

THE OLIVE PRESS

the quarterly newsletter of

Olivet Lutheran Church

5840 Monroe Street • Sylvania, OH 43560 • www.olivetsylvania.org

A SLOW LENT

by **Rev. Dr. Robyn Schmitz** *Interim Pastor*

Olivet invites you to enter a very different Lenten season. It's called "a SLOW Lent." I first heard about the practice of SLOW Lent at a clergy conference. Our speaker, the Bishop of the New England Synod said, "If you've ever grabbed lunch at the same place you get your gas, you need to slow down." I had just done that the day before, so she had my attention.

Welcome to the glorification of busy. It's so easy to fill our days with busy work and too many activities. And what does it get us? Answer: exhaustion! And if we're honest, we're left with a longing for the holy that we've promised to get to, whenever we have a minute. Lent is the perfect time to look steadily at our own longings and secrets and bring them into the light. It's a season of practicing the kind of faith that believes God is not just interested in the appearance of having it together. God is interested in our wholeness and honesty.

In the Sunday Gospels throughout Lent, we find Jesus in a number of environments: deserts, mountaintops, temples and towns. Each place plays an important part in Jesus' journey. These reflections invite people to spend some contemplative time with Jesus in each of these places, not just on Sunday but for an entire week.

The reflections can be done in the week following the Sunday Gospel, or the week leading up to the Sunday Gospel. They are designed to take people deeper into each Gospel story, to bring Jesus' experiences to life, and to help them reflect on what they might be saying to us today. The idea is to take Lent slowly and reflectively – to commit ourselves to spending time each day with Jesus.

In addition, we are encouraged to spend time with ourselves, asking ourselves tough questions about our priorities. We'll provide suggestions and questions via weekly emails. And we'll minimize the activities of Lent, allowing everyone to slow down.



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2025 Congregational Council

Elections pending at this printing

President	
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	Bill Cook
Financial Secretary	Mike Vince

Members

Janet Beilstein	Dave Bell
Amber Espinosa	Linda Gubbe
Noel Heisler	Dave Hupp
Kent Jackman	Mike Linehan
Steve Mierzejewski	Jenny Quackenbush
Ed Rupley	Steve Sanderson

Pastors

Robyn Schmitz, Interim Pastor
Melissa Micham, Associate Pastor



Our Vision

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

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

DEC. 5, 2024

A thank you from **Jan Kirk**, Advent by Candlelight Coordinator

Dear Members of Olivet,

Thank you all for attending Olivet Lutheran Church's 12th annual Advent by Candlelight 2024. A big thank you to all our devotion readers, and to the table hostesses and their beautiful table decorations and settings. To the gentlemen of Olivet for their excellent wait service. To our wonderful musicians:

accompanist Sarah Lewis and vocalists Cindy and Danica Franklin. To our Bells Ensemble: Carol Leupp, Carol Cook, Lana Heintz, Barb Myers, Helene Lyon and Sue Meyer, under the direction of Carol Miller. To the Olivet office staff who work behind the scenes to make this evening happen. The ladies of Olivet who assist with all the other things, thank you!



CHILI'N ON A SUNDAE AFTERNOON JAN. 19

It was a Chili Day on January 19, a Sundae afternoon with over a dozen chili recipes to choose from and delight in. Nearly a hundred Olivet members gathered to enjoy a heavenly sweet, zesty, meaty or vegan taste options for lunch. Rising to be best based on votes was **Roy Glodowski** with his specialty blend of double meat chili, and placing 2nd was **Aaron Banister** with spicy chili. Way to go gentlemen! To finish off this event, ice cream sundaes were appreciated by everyone in attendance.



Emily Hepner topped off sundaes with whipped cream.



Pastor Melissa presented Roy Glodowski with his first place golden spoon.



Jia Pollard & Adi Hobbs enjoyed spaghetti served in addition to chili.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

On Sunday, January 26, 176 people gathered together in the Christian Life Center for a time of worship and reflection on the past year. During Olivet's **annual meeting**, 2024 financials were reviewed and the 2025 operating budget was approved.



Other annual meeting highlights:

- Three new members were received into our congregation: Becky Opperman, Ida Christiansen, & Inger Benson (pictured above).
- Completing their second & first terms were outgoing council members Manzetta Jackson, Mandy Tetreau, & Stephanie Banister.
- Incoming elected council members are Amber Espinosa, Mike Linehan, and Jennifer Quackenbush; Ed Rupley was elected for a second term.
- Deb Shock was voted in as Garden of Peace trustee.
- Barry Shaner was recognized for 18 years of volunteer service as Olivet's treasurer; stepping into the role of treasurer is Bill Cook.
- Members of the newly formed Call Committee—tasked with heading the search for Olivet's next lead pastor—were introduced: Judy Gonia (chair), Raiden Browning (co-chair), Stefan Pomrenke, Tom Reynolds, Bob Mens, Stephanie Banister, & Meredith Moran.

Watch a replay of the annual meeting on our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/@OlivetLutheran



WATER LEAK STOPPED BY NEW SHUTOFF SYSTEM

Last summer, the Finance Team and Church Council asked for a special offering from our congregation to complete two building enhancement projects. One of these projects was to add an automatic shutoff valve to the building's incoming water line at a cost of \$11,500. In the event of a water line rupture within the building—an incident Olivet has unfortunately become familiar with over the last decade—the valve will immediately shut off water, thus minimizing property damage and repair expenses. Gratefully, the Olivet community rose to fulfill this ask and generously funded both building projects.

