

THE OLIVE PRESS

the quarterly newsletter of
Olivet Lutheran Church

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

Dear People of Olivet:

Trapper Keeper. Need I say more?! For the uninitiated, it was the *coolest* way to keep all one's school papers and notes together in the 1980s. I honestly cannot remember if we ever splurged for one, but I do remember my excitement *every* year about getting new school supplies! It was my favorite part of the school year. Only possibilities ahead. The disappointments of the old year in the distant past. I felt giddy, enough that it was a challenge to fall asleep at night.

I admit to feeling giddy now. A new year in ministry is before us. We restart the narrative lectionary (our weekly scripture readings) on **Homecoming Sunday**, September 13, with worship in the **sanctuary at 9 a.m.** and in the **Christian Life Center at 11 a.m.** Sunday School and Body Shop will be underway. We have a **tremendous office staff** who have been honing their ministry craft over the summer. *I get a new-to-me office from which to work!!* Oh, and **we have a new pastor!!!**

When “no” means “yes”...

One of our crucial tasks in the year ahead is to be painstaking in our “yeses” and “nos.” Olivet is not the same congregation it was ten years ago, or even last year. We have changed, we have learned, and those are *good* things! With additional pastoral staff to support our congregational and emerging community vision, we may be tempted to dive in headlong. This is where my giddiness has been tempered by nearly 20 years of ministry.

Let's be deliberate in our discernment. Every “yes” we make means a “no” to something we have yet to imagine. For me, “yes” can be easier to say, but it's much harder to work my way out of—if it was made in haste (without thought to the cost), I may be stuck somewhere my passions and gifts do not align.

To be clear, I am **not** asking you to say “no” to every opportunity or invitation that comes your way this fall. I *am* reminding myself and us to count the cost first. To pray and ask God, “Is this the best use of the gifts and time you have given me?” Then, we must do the work of reckoning with others. I **cannot say “yes” to this because...** Making this very difficult statement to ourselves or another person requires our clarity about what we value. For Olivet to thrive and grow into the future, we must be **clear about what we value**, and this is ONE task that gets us there.

Pastoral Care...a practical note.

As Pastor Bill comes aboard, we will learn new rhythms and routines. For the moment, know that:

- Pastor Bill takes Mondays off.
- Pastor Melissa takes Tuesdays off.

That's all folks!

Pastor Melissa Micham | *Lead Pastor*



Our Vision

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

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 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

Pastors

Rev. Melissa Micham, Lead Pastor
Rev. Bill Pavuk, Associate Pastor



SUMMER **TUESDAY TABLE TALKS** EXPLORE FALLING UPWARD

This summer, as many as 18 participants gathered under the pavilion at Harroun Community Park for our outdoor Tuesday Table Talks series, sharing picnic meals, lively conversation, and a thoughtful exploration of Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*.

Over three evenings, we reflected on Rohr's invitation to see life as a journey of transformation. We began by exploring the "first half of life," when we build our identity through work, relationships, and the beliefs that give our lives structure. We then considered how disappointment, loss, and unexpected detours—experiences Rohr describes as "falling upward"—can become opportunities for deeper faith rather than simply setbacks. Finally, we examined the "second half of life," where success gives way to wisdom, compassion, authenticity, and a greater openness to God's work in and through us.

The discussions were rich, honest, and deeply personal, reminding us that some of life's greatest spiritual growth emerges from the very moments that seem to unravel us. Rohr's central insight—that we spend the first half of life building a life and the second half discovering what that life is truly for—resonated deeply with many around the tables.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us and look forward to continuing these engaging conversations as Thursday Table Talks begin this fall. [see **page 12**]

WEED IT & REAP TEAM AT URBAN WHOLISTICS FARMS

Olivet's final "Weed It & Reap Team" volunteer day of the summer took us back to Urban Wholistics Farms, where Olivet members tackled a seemingly endless supply of morning glory vines to free the monarch-friendly milkweed beds. The team also helped Pastor Mike stain the farm's new wheelchair ramp, making the space even more welcoming and accessible.

Over the course of our three monthly visits this summer, 12 Olivet members shared their time and talents in support of this important community partnership. Thank you to everyone who helped cultivate beauty, accessibility, and hope at Urban Wholistics Farms!





