

THE OLIVE PRESS

the quarterly newsletter of
Olivet Lutheran Church

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



This summer, take a stroll through the perennial garden located right outside the church office entrance.

Dear People of Olivet:

Praxis is one of my favorite words. It's a Greek word that basically means practice, but with layered meaning:

*the process of turning a theory, lesson, or skill into practical application, action, or practice. It represents the combination of **reflection and action**, rather than just abstract thought (AI).*

Our Christian faith is, at its core, praxis. In our liturgy, we worship to prepare for one day being at the throne of the lamb in the city of God. We recite prayers and creeds and rehearse songs and scripture, so these resources of faith are available to us when other comforts have been stripped away. We practice loving and serving neighbors (even those within our households) because, God knows, we have yet to embody God's perfect love in Christ Jesus.

Here are a few invitations to summer praxis:

- **Vacation Bible School** | Share your spiritual gifts with children in our community and their families June 15-19! www.olivetsylvania.org/vbs
- **Scripture & Salsa** | expand your faith tools, especially as we explore prayer practices at 4 PM on Thursdays in June. **page [12]**
- **Worship @ 10 AM** | ALL of June and July. Sarah Lewis and I will be experimenting and exploring with you what holds most meaning in our corporate (corpus = body) worship.
- **Rummage Sale** | July 30 - August 1. Let's prepare for and serve our neighbors together! Get to know a few Olivet friends as you work alongside one another (perhaps praying a blessing over those who might benefit from our unused treasures) and meet our neighbors during this

[continued on next page]



Our Vision

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

JUNE - AUGUST 2026

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2026 Congregational Council

President	Jennifer Quackenbush
Vice President	Amber Espinosa
Secretary	Hunter Morrison
Treasurer	Bill Cook
Financial Secretary	Mike Vince

Members

Janet Beilstein Dave Bell
Phil Dress Cindy Franklin
Kent Jackman Mike Linehan
Curt Olsen Ed Rupley
Steve Sanderson

Youth Member

Austin Billau

Pastor

Rev. Melissa Micham, Lead Pastor

three-day sale. **page [11]**

- **Olivet Endowment Fund Match** | Practice generosity by planning to participate in this unique giving opportunity that will fuel ministry for decades to come!! **page [15]**

In praxis with you,

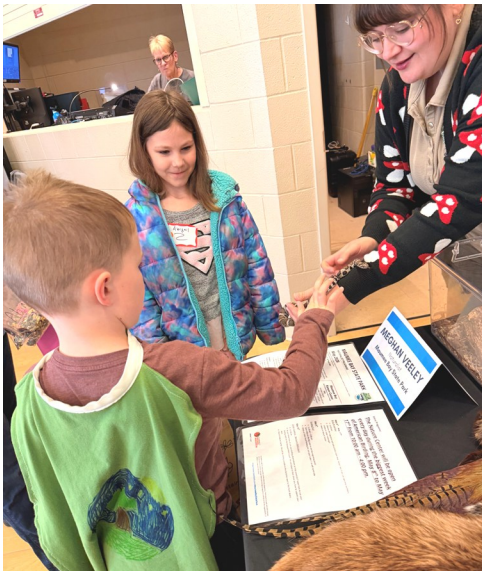
Pastor Melissa Micham | *Lead Pastor*

P. S. We've endured a few months of disruption to our routines as the Monroe Street bridge over US 23 undergoes reconstruction. *What have you noticed? I have noticed how quiet Monroe Street is in front of the church—we'll take advantage of this during Scripture & Salsa!!*

OLIVET REWIND | MARCH - MAY

PI(E) DAY & PLAY NIGHT MARCH 14

Sixty-plus Olivet members young and young at heart enjoyed an evening of cards, games, fellowship, and pi(e). Pie, the center of the night's treats: pizza pie, apple pie, banana cream pie, pumpkin pie—just about all the pie you could want was available. Families got to share time and fellowship for a couple hours with one another playing euchre, board & puzzle games, and other card games. Many members there commented we should be doing this more often.



Wyatt, watched by Abigail Hepner, greeted a snake brought by Meghan Veeley of Maumee Bay State Park.

EARTH HEROES UNITE: LOVE YOUR MOTHER EARTH APRIL 11

A great time was had by 70 adults and children on Saturday April 11. Earth Heroes Unite started with fun activities for children while adults listened to and interacted with an environmental panel. After a zero-waste lunch, participants enjoyed “interactive stations” with local environmental organizations, from holding a snake to planting a pot of native plants to making a tea bag with organic ingredients.

It was a great day in large part to our volunteers. On the Global Missions Team: Steve Sanderson, Susan Santoro, Becky Moore, Heidi Lohrmann, Amy Dixon, Cynthia Fett, and Barb Stough. In crafts, kitchen and miscellaneous duties: Emily Horst, Becky Moore, Karen Rosar, Emily Hepner, Greta Pomrenke, Blair and Brady Blakeman, Donna Mens, Moe Drewes, Meridith Moran, Janet Kish, Janet Beilstein, Jan Kirk, Mike Linehan, Helene Lyons, Emma Schlegel, and Skylar Rawson.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY OUTREACH APRIL & MAY

Olivet's Monday women's Bible study has been not only studying God's word, led by the incomparable Heidi Lohrmann, but engaged in service to the community, as well. On Monday, April 27, several women from the women's Bible study got together to help pack hygiene kits for guests who come to Salem Lutheran Church's Tuesday meal. We were able to pack and deliver 200 kits. On Sunday, May 11, Salem held a baby shower for six neighborhood moms. The women's Bible study generously provided a large quantity of the baby gear that the moms were given. Thank you, ladies, for your generosity!! The moms were overwhelmed and so thankful for the items.