The newly installed automatic water shutoff valve demonstrated its value in January during a week of single-digit frigid weather. After receiving an alert one evening that a leak was detected and water had been shut off, a small team gathered at Olivet to investigate. In the choir room where a sink years ago, it was found that an old, rusted cap had broken loose off water pipe. Instead of water leaking completely unbeknownst to

had once been an obsolete anyone the entire night, the leak was stopped, found, and addressed by staff within 12 minutes of detection.

This prevented leak and the immense time and money saved thanks to the automatic water shutoff valve is a direct result of our community's generosity. We thank each of you who see the value of caring for the space in which we worship and support building enhancement projects like these.

AROUND OLIVET

EQUITY ARTWORK TEAM



This team is part of the Congregational Mission Emphasis group, working on sharing the diverse and expansive love of God through the imagery within our church building. Over the past few years about fifteen pieces have been installed in the narthex, nursery, Spark room, Club 345, Teen Room, office foyer, and within the office. Our goal for 2025 is to communicate the love, justice, and mercy of Jesus on the walls of the Adult Ed Room. We meet 'as needed' since most of our 'work' is done at home scrolling websites for equity-centered art. If you share an interest in this mission, we welcome you to our vibrant group. Team members: Nancy Hamilton, Heidi Lohrmann, Rebecca Gauchet, & Becky Cress.

DAILY BREAD WINTER UPDATE

by Holly Lewandowski

There is no doubt that winter arrived! For the first time in recent memory, Daily Bread cancelled dinner on January 22 due to the extreme cold, and lack of water.

In December we created and staffed a new "sous chef" position. This person comes in around 3 PM to oversee the final preparations and serving of the meal, as well as closing the kitchen at the end of the day. To date, we have 2 very capable Sous Chefs who volunteer regularly. If you are interested in "sous-ing", or volunteering for any of our other positions, please contact Susan Santoro(scsantoro711@gmail.com) or Penny Moran(gpmoran@gmail.com).

In March, several of our regular volunteers will be traveling together for 2 weeks. In order to continue the drive-thru meal service without interruption, we will be asking for donations of Gordon's pre-packaged lasagna and mac and cheese trays. Please watch the bi-weekly Olive Branch and the Daily Bread bulletin board for details and sign-up opportunities.

Our ongoing need is for take home containers. We use about 100 every week. If you are interested



On January 15, Donna Mens, Marilyn Lykins, Maureen Drewes, Penny Moran, Meridith Moran, Curt Olson, Janet Beilstein, Michelle Lane, & Karen Rosar bundled up to serve boxes to food distribution guests.

in donating a box, we need the 3 compartment, medium hinged containers from Gordon's. They will be tax exempt if you tell them it's for Olivet Lutheran Church. They can be left in the kitchen at any time.

Main Street Sweets in Sylvania continues to donate their unsold pastries on Wednesdays, which we give to our guests. If cakes, pastries, or cookies are in your planning, please consider patronizing this very generous local company.

We thank all of our volunteers for their faithful service, regardless of the weather, and look forward to expanding our ranks.

OLIVET KITCHEN FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES by Shannon Walker *Director of Operations*

The Kitchen/Food Safety Guidelines developed years ago that the Daily Bread team has always followed includes detailed instructions for sanitizing, cleaning, storing food, and serving food gloved. The Daily Bread team has annual required interaction with the Health Department on this subject. A full list of food safety procedures is readily posted in the kitchen.

Specifically, we are committed to following ALL these guidelines for all events where our kitchen is utilized, including funeral luncheons. To ensure the highest level of food safety, you may have witnessed a couple changes at our most recent funeral luncheons. This is our new standard:

- Food will be served by 2-3 kitchen volunteers, including meat, potatoes, mac & cheese, and salad.
- A mixed salad with tomatoes will be made fresh in the kitchen. Unopened bags of mixed lettuce can be donated. We will no longer be asking volunteers to provide salads made at home.
- Desserts can be donated or purchased by volunteers. All desserts will be cut by kitchen workers and plated on individual small paper plates.
- Utensils will be wrapped with napkins.
- Condiments and salt/pepper will be available via packets.

THE VOZNIUK FAMILY

Doing Well & Hoping for the Best



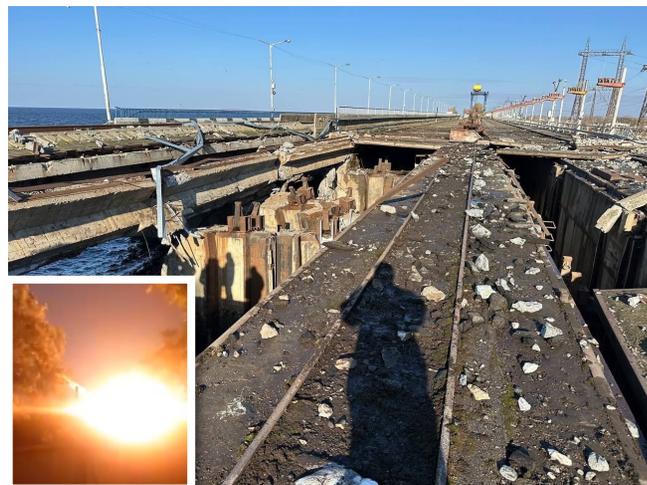
Viktor, Ivan, Tymo, and Mariia Vozniuk

With the emphasis on immigration in the United States, Viktor and Mariia are experiencing some anxiety about the possibility of deportation back to Ukraine, but are cautiously optimistic. If you are not familiar with it, the Uniting for Ukraine program is a presidential decree and does not require congressional approval to both create or terminate it. So President Trump could terminate it at any time, but one would think that it is not a program high on the list to discontinue. The program allows qualified Ukrainians legal status in the USA for a specific period of time; in the Vozniuks' case until July of 2027. As of this writing, the president has paused the program, which means there are currently no additional Ukrainians allowed entry, but the Vozniuks' legal status has not changed. Ukraine is still enveloped in a very serious war with huge military and civilian casualties. Since