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUMMER MONTHS

Olivet's Women's Bible Study met for 3 sessions this summer using the theme "I Am Worthy." Penny Moran and Donna Mens graciously hosted our gatherings in their beautiful backyards. Beginning on September 14th, we will meet every Monday in the Teen room at 9:30 AM.

OLIVET HELPS LEAD SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FIREARM DISPOSAL EVENT

On June 13, Olivet joined six other faith communities, Moms Demand Action, Sisters 4 Unity, and the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence in hosting an unwanted firearms disposal event at Monroe Street United Methodist Church. The response exceeded every expectation.

More than 60 households participated, safely surrendering 107 firearms that were permanently destroyed by trained professionals. Eleven Olivet volunteers, including members of the Community Mission Team, joined more than 40 volunteers from churches and community organizations to welcome donors, guide vehicles through the process, and offer hospitality and support.

The event took place just one week after a tragic mass shooting in Toledo, making its mission especially meaningful. Several donors shared deeply personal stories about why they chose to remove firearms from their homes—stories marked by grief, loss, and a desire to protect future generations. Volunteers left inspired by the opportunity to respond to violence not with fear, but with hope and compassionate action.

The event also highlighted the power of partnership. Donors received free gun locks and safe storage information, mental health resources, and the opportunity to watch blacksmiths transform pieces of destroyed firearms into garden tools and works of art—a powerful reminder of Isaiah's vision of turning "swords into plowshares."

By working alongside neighbors, faith communities, and civic leaders, Olivet helped make our community a little safer while bearing witness to Christ's call to be peacemakers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and supported this important ministry.



OLIVET REWIND (continued)



PASTOR BILL PAVUK CALLED TO OLIVET

On Sunday, July 12, with the affirmation of 131 voting members of Olivet, Pastor Bill Pavuk received and accepted a call to Olivet Lutheran Church. Pastor Bill began serving in his new role of Pastor of Community Life on Sunday, August 23.

Get to know Pastor Bill on
page 13!

(Left to right) Pastor Melissa, Dana & Bill Pavuk, Jennifer Quackenbush (Olivet council president), Tom Ritter (Northwestern Ohio Synod representative), Hunter Morrison (Olivet council secretary), Phil Dress (Olivet council member), and Waffles the service dog.

THE VOZNIUKS CELEBRATE THREE YEARS IN THE U.S.

The Vozniuks, the family Olivet supported to come to the United States from Ukraine, hosted an open house in appreciation of our congregation's assistance on the third anniversary of arrival in the United States on July 18. Many members of Olivet stopped by to sample Viktor and Mariia's culinary skills along with several of their new neighbors and others that have helped them since they arrived. Viktor and Mariia were very appreciative of the turnout and they and the boys are doing very well.



RUMMAGE SALE DRAWS IN OVER 1,000 SHOPPERS

At 7:30 AM on Thursday, July 30, a line of eager shoppers began to form outside Olivet's Christian Life Center ready for the rummage sale. Within the first ten minutes of the doors opening at 9 AM, over 200 shoppers poured into the Christian Life Center in search of gently-used treasures. Over the course of the three sale days, over \$11,000 was raised and 1,130 shoppers were welcomed. Thank you to everyone who generously donated their time and labor to help make this year's

John & Sandy Husman volunteered in the books section of the rummage sale sorting titles and keeping displays organized.

AROUND OLIVET

MISSIONARY DAVID BRONDOS VISITS OLIVET

Rev. David Brondos visited Olivet on Saturday, August 1, prior to delivering the Sunday message at Bethel Lutheran. We hosted dinner for David attended by members of Olivet and also Bethel Lutheran and it was great, enjoyable and educational to hear his stories related to both his mission work and immigrants in Mexico.



OLIVET'S PARTNER CHURCH IN TANZANIA COMPLETES NEW BUILDING

With a gift of \$650 from Olivet's Global Mission Team, our partner congregation in Tanzania, Lwihomelo, was able to purchase boards and nails to make the frame for the roof of their new church. Additional funds from the Dodoma Diocese allowed them to purchase the metal roofing to complete their building project that reflects a growing congregation. Pastor Emma Kinyunyu sent us photos that show the hard



work of members to complete their new church building. They are so grateful for our continued support and for our prayers and partnership with this congregation.