(Above) Audie Jaqua, Jan Kirk, Amy Dixon, & Cathy Sanderson packed hygiene kits for Salem Lutheran's food guests. (Right) Elisha L. was blessed with baby gear for her daughter at Salem Lutheran.

QUILTY TYING MAY 2

The Common Thread Quilters want to say thank you to all those who participated in our May 2nd quilt tying event! We were able to finish approximately 70 quilts and to share in fellowship.

We also want everyone to know that we are in need of your help to continue this very meaningful ministry. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt to be part of this mighty group of quilters. Please attend one of our Tuesday morning meetings at 9:30 AM in the Christian Life Center to see what we do. We are happy to show you what needs to be done to create one of these much loved quilts.

Our quilts are given to area assisted living facilities, Toledo Children's Hospital, and sent to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed in the United States or around the world.

Thank you, and with your continued support by donating sheets or material we can continue to be a blessing to those in need. - *The Common Thread Quilters of Olivet Lutheran Church*



(Left) Greta Pomrenke, Marilyn Machosky, and Noreen Wright helped tie quilts at the Common Thread Quilters annual quilt-tying event. (Right) Cindy Vines and Shelley McMacken also aided hand tying quilts.

AROUND OLIVET

FROM THE GLOBAL MISSION TEAM | A VISIT TO OUR FRIENDS IN MEXICO



The group from the Northwestern Ohio and Grand Canyon Synods in front of Casa Tochan, a shelter for men.

Olivet member Steve Sanderson journeyed to Mexico the week of May 3rd along with others from the Northwest Ohio and Grand Canyon synods to visit with our many friends there. In addition to Steve, the Northwest Ohio group included Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Calla Gilson Burns (synod Director of Community and Global Engagement) and Pastor Chris Hanley of Glenwood Lutheran Church. Joining them were seven members of the Grand Canyon Synod, including Bishop Deborah Hutterer. The eight-day trip encompassed a broad spectrum of ELCA and ILM (Iglesia Luterana Mexicana) ministries in Mexico.

The group worshipped with two congregations both in the Guadalajara area where the Mexico Lutheran Church (ILM) is headquartered—first with the Ahualulco congregation about an hour drive from Guadalajara and then with the Fe congregation in Guadalajara—

the home church of ILM Presidente Roberto Trejo. The group was welcomed as family and the worship services were wonderfully inspiring. We loved that the children of each congregation were very involved in leading the worship services. Both churches featured traditional Latin American courtyards leading to several buildings and simple but beautiful sanctuaries with windows open to the warm breeze. Each of the bishops were invited to preach—Bishop Deborah at Ahualulco and Bishop Daniel at Fe. Keila Reyes, the young adult that visited Olivet in December 2024 as a guest of the Franklin family, was one of the translators at Fe and it was wonderful to see her again and meet her family.

We spent time with the five Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs) volunteers and the ELCA Mexico YAGM Coordinator, Soliette Lopez, who visited Olivet in 2025. We were able to meet our "adopted" YAGM, Reagan White, in person for the first time. Reagan and the others are doing great and it is obvious that they are cherished by the directors of the migrant shelters that they work in. Reagan expressed how much the cards and items sent by Olivet members have meant to her. Their year of service is coming to an end in June; they have mixed feelings about leaving Mexico and reintegrating into the United States. Soliette has a group of seven YAGM already selected for service next year. During our dinner with the YAGMs at a local taqueria one of the YAGMs, Andrew, broke the YAGM record for tacos eaten in one sitting, polishing off 24 tacos!

The group visited three migrant shelters. CEHPAZ is a shelter for families. Located in the beautiful area of Tlalpan, this shelter is where YAGM Mak Sanders works alongside young adult volunteers from Germany and France to support immigrant families. During our visit, members of our group struck up a conversation with a young Middle Eastern couple. As it turns out, they left their home in Gaza after losing their young daughter in the bombing. We also met a young mother and her two year old from Haiti who was pleasantly surprised that Bishop Daniel speaks very good French. Miguel Angel Solorzano is the director of this shelter, as well as the pastor of Buen Pastor Lutheran Church (where David Brondos, whose mission work we help support, also worships). Buen Pastor hosted us for dinner outdoors in their beautiful courtyard.



Reagan White & Steve Sanderson at Casa Fuente, the domestic violence shelter for women & children where Reagan has served for the past year.

We visited Casa Fuente where YAGM Reagan White works. Casa Fuente is a shelter for mothers and children including women who have experienced domestic violence in Mexico. The director, Betty, depends on the help of Reagan and it's clear they have a bond. Casa Fuente has lost much of their funding from government and United Nations programs and relies on donations. At times they do not know where money will come from, but Betty refuses to turn away guests that need the shelter.