arriving in the United States, there have been several missile attacks within a half mile of the Vozniuks' home, one damaging the property next door. Much energy infrastructure has been destroyed, so basics such as heat are not guaranteed. Returning would expose the family to very difficult circumstances, not to mention the impact of continuous air raid sirens on Tymo given his autism. In light of the situation, we have been helping Viktor and Mariia understand whether they have any alternatives in the event their legal status is terminated, including conversations with immigration attorneys, closely monitoring status updates and webinar events from various organizations including ELCA AMMPARO and Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service).

Other than that, the family is doing great thanks to many of you and other friends. They still have day to day challenges. A recent example: insurance—both medical and personal/auto—is a foreign concept to them, as it is for many people from other countries. But they get it figured out with some help. In addition to her part time work at Elizabeth Scott Community as a nurse aid and two other part time jobs, Mariia began the first of the year as a part time bookkeeper for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maumee from 9:00 to 1:00 Monday through Friday. This allows her to drop Tymo off at Capable Kids each day at 8:30 and make the pick up time at 1:30. For those of you that didn't know, Mariia has an advanced university degree in business and a very strong accounting resume prior to coming to the USA (Viktor has an advanced university degree in law enforcement as well). Viktor has been full time at FedEx for over a year, working every day in December and, for those of you that didn't get an opportunity to read it in the Global Mission annual report summary, he is doing so well that he received an offer for a promotion to run a warehouse operation in Oshkosh, Wisconsin two months ago. The family declined the offer because the kids are very settled here. Both Viktor and Mariia are ambitious...Viktor is currently working numbers and researching future business opportunities. Both boys are doing well. Ivan got a virtual reality system for Christmas and Tymo got one of the smaller trampolines for in the house, which is right up his alley—the kid likes to jump!

Thank you to all of you that have helped this family in the past and present. They are extremely grateful. Let us know if you have questions. - **Steve Sanderson** *Global Missions Emphasis Team Lead*



A missile blast and damage to a hydroelectric dam half-mile from the Vozniuks' home in Ukraine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

5-7 PM | Christian Life Center

Featuring Hymns of Dixieland jazz band;

free will offering

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday

Drive-thru ashes | 12 PM

Worship Service | 7 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Daylight Saving Time | spring forward 1 hour!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Pi Day + Play Night

7-9 PM | Christian Life Center

Cards, games, & activities

*SUNDAY, MARCH 30

5th Sunday combined worship

10 AM | Christian Life Center

No children's Sunday School

MARCH RECURRING EVENTS & SERIES

First Communion Instruction Grades 3-5

Sundays, March 9, 16, & 23

See **page 12** for more

Art Class - Adults & High Schoolers

Saturdays | 10 AM | Adult Ed Rm

See **page 7** for more

Care for Creation discussion sessions

See **page 10** for more

APRIL

*SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Lenten Cantata

10 AM combined worship | Sanctuary

Children's & teen Sunday School during service

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Easter EGGS-travaganza

9-11 AM | Christian Life Center

Kids activities, crafts, & egg hunt

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 13 **Palm Sunday** Services | 9 & 11 AM

APRIL 17 **Maundy Thursday** Service | 7 PM

APRIL 18 **Good Friday** Service | 7 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

No children's or teen Sunday School

7 AM | Sunrise

9 AM | Traditional

11 AM | Contemporary

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Scrapbooking Event

9 AM - 6 PM | Christian Life Center

*SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Combined worship

10 AM | Sanctuary

Congregational Summit

11:15 AM | Christian Life Center

Light lunch will be served

* denotes **one combined worship service** at 10 AM

MAY

SUNDAY, MAY 4

May the 4th Be with You Bike Ride + Park Walk

3-5 PM | Wildwood Metropark picnic area lot 7

Ride or walk

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Quilt Tying

9 AM - 12 PM | Christian Life Center

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Youth Leader Appreciation

During both worship services

SAVE THE DATES

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children: May 25 | Teens: May 18

GRADUATION RECOGNITION

Sunday, June 1

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 16-20 (Monday-Friday)

Registration opens May 1

RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, July 31 - Saturday, August 2

FAITH IN ACTION | GET INVOLVED



GARDEN OF PEACE

Do you enjoy being outdoors, in a green and peaceful setting—while listening to the gentle flow of water over a lovely stone fountain? If so, then may we suggest becoming a “Garden Angel” at Olivet’s beautiful Garden of Peace. Volunteers are requested for just a two-week period sometime during this year’s growing season—anytime from May through October. This is VERY light duty gardening—watering flowers, picking up trash and removing occasional weeds. The fresh air and sunshine will be good for you—and you will be good for the Garden, helping maintain its inviting appearance. A “green thumb” is not required, and this commitment is only for about an hour per week. It is a rewarding way to serve others and make an impact at Olivet, while embracing God’s green creations.