Pastor Emma sent this recent communication: "We thank you so much for your contribution and your dedication to our diocese and Lwihomelo parish. May our almighty God continue blessing you and our prayers are with you always."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH **ELCA GOOD GIFTS**

Are you looking for a way to make a real difference in the lives of people around the world and share your faith with friends and family? Check out the ELCA Good Gifts catalog for more than 60 different gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. If you give online, you can print, mail, or download a card to share with your loved one at Christmas. Copies of the catalog with instructions on how to order are on the small tables inside the Christian Life Center or at the Welcome Center near the sanctuary. You can also go to ELCA.org/good_gifts.

Olivet Christian



Nursery School

OLIVET CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

OCNS staff and students are excited to be back at Olivet for another year of preschool! The school year begins on September 8, the day after Labor Day.

We have many fun and exciting events planned for the fall. The students will meet many new friends, visit Gust Farms, and participate in our annual "Move-A-Thon" fundraiser

Please contact Jennifer Crooks, Director, if you have any questions at 419-882-4616 or ocns@olivetpreschool.org.

AROUND OLIVET (continued)

REJOICE & JUBILEE HANDBELL CHOIRS

I am beyond excited about getting back to our rehearsals and ringing at our 9 AM services on Sundays. I have used almost all music we have in our handbell library the past 3 years and now it's time to add some new numbers. I'm really looking forward to some awesome contributions to our services.

Our Christmas concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 6 at 7 PM. Mark your calendars to invite your friends and family. It is always a very special night of Christmas music. It's a fun and relaxed concert and gets us all in the Christmas spirit.

I'm VERY THANKFUL for the dedication of our handbell members coming to rehearsals each week and working vacations and trips around our ringing schedule. Both Rejoice & Jubilee have created wonderful friendships and support systems for each other. If you would like to be a part of this awesome program, I would highly recommend you join us. If you have any past musical experience reading music – vocally, piano lessons, played in a band or choir, etc. I would be THRILLED to hear from you. I need two ringers in Jubilee this year (rehearsals Tuesdays 7:30-9 PM).

REHEARSAL TIMES (Tuesdays)

Rejoice 5:30-7:30 | Jubilee 7:30-9 PM

Rejoice will ring September 13 and Jubilee will ring September 20. I'm looking forward to an exceptional, exciting and spirit moving season. God bless you all for your wonderful support of our handbell choirs.

Carol Miller | Handbell Choirs Director
419-283-1895 | carolamiller5@hotmail.com

OLIVET CHOIR

Olivet Choir begins another great year with a first rehearsal on September 2nd. Already, the choir will have sung for Pastor Bill's Installation before launching into preparation for Rally Sunday. From there, Olivet Choir combines with Rejoice Bells for an October 11th performance. Then, it's on to Reformation, All Saints and Christ the King Sunday.

The Sunday before Christmas will feature a cantata comprised of some of the choir's favorite anthems from the past. January will include anthems on the theme of Jesus. February includes gospel and spiritual selections to honor Black Heritage. Lent follows, and with it, Olivet will offer beautiful music that walks us through Jesus' last six weeks. And it would not be Lent without another cantata and a glorious Hallelujah Chorus.

Singing in our choir is a joyful responsibility. We have thirty members, many veterans of twenty years or more service. But the choir is also for newcomers. This year we welcome Pastor Bill, his wife Dana, the Haase family and Amanda Rasey. Maybe you would join us. We are friendly souls who enjoy edifying worship. Do you feel Christ's call to music ministry?

I am here for you, good people. Join me. Join the choir! Time to step up to the plate and hit a home run for Olivet Lutheran.

Love you,

Steve Hodge | Choir Director
stevehodge7464@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

URBAN WHOLISTICS FARMS GOLDEN HOUR GALA

October 17 | 6-9 PM in the Christian Life Center

Olivet has been blessed to partner with Urban Wholistics Farms, supporting Sonia Flunder-McNair's inspiring work of cultivating healthy food, stronger neighborhoods, and brighter futures for Toledo youth. For the past five summers, our congregation has helped nurture a ministry that is transforming lives one harvest at a time. The Golden Hour Gala is Urban Wholistics Farms' primary fundraiser for next year's youth programming, and we hope our congregation will once again play a vital role in its success.

There are several ways you can help:

- Attend the Gala and celebrate the incredible impact of Urban Wholistics Farms.
- Donate a gift basket, experience, or other item for the silent auction.
- Volunteer to assist with setup, hospitality, or teardown before and after the event.

