

# THE OLIVE PRESS

the bi-monthly newsletter of  
**Olivet Lutheran Church**  
5840 Monroe Street • Sylvania, OH 43560  
[www.olivetsylvania.org](http://www.olivetsylvania.org)



## Dear People of Olivet:

**A**s we journey into November, we also enter a new phase of our transition as the people of Olivet. The Transition Team is reporting out their concluded work, and a Call Committee will form. Please read Pastor Robyn's comments below for additional detail.

In worship, we will...

- celebrate saints who have preceded us in faith (**All Saints Sunday** is November 3)
- conclude the Year of Mark on **Christ the King Sunday**, November 24
- shout our Advent cry for Christ to come again (our **Advent Festival** is Sunday, December 1)
- celebrate the birth of Jesus, love in a manger (our **Christmas Cantata** is Sunday, December 22 at **10 AM**)

Please be sure to make note of our updated worship schedule:

- Thanksgiving Eve at **7 PM**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight at **7 & 9 PM**
- Olivet's Christmas Eve Family Service continues at **4 PM** on Christmas Eve.

As we conclude one church year and begin another, may you be captivated by God's hope in Christ Jesus for all to be one in the Spirit of God's love.

In God's Service,

*Pastor Melissa Micham, Associate Pastor*

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### Our Vision

*Celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit by inviting all people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus*

### Our Three-Fold Mission

- Create a safer place for growing, learning, listening and loving
- Address social issues by focused engagement in community partnerships
- Make direct connections for learning, mutual support and relief with people around the world

### Pastoral Care Requests

Please contact the church office at 419-882-2077. For pastoral emergencies, please refer to the voice mail message. We love and care for all our members, so please call and let us know your needs.

## Now it's Your Turn to Hear from the Transition Team



Pictured above is Olivet's dedicated Transition Team. Led by Co-Chairs Tina Johnson and Dave Hupp and supported by Interim Pastor Robyn Schmitz and Council Chair Ed Rupley, the team includes Hunter Morrison, Jenny Quackenbush, Donna Mens, Amber Espinosa, and Raiden Browning.

The job of the Transition Team has been to collect information from the congregation related to their hopes, dreams and concerns for Olivet. This was accomplished by a combination of one-on-one interviews with long time members, members who have left Olivet, homebound members, leadership and youth.

Between August and September 2024, the team administered the Missional Assessment

Profile (MAP), a church vitality survey developed by Kairos and Associates. One hundred ninety-five submissions of the MAP were received, of which 188 were complete and admissible. The MAP assessed the impact, effectiveness, and potential of the congregation along four axes, or "locations" which the congregation could be described as stationary, nostalgic, puzzled, or possibilities.

On November 3 the Transition Team will present a summary of topics raised in the interview phase as well as findings from the MAP survey. After the November 3<sup>rd</sup> gathering, members will receive a link to the full MAP presentation given by Kairos, and a general summary of the interviews.

The team has taken their task seriously. Many thanks for hours and hours of dedicated work. Stay tuned. The Call Committee will be announced and consecrated in the coming weeks.

*Rev. Dr. Robyn Schmitz, Interim Pastor*

### **Memorials & Gifts**

as of 10/31

#### **Bev Hartwig**

Jerry & Janice Arkebauer • Ken & Barb Bro  
Susan Santoro • John & Sandra Husman  
Linda Burnett • Charles & Sandra Traugott  
David & Nancy Pollock • Donna Pollex Najarian  
Bruce & Cheryl Bischoff • Jamey Burnett  
Doug & Helene Lyon • Betty Pakosz  
TF & AA Maidment • Todd & Cinda Berman  
Carl & Jennifer Christensen • W & N Wright

#### **Harold Leupp**

William Hite • Becky & Wayne Johnson  
Ray & Kay Romstadt • Susan Santoro  
Brad & Martha Kupsky • Dean & Barb Myers  
Fred Heintz • Lana Heintz • Sandy Blausey  
Marlene Schober • Bob & Candy Sturtz  
Mary Carl • Shirley Brodbeck  
Craig & Barb Stough • Mike & Jan Bratton  
Mike & Jan Cook • Doug & Helene Lyon  
Gerry & Gwen Ames • Jim & Liz Meiste  
John C. Kunkel • Walter Jarusiewicz  
Dave Tillman • Noel & Marti Heisler  
John & Michelle Hills • Carol DeGroff  
Bill & Nancy Hamilton

#### **Harold Leupp (continued)**

Olivet Leisure League • Greg & Cynthia Fett  
Cynthia Riedel & Judy Paluck"  
Fred Phillips • Northern Concrete Pipe Inc.  
Signature Bank • Steve & Charla Cygan  
Roger Rummel • Karen Baither  
SJS Investment Co. • Donna Pollex Najarian  
Greater Toledo Community Foundation  
PJ & Jean Johnson • Gary & Tricia Yanker  
Jerry & Janice Arkebauer • Ken & Barb Bro  
John & Sandra Husman • W & N Wright  
Linda Burnett • Charles & Sandra Traugott  
David & Nancy Pollock • Bruce & Cheryl Bischoff  
Doug & Helene Lyon • Jamey Burnett  
TF & AA Maidment • Betty Pakosz  
Todd & Cinda Berman  
Carl & Jennifer Christensen

#### **Ruth Lahti**

Shirley Brodbeck • Gary & Penny Moran  
Darla Culberson • W & N Wright

#### **Patsy Pritts**

Doug & Helene Lyon

### **Pastoral Acts**

#### **Weddings**

Michael Schuster & Lenna McCoy  
(September 14)  
Nate Schultz & Jazmyn Sehy (October 4)

#### **Funerals**

Beverly Hartwig (October 19)  
Harold Leupp (August 23)  
Ruth Lahti (September 12)  
Patsy Pritts (funeral Spring 2025)

### **Congregational Council**

<b>President</b>	Ed Rupley
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Bell
<b>Secretary</b>	Mandy Tetreau
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barry Shaner
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mike Vince

#### **Members**

Stephanie Banister	Dave Hupp
Janet Beilstein	Steve Sanderson
Noel Heisler	Kent Jackman
Manzetta Jackson	Linda Gubbe
Steve Mierzejewski	

**Youth Member** Maddy Adams

#### **Pastors**

Robyn Schmitz, Interim Pastor  
Melissa Micham, Associate Pastor

## Upcoming Events

### Olivet Disability Team Meeting

Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 PM | Teen Room

This team is open to anyone who wants to make our church more accessible and welcoming for all. Bring your ideas and join us! All are welcome.