If you are interested, or just have questions about becoming a Garden Angel, please contact Sandy and John Husman at 419-882-3438 or by email at jhusman@buckeye-express.com.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY by Heidi Lohrmann

Starting in March, the Monday morning Women's Bible Study will be using an 8-week study published by the Northwest Ohio Synod for the Year of Listening to take us through the weeks of Lent as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter. Jesus promises that "wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20



As we study together and reflect on the words of Scripture we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us grow in our love for Christ. Please join us in the Teen Room at 9:30 AM for this time of

fellowship and study. If you cannot attend in person, several women are participating by Zoom. If you would be interested in this option please see Donna Mens. We are so grateful for the gift of the large screen TV and for Shannon Walker, Tyler Martin, and Michael Schuster who made this possible for us. We are also grateful to Jan Kirk and Donna Mens who are providing leadership to the class when I am out of town.

NEW ART CLASS SATURDAY MORNINGS

Adults and high schoolers are invited to participate in a new one-hour art class on Saturday mornings in the Adult Ed Room. This adventure will include drawing, value, composition, perspective, color, and other techniques. The class is free and basic supplies are provided. Class size limited to 20. Call **Curt Olsen, instructor**, to reserve your spot at 734-731-6740.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

BODY SHOP RETREAT RECAP

February 7-9

Seventeen young people, two high school youth, and six adults gathered at **Storer Camps** for our annual Body Shop retreat in Jackson, MI. Special thanks to our guest teacher Amy Dixon. Many thanks also to our drivers: Karen Rosar, Donna Mens, Ben Hobbs, and Josh Pollard.

Highlights: attempting **archery** (mostly without injuries) and visiting the **Critter Cabin** where we met and held an Eastern box turtle named Methuselah and a gecko, who stores all kinds of nutrients in its plump tail.

We explored the **sacrament of baptism, vocation**, and Luther's concept of the "**Freedom of a Christian.**" We might even remember a few things we learned because we did sleep.



Students tried their hand at archery during the Body Shop Retreat.

TEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 3/2!

8th through 12th graders: dig out your Bible and join us on the first and third Sundays of the month between the services (~10:10 -10:55 AM) as we discuss how God works in the world in which we live! No homework; just God's Word, prayer, and community.

EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 12 from **9 to 11 AM** in the Christian Life Center. Crafts, face painting, games (and prizes!), the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt, and the Easter story. A light breakfast will be served.

SCRAPBOOKING FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 26 in the Christian Life Center. Proceeds to go towards the next winter retreat! Parents should watch their email for details about volunteering and donating.

UPCOMING Q & A DATES

6-8 PM on Sundays, **March 2, April 6, and May 4**. Be sure to watch GroupMe for dinner orders.



Skyler Rawson holds a gecko during the Critter Cabin visit.

TO THE CHILDREN OF OLIVET (ALL AGES) by Carol Miller

Come on Sunday mornings at 10:10 to learn the song we are going to sing on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, called "Shout, Sing, Celebrate" by Joel Raney. We are going to combine with Jubilee Handbell Choir and the Olivet Choir, percussion, base and piano. Children of all ages are welcome (through high school – or 80 years old even!) – not just Spark and Club 345. Please join us!

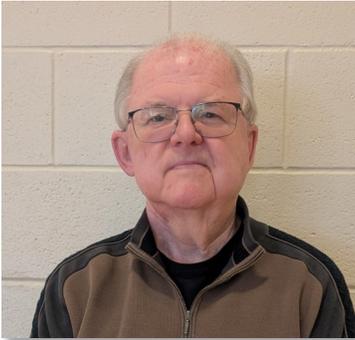
Every Sunday we sing a lot of great songs. One of our favorites is "I Will Call Upon the Lord." We really have a good time battling the children against the adults. On a recent Sunday, it was "hands down" the children winning with the adults singing as loud as they could (even with Fred Sandmann joining us). If you hear the children singing as you walk down the hall after the 9:00 service on Sundays and you want to be "lifted up," please come in the Sunday School room across from the Atrium and join us. I guarantee you will walk out with a smile on your face.

MINISTER SPOTLIGHT

Ministers are everyone who responds to God's call to care for God's people and creation.

Get to Know Chuck Hansen by Sara Martin

Communications Specialist



On most Sundays during the year, you can find Chuck Hansen and his wife, Ann, in the sanctuary participating in the 9 a.m. worship service. During the summer months, though, Chuck and Ann retreat to their cottage on Lake Erie that's been in his family since the early 1950s. This cottage shares a rich, enduring connection to Olivet's past, as does Chuck's entire 80 years of life.

Born in 1944, Chuck was baptized as an infant at Olivet Lutheran Church in June 1945—making him, at present, the longest attending member of the church. His baptism took place in Olivet's original building located at the corner of Whiteford and Alexis Road from 1916 to 1950. [see **History of Olivet** on page 11 for more on Olivet's early history.] Both sides of Chuck's family lived a short

distance from the church's original location and began attending during its earliest days. This included Chuck's grandparents, Paul and Elva Zerbe, and Charles and Edna Hansen; and Chuck's aunt, Mary Kruse (whose daughter is Olivet member Carol DeGroff). In 1950 when Olivet moved to its present location on Monroe Street, Chuck's grandfather and father helped dismantle the old building and reused much of the wood to construct their cottage in East Harbor on Lake Erie in Marblehead/Lakeside.

Chuck met his wife, Ann, in 1963 while working at a pharmacy. They wed in 1965, but not at Olivet. The church was undergoing a major renovation: extending the back wall of the sanctuary and installing the marble wall and cross behind the altar that remain today.

