

Melissa Micham, Lead Pastor

Becky Cress, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Shannon Walker, Director of Operations

Jill Hepner, Membership + Ministry Coordinator

Sara Martin, Communications Specialist

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Fri., 8 AM - 1 PM

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OLIVE BRANCH

The twice-monthly newsletter of

Olivet Lutheran Church

5840 Monroe St.

Sylvania, Ohio 43560

December 21-28, 2025

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday School Classes

Adults. 10:10 AM | Teen Room

Children. 10:10 AM | Spark Room/Clubhouse

No children's Sunday School on 12/28 or 1/4

Teens. (1st & 3rd Sundays) 10:10 AM | Adult Ed Rm

Women's Bible Study

Mondays at 9:30 AM | Teen Room

Resumes January 5

Guys 'n Gospel

Tuesdays, 7-8 AM | Panera on Central Ave.

Note: no gatherings 12/23 or 12/30

Resumes 1/6

Tuesday Table Talks

January 13 | 6-8 PM | Teen room

Light meal served and childcare available.

Register at olivetsylvania.org/ttt

Holy Pepperoni

Wednesdays, 5:30-7 PM

Jo-Jo's Pizza (5614 Mayberry Square)

A Bible study for working adults; first pitcher and pizza provided.

Note: no gathering December 24 or 31

Body Shop

Upcoming dates: February 1 & 15, 12-2 PM

Scrapbooking fundraiser: Saturday, January 10; check your email for signups!

Winter Retreat: February 6-8 (Friday-Sunday)

FRESH FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Continuing what began in November, we are asking each family in our congregation to bring in a specific fresh food item every week in January to provide our Wednesday food distribution guests.

Week of January 5: lettuce

January 12: broccoli

January 19: cheese slices

January 26: 1 lb. of butter

Please deliver food to the church by 10 AM on Wednesdays. Thank you so very much and God bless your generosity!

PASTOR LEE ANN POMRENKE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Sun, Dec 21 after 10 AM service | atrium

Please join us after the 10 AM Christmas cantata for a celebration of Pastor Lee Ann's service in rostered ministry!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4 PM Family Service – Christian Life Center

Perfect for children and those young at heart!

Participate in an interactive, kid-friendly worship service as we celebrate Christ coming near.

7 PM Candlelight & Carols – sanctuary

9 PM Candlelight, Carols & Choir – sanctuary
(live-streamed)

OLIVET UPDATE: CALL PROCESS & VISION FORWARD

As outlined in the letter that you received in the mail a few weeks ago, Olivet is moving forward with the new leadership model which includes calling a second full-time pastor. The Associate Pastor position is posted, and interviews will begin once candidates are identified.

At the same time, we continue to face significant financial pressures as we work toward this goal, making this a pivotal moment in our life together.

We believe God is calling Olivet to deepen our outward focus and grow ministries that take root in the neighborhood and serve the next generation. To learn more, please join one of the upcoming information sessions:

- **January 11, 2026** – after the Vine service (sanctuary)
- **January 18, 2026** – after the 9 AM service (sanctuary)

SHEETS FOR QUILTS NEEDED

Olivet quilters need more sheets! If you have sheets—colored solid or patterned in good condition, please donate to Olivet for use in making quilts. Our supply is nearly depleted! Donations can be left in church office. Thank you!! – *Olivet Common Thread Quilters*

**SAVE THE DATE:
Worship, Annual Meeting AND
Chili'n on a Sundae Afternoon
Sunday, January 25, 2026**

Members will be voting on a revised church constitution at the 10 AM annual meeting in the Christian Life Center. Hard copies will be available in the main office. Following worship and the annual meeting, stick around for ice cream sundaes and a chili cookoff! (Note date change.) Plain spaghetti will be available for youth. Free will offering to benefit the Family Ministries Support Team.

GIVING TREES UPDATE

We were able through Sylvania Area Family Services to help supply Christmas gifts for 6 families (a total of 30 people). Pastor Lori from Redeemer Lutheran Church gave us 17 children that we also provided gifts for, including two new bikes. A special thanks to the women's Bible study that had a diaper shower for three of the Redeemer children (one due in March). Be sure to thank those that were able to provide gifts and those that helped with the sorting and tagging and delivery!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT THANK YOU

Dear Olivet Family,

On December 4th, we celebrated our 13th Advent by Candlelight and women's tea. This much-loved tradition was started by Ruth Stadler and Noreen Wright, and is a blessing to so many today as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. I want to say thank you to all who participated; it really takes our whole church to bring this event together. Thank you to Carol Miller and Sarah Lewis for the amazing music, along with the Bells Ensemble. Thank you to the readers of the devotions and those who passed out programs and candy canes. Thank you to the women of Olivet who create beautiful and meaningful table settings. Thank you to Sara Martin who created all the flyers, and 140 programs! Thank you to the gentlemen of Olivet who provided wonderful drink service for our tables.

*May God's grace be with you all,
Blessings,*

Jan Kirk

NEW ATRIUM FURNITURE

New furniture has arrived to refresh the atrium and adjacent sitting space! Thank you to the Welcome Team and those who have contributed to this upgrade with their gifts of design and décor. To read more, visit www.olivetsylvania.org/welcome-team.

December-January

Sunday	21	10:00 AM	Cantata Sunday-Sanctuary
		11:15 AM	Pr. Pomrenke reception-atrium
Monday	22	9-2:00 PM	Food Pantry
			No Women's Bible Study
			No Yoga
Tuesday	23		No Men's Bible Study
Wednesday	24	9-12:00	Food Pantry
		4:00 PM	No DB/Produce
		7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service-CLC
		9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service-Sanc.
Thursday	25		Merry Christmas-Office Closed
Friday	26		Office Closed
Saturday	27		
Sunday	28	10:00 AM	Combined Worship-Sanctuary
Monday	29	9-2:00 PM	Food Pantry
			No Women's Bible Study
			No Yoga
Tuesday	30		No Men's Bible Study
Wednesday	31	9-12:00 PM	Food Pantry
			No DB/Produce
			Office Closes at 12:00
Thursday	1		Happy New Year-Office Closed
Friday	2		
Saturday	3		

Financial Recap

November YTD giving: \$602,826

YTD expenses: \$606,155

YTD deficit: -\$3,329

Giving needed in Dec to reach our break-even goal:

\$80,000

\$41,500 received in the first two weeks

Leaving \$38,500 to receive for the remaining

2 weeks in December

Thanks for your generosity as we continue to live out our mission in Jesus' name!

Look for weekly updates here or Constant Contact.