

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

January 4-11, 2026

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday School Classes

Adults. 10:10 AM | Teen Room (*Resumes 1-11*)

Children. 10:10 AM | Spark Room/Clubhouse

No children's Sunday School on 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.

Resumes January 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.

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)

Back to Normal

We resume normal worship Sunday, January 11th,
with our traditional service at 9 am in the
Sanctuary and The Vine service in the
Christian Life Center 11 am.

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
- **January 18, 2026** – after the 9 AM service (Sanctuary)

Worship, Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 25 2026, we will hold our 112th annual congregational meeting at 10 am in the Christian Life Center. The meeting will be conducted during a worship service of Word and Holy Communion. The business of the congregation includes:

- Financial Review and act
- Discuss and act on 2026 annual operating budget
- Elect members of the council and trustees to the Garden of Peace
- Vote on updated revisions to the Constitution.

The entire service and meeting should last approximately 90 minutes. Childcare will be available in the nursery and our "kids of the kingdom" may gather in the Atrium for a movie.

Coffee/refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30.

Scrapbooking Fundraiser Saturday, January 10th

Event to raise funds for the ELCA 2027 Youth & Young Adult Gatherings in Minneapolis, MN. Anyone interested in or wanting to support those attending the Gathering is encouraged to volunteer!

Shannon Walker Retires

After 23 years of faithful service, we celebrate the retirement of our beloved Director of Operations, Shannon Walker. Through steady leadership, dedication, and countless behind-the-scenes contributions, her work has helped strengthen the daily ministry and mission of our church. We are deeply grateful for the many ways she has serviced our congregation and community, and we wish her a well-earned retirement filled with joy, peace, and God's blessings.

MLK Day Lock-in Sunday, January 18th

Do you care about social justice and racial equity? Join Becky in attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at Glenwood Lutheran Church in Toledo at 3 PM on Sunday, January 18.

Following the event, high schoolers are invited to a High School Lock-in at Olivet Sunday-Monday (MLK Day)! Play games, watch movies, eat snacks, and have time to just be yourselves. RSVP to Becky at 419-464-2964.

Chili'n on a Sundae Afternoon Sunday, January 25, 2026

Following worship and the annual meeting Stick around for ice cream sundaes and a chili cook-off! Plain spaghetti will be available for youth. Free will offering to benefit the Family Ministries Support Team.

Year End Offerings

Thank you for your attention to the weekly year-end updates. As of this writing the offerings are still being received. Anything post-marked by December 31st will count toward 2025 giving.

Final results will be published in the Annual Report which will be available in the office on January 22nd and at the meeting.

January

Sunday	4	10:00 AM	Worship-Sanctuary- Pr. Merlin
Monday	5	9:20:00 PM	Food Pantry
		9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study TR
		11:00 AM	Chair Yoga CLC
Tuesday	6	7-8 AM	Guys' n Gospel Panera
		8:30-11 AM	Quilters CLC
		5:30-9 PM	Handbells Sanctuary
Wednesday	24	9-12:00	Food Pantry
		1-2:30	Produce
		5-5:45	Daily Bread
		5:30-7 PM	Holy Pepperoni Jo Jo's Pizza
		7:00 PM	Choir
Thursday	8	4:30 PM	Global Ministry Meeting TR
		7:00 PM	Euchre TR
Saturday	10	8 AM -6 PM	Scrapbooking CLC
Sunday	11	9:00 AM	Worship-Sanctuary Pr. Lee Ann
		10:10 AM	Adult Bible Study TR
		10:10 AM	Spark Club 345
		10:10 AM	Pastor Lee Ann Chapel
		11:00 AM	The Vine Worship CLC
		12:15 PM	Budget Info Session
		4 -6 PM	Q&A CLC
Monday	12	9-2:00 PM	Food Pantry
		9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study TR
		11:00 AM	Chair Yoga CLC
		1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl TR
		5:00 PM	Equity Team Ad Ed
Tuesday	13	7-8 am	Guys' n Gospel Panera
		8:15 AM	Youth & Family TR
		8:30-11 AM	Quilters CLC
		2:00 PM	Bookworms TR
		6-8 PM	Tuesday Table Talk TR
		5:30-9 PM	Handbells
Wednesday	14	9-12:00	Food Pantry
		1-2:30	Produce
		5-5:45	Daily Bread
		5:30-7 PM	Holy Pepperoni Jo Jo's Pizza
		7:00 PM	Choir
Thursday	15		Shannon's Last Day!
		8:15 AM	Youth & Family TR
		7:00 PM	Council Meeting Ad Ed
Sunday	18	9:00 AM	Worship-Sanctuary
		10:10 AM	Adult Bible Study TR
		10:10 AM	Spark Club 345
		10:15 AM	Budget Info Session Sanctuary
		11:00 AM	The Vine Worship CLC
		3:00 PM	MLK Service at Glenwood followed by HS Lock-in at Olivet