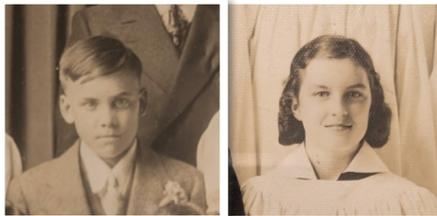
Chuck and Ann's two daughters, Tonya and Tricia, were both baptized and confirmed at Olivet, their photos woven into the tapestry of confirmand pictures hanging in the hallway connecting the preschool wing to the Christian Life Center wing of the church. The rows of photos adorning these walls document every Olivet confirmation class dating back to 1932. To Chuck, these photos contain a family portrait. In one photo, he pointed out his father, Wilber, among the class of 1934,

and a few photos over, there is his mother, Cathleen, beside Rev. A. L. Anderson in the class of 1938. Jumping over to another photo, there's Chuck himself in 1958, smiling with the other students in his class. His oldest daughter appears in the photo of 1981 confirmands, and his youngest in the class of 1984.

With experience gained from tinkering in his grandfather's barn as a child, Chuck has shared his self-taught woodworking skills at Olivet by constructing multiple pieces of furniture used each week during worship. One of these pieces resides beside the baptismal font in the sanctuary—a small table with legs constructed at different lengths to accommodate the varying heights of the steps they rest on. In the Christian Life Center are four additional pieces constructed by Chuck: the Christ candle stand, the podium, the altar, and the baptismal font. The altar, Chuck shared, is built from the top piece of an armoire he saw being thrown away. Originally constructed as a wine tasting table, it was later given to long-time Olivet member Mary Carl, who donated it to Olivet in memory of her husband, Dave. The table became the new altar in the Christian Life Center, replacing the card table being used at the time.

When asked what's kept Chuck at Olivet these many years, his answer was simple: he's never had a reason to go anywhere else. A history of solid ministers with unique strengths, and growing involvement in the community are two aspects about Olivet he values. He also commended Olivet's inclusion of women ministers over the years, especially during points in history when women ministers were not commonplace.

Turning 80 last year was a milestone birthday for Chuck, leading to a lot of reflection. "Figure out what you want in life and do it," he shared. It takes effort to figure out your goals, direction, and purpose, but it's worth the consideration. It's wisdom we can all apply both in our personal lives and as a church as Olivet's enduring story continues to unfold.



Chuck with the pieces he built in the Christian Life Center (above); confirmation photos of Chuck's parents, Wilber & Cathleen (left)

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

CARING FOR CREATION TEAM

Olivet's newly formed **Caring for Creation team** is a collaboration of the Global Mission Emphasis Team with the Community Mission Emphasis Team, and other interested congregation and synod members. The current team is Barb Stough (leader), Heidi Lohrmann, Cynthia Fett, Amy Dixon, Susan Santoro, Becky Moore, Calla Gilson and Steve Sanderson with involvement from Pastor Melissa. We would like to grow this team, so if you have interest in learning more you can reach out to any of the above.

As we have learned more about this issue and talked to global partners, we realized that many of the pressures for migration and many of our other ELCA projects are intertwined with the changing environment. Conversations with our Lutheran Church of Mexico Immigration Ministry friends indicate, for example, that roughly 40% of persons migrating to and through Mexico are doing so due to significantly less ability to sustain themselves. There are several reasons for this, including cartels and corporations taking over crop lands, but a leading reason is a result of changes in climate conditions. Socially, "climate anxiety" seems to be a growing topic, especially for our youth and younger generations and some are doubting their future.

There tend not to be one-time fixes, but there are numerous positive steps we can take toward caring for creation in a sustainable way. In our upcoming March mini-sessions (see below) we will have nonjudgmental conversations, fresh examples of possible individual actions to potentially better support nature, and sharing of stories. The focus is on positive paths as we reflect during Lent.

OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED:

Join us for **discussion sessions** three Sundays during Lent to help us learn how we can be better stewards of our planet. We will meet at **10:10 between worship services** for 30 to 45 minutes in the **Teen Room**. In these sessions led by Olivet members, we will learn, discuss and form possible actions to help us care for God's creation centered around three themes, one each week:

MARCH 9 **What We Eat** | MARCH 16 **Where We Live** | MARCH 23 **What We Waste**

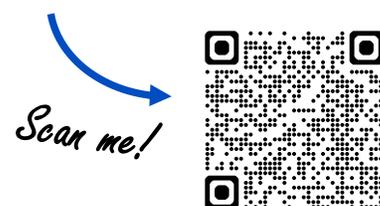
The Caring for Creation initial series for the March Lent season was formed under the Global Mission Emphasis Team's third goal of education related to global human needs: "Promote learning, action and advocacy related to global climate change." The term "Caring for Creation" is the descriptive term used by the ELCA. In fact, Caring for Creation is one of 13 social statements published by the ELCA; it calls on us to nurture the environment created by God.

DID YOU KNOW?

One recent example of how Olivet is engaging in creation care is by installing a new **drinking fountain with bottle refill station**. This fountain replaces the original drinking fountain located in the lobby outside the Christian Life Center. A built-in counter displays how many plastic water bottles have been saved by using the drinking fountain to refill reusable bottles instead. Check it out and enjoy a cold, refreshing drink! Thanks to **Tyler Martin** and **Michael Schuster** for undertaking this project.



Scan the QR code below or visit elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statements to view the ELCA's social stance on care for creation and other important social stances.