### Kingston Residence Sylvania Craft Show

Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM

Crafters and vendors wanted! Craft show to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. \$30 early bird registration; \$40 after November 11. Table and electric provided. Please email

[eroach@kingstonhealthcare.com](mailto:eroach@kingstonhealthcare.com) your name, phone number, what you are selling, and if you need an electrical outlet. Mail cash or check payable to Kingston c/o Emily Roach, 4125 King Road, Sylvania, OH 43560.

### New Member Orientation

November 17 at 12:15 PM (following the Vine)

Want to learn more about the many ministries of Olivet Lutheran Church and its members? Join in a 90-minute session to explore being a Lutheran Christian in Sylvania, Ohio. Membership is not required of participants, but anyone who wishes to become a voting member of the congregation is encouraged to attend.

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 PM | Sanctuary

Join in Christian community in a service of Thanksgiving and Remembering as we explore the fullness of our Christian heritage in America.

### Advent by Candlelight

Olivet's 12th annual Advent by Candlelight (ABC) Service and Ladies Tea will be held on **Thursday, December 5**. Service with Advent devotionals and beautiful music will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary followed by a Ladies Tea in the Christian Life Center. This year's theme is based on Hymn #245 *Creator of the Stars of Night*.

If you are interested in hosting a table for the ladies tea that follows please see Jan Kirk or Joann Bell.



### Blood Drive

Thursday, Dec. 5 from 10 AM to 4 PM  
Christian Life Center

### Christmas Musical Performances

#### Handbell Choir Concert

Sunday, Dec. 15 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

#### Christmas Cantata

Sunday, Dec. 22 | 10 AM combined service  
Sanctuary

See **page 11** for more information

### Christmas Eve Worship

**4 PM Family Service** | Christian Life Center

**7 PM Candlelight & Carols** with holy communion | Sanctuary

**9 PM** (*note earlier time*) Candlelight & Choir with holy communion | Sanctuary

### First Sunday of Christmas

December 29 | one worship service at 10 AM  
Christian Life Center

We continue our celebration of the Christmas season. *Note: no children's Sunday School.*

### 2025 Save-the-Dates

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebratory Worship

January 19 at 4 PM | Glenwood Lutheran

#### Annual Meeting

January 26 within 10 AM combined worship  
Christian Life Center

#### Body Shop & High School Scrapbooking Event

January 11 | 9 AM to 6 PM

#### Women's Retreat Weekend

March 1 and 2  
Overnight stay in Findlay, Ohio  
at Country Inn & Suites



## Around Olivet

### Maintaining Olivet's Building & Grounds

Olivet members and staff continue to work on projects to maintain and improve our building and grounds. Following are the projects so far this year:

- Refurbishing of the two main bathrooms: repair of the ceiling, new partitions (with doors for the men's and working locks for the women's!), new sinks/counters, fresh paint, new trash cans. Thank you to Shannon for coordinating the contractors and materials. She says this has been a dream turned into reality this year, made possible by several donors. This \$12,000 project was long overdue.
- Refresh of the garden by the playground fence. Installed edging to prevent the surface material of the playground from drifting into the sidewalk. Cut down and eliminated a weed tree. Took out all of the goldenrod/ragweed. Planted and transplanted three Spirea bushes, plus the existing one gives us 4 to anchor that space. Weeded the entire area.
- A large tree by the shed was taken down last December as it was dangerously dead and the stump ground. This spring we prepared the ground and planted grass which is coming along nicely.
- Removal of a very messy and wet area of debris at the bottom of the steps that go down to the boiler room by the office entrance. The drain at the bottom of the steps is now working. The door at the bottom of the steps has been painted, saving it from a sad life of peeling paint.
- The door at the back of the sanctuary, which is an exit towards the laundromat, has been repaired and painted with a new step added for aesthetics thanks to Gary's expertise.
- The floor inside the teen room door was damaged with salt and snow as the door exits directly to the outside with no buffer to weather. The floor and door frame have been repaired and painted. You may have noticed that the Teen Room door has an awning now.
- The bell has been repaired and painted. The bell's attachment to the housing had become separated, causing a danger to young fingers that came near. After much trial and research, the solution was found, and it is safe for the little ones to ring (with adult supervision, naturally). Don't you think the red color coordinates well with the red roses in the summer and the burning bushes in the fall?



- The railing going from the Bell garden to the boiler room has been sanded and painted.
- A weed bush that blocked the view of anyone exiting the parking lot to Monroe Street has been removed.
- Bushes in the corner of the kitchen and teen room were cut back and are growing back nicely in a more controlled fashion.
- Repairs to the ceilings and walls (in the sanctuary and elsewhere) have taken place. We do anticipate a total repaint of the Sanctuary in the next couple of years.
- Walls were prepared for the new wall hangings that the Equity team purchased. You can see the new wall decorations in several places; outside the office, in the adult ed room, Club 345 room, Spark room, by the reception desk in the office, the narthex, and the ceramic cross by the atrium/basement stairs.
- The ceiling in the nursery that had water damage has been replaced, going nicely with the refurbished nursery, which renovation took place several years ago.
- The office that Pastor Nate occupied was refreshed; repairing walls and painting.
- Leading us to remark on the beautiful update to the general offices this past April with the modern furniture donated by retiring attorney, Steve Marcus. The only expense was the cost of moving the 23 pieces of furniture.
- The basement (play and storage areas) were neatened and reorganized with the removal of 30 old heavy metal tables and chairs. John Casper single-handedly arranged for a number of these to be passed on to eager recipients through his persistent online advertising.
- A wooden stand in our Sanctuary was given a new life by Bill Hamilton who repaired and painted the wood.
- Exterior trim outside Pastor Melissa's office was painted.
- Sanctuary pillars, gable and dentil work trim to be power washed and painted this fall.