We then visited Casa Tochan, which is a shelter for men. After hearing the current state of affairs from the director's assistant, Jorge, and touring the building, we had lunch with several of the guests staying there and with Andrew, the YAGM that works there. At our tables were men from Peru, Nigeria, Sudan, Honduras and Russia. Listening to the stories of those that are comfortable sharing with regards to where they traveled from and how and why is always a humbling experience.

Similar to our visit in the Fall of 2023, we were given a presentation on the current state of things in Mexico by Migrant Ministry leadership Elisa Perez, Pastor Moises Perez and psychologist Marcela. The ILM Migration Ministry is an important part of ELCA AMMPARO (AMMPARO is the ELCA's strategy for Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). Elisa explained that since the USA closed the border, Mexico migrant shelters pivoted from helping migrating people legally enter the United States to legally entering Mexico and assimilating into Mexico culturally and finding jobs. For many, the American Dream had become the Mexican Dream. Because migration never stops, Mexico now actually acts as the southern border "wall" for the United States more so than the physical wall. Moises, who is a pastor and also a professor at the seminary, reviewed how the bible—both Old and New Testaments—guides us to help those that need to migrate. Marcela provides psychosocial support to immigrants who have varying degrees of trauma and also helps to assimilate culturally.

Finally, we were hosted by AMEXTRA staff and welcomed into the work of their local projects via visits to a few of their locations in Mexico City, including their psychosocial work with youth at Lomas, and their SASA program which addresses domestic violence recovery and healing. AMEXTRA is a non-profit organization that works to "transform living conditions in marginalized communities with service, compassion and justice". Their "community building" orientation and our site visits in many ways seemed relevant to Olivet's community pastor role and helped look at it in a new way.

Anyone that would like to donate to the shelters in Mexico City, or connect further to the Olivet/Northwestern Ohio Synod relationship to the Lutheran Church in Mexico, is welcome to reach out to Steve Sanderson for guidance.

FROM OLIVET'S FEEDING MINISTRY TEAM A WORD ABOUT OUR COMMON KITCHEN

At Olivet, we are very blessed to have a fully equipped, commercial grade kitchen. And a busy kitchen is a happy kitchen. When you use the kitchen for your events, please remember a few important things:

- We do not have a laundry service. Take all towels, dish cloths, pot holders and aprons that you use, and return them clean and folded, in a timely fashion. Keep in mind that Daily Bread will need these on Wednesday.
- Nor do we have recycling pick up. We appreciate any and all efforts to care for our planet. Please take your recyclables and compostables with you and process them in a responsible way. The Feeding Ministry programs rely on volunteers to take care of recycling and compost every week. Leaving these makes their work that much more difficult and time consuming.
- If you put anything in the refrigerator or pantry for future use, please label them, otherwise it is assumed that items have been left for use by Daily Bread and Food Distribution.
- Often the person taking items out for use is not the person putting them away. Please make every effort to put things back where they belong. Many of the cabinets and drawers are labeled.
- Kitchen staples such as foil, gloves, plastic wrap, zip lock bags, etc., are supplied by Daily Bread, and are expensive. If you use them, please consider making a small donation to the DB fund to cover replacement costs. When shopping for your event, feel free to check the silver refrigerator and spice cabinet for whatever you may need, in small amounts. There is no need to purchase a jar of herbs or spices for only a tablespoon, when we have large quantities available. If in doubt, contact Holly Lewandowski at hollygene@hotmail.com or text 419-902-0655; or Penny Moran at pcreedmoran@gmail.com or text 419-262-2861.



Your cooperation will make our kitchen a much happier place. THANK YOU!

AROUND OLIVET (continued)

REJOICE & JUBILEE HANDBELL CHOIRS

We have had a wonderful time this year ringing some awesome music for our congregation. I feel so blessed to be working with such amazing, talented people.

I am VERY THANKFUL for the members who have subbed A LOT this year with people missing for illness, vacations, etc. in the group they normally don't ring in. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you for being so willing to say YES when I've asked you to sub. God bless you all.

We are all looking forward to another great year. God bless everyone in the congregation who are supportive of our handbell ministry and THANKS to all the members of Jubilee and Rejoice for sharing your God given talents with all of us at Olivet! If you are interested in ringing, I would love to have you contact me. I need two ringers to start the 2026-2027 season.

Carol Miller | Handbell Choirs Director
419-283-1895

OLIVET CHOIR

Summer is poised to reign soon. It is a time for play, a time for allowing the light of Christ full dominion in our lives. As such the music of worship should burst upon the scene with an optimistic spirit of grace. This you shall have in abundance!

During the months of June, July and August, our talented musicians from Olivet Choir will shower us with contemporary solos, duets and other combinations of voices and instruments designed to invoke the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds.

Expect musical blessings from Ivan Cobb, Seth Johnson, Lindsay Andrews, Alyssa Cobb, Samantha Olrich, Tanner Wertz, Blake Lehman, Carol Miller, even men's and women's ensembles. A veritable cornucopia of inspired musicians sharing their talents—all for you. You just have to come to church every Sunday to reap the benefits of what promises to be a remarkable time of renewal.

God's Blessings!