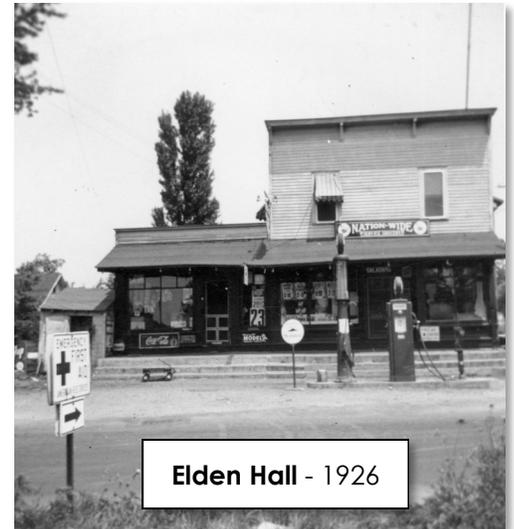
HISTORY OF OLIVET PART 1

by Tyler Martin in collaboration with the research of Bob Mens & Gayleen Gindy

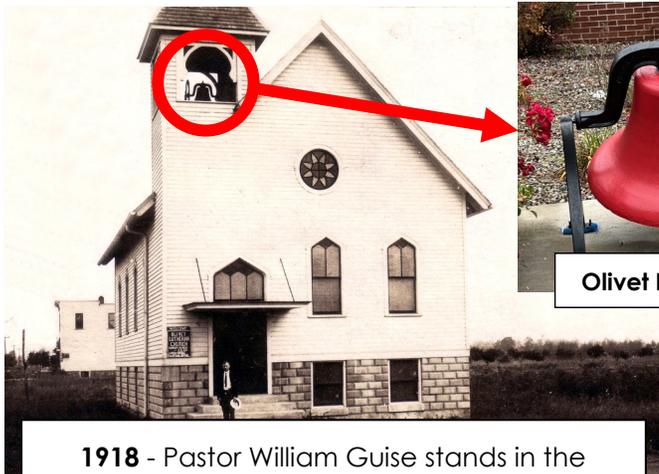
Olivet Lutheran Church—the church that many of us have called home for years. It may not seem like it, but Olivet has now surpassed 110 years as a congregation. That is an incredible accomplishment! However, many of you may not know much about the history of Olivet and how it was formed. As we are in a major season of transition, we feel it would be worthwhile to look back at how this beautiful congregation and church has changed throughout the years.

In the beginning, there was Elden Hall. This was a large room above Elden's store. This store, owned by Bert and Blanche Elden, was located at the corner of Alexis and Whiteford. On April 26, 1914, the second Sunday after Easter, **Olivet English Evangelical Lutheran Church** was organized by **Dr. V.G.A Tressler** who was a professor in Hamma Divinity School, Wittenberg College, and President of the Wittenberg Synod. **Pastor Alvin E. Bell** of Glenwood Lutheran Church assisted in the worship service, who was appointed supply pastor until a resident pastor could be found. Services were held in Elden Hall until enough members joined and Olivet wanted to build their own building.

Between July 22 and November 15, 1915, Olivet purchased their first lot of land on the **corner of Alexis and Whiteford** (opposite of Elden Hall) for \$380. Upon this land, the new home of Olivet was to be built. The cost of this new building was \$3,500 plus \$35 for a bell. The project started in March 1916 and was completed 3 months later. This became the official home for Olivet Lutheran Church from June 18, 1916 until moving to the new location in 1950. This first building had 2 outhouses behind the church and no running water. A hand pump in the basement was the only



Elden Hall - 1926



1918 - Pastor William Guise stands in the doorway of Olivet's first building in this second oldest picture available of Olivet.



Olivet Bell - Present

source of drinking water for the church. While a small parking lot existed for 10 cars, only 1 to 3 cars were ever in the lot as most members lived a short walking distance away.

Throughout the beginning years, from 1914 to 1929, Olivet was connected with multiple other Lutheran churches in the area:

- From 1914 to 1917, **Rev. B. B. Uhl** was pastor from Augsburg Lutheran Church
- From 1918 to 1922, **Rev. W. R. Guise** was pastor from Bethany Lutheran Church
- From 1923 to 1925, **Rev. W. E. Bradley** was pastor from Reformation Lutheran Church

In 1925, Olivet accomplished two major feats. The sanctuary was paid off and a **parsonage** for the pastor was purchased. This parsonage was located at 5537 Whiteford Rd. In January 1930, Olivet became a completely self-supporting congregation with **Rev. A. L. Anderson** as lead pastor. Reverend Anderson was paid \$100 per month plus use of the parsonage. His tenure at Olivet stretched from 1926 to 1942, which included major historical events such as the Great Depression, the beginning of World War II, and Olivet's milestone 25th anniversary.

Part of the original building was a small bell tower. The **bell** was purchased from The C. S. Bell Co. as part of the building. It was then recovered before the building was dismantled in 1956 and retained by Olivet. This bell currently is located outdoors near the main office entrance.

I hope you have enjoyed taking a look back at the beginning years of Olivet. Look forward to part two in the next Olive Press where we explore building and expanding the church as we know it today!

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN

NURSERY. Ages infant through 3 years during worship services

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Weekly at 10:10 AM

SPARK. Ages 3 - grade 2

CLUB 345. Grades 3,4, & 5

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders

Sundays, March 9, 16, & 23 | 10 - 11 AM

Basement clubhouse

PARENTS ONLY session: March 23

Join Pastor Melissa and Pastor Robyn Sundays in March for a First Communion Instruction series! Attendance at all sessions is encouraged. To ensure we have enough prizes for our games, an RSVP to Becky Cress (rcress@olivetsylvania.org) is helpful, but not necessary. We hope to see you there!

ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL. 10:10 AM in the Teen Room

FAMILIES: TUESDAY TABLE TALKS: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING.