Much of this work has been done by volunteers from amongst the membership, hiring professionals when necessary. There are a few volunteers that deserve special mention who have been key to the effort. Bob Mens, Duane Abbott, Gary Crane and John Casper (staff) have all been diligent and responsive.

Many thanks to all who have responded to the calls. We are always open to others joining in. Contact Tina Johnson at [marktinajohn@gmail.com](mailto:marktinajohn@gmail.com).

- Tina Johnson

## Photos Needed of Olivet “In Action!”

Olivet’s communication specialist, Sara Martin, is in need of photos of Olivet in action!

**Any Olivet-related photos are welcomed**, whether it’s at a Sunday service, Bible study, church event, volunteering, or representing Olivet in the community. Submitted photos **may** be used for internal communications (Olive Press, flyers, Constant Contact emails, announcements, etc.) and/or external communications (Olivet’s website, Facebook page, etc.)—please keep this in mind when submitting. Email photos to Sara at [communications@olivetsylvania.org](mailto:communications@olivetsylvania.org). Thank you for your help to showcase the hearts and hands that are Olivet!

## Walkers Represent Olivet in the Sylvania Fall Festival Parade

A group of Olivet walkers gathered after worship on Sunday, October 20, at Northview High School to step off with other participants in Sylvania’s 38<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Festival parade. The parade traveled down Main Street and concluded at Sylvania First United Methodist. Thank you to all who joined us for this fun opportunity!



## The Urban Wholistics Farms & Olivet Partnership

Olivet is leveraging its partnership with Urban Wholistics Farms to provide healthy food for the Salem Lutheran Church community. Community Mission Emphasis funds were used to purchase fruits and vegetables from the Urban South Youth Farmers Market (USYFM). Each Tuesday during the harvest season, that produce is delivered to Salem for Pastor Mike’s weekly community meal. In the words of Pastor Mike: “Our partners (at Olivet and Urban Wholistics) are providing rounds of fresh, organic, healthy produce for our people and they love it now. This community is now consuming stuff it’s never eaten before, and they love it!”

Following a three-year partnership that stemmed from the Community Mission Emphasis Team’s efforts to interrupt racism and grow food security, Olivet Lutheran Church was recognized with the Community Partner



(Left to right) Susan Santoro, Pastor Melissa Micham, Sonia Flunder-McNair, Karen Rosar, Donna Mens, Amy Dixon, Mike Linehan, and Bob Mens at UWF’s Golden Hour Gala

Award. Sonia presented the award to a group of Olivet members at UWF’s annual Golden Hour Gala fundraiser on October 25. Mike Linehan has fostered and maintained Olivet’s meaningful relationship with Ms. Sonia Flunder-McNair and Urban Wholistics since Olivet hosted a Martin Luther King, Jr. panel (developed by Amy Dixon) in 2022. Sonia cited Olivet’s strong commitment to her youth urban farming cause, in terms of both direct assistance and financial support.

Urban Wholistics, a national model for education, wellbeing, community engagement, and violence reduction, runs a community farm at Tatum Park off Dorr Street near Collingwood Blvd in Toledo, and benefits from Senator Hicks-Hudson sponsored Senate Bill 111 appropriation.



## Bible Studies

**Adults: Sundays** in the Teen Room. Discussion on “The Upper Room” devotional (available at any church entrance).

**Tuesday Table Talks: Faith Seeking Understanding | Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00 PM**

November 12: Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude | Olivet atrium

December 10: Word Made Flesh: A Promise Kept | The Mens' residence (4438 Vicksburg in Sylvania)

A monthly gathering in a welcoming space where families and friends can deepen their understanding of God's Word, strengthen their faith, and learn from one another's insights. Please join the warmth of this informal gathering. All are welcome! **Childcare available; registration required.** Sign up by calling the church office at 419-882-2077 or online at [olivetsylvania.org/adult-faith-formation](http://olivetsylvania.org/adult-faith-formation).

**Women: Mondays at 9:30 AM** in the Teen Room

Our Fall study will begin with a look at the role of the prophets in the Old Testament. We will focus on the prophet Micah and his message to Judah in the 8th century BCE. We will discuss how this message continues to be relevant today. Following Bible study you are also invited to stay for Chair Yoga which is held at 11 AM in the Christian Life Center. See Heidi Lohrmann for more information.

**Men: Guys 'n Gospel - Tuesdays 7-8 AM** at Panera on Central Ave.

The Tuesday morning Guys 'N Gospel Group is a supportive community of men who are passionately devoted to studying God's word, applying its truths to their lives, and inspiring others to follow Christ's example of servanthood. We use the mystical powers of coffee and pastries to dig deeper into the gospel from the prior Sunday. We invite you to join us! **NOTE:** the group will not meet on December 24 or December 31.

For more information, text, call or email:

Bob Mens: 419-410-0519 or [bmens@bex.net](mailto:bmens@bex.net) | Mike Linehan: 614-595-6666 or [mline926@gmail.com](mailto:mline926@gmail.com)

## Making a Difference in Our Community

*Every year, Olivet supports 12 local organizations through annual benevolence donations. Spotlighted below is one of Olivet's benevolence recipients and the important work they do in our community.*

Since 1967, **Sylvania Area Family Services** has been providing support services that strengthen families in the greater community. Programs include food pantry and community meals, back to school backpack distribution, senior government commodities, and holiday assistance. Through SAFS and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olivet has “adopted” approximately 30 individuals to provide Christmas gifts for this upcoming holiday season. For more information on getting involved, see **page 7**.

