football and fellowship 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! We'll have some game day snacks available along with pizza slices for purchase while supplies last.

YOUNG(ISH) ADULTS CURLING EVENT

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. Cash bar and pizza/snacks available for purchase. Curling is $10/person for equipment. Wear loose warm-ish clothing.

BIBLE STUDIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

LEARNING & SHARING: NAVIGATING MEDICARE

Medicare can be confusing, but understanding your options doesn't have to be! Join us for a special Learning & Sharing session on **Wednesday, November 18**, at **7 p.m.** in the Upper Room. Kassie, Program Manager with Valley Senior Services, will help explain Medicare and answer your questions. Whether you're approaching Medicare eligibility, already enrolled, or simply looking to learn more, this session is for you! Kassie will also be available for one-on-one counseling that evening or by appointment before the open enrollment deadline.

OLIVERSITY

Following his engaging October presentation on Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Ernest Simmons, professor emeritus at Concordia College and retired ELCA pastor, returns to Oliversity on **Wednesday, November 11**, from **7–8 p.m.** in the Upper Room. In his presentation, *"When Science Meets Religion: Friend or Foe?"*, Dr. Simmons will explore the relationship between science and faith, drawing on the work of physicist-theologian Ian Barbour. Join us for a fresh and thought-provoking look at how science and religion connect, challenge, and complement one another.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Quilters: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
One Oak Worship Service: 3-4 p.m.
Worship: 6 p.m.
Oliversity: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.
No Wednesday Dinner or Youth Activities

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Scripture Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Middle School Lock-in: 7 p.m.-7 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
PASTOR NATHAN INSTALLATION & JAZZ SUNDAY
Traditions Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Learning & Sharing: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Food Pantry Packing: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Celebrate! Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Vikings & Packers Watch Party: 12-4 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Women of Faith: 1-2 p.m.
Food Pantry Distribution: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Men's Morning Group: 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Gather Circle Bible Study: 9-11:30 a.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
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: 6:50-7:15 p.m.
Confirmation: 7-8 p.m.
Learning & Sharing: 7-8 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 7-8 p.m.
Hang Time: 8-9 p.m.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREES

The Boy Scouts are back at Olivet for their annual Christmas tree sale! Stop by the north end of the parking lot to pick out your tree and support the Scouts. Trees will be available through mid-December or until sold out. For more information, contact Andrew Holmen at 701-866-7202.

TREE LOT HOURS:
November 23-27: 4-8 p.m.
November 28: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
November 29: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS AT OLIVET

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to share God's love with others! Beginning **Sunday, November 15**, Olivet's Giving Tree will be available in the Atrium, offering an opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for local students and individuals served by Fargo Public Schools, Matthew's Voice Project, the New Life Center, and Churches United. Stop by the tree before or after Sunday or Wednesday worship, select a gift tag, and return your wrapped gift with the tag attached by Tuesday, December 15.

Your generosity helps bring a little extra joy to those facing challenges this holiday season. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas and making a difference in our community!

BE PART OF OLIVET'S CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER!

One of Olivet's favorite Christmas traditions is bringing our community together for a Christmas Eve meal! Join us on **Thursday, December 24**, from **6–8 p.m.**, as we open our doors to share good food, friendly faces, and the joy of the season.

It takes many helping hands to make this tradition possible, and we'd love your support! Whether you volunteer your time, provide food, or make a financial contribution, there are plenty of ways to be involved. It's also a great opportunity for families and friends to serve together!

- **Volunteer:** Sign up at olivet.org/signup
- **Donate food:** Complete and return the bulletin insert today! Bring your donations to the church office when you are ready
- **Give financially:** Mail or give online at olivet.org/give. Please note "Christmas Eve Dinner" on your check or online donation

Thank you for helping us share the joy of Christmas with our community!

ADVENT LUNCHEON

From cherished Christmas carols to holiday classics, every song has a story! Join us for a festive Advent luncheon on **Saturday, December 5**, from **11 a.m.–1 p.m.** as we discover the stories and memories behind the music of Christmas.

Enjoy a delicious catered lunch, beautiful music performed by *"36 Strings"*, a youth-led chamber orchestra from Fargo North High School, and a presentation on the fascinating stories behind the Christmas songs we know and love. Come ready to reminisce, learn something new, enjoy a few surprises, and celebrate the sounds of the season!

Bring a friend and enjoy a festive afternoon filled with music, memories, and Christmas cheer! Tickets are $15. Register at the church office by November 30.

MILESTONES & MEMORIALS: OCTOBER 2026

BAPTISMS

October 4, 2026: Sienna Margaret Rahman, daughter of Braden & Thea Rahman

MEMORIALS

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

YOUTH PROGRAMMING
- In memory of Joyce Wallman by Bobbi Carney

CHOIR
- In memory of Joyce Wallman, by Carol Bjorklund

GIFTED FOR MISSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
- In memory of Susan Didriksen by Jon & Joan Rustvang