Second Tuesday of the month | 6:30-8:00 PM

Light meal provided. Childcare available; registration required. Call the church office at 419-882-2077 or visit www.olivetsylvania.org/ttt to sign up.

March 11: **The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts.** Olivet Christian Life Center.

April 15: **Faith & Doubt.** Mike Linehan & Amy Dixon's home.

May 13: **The Church & Christian Community.** Olivet Christian Life Center.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Mondays at 9:30 AM in the Teen Room. [see **page 7** for more]

MEN: GUYS 'N GOSPEL. Tuesdays 7-8 AM at Panera on Central Ave.

For more information, text, call or email: **Bob Mens.** 419-410-0519 or bmens@bex.net

Mike Linehan. 614-595-6666 or miline926@gmail.com

YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADES 8-12. *Starting 3/2!*
First & third Sundays of the month at 10:10 AM.

UPCOMING BODY SHOP CLASSES.

Sundays, March 9 & 16; May 4 & 18
12-2 PM in the Teen Room

Bring your journal, workbook, Bible, small catechism, and a pencil or pen!

See **Youth & Families** on **page 8** for more news & upcoming event information.



Cat Carlo and Eden Pollard



IN THE JEDI LIBRARY [located in the Atrium] | by Cynthia Fett

Immigration is a topic receiving immense attention right now in our country. If you would like to get a better understanding of the crises that drive people to flee their homelands and risk their lives in search of hope in America, the following books are available to borrow from the JEDI Library:

We Are Not from Here by Jenny Torres Sanchez • **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins
Enrique's Journey (with photos) by Pulitzer Prize-winner Sonia Nazario

The Equity Team hopes that our members will take advantage of this wonderful collection of books on the issues of race, immigration, disability, and sexuality. Books may be checked out anytime, but please return them within a month so others may enjoy them. Any suggestions of titles that you feel would be a good addition to our little library can be sent to me, Cynthia Fett, cynthiajfett@gmail.com.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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.

Established in 1911, **Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio's (LSS)** mission is to provide services that improve the lives of individuals in every aspect, including mental, moral, physical, social and spiritual. Services available include behavioral health counseling, drug and alcohol addiction counseling, two emergency choice food pantries, financial stability program, and more. LSS has a total of four locations with offices in Toledo, Tiffin, Findlay, and Fremont.

This year, LSS is embarking on an 7,240-ft. expansion to their administrative office in Toledo at Collingwood and Bancroft. During the past three years, more than 70,000 people have benefited from the services offered by LSS throughout a 24-county region spanning Northwestern Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. The expansion will help meet sustainable program demands, including a more accessible and welcoming Emergency Choice Food Pantry, more space for those attending vital educational programs, and more offices for mental health counselors to aid clients in finding comfort and healing.



A 3D rendering of LSS's new building expansion.

LSS is one of four Lutheran Social Service Agencies in our area, which **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin** of the ELCA's Northwestern Ohio Synod highlighted in a recent email newsletter. He addressed comments shared in the news about the U.S. government's funding that contributes to the work of Lutheran Social Service Agencies like LSS. In his February 6th email, he wrote:



Bp. Daniel Beaudoin

During the past twenty-eight years, I have had the honor of serving alongside the leaders of these life-changing [Lutheran Social Service Agencies]. The good and faithful work they do has a tremendous impact on people's lives throughout Northwestern Ohio.

As our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shared in a recent video, we Lutheran Christians are... "committed to our core mission of feeding people who are hungry, caring for those who are sick, and advocating for justice, peace, and the dignity of all people. This has been the calling of the church for over 2,000 years, and that will not change". The light of Jesus shines in our love and service for our neighbor.

Yesterday afternoon, Calla Gilson, Pastor Sarah Schaaf, and I were blessed to meet with the leaders of our four Social Service Agencies to listen to them, to encourage them, to pray with them, and to thank them for their good and faithful work. Theirs is sacred work that makes a real difference in the lives of real people. Through our Lutheran Social Service Agencies our elders find a home, those who hunger are nourished, those experiencing illness and addiction find healing, and the light of Christ shines.

Amid this time of painful division, raw rhetoric, and real fear we may find ourselves wondering what can we do and how might we love? Below are a few actionable ways that I would encourage you to join in illuminating the good work of God through our partners in our social service agencies.

Those actions Daniel Beaudoin suggested included making a generous donation, writing cards and letters of support letting ministry leaders know you see the light of their love, and contacting your congressional representatives.

Learn more about Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio at lssnwo.org.

**Olivet's 2025 annual donation to
Lutheran Social Services of NWO: \$1,200**

Scan to watch ELCA
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's
full response to false accusations
made on social media platform X



PRAYERS & PASTORAL ACTS

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For those hospitalized or anticipating tests/procedures:

For those grieving: Kim Nielsen & Pr. Nate at the death of her mom, Kathy Nielsen (2-18), Memorial on 4-28 in MN. Family of Rachel Sendi (Ross, David and Carole) who passed away on Feb. 1; Memorial on March 8 at 11:00 am/visitation at 10. Family of Sandy Belinske (May 24). The Deb/Ric Shock entire family & Dan Kolbe at the passing of Howard Kolbe. Memorial at NOON, April 5, Visitation at 11 a.m. Naomi Loose at the death of her husband Don (1-10). Kathy and John Benya at the death of his mom, Lucy Benya (1-13). Ric Shock at the death of his sister Lynn Shock; Rick Breitzman, Mandy Tetreau & family at the death of spouse/mom Shirley (12-6). Marcia Morrison at the death of husband, Larry (11-20); Amy Dixon at the death of her mom, JoAnn Dixon (11-18); Ruth Ann Ware at the death of husband, Jack (11-17), Memorial - May 3.