*Olivet's 2024 annual donation to Sylvania Area Family Services: **\$1,200***

## Notes of Thanks

Thank you for allowing us to modify our band/orchestra car wash fundraiser to your lot, while Dave White was under construction. Our last second panic was calmed by your generosity and kindness. The location worked so well, perhaps we can revisit the same location in May. Thanks to your congregants Sue and Keith Hamen for getting us approval so quickly. Our students and parents are once again so thankful for your kindness.

Best,

Nathan Heath, Carter Adams & Anna Davis  
**Northview High School**

Just a note to thank you for all of the efforts extended for my mom, Patty Cross, on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The love everyone shared was truly impressive and much appreciated. I only wish she could have been in church to hear the choir sing Happy Birthday. I have enclosed a check which we would like be used either for the free meal or food pantry programs. Your ongoing efforts in this ministry is surely meeting a need in the community. The people of Olivet certainly “walk the walk”! Please also thank the people involved in your “elder ministry.” Older folks are so often looked over and ignored. Thanks for all you do at Olivet.

Fondly,

**Sue Szenderski**

## Get Involved

### Olivet Tech Team Needs Help!

The Olivet Tech Team is a vital part of Sunday morning worship, ensuring the audio and visual components of both services run smoothly for those attending in person and watching online.

Our tech team volunteers are stretched thin, and we're in need of more help. See below for what opportunities are available at both services. All training is provided; the only thing needed is a desire to help.



#### Sanctuary team: **Sound & stream volunteer**

Start and stop live stream of service; turn microphones on and off and adjust audio levels throughout service. Contact: Susan Santoro 419-344-7071

#### Christian Life Center team: **Media/PowerPoint volunteer**

Create presentation from template for the Vine service including songs and sermon pictures; run presentation during service; start and stop live stream. Contact: Carol Borton 419-704-5416

#### **Sound volunteer**

Turn microphones on and off and adjust audio levels throughout service. Contact: Tyler Martin - tylermartin86@yahoo.com



**THANK YOU** for considering helping out and filling this need. We want the current volunteers to feel supported and be able to take time off.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawls are freely given to anyone in need of comfort or support during an illness or the loss of a loved one. Our shawls are available by contacting the church office. If you knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact Jan Kirk. We supply all the yarn needed and patterns along with guidelines to follow. Our group meets at Olivet the second Monday of the month at 1 PM.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due November 17



Operation Christmas Child information and labels are available at the Welcome Center. All you need is your shoebox (plastic shoeboxes from Dollar Tree for \$1.25 also are acceptable). Fill the box with little goodies and delight a child around the world. We will collect boxes

through Sunday, November 17 and bless them this date as well at both services. If you have any questions, please see Deb Shock.

### Christmas Giving Trees

Look for the Giving Trees at Olivet starting the week of Thanksgiving. Olivet has "adopted" 30 individuals through Sylvania Area Family Services and Redeemer Lutheran Church to provide Christmas gifts for. Simply select which items from the Giving Trees you'd like to contribute and return them to the church by December 15. Thanks for your support of this mission! For more information, please see Deb Shock.

### Can You Fill This Need?

#### Transport Olivet Cardboard to Kroger Recycling

If you've ever spent time at Olivet on a Wednesday, you know that we deal with a mountain of cardboard boxes from the food received that we then distribute to the 130 families that drive through for the free produce and fresh bread. Our staff and volunteers break down/flatten the boxes to be easily transported. We need someone who would simply drop by on Thursday 8-4 or Friday 8-1 and take cardboard and/or bag of recycled paper to the recycle bins at Kroger on King Rd. You can text or call Shannon 419-344-5351 or stop by the church office. John Casper, our custodian of 19 years, just moved to Florida and this was his duty. Other staff members live east of Olivet so hence, not as convenient. THANK YOU for considering!

### ELCA Good Gifts

Are you looking for Christmas gifts to honor your friends and family? The ELCA Good Gifts catalog allows you to choose meaningful gifts that also make a tremendous impact in the world. Choose a gift from the catalog, such as a goat for a family in need, school fees and uniform for a student, or clean water access for a community. If you give online, you can print, mail, or download a card to share with your loved one at Christmas. This is a wonderful way to make a real difference in the lives of people around the world and can be a way to share your faith with your friends and family. Copies of the catalog with instructions on how to order are on the small tables inside the Christian Life Center or at the bottom of the stairs in the sanctuary.

## Community Mission Emphasis Team



### New in the JEDI Library

***Mockingbird Summer***, a novel by Lynda Rutledge, (author of the beloved bestseller *West with Giraffes*) takes place in 1964 in a small Texas town where the railroad tracks divide the races into two distinct worlds. Through a softball team and one great book, two teenage girls, one white, one black, form a bond that crosses the color line and sets off a cultural shift that will change the town forever.

***How (Not) to Read the Bible***, by Dan Kimball, is a thoughtful guide for reading and understanding the more difficult and disturbing passages of scripture that deal with slavery, violence, misogyny, and other thorny issues. The author says, "I hope (this book) brings you one step closer to understanding that when you read a crazy or disturbing Bible verse, there usually is a very reasonable way to make sense of it."

Our library is located in the antique cupboard in the Atrium. To check out a JEDI book, just fill out the information sheet and take your treasure home! Please return the book within two to three weeks so that others may enjoy it.

### Community Mission Emphasis Team Equity Subgroup Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, November 18 at 5 PM**

**Monday, January 13 at 5 PM**

We will meet in the Adult Ed Room to determine our strategies and initiatives for 2025. We welcome you to join this team's important and rewarding community outreach efforts. Any questions? Contact Mike Linehan at 614-595-6666

### Toothbrush and Toothpaste Drive for Redeemer Lutheran Church

Requested donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste for Redeemer Lutheran Church continue. If you are able, please pick up an extra, or more, to donate when you shop. So far, we have delivered 771 toothbrushes and 573 tubes of toothpaste. Redeemer is very grateful for your generosity. Donation bins are located by the outhouse banners outside both worship spaces. As a reminder, donations of toilet paper are no longer needed. Redeemer now has a vendor supplying them with toilet paper.