Steve Hodge | Choir Director
55 years of music ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ONE 10 AM SUNDAY SERVICE ALL JUNE + JULY

June 7 | sanctuary

June 14 | Christian Life Center

June 21 | Christian Life Center

June 28 | sanctuary

July 5 | sanctuary

July 12 | Christian Life Center

July 19 | Christian Life Center

July 26 | sanctuary

9 AM & 11 AM services resume **August 2** (both in sanctuary this date only)

August 9 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (Christian Life Center)

Aug 16 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (CLC) + **afternoon at Olander Park!**
[more details to come]

August 23 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (Christian Life Center)

RUMMAGE SALE

July 30 & 31 (9 AM – 6 PM) + **August 1** (9 AM – 12 PM)

DONATION DATES

Thursday & Friday, **July 23 & 24** (8:30 AM – 5 PM)

Saturday, **July 25** (9 AM – 12 PM) & **Sunday, July 26** (10 AM – 1 PM)

For more information, see page 11 or visit www.olivetsylvania.org/rummage-sale.

view full calendar at www.olivetsylvania.org/calendar

See previous page for Sunday worship schedule

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

VBS Youth Volunteer Training | 6-7:30 PM
Adult Ed Rm

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Scripture & Salsa | 4-6:30 PM | page [12]

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Graduate recognition | 10 AM | sanctuary
Graduate reception | 11 AM | bell courtyard
VBS Youth Volunteer Training | 6-7:30 PM
Teen Room

MONDAY, JUNE 8

Women's Bible Study | 9:30-11 AM | Teen Rm

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Tuesday Table Talks | 6-8 PM | page [12]

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Scripture & Salsa | 4-6:30 PM | page [12]
Euchre | 7-8 PM | Teen Room

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Unwanted Firearms Disposal | 11 AM - 3 PM
Monroe Street United Methodist Church

MONDAY, JUNE 15 - FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Vacation Bible School | 9 AM - 12:15 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

No food distribution or Daily Bread (due to VBS)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Council Meeting | 7-8 PM | Adult Ed Rm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Men's Retreat | page [12]

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Scripture & Salsa | 4-6:30 PM | page [12]

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

High School Fun: Mini Golf & Ice Cream
page [8]

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Weed It & Reap Team | 9-11 AM | page [11]

JUNE

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Scripture & Salsa | 4-6:30 PM | page [12]

MONDAY, JULY 6

Accessibility Team | 7-8 PM | Teen Room

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Euchre | 7-8 PM | Teen Room

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Tuesday Table Talks | 6-8 PM | page [12]

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Council Meeting | 7-8 PM | Adult Ed Rm

MONDAY, JULY 20

Women's Bible Study | 9:30-11 AM | Teen Rm

THURSDAY, JULY 23 - SUNDAY, JULY 26

Rummage Sale donation days | page [11]
High School Fun: Dinner & Mud Hens Game
page [8]

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Weed It & Reap Team | 9-11 AM | page [#]

THURSDAY, JULY 30 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Rummage Sale begins | Christian Life Center
page [11]

JULY

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

Accessibility Team | 7-8 PM | Teen Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

High School Fun: Beach Day & Picnic
page [8]

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Tuesday Table Talks | 6-8 PM | page [11]

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Euchre | 7-8 PM | Teen Room

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Council Meeting | 7-8 PM | Adult Ed Rm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Red Cross Blood Drive | 12-6 PM | CLC

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

Women's Bible Study | 9:30-11 AM | Teen Rm

AUGUST

SAVE THE DATE. Homecoming Sunday | September 13

YOUTH & FAMILIES

NURSERY.

Available for children ages infant through 3 years during worship services.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Ages 3 - 5th Grade | 10:10-10:55 AM
Resumes September 20



BODY SHOP.

[confirmation classes]
Grades 6-8 | Twice a month
12-2 PM | Resumes in September

Register now by scanning the QR code or visit www.olivetsylvania.org/connect/kids-teens

UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate Recognition

Sun, June 7 | 10 AM service | sanctuary
A reception will follow in the bell courtyard (outside the main office doors). High school & college graduates wishing to be recognized should contact the church office at operations@olivetsylvania.org or 419-882-2077.

High School Summer Fun!

Incoming 8th graders thru graduating seniors

RSVP to Becky Cress (rcress@olivetsylvania.org)

Mini Golf & Ice Cream. Fri, June 26 | 6-8 PM.
High schoolers and their friends are invited to enjoy an evening together at Quarry Ridge Golf Center and Mayberry Ice Cream! Meet Becky at Quarry Ridge (6081 Clark Rd, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267) to play a round, then travel to Mayberry Square for some sweet treats.

Dinner & Mud Hens Game. Thu, July 23. Come together for dinner and a trip to the ballpark! Cheer on the Mud Hens as they take on Louisville Thursday, July 23. More details to come. Friends are welcome.

Beach Day & Picnic. Sat, August 8 | 12-4 PM
Join Becky at Luna Pier and have some fun in the sun with your high school friends from Olivet! Watch your email for more details. Friends are welcome.

Blessing of the Backpacks & Bags

Sun, Sep 6 during worship services
Adults and kids, bring your bags and backpacks to either service for a blessing as we wind down our summers and prepare for a new school year.

Save the Dates

Confirmation. Sun, October 25. For 9th graders ready to affirm their faith.

Homecoming Sunday. September 13. Welcome back from summer vacation! During services on this special Sunday, 3-year-old children will receive a Spark Story Bible and third graders receive their very own "grown-up" Bible. Afterwards enjoy games and refreshments with your Olivet community!