For members who have requested prayers because of illness or recovery from injury or surgery:

Marge Warnock, Scott Franklin, Jan Cook, Kelly Cipiti, Sandy Owen, Heidi Lohrmann, Dale & Sharon Heuberger, Bill Smith, Jenny Quackenbush, Linda Hoetzi, Ash Lovegood, Jim Rentner, Eric Adams, Ric Shock, Bill Genson, Roxie Dodge, Wendy Shock, Riley Rawson, Pastor Nate Tuff & Kim Nielsen, Mary Glover, Scott Reynolds, Barb Aker, David Tucker, Bill Willis.

For those in assisted living, extended care, or rehabilitation: Patty Cross at Otterbein Sunset Village; Phyllis "Jean" Daly at Divine Rehab and 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; Mae Kyser at Genacross Wolf Creek; Margaret Timm at Brookdale Sr. Living, Carmel, IN; Matthew Wesley at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center.

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

Family and friends for whom prayers have been requested: Kim K & Amber, Nathan Blust, Steve Paluck, Bishop Brenda Bos, Kaulana, Ryan Drewes, Kathy W., Cheryl Baum, Eric Zokowich, TaNeigh Hand, Dalton, Madaline, Dennis & Amy, Linda Jakes, Tanisha Jackson-Long, Bob Damman, Don Clifton, Gary McDaniel, Garrett Hauenstein, Marjorie, Dick & Doris Sanderson, Phyllis Machosky, Sue Dunne, Steven, Graham Arambula, Jacob Silliman, Donald Jackson, Jeff Ludlow, Madelyn Casper, Lori Eckel, Shanon Bostater, Doug Parker, Elisa Perez, Ryan Molnar, Leroy (Buzz) Mercer, Cathy Nielsen (Kim's mom), Sara & Chris Petrocy, Laura Scherer, 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, Ruth Ann Ware.

For those in the military: Christopher Adams, Kurt Budde, Tanner Eggers, Jarrod Konz, 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 ACTS

Funerals:

Don Loose (Jan. 10)
Shirley Breitzman (Dec. 6)
Larry Morrison (Nov. 20)
JoAnn Dixon (Nov. 18)

PASTORAL CARE REQUESTS

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

Help us keep our prayer list up to date by contacting the church office with names to add and remove as appropriate.

MEMORIAL GIFTS AS OF 2/17

DON LOOSE

Mike Moore
Dennis & Janet Foran
Charles & Debra Fahnce
John & Carol Borton
Gail Anderson
Robert & Linda Taormina
Carol Leupp
Elaine Wagner
Cris & Leanna Hastin

RACHEL SENDI

Dave & Carole Sendi

JACK WARE

Marlene Schober
Susan Santoro

PATSY PRITTS

Doug & Helene Lyon
Darla Culberson
John & Judy Gonia
Carol Leupp
Susan Santoro

JO ANN DIXON

Mark & Debra Knapp
Lana Heintz
Fred Heintz
John & Sandy Husman
Doug & Helene Lyon
Jerry & Jennifer Lager
Marlene Schober
Greg & Cynthia Fett
Kevin & Anne Kwiatkowski
Susan Santoro

LARRY MORRISON

Carol Leupp
Bruce & Cherie Bischoff
John & Sandy Husman
John Bos & Linda Miller
Susan Thomasson
Roger Zimmerman
Gary & Patricia Corrigan
Marlene Schober
Darla Culberson
Tricia Holtz
Susan Santoro
John & Kathy Benya
Gary & Robin Hagemeyer
Michael & Monica Elling

SHIRLEY BREITZMAN

Doug & Helene Lyon
Marlene Schober
Anthony & Andrea Roberts
Christopher Williams
Carol DeGroff
Tricia Holtz
Wendy Caldwell
Rebecca Schmidt
Nick & Nancy Whitehall
Fred Attusch
Bill & Carol Cook
Carol Leupp
Julius & Rebecca Erlenbach
Kelli & Deb R. Grace
Kelli Quiroga
Mike Messner
Christy Taylor
Pat Graziani
Jim Thipoli
Toya Dean

LEARN MORE ABOUT MEMORIAL & HONORARIA GIFTS

A gift to Olivet's Memorial and Honoraria Fund is a way to perpetuate the memory of a loved one or honor someone in your life through a contribution that supports the ministries of Olivet Lutheran Church.

Informational brochures about memorial and honoraria gifts to Olivet can be found in the lobbies outside both worship spaces. For further information, call **Shannon Walker, Director of Operations**, at 419-882-2077 or email operations@olivetsylvania.org.



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**

pastorrobyn@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 School10:10 a.m. | ages 3-5th grade**Teen Sunday School**

10:10 a.m. | grades 8-12

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME****March 9** | spring forward 1 hour!**UPCOMING COMBINED WORSHIP****AT 10 AM****March 30** | Christian Life Center**April 6** | Sanctuary**April 27** | Sanctuary**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**APRIL 13 **Palm Sunday** | 9 & 11 AMAPRIL 17 **Maundy Thursday** | 7 PMAPRIL 18 **Good Friday** | 7 PM**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES****SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

7 AM | Sunrise

9 AM | Traditional

11 AM | Contemporary

Stay connected!

Sign up to receive weekly devotional + announcement emails right to your inbox. Scan the QR code or call the church office to get started!

**Olivet Lutheran Church**

5840 Monroe Street

Sylvania, OH 43560