### Daily Bread

Everyday should be a day of thanksgiving, but we are especially reminded to give thanks in November. This year the Daily Bread community will celebrate on **Wednesday, November 20**. As our numbers have steadily increased over the past few months, we are planning on preparing 350 meals. As you can imagine, this requires a lot of coordination and donation. Please **check the Daily Bread bulletin board for the opportunity to lend your support** to this important meal.

We want to thank all of you who have responded to our plea for more volunteers. As always, Olivet members have stepped up. If you were thinking about it but didn't get around to calling yet, there's always room for more! Contact Penny Moran ([gpmoran@bex.net](mailto:gpmoran@bex.net)) or Susan Santoro ([scsantoro711@gmail.com](mailto:scsantoro711@gmail.com)).

Please note that to allow our many volunteers time to be with family as we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and the New Year, there will be **no dinner on November 27**, and our last **dinner for 2024 will be December 18, returning January 8**.

## Global Ministries

### The Vozniuks

The Vozniuks are doing well. Tymo has learned some letters and potty training is in process at Capable Kids. Viktor and Mariia are very pleased with the progress. Mariia successfully passed Anatomy at nursing school, but knowing that the courses are getting more difficult and require stronger English skills she is going to take some time off to build her language capability. She is continuing English lessons at Water for Ishmael and will be working even more. She completed STNA classes and has applied at several senior care facilities. Viktor continues to do well at FedEx and school is going very well for Ivan who also continues to play soccer. Mariia's mom, who has been living with the family in their two-bedroom apartment will be moving to a place of her own in a few weeks. Tamara is also taking English lessons at Water for Ishmael. She attends St. Michael Orthodox and has found friends there.

Please keep Mariia's brothers in your prayers. She has a brother and stepbrother in the Ukraine military. One is relatively high ranking and is in a somewhat safe location, but the other is currently in the Kursk region where fighting is intense.



## Global Ministries (continued)

### Lutheran World Relief

#### Olivet Quilt Ministry 2024

Olivet "Common Thread" quilters wish to thank all of the members who participated in producing 250 quilts in 2024! You have helped by donating sheets, tying quilts, sewing quilt tops, buying raffle tickets, assembling quilt layers, carrying boxes to the Christian Life Center and sanctuary for blessing and transporting boxes of quilts to an ingathering church for delivery to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse.

Our quilts will be used by people in need both at home and abroad! This year we shared quilts locally with Salem and Redeemer Lutheran Churches, Pr. Greg Olsen at Wolf Creek for new residents, and Chaplain Ann Augustine at Toledo Hospital.

Now we begin our ninth year of quilt-making and invite anyone available on Tuesday mornings to join "Common Thread" quilters as they assemble quilts. Look for upcoming news on our Quilt Raffle this fall.

- Carol Leupp, Olivet Common Thread quilters



#### School Kits Assembled

Throughout August and September, donations of school supplies were collected to assemble school kits to send around the world through Lutheran World Relief. On Sunday, September 22, Body Shop students assembled 100 school kits. The kits, along with quilts made by Olivet quilters, were then sent to a distribution center run by LWR to be sent abroad. Thanks to all who contributed supplies to meet our goal of 100 kits!



### October 27<sup>th</sup> Walking With ELCA Partners to Accompany Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Communities Event



*"On November 8, at 9:30 P.M., contact lenses out and pajama-clad, I am wrenched from a phone call with a friend by the rapping at my apartment door at El Refugio, the migrant center where I served and lived this past year.*

*"¡Shannon!" It's R, who has been at the center a long enough time that he might now be considered the unofficial nighttime supervisor. "¡Shannon! ¡Ha llegado quince!"*

*Fifteen have arrived.*

*Fifteen migrants have come from la bestia, the train that runs from the south of Mexico up through Mexico City before branching off into three separate routes that will take its unofficial passengers to the U.S.-Mexico border... that is, if they can survive the journey....."*

This is how Shannon Baker began her talk on October 27<sup>th</sup> in the Olivet Christian Life Center. Shannon has a gift for expressing her experiences of those she met at El Refugio in Guadalajara Mexico through stories. To hear how this story ended and other inspirational and moving stories from her 10 months of service at the migrant shelter - scan the QR code for a recording of the event.



Shannon helped the attendees understand who these people are and what the perilous journey encompasses. She answered questions based on her experiences. After Shannon's talk Pastor Nate introduced the Lutheran Church of Mexico (ILM) via recorded video. Pastor Moises Perez Trejo and Elisa Perez Trejo of the ILM's Migrant Ministry answered some of the questions that had been submitted prior to the event via recorded video. The event wrapped up with a time of prayer and discussion of other ELCA partner agencies that assist people in their greatest time of need not only in North, Central and South America but throughout the world.

#### What are the realities?

It's important to know that many of the things we currently hear in the media about immigrants and immigration are not based on factual statistics. There are many sources of information, but ELCA Global Refuge publishes information on their website (visit [www.globalrefuge.org](http://www.globalrefuge.org) or scan the QR code.) Specifically regarding crime rates, studies indicate that immigrants, both documented and undocumented, have lower crime rates versus U.S. citizens including data from the State of Texas, which is the only state that captures crime rates by immigration status.



## Children, Youth & Young Adults

### Pizza, Pop & Pastor (& Becky, too!)

**Sunday, November 3**, Becky and Pastor Melissa will be circling up our high school youth.

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 3; 6-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Olivet Teen Room

**WHAT:** games, pizza, pop, devotion, conversation

### Children's Bible Workshop

Every year, our third graders are gifted an "adult" Bible. The Bible is actually a library of 66 writings, which include letters, prophecy, gospels, history, poetry, and wisdom. That's A LOT for any third grader to unpack!