OHIO SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT

Sun, Jun 28 - Wed, Jul 1 | Hopewood Pines



The Ohio Summer Youth Retreat is for youth entering 6th -12th grades. The 2026 theme, "Choose Love," is based on 1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us." During our retreat we will learn what it means to love God, love ourselves, love each other, and love our world. The cost to attend is \$150. Scan the QR code for more information and to register; also RSVP to Becky!

FROM CAROL MILLER

Children's Music Director

We have the BEST TIME singing between services prior to the children going to their Spark & Club 345 classes. I just have to tell you about one of our little three year olds when we sing "I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart." The third verse is "I have the peace that passes understanding down in my heart." WELL, AS A THREE YEAR OLD, little Lilly sings, "I have the pizza pasta understanding down in my heart," and she sings with gusto!!! I think that's pretty appropriate, don't you think?

God bless these beautiful children with a safe and fun summer!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Accessibility Team

Olivet's Accessibility Team exists to make Olivet a more accessible, inclusive and welcoming space for people with disabilities. Since its formation in the fall of 2024, the Accessibility Team has hosted a three-part seminar covering the important topics of disability, accessibility, and the church, led by disability scholar Dr. Kim Nielsen. The Team also held a book study last October featuring the book "My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church" by Amy Kenny.

Below, Hunter Morrison, a member of Olivet's Accessibility Team, shares about a tool she's been developing for churches to explore how accessibility can be improved in communities of faith:



Hunter Morrison and Waffles the service dog.

I was honored to be nominated by Pastor Robyn Provis and Pastor Lee Ann Pomrenke to participate in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's inaugural *Building Resilient Leadership* (BRL) cohort for 2025–2026. BRL is a 12-month leadership development program that supports emerging leaders as they design and implement community-based projects while engaging in workshops, peer mentoring, and practices rooted in community organizing and equity.

As part of the cohort, each participant develops a project grounded in the needs of their local context. My project centers on piloting **Accessible Church**, a tool I developed through my graduate studies and ongoing work in disability access. Accessible Church was created to help congregations thoughtfully examine how accessibility is experienced across the life of a faith community. Rather than focusing only on physical barriers, the tool invites holistic reflection across four interconnected areas:

communication, physical access, emotional inclusion, and theological engagement.

At Olivet, this work is unfolding through collaboration with the Accessibility Ministry Team and small working groups within the congregation who are engaging the tool through structured reflection and shared discernment. This process emphasizes listening to lived experiences and identifying barriers that may limit full participation in worship, learning, and fellowship across this faith community.

In recognition of this work, the project was awarded a \$1,000 grant through the BRL program. These funds will support the implementation of one priority accessibility improvement identified through the Accessible Church process, helping remove a barrier and strengthen meaningful participation within the Olivet community.

Participation in BRL has created space for leadership formation that is deeply rooted in listening, relationship building, and justice-centered ministry. I am grateful for the nomination, the encouragement of this congregation, and the opportunity to accompany Olivet as we continue working toward a more accessible and resilient future.

Hunter Morrison

If you have a passion for making Olivet a place for all, we'd love to have you on our team! For more information, please call or text Hunter at 937-267-2621. Additionally, we invite you to join us for our monthly meetings that take place every first Monday of the month from 7 to 8 PM in the Teen Room. Hope to see you soon!

MINISTER SPOTLIGHT

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

Get to Know Olivet's Children, Youth & Family Volunteers

Children's Sunday School, Body Shop (catechism), Vacation Bible School—these are just a few of Olivet's children, youth & family ministries. Below is an opportunity to get to know some of the “ministers” who invest in Olivet's youth, hear about why the work they do matters, and how investing in Olivet's young people have personally impacted them.

Amy Dixon | Body Shop Co-Leader. I've volunteered with Body Shop on and off for several years, and for the past 3-4 years I've served as a large group leader alongside Pastor Melissa. Each week, we dig into the lesson together, exploring the Bible and catechism more deeply. Just as important, we talk about what the lesson really means for the students' everyday lives. I'm often struck by their insight and by the genuine love they show for Jesus, their families, and one another.

Junior high students can be wonderfully quirky—and that's exactly why I love spending time with them. There have been many special moments, but the ones that stand out most are when I see a student reach out to someone on the outside and draw them in. In those moments, it's clear they're learning what it truly means to love each other.

I also volunteer with VBS as the science leader, where we bring each lesson to life through hands-on experiments. Some favorites include making a gooey substance to “walk on water,” launching creations from the sanctuary balcony, and making homemade ice cream. When I hear a child excitedly tell their parents or grandparents, “Guess what we did in science today!” I know the effort has made an impact.

Spending time with these children and young people is incredibly rewarding. It's a chance to help them understand who Jesus is, how that shapes their lives, and to remind them that there are adults who care about them beyond their families. And honestly, it's also just fun to be a little silly and experience that joy alongside them.

Tom Reynolds | Sunday School Teacher & Vacation Bible School Volunteer. I began volunteering when my oldest daughter started in Sunday School about 27 years ago and I would help in the classroom. From there, I was asked to be a teacher about maybe 6 to 7 years later and have been volunteering ever since.

I have always enjoyed educating children from my time at the fire department teaching fire safety to telling little ones that God is always with them, and that they are never alone and always loved by God.