Please join Pastor Melissa on **Tuesday, November 12 from 6:30 to 8 PM** for a Bible Workshop to explore this library you can carry around in one hand. Pastor Melissa welcomes all third, fourth and fifth graders to attend. If you are an older student (say, grade 5 or beyond), you are also welcome, just give Pastor Melissa a heads up that you plan to attend!

This workshop coincides with **Tuesday Table Talks** (see *Bible Studies* on page 6), so parents are welcome to participate in adult conversation!

### Adulting 101

November 19 at 7 PM | Location TBD

Join Pastor Melissa for a venture into "Adulting 101." Young adults (self-defined/under 40?!) are welcome to gather for camaraderie, a shared meal, and an exploration of Time Management. Since Pastor Melissa is clearly NOT an expert in this field, the wisdom of others will be incorporated. Mostly, let's get together and imagine how God shows up in the lives of Millennials and Gen Z.

### Advent Festival & Christmas Eve Service

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord!* This year's Advent Festival will be held on **Sunday, December 1** from **10:15 to 11 AM** in the **atrium**. Participate in activities, make a few crafts, and listen to a story. Adults are welcome too!

A service for kids AND adults who are children at heart will be held in the **Christian Life Center** on **Christmas Eve at 4 PM**. Come to worship and witness a unique retelling of the Christmas story!

### Save-the-Date

#### High School Christmas Party

Friday, December 20 | 6-8 PM

Teen Room

### Children's Sunday School

Sunday School for kids continues to be held every week at 10:15 AM! Be sure to arrive in time for Miss Carol Miller to lead us in song!

We'll wrap up our focus on the Old Testament in November before turning to Advent and stories surrounding the birth of Christ in December. Be sure to come December 22, when we'll do something extra-special to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

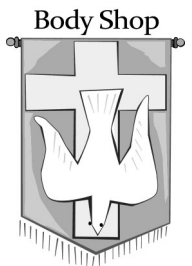
### Body Shop

Upcoming classes:

Sundays, November 10 & 24

12 - 2 PM | Teen Room

We conclude our exploration of the **Apostles' Creed** and begin to investigate the **Lord's Prayer**. We will also consider theological concepts like the "Church," "Freedom of a Christian," and who is our "Neighbor." Be sure to bring your journal, workbook, Bible, small catechism, and a pencil or pen!



On Sunday, December 8, we will have a little Christmas frivolity with our lesson. Remember, we will not hold our Christmas Cookie Caper this year, but we are planning a special service project for seniors in the spring!

Scrapbooking fundraiser:

Body Shop and High School students, mark your calendars! There will be a scrapbooking fundraiser on Saturday, January 11. One-hundred percent of the money we earn will go toward the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota!

**Becky Cress**

*Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries*

[rcress@olivetsylvania.org](mailto:rcress@olivetsylvania.org)

## Musical Ministries

### Rejoice and Jubilee Handbell Choirs

Mark your calendar for our **Christmas Handbell Concert** at Olivet on **Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 PM** in our **sanctuary**. Invite your friends and family to hear wonderful Christmas music. It will start your Christmas season – I guarantee you will leave the concert singing Christmas Carols. We will have handbell quartets ring at some of our Sunday morning services as well as Wolf Creek for a memorial service on November 2 for the residents who have passed away this past year. We also will have a quartet ring for the Advent by Candlelight Service on December 5. Many wonderful things to look forward to.

If you are interested in ringing, we always welcome new members. Please call me, text me, or email me and I will be very happy to meet with you and teach you how to ring handbells. The only requirement is being able to read music. If you have ever sung in a choir, played piano, played an instrument in a band, etc. you would be perfect. I would love to have you, and I NEED YOU!! We ring once a month for our

church service and our Christmas Handbell Concert. Jubilee rehearses on Tuesday nights 7:30-9:00 PM. I need someone to ring in Jubilee currently.

Happy Fall, Happy Thanksgiving and looking forward to Advent and the Christmas season.

God bless you all!

*Carol Miller, Director*

Cell: 419-283-1895

Email: [carolamiller5@hotmail.com](mailto:carolamiller5@hotmail.com)



### Olivet Choir Christmas Cantata: A New & Glorious Morn!



Sunday, December 22 | 10 AM combined worship service | Sanctuary  
A Christmas cantata by Lloyd Larson

Performed by the Olivet Lutheran Church Choir  
Directed by Steve Hodge

Through a blending of new and familiar lyrics and ageless melodies, *A New and Glorious Morn!* focuses on Christ's birth, not just by a series of historical events, but in the reality of His love through the embrace of a child. With His birth comes the promise of a new day of hope and life for those who embrace God's message through this newborn King. This performance is a free gift to the community.

*NOTE: Children's Sunday School will be held DURING the cantata.*





**For those hospitalized or anticipating tests/procedure:** Shirley Breitzman (10/31); Larry Morrison (Hospice care).

**For those grieving:** Rawson Family, including Donna & Bob, at the death of Bruce Rawson (10/18); Family & friends of Beverly Hartwig, 8/3 (memorial service 10/19); Family and friends of Ronnie Brinning (10/11); Kevin Nelson and family at the death of his mother, Carol (10/12); Rick & Barb Baker at the death of Barb's mother, Louise Blazoff.

**For those in assisted living, extended care, or rehabilitation:** Sandy Belinske & Patty Cross at Otterbein Sunset Village; Phyllis "Jean" Daly at Divine Rehab & Nursing (Sylvania); Doris Fry, Arlene Holtfreter & Luann Kornowa at Oakleaf Village; Fred Heintz at The Waterford at Levis Commons; Billie Iles at Mill Manor, Vermillion, OH; Don Loose at The Lakes of Sylvania; Matthew Wesley at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center; Margaret Timm at Brookdale Sr. Living (Carmel, IN).