Every time I get a chance to teach is a special moment. I did enjoy when we would have 10 to 12 children in the class and we would build cardboard displays about Noah's ark, or a boat with the children inside being fishermen or wearing a colorful coat I made out of cloth that everyone got to wear as we played out the stories in the Bible to help them relate to the stories that are read to them.

If you enjoy working with small children and are looking for something that brings purpose and meaning to your life “that is hard to explain,” this is the place. I had a fellow student now in his twenties who stopped by a few weeks ago to chat and catch up. Seeing that he has God in his heart and knowing Olivet's Sunday School played a small part in that is what brings purpose and meaning in my life.

Steve Sanderson | Body Shop Mentor. I was a Body Shop mentor starting with the 6th graders in 2022 and culminating with their confirmation in 2025. I also stayed in touch with the Body Shop and Sunday School kids this year a bit associated with global mission activities.

I enjoy being with the young people, which is what made working with Olivet's youth meaningful. They are very bright and good hearted, and at times hilarious!

A special memory from my time volunteering is going to Camp Storer for three years with the Body Shop group. The fun, seeing the personalities come out in that setting as well as the relationships form amongst the young people is precious.

As is usually the case, I received as much or more from the time spent with the youth as they did. I hadn't been around middle schoolers for a long time and when asked I was a bit tentative—it seemed like I was pushing the envelope a bit out of my comfort zone (which is a good thing) but that discomfort lasted all of one class session. I am very grateful I had the opportunity.

Penny Moran | Vacation Bible School Volunteer. I have worked the last 14+ years with Karen Rosar in the mission class during Vacation Bible School. It is fun teaching the kids about how it is more blessed to give than receive and to help those who are less fortunate than our selves. To watch them make something to give away.

What makes volunteering during VBS meaningful to me is how fun the kids are to work with and watching them grow from one year to the next and then to eventually volunteer themselves as teenagers.

A treasured part of being a VBS volunteer is being in a store and having a child who does not attend Olivet recognize you as one of their VBS teachers.

I'd encourage anyone considering getting involved with Olivet's youth and family ministries to get started helping our young people learn what it means to be a child of God and to help others.

For more on volunteering with Olivet's youth & family ministries, contact Becky Cress, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries at rcress@olivetsylvania.org.

FAITH IN ACTION | GET INVOLVED



LOVE IS IN THE DETAILS WEDDING COORDINATORS NEEDED

Weddings are such joyful occasions, and every ceremony is unique and special. Olivet provides wedding coordinators to assist the bride and groom, their families, the wedding party, guests and the pastor. We need a few more wedding coordinators on our team. The duties consist of having a brief meeting with the bride and groom in advance of their happy day, being present at the rehearsal and the day of the ceremony. If the wedding party is large, it is helpful to have two coordinators.

If you would like to know more about what is involved and think you may be interested, please contact Susan Santoro at scsantoro711@gmail.com or 419-344-7071.

Photo from the wedding of Jennifer Quackenbush & Roy Glodowski at Olivet on October 25, 2025.

LOVE WORKING WITH YOUTH BUT HAVE LIMITED TIME?

PART-TIME ASSISTANT NEEDED

Children, Youth and Family Ministry is strongest when many people share their gifts, whether that's helping occasionally at events, supporting weekly programming, or simply building relationships with our young people. **Becky Cress**, Olivet's Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries, **is looking for one or two volunteers who could help her on a regular basis**—a few hours once or twice a week—who become familiar with the ins and outs of her ministry and who would be able to fill in should she need to be elsewhere. For more information, contact Becky at rcress@olivetsylvania.org.

"WEED IT & REAP TEAM" AT URBAN WHOLISTICS FARMS

Come spend a morning at Urban Wholistics Farms with Olivet's new "Weed It and Reap Team"! Three Saturday mornings this summer, we'll be pitching in with general farm maintenance, weeding, and similar duties. Bring your kids or grandkids! Dress for the weather and bring your favorite gardening gloves and hand tools. If gardening is not your thing, just come for the fellowship. All are welcome. Urban Wholistics Farms located at 1209 City Park in Toledo.

"Weed It & Reap Team" dates:
(Saturdays) **May 30, June 27, & July 25 | 9-11 AM**

To learn more, contact Mike Linehan at 614-595-666.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE | IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

This year's rummage sale is happening **July 30 - August 1** and there are so many ways to get involved!

Donate. Clean, pre-sorted, separated, and bagged donations will be accepted July 23 - July 26. For a full list of accepted items, visit www.olivetsylvania.org/rummage-sale.

Volunteer. If you can help with set up, donation intake, organization, during the sale, or clean up, please let us know! Volunteers are the key to a successful rummage sale and as many helpful hands as possible are needed.

For more information or to sign up, contact Shannon Walker at churchladyshan@gmail.com or Chalise Underwood at ann.underwood@yahoo.com.



Let us know your gifts, skills, & ministry interests!

Scan the QR code or visit www.olivetsylvania.org/connect/ministries-groups for our **Connect, Grow, Belong** form to indicate what areas of service you would like more information about or have interest in "testing out." Paper forms are also available in the church office.

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH

See **Youth & Families** on **page 8** for youth faith formation opportunities.

ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Resumes Sundays at 10:10 AM in the Adult Ed Room in August.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Monthly on Mondays at 9:30 AM | Teen Room | 6/8, 7/20 & 8/24

MEN. GUYS 'N GOSPEL. Resumes Tuesdays, 7-8 AM, at Panera on Central Ave after Labor Day.

TUESDAY TABLE TALKS: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING.

Summer Outdoor Series: June 9, July 14, & August 11 | 6 - 8 PM

Where: Harroun Community Park shelter house (across from St. Joseph Catholic Church)

Theme: *Spirituality for The Two Halves of Life*. Each of the three summer sessions stands on its own, so come whenever you're able—no registration needed. Just show up and join the conversation.

What to expect: sandwiches & setups provided. Please bring a beverage & a side or dessert to share (about 12 attendees). Feel free to bring a camp chair if picnic tables aren't your thing.

SCRIPTURE & SALSA. Join Pastor Melissa for a summer spiritual practice on Thursdays!

Congregational members and friends are welcome!! Come for any part of the evening or ALL, one week or many.

Dates: (Thursdays) June 4, 11, 25, & July 2

Schedule:

- 4 p.m. Bible study (Scripture reading for the following Sunday) in Weber Chapel or the Garden of Peace (when weather is favorable) | bring a lawn chair!!
- 4:45 p.m. prayer practice (varied: "embodied" and "ecological") | Garden of Peace and/or under the old Oak Tree, weather permitting (bring a lawn chair!!) If rain, Weber Chapel.
- 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. meet at El Salto for camaraderie and appetizers, drinks, and/or dinner (come late or early as your schedule allows) [individual pay].

2026 MEN'S RETREAT

Plans are underway for a one-day summer retreat for the men of Olivet.

When: Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Where: Linehan cottage, Pine Hill Lake, Horton, Michigan (~75 minutes from Olivet)

Theme: *Passing It On – God's Work in the Second Half of Life* invites men to reflect on how God continues to call, shape, and use them in this season. Through conversation, we'll explore legacy, faithfulness, and the quiet ways God's work continues through us and beyond us.

Agenda: Morning – 18 holes of golf at the nearby course (non-golfers join for lunch at club house)

Afternoon – *Passing It On: God's Work in the Second Half of Life* discussion on the lake

Evening – Group cookout

Look for more details in upcoming publications or contact Mike Linehan at 614-595-6666 or mline926@gmail.com.



FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Olivet Community,

You may have heard about Olivet's Council and wondered what we actually do.

In short, the Council is a group of church members who help support both the day-to-day work and long-term vision of Olivet. We partner with our pastor and staff to make decisions, support ministries, and help things run smoothly behind the scenes.

Our current leadership team includes Jennifer Quackenbush (President), Amber Espinosa (Vice President), and Hunter Morrison (Secretary), along with dedicated council members who each bring unique perspectives and a shared commitment to serving our community.

The Council meets regularly, typically once a month, the 3rd Thursday of the month to be exact, to address church needs, plan for the future, and support Olivet's local and global outreach efforts. Right now, we are focusing on strengthening communication, supporting ongoing ministries, and exploring meaningful ways for Olivet to grow.

Most importantly, we are here for you. If you have questions, ideas, or just want to learn more about what is happening at Olivet, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to connect with any Council member.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be part of such a caring and committed community.

Peace,

Jennifer Quackenbush | President, Olivet Council

Hunter Morrison | Secretary, Olivet Council



Olivet's current church council members (left to right, back row to front row): Bill Cook, Pastor Melissa Micham, Jennifer Quackenbush, Amber Espinosa, Hunter Morrison, Mike Linehan, Cindy Franklin, Kent Jackman, Janet Beilstein, Curt Olsen, Dave Bell, Phil Dress, Steve Sanderson, and Waffles (honorary service dog member). Not pictured: Mike Vince, Ed Rupley, and Austin Billau.

PRAYERS & PASTORAL ACTS

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For those hospitalized or anticipating tests/procedures: Jim Rentner (May 29).

For those grieving: Jennifer Quackenbush and family at the passing of her uncle on May 22. Marcus & Heidi Lohrmann at the passing of her sister, Agathe, on May 19. Chuck & Beth Cook at the passing of his son Jarad on May 3.

For members who have requested prayers because of illness or recovery from injury or surgery: Donna Reynolds, Terry Meyer, Joyce Barger, Chalise Underwood, Wesley Frazier, Chuck Cook, Tina Yoppolo, Janet Overmyer, Bob & Pat Sheets, Martha Kupsky, Kelly Cipiti, Steve Hodge, Mary Glover, Brian Hart, David Tucker, Jim Rentner, Eric Adams, Pastor Nate Tuff & Kim Nielsen.

For those in assisted living, extended care, or rehabilitation: Tom Althoff at StoryPoint; Patty Cross and Naomi Loose at Otterbein Sunset Village; Doris Fry and Arlene Holtfreter at Oakleaf Village; Fred Heintz at The Waterford at Levis Commons; Billie Iles at Mill Manor, Vermillion, OH; Mae Kyser at Genacross, Wolf Creek Campus; Marjorie Lay at The Lakes of Sylvania; Matthew Wesley at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center.

For members at home in our care: Bonnie Ahrendt, Mary Carl, Hilda Hawk, Betty Moore, Marcia Morrison, Larry Sass, Marv Stephenson, Marge Warnock.