**For members who have requested prayers because of illness or recovery from injury or surgery:** Nancy Kelley, Janelle Reynolds, Ash Lovegood, Jim Rentner, JoAnn Bell, Eric Adams, Nancy Hamilton, Ric Shock, Bill Genson, Roxie Dodge, Jenny Quackenbush, Hunter Morrison, Rick Baker, Wendy Shock, Riley Rawson, Howard Kolbe, Marge Warnock, Scott Franklin, Pr. Nate Tuff & Kim Nielsen, Mary Glover, Scott Reynolds, Ron Kornowa, Kelly Cipiti, Sandy Owen, Bev Schwartz, David Tucker, John Borton, Bill Willis.

**For members at home in our care:** Bonnie Ahrendt, Joyce Barger, Mary Carl, Milo Danziesen, Hilda Hawk, Betty Moore, Marcia Morrison, Larry Sass, Marvin Stephenson, JoAnn Dixon.

**Family and friends for whom prayers have been requested:** Cheryl Baum, Eric Zokowich, TaNeigh Hand, Ben Kurtzweg, Dalton, Madaline, Dennis & Amy, Callie Lopez, Linda Jakes, Tanisha Jackson-Long, Ann Augustin, Bob Damman, Don Clifton, Gary McDaniel, Garrett Hauenstein, Marjorie, Dick & Doris Sanderson, Phyllis Machosky, David Fry, Sue Dunne, Steven, Graham Arambula, Jacob Silliman, Donald Jackson, Jeff Ludlow, Madelyn Casper, Lori Eckel, Shanon Bostater, Kim K and daughter Amber, Doug Parker, Elisa Perez, Ryan Molnar, Annette Mason, Ann-Marie Hitt, Leroy (Buzz) Mercer, Cathy Nielsen (Kim's mom), Sara & Chris Petrocy, Laura Scherer, Jessica Espinosa, Matthew Kopcsek, Claude, Marie, Georgia, Frank, Grant, Rita and Larry Kerstiens, Bryon Chipps, Pam Brubaker, David Daly, Levi Brauer, Kathryn Kespohl, Linda Louder, Marilou Smith, Phillip Pettaway, Brantley Pifer, Andrea McCullough, Shannon Akers, Jack & Ruth Ann Ware.

**For those in the military:** Christopher Adams, Tanner Eggers, Jarrod Konz, Kurt Budde, Jeremy Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds, Michaela Reynolds.

**For our bishops:** NWO Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin & ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

**For Olivet's local mission partners and international missionaries:** Redeemer Lutheran Church; Salem Lutheran Church; Rev. Dr. David (and Alicia) Brondos of Augsburg Theological Seminary in Mexico City.

**For Olivet's companion churches:** Dodoma Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania & our companion congregation, Lwihomelo; Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Vojvodina, Serbia.

**Pastoral Care Requests:** (419) 882-2077. If you have a pastoral emergency, please refer to our voicemail instructions. Please contact the church during office hours.

#### **UPDATE TO KEEP LIST CURRENT**

Our Prayer List is updated regularly. Please contact the church office to let us know of anyone who would like to be added to our prayer list. **Just as importantly, we also ask for an update to remove names, as appropriate.**

# NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am Worship -HC 10:10 am Spark & Club 345 10:10 am Adult Study-AE 11:00 am <i>The Vine - HC</i>	9-2 Food Pantry 9:30 am Women's Bible study 11:00 Chair Yoga	7:00 AM Guys N Gospel Panera-Central Ave 9:30 am Quilters-AE 5:30 pm Rejoice Bells 7:30 pm Jubilee Bells	9-2 Food Pantry 1:00 pm Food Distribution 5:00 pm Daily Bread 7:00 pm Olivet Choir			

EVENTS ABOVE ARE ALL REPEATING WEEK TO WEEK

## MONTHLY MEETING/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

OFFICE HOURS: MON - THURS. 8-4:30, FRI. 8-1

					1	2
3 10:00 All Saints Sun. worship-Sanc. 11:15 Lunch w/presentation 6:00 Youth & young adults No Bible Study	4	5 Election Day	6 1:30 Equity Art	7 9:00 Leisure League-CLC	8	9
10 12:15 Body Shop-TR	11 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl-TR 7:00 Disability Team-TR	12 2:00 pm Bookworms-TR 6:30 Table Talk-Atrium 6:30 Bible Wkshop (gr. 3-5)	13	14 7:00 pm Euchre-TR	15 12:00 Finance Comm.	16
17 Bless Shoeboxes 12:00 New Member Orientation-TR	18 5:00 Equity Group-AE	19 6:30 Holey Knitters 7:00 Adulting 101	20 Daily Bread Thanksgiving Meal	21 7:00 pm Council-AE	22 1:00 Global Mission	23
24 12:15 Body Shop	25	26 NO Quilting	27 7:00 TG Eve Service-Sanc No Daily Bread Meal	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 Office Closed	30

A = Atrium

AE = Adult Education Room

B = Basement

CH = Clubhouse

CR = Conference Room

L= Library

Sanc.= Sanctuary

TR= Teen Room

# DECEMBER

# 2024

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am Worship -HC 10:10 am Spark & Club 345 10:10 am Adult Study-AE 11:00 am The Vine - HC	9-2 Food Pantry 9:30 am Women's Bible study 11:00 Chair Yoga	7:00 AM Guys N Gospel Panera-Central Ave 9:30 am Quilters-AE 5:30 pm Rejoice Bells 7:30 pm Jubilee Bells	9-2 Food Pantry 1:00 pm Food Distribution 5:00 pm Daily Bread 7:00 pm Olivet Choir			

EVENTS ABOVE ARE ALL REPEATING WEEK TO WEEK

## MONTHLY MEETING/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

OFFICE HOURS: MON-THURS, 8-4:30. FRI, 8-1.

1 Advent Begins 10:10 Advent Festival-Atrium	2	3	4	5 7:00 Advent by Candlelight-Sanctuary & CLC	6 10-4 Blood Drive-CLC	7
8 12:15 Body Shop-TR/CLC	9 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl-TR	10 2:00 pm Book Worms-TR 6:30 pm Table Talk- Mens' home	11	12 7:00 pm Euchre-TR	13	14
15 7:00 pm Bell Concert-Sanc. P.A.C.T. Dinner - CLC 12-6	16	17 No Bells 6:30 pm Holey Knitters-TR	18 OCNS Christmas program Sanctuary 11:00:00 AM	19 7:00 pm Council-AE OCNS Christmas program Sanctuary 11:00:00 AM	20	21 Once Is Enough Event CLC 10-1
22 10:00 Combined Service w/Cantata	23	24 4:00 pm Kids Service-CLC 7:00 pm Candlelight Service 9:00 pm Candlelight Service Office Closes at noon	25 Merry Christmas! office/bldg closed	26	27	28 1:00 Harold Leupp's Interment-GOP
29 10:00 Combined Service-CLC No Spark/Club 345	30	31 Office Closes at noon	Happy New Year ! office/bldg closed no events			

A = Atrium  
AE = Adult Education Room  
B = Basement  
CLC= Christian Life Center  
CR = Conference Room  
L= Library  
Sanc.= Sanctuary  
TR= Teen Room



# Church Financials

Olivet Lutheran Church  
Treasurer's Report - Summary  
September 30, 2024

## GENERAL FUND (CHECKING) ACTIVITY

	Month of September	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
<b>RESOURCES</b>				
General Fund Giving	66,109.83	462,481.70	499,840.00	(37,358.30)
<b>Total</b>	66,109.83	462,481.70	499,840.00	(37,358.30)
<b>NEEDS</b>				
Benevolence	7,389.18	36,846.70	38,090.40	(2,244.70)
<b>Ministries</b>				
Gathering Ministries	752.83	4,418.72	4,875.00	(456.28)
Equipping Ministries	2,445.16	6,914.14	11,156.67	(4,242.53)
Serving Ministries	678.08	3,951.93	6,075.00	(2,123.07)
<b>Total Ministries</b>	3,876.07	15,284.79	22,106.67	(6,821.88)
<b>Operations and Ministry Support</b>				
Salaries, Allow., Taxes	33,872.49	327,874.24	352,855.50	(24,981.26)
Property	834.95	18,422.47	16,816.50	1,605.97
Other Operating Exp	7,703.88	105,706.47	99,410.69	6,295.78
<b>Total Operations and Ministry Support</b>	42,411.32	452,003.18	469,082.69	(17,079.51)
Mortgage Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL NEEDS</b>	53,676.57	503,133.67	529,279.76	(26,146.09)
<b>OVERAGE OR SHORTFALL</b>	12,433.26	(40,651.97)	(29,439.76)	(11,212.21)

<b>INCOME 2024</b>		<b>\$710,000</b>
(Offerings)		<b>GOAL/2024</b>
Date	actual rec.	goal by month
January total	43,242	44,730
February total	40,939	46,860
March total	70,824	56,090
April total	49,572	70,290
May total	44,922	54,670
June total	47,691	44,730
July inc R.. Sale	57,472	63,900
August	41,710	55,380
September	66,110	63,190
<b>Y-T-D 2024</b>	<b>462,482</b>	<b>499,840</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>37,358</b>	
<b>LET'S BREAK IT DOWN...ONLY 11 WEEK!</b>		
<b>UNTIL YEAR END... TO BREAK EVEN</b>		
<b>OLIVET NEEDS \$195,000.</b>		
		<b>195,000</b>
		<b>still needed</b>
<b>Oct. 6, 13, 20</b>	<b>44,261</b>	<b>150,739</b>
27-Oct		
3-Nov		
10-Nov		
17-Nov		
24-Nov		

Above is the official treasurers report ending 9/30/24.

Left is the recap of giving (income) showing the latest results as of Oct. 27.

Olivet's goal to end 2024 with no deficit.  
We show in this income graph, the \$\$\$s needed and results per week. Thanks for your generosity!

## STATEMENTS

Third quarter statements were sent to all in October. Any questions, please call Mike Vince 419-882-0791 or Shannon.

## HURRICANE RELIEF

We thank our members for contributing \$3230 via checks to aid hurricane victims. This doesn't include all the \$\$\$ donated via direct donation through the ELCA website/QR code.

**Church Office**

419-882-2077

Mon-Thu | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Fri | 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Email**

operations@olivetsylvania.org

**Website**

www.olivetsylvania.org

**Pastors****Robyn Schmitz, Interim Pastor**

pastorrobbyn@olivetsylvania.org

**Melissa Micham, Associate Pastor**

pastormelissa@olivetsylvania.org

**Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries**

Becky Cress

rcress@olivetsylvania.org

**Director of Operations**

Shannon Walker

operations@olivetsylvania.org

**Membership Coordinator**

Jill Hepner

membership@olivetsylvania.org

**Communications Specialist**

Sara Martin

communications@olivetsylvania.org

**Sunday Worship**

God's gifts of Word and Sacrament are offered in two distinct settings:

**9:00 a.m.—Traditional**

Liturgy, hymns and music by a select group of gifted musicians.

Meets in the sanctuary.

**11:00 a.m.—Contemporary**

The Vine casual service with music by The Vine Praise Band. Meets in the Christian Life Center.

Both services live streamed:

www.olivetsylvania.org

**Children's Sunday School**

10:10 a.m. | ages 3-5th grade

# HOLIDAY EVENTS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 PM | Sanctuary

## Advent by Candlelight

Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 PM | Sanctuary

Ladies tea to follow in Christian Life Center

## Christmas Bell Choir Concert

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 PM | Sanctuary

## Christmas Cantata

Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10 AM combined service | Sanctuary

## Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24

**4 PM Family Service**

Christian Life Center

**7 PM Candlelight & Carols**

with holy communion | Sanctuary

**9 PM (note earlier time) Candlelight & Choir**

with holy communion | Sanctuary

## First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 29 | one worship service at 10 AM

Christian Life Center

## *Save the Date*

## ANNUAL MEETING

January 26 within 10 AM combined worship

Christian Life Center

**Olivet Lutheran Church**

5840 Monroe Street

Sylvania, OH 43560