Family and friends for whom prayers have been requested: Bernice Davis, Claude Cecire, Brian Hyland, Renzo Maraldo, Susan Mann, Judi Brooker, Jon Stadler, Mark Glodowski, Bob Damman, Marie Hoetzi, Craig Timm, Maureen Venus, James LaPlant, Molly Cress, Donnie Reck, Tom Evans, Tina, Dave Burkhardt, Barb & Bob W., Sara & Chris, Jan Kistner, Spencer, Ukrainian people & leaders, the family of Rita Kerstiens, Scott Reynolds, Heather Taberner, Garrett.

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

For our bishops: Northwestern Ohio Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry.

For Olivet's local mission partners and international missionaries: Salem Lutheran Church; Redeemer 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; Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (Mexican Lutheran Church).

PASTORAL ACTS | MARCH - MAY

Funeral:

Eugene "Smitty" Smith (5/9)

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. Updates may be sent to membership@olivetsylvania.org.

GIVING

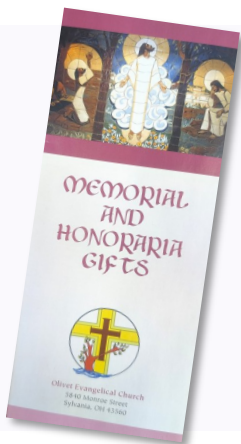
MEMORIAL GIFTS

BEVERLY BLAKEMAN

*Robert Hartwig • Jennifer Sponsler
Teresa Mersereau • Jerry & Janice Arkebauer
John & Sandy Husman • John Baldwin
Dave & Shelley McMacken • Carol Miller
Darla Culberson • Doug & Helene Lyon
Emilyn Jakes • Patricia Kent
Warren & Noreen Wright • Jim & Liz Meister
Dennis & Nancy Hinebaugh
Northview Social Studies Dept.
Howard & Lucinda Raab • Mary L. Weiss
Linda Burnett • Betty Pakosz • Susan Santoro*

EUGENE "SMITTY" SMITH

*Gail Anderson
Carol DeGross
Fred Heintz
John & Kathleen Benya
David & Joanne Row
Carol Howell Agency
Michael Jurgenson*



LEARN 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 **Amie McGee, Director of Operations**, at 419-882-2077 or email operations@olivetsylvania.org.

OUTREACH MINISTRY ENDOWMENT FUND

As of May 26, we have officially reached our donation goal for Olivet's Outreach Ministry Endowment Fund! Over \$20,000 has been received. **Thank you** to those who helped us reach this goal!

All gifts to the Outreach Ministry Endowment of Olivet will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$20,000 by an anonymous donor. This endowment supports the long-term future of Olivet's local and global outreach ministries.



Once the fund reaches \$100,000, its earnings provide ongoing ministry support. Give cash or planned gifts and help double the impact. For more information contact the church office or email operations@olivetsylvania.org.

\$20,000
reached!





Olivet Lutheran Church

5840 Monroe Street
Sylvania, OH 43560

Church Summer Office Hours 419-882-2077

Mon-Thu | 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Fri | 8 AM - 1 PM

Email
churchoffice@olivetsylvania.org

Website
www.olivetsylvania.org

Lead Pastor
Melissa Micham
pastormelissa@olivetsylvania.org

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Becky Cress
rcress@olivetsylvania.org

Director of Operations
Amie McGee
operations@olivetsylvania.org

Membership + Ministry Coordinator
Jill Hepner
membership@olivetsylvania.org

Communications Specialist
Sara Martin
communications@olivetsylvania.org

Sunday Worship livestreamed at
www.youtube.com/@OlivetLutheran



Stay connected!

Sign up to receive devotional + announcement emails right to your inbox each week. Scan the

QR code or call the church office to get started!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM ALL JUNE + JULY

JUNE

07 | sanctuary
14 | Christian Life Center
21 | Christian Life Center
28 | sanctuary

JULY

05 | sanctuary
12 | Christian Life Center
19 | Christian Life Center
26 | sanctuary

AUGUST

9 AM & 11 AM services resume August 2
(both in sanctuary this date only)

09 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (Christian Life Center)
16 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (CLC) + afternoon at Olander Park [more details to come]
23 | 9 AM (sanctuary) & 11 AM (Christian Life Center)

[see **page 6** for full worship schedule]

SUMMER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- Monroe Street, between Acres Road and Nantuckett Drive, will be reduced to one lane in each direction for resurfacing beginning Monday, June 1 thru June.
- Alexis Road, between Elliott Drive and Acres Road, will be reduced to one 11-foot lane in each direction beginning Friday, May 29 thru early August for reconstruction of the intersection of Monroe/Alexis/Acres and modification to the intersection of Acres/Alexis.
- Acres Road north of Alexis will be closed for 40 days for construction of the north half of Alexis Road beginning Friday evening, May 29 at 8 p.m. Detour using Elliott Drive.
- Northbound U.S. Route 23 will be reduced to two 11-foot lanes beginning Saturday, May 30 at 9 a.m. thru mid-July.
- Northbound U.S. Route 23 exit to Monroe Street (Exit 234) will be closed for ramp construction beginning overnight Friday night, June 5 after 8 p.m. thru mid-June.

For the latest updates, scan the code or visit www.transportation.ohio.gov and enter Project ID 105889.