If you'd like to be part of this meaningful ministry, please contact Mike Linehan.

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

view full calendar at www.olivetsylvania.org/calendar

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

*SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10 AM worship service | sanctuary

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Church office closed (Labor Day)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Euchre | 7-9 PM | Teen Room

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Homecoming Sunday | between services
Bell courtyard

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Prayer Shawl Ministry | 1-2:30 PM | atrium
Accessibility Team Meeting | 7-8 PM
Teen Room

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Council meeting | 7-8:30 PM | Adult Ed Rm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Children's Sunday School | 10:10 AM
Body Shop | 12-2 PM | Teen Room
The Gathering prep session | 6:30-8 PM
Teen Room | page [8]

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Body Shop | 12-2 PM | Teen Room

OCTOBER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Body Shop confirmation prep | page [8]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Euchre | 7-9 PM | Teen Room

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Body Shop confirmation prep | page [8]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Prayer Shawl Ministry | 1-2:30 PM | atrium

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Council meeting | 7-8:30 PM | Adult Ed Rm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Urban Wholistics Farms Golden Hour Gala
6-9 PM | Christian Life Center | page [6]

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Body Shop confirmation prep | page [8]

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Confirmation Sunday | 9 AM service
The Gathering prep session | 6:30-8 PM
Teen Room | page [8]

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Daylight saving time ends

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Body Shop | 12-2 PM | Teen Room

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Prayer Shawl Ministry | 1-2:30 PM | atrium
Bible Workshop | 6:30-8 PM | atrium
page [8]

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Euchre | 7-9 PM | Teen Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Operation Christmas Child boxes blessing
The Gathering prep session | 6:30-8 PM
Teen Room | page [8]

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Body Shop | 12-2 PM | Teen Room

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 & 27

Church office closed (Thanksgiving)

*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

10 AM worship service | sanctuary
Advent Festival | 11:15 AM

**denotes Sunday with one worship service*

SAVE THE DATES. Advent by Candlelight | Thursday, December 3 | 7 PM

If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Jan Kirk at jlirk57@gmail.com

Christmas Handbell Choir Concert | Sunday, December 6 | 7 PM

Christmas Choir Cantata | Sunday, December 20 | 10 AM

Women's Retreat 2027 | March 6-7

YOUTH & FAMILIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming Sunday

Sun, Sep 13 | between services

The Olivet community is invited to a Homecoming Sunday Celebration! Join a game, savor a brunch of donuts and cider, and catch up with old friends as we enjoy the end of summer!

Sunday School classes begin

Sun, Sep 20 | 10:10 AM

Spark and Club 345 meet between services. All students meet in the Spark Room, next to the nursery, to sing with Miss Carol before separating for lessons. The curriculum for both groups will be Spark: Activate Faith. Looking forward to another blessed and fun-filled year!

2027 Gathering Prep Sessions

All youth (grades 8-12) and young adults (ages 18-25) are invited to participate in The Gathering Prep sessions. Sessions are Sundays, 6:30-8 PM, on 9/20, 10/25, 11/15, 2/28, 3/21, 4/4, 5/23, and 6/6 (family meeting).

Bible Workshop

Monday, November 9 | 6:30-8pm | Grades 3-5
Through hands-on activities, children will take a tour through the good book, learn about its authors, and gain a better understanding of God's Word. Although there is overlap from year to year, each year offers a slightly different experience to engage our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in exploring our sacred scriptures.

Save the Date

Advent Festival | Sunday, November 29
following 10 AM worship service

FROM CAROL MILLER

Children's Music Director

I have missed singing with you this summer! I hope you all can come to Sunday School (Spark & Club 345) beginning September 20. We meet and sing right after the 9 AM service in the Spark room (across from the atrium) for about 10-15 minutes. Parents are ALWAYS welcome to come in to sing with us as well. Some of the adults of our congregation join us on occasion to sing and have their spirits lifted. Everyone is welcome. We have fun and get silly at times. It's a highlight of my week. Thanks, parents, grandparents and those of you who bring these beautiful children to church on Sunday mornings! God bless you!!

In Christian love,

Carol Miller 419-283-1895 | carolamiller5@hotmail.com

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

This year, we'll be learning from a new curriculum, *Lutheran Yes!*, and students will learn about the important aspects of Lutheran Worship. Pastor Melissa and Amy Dixon will continue to teach the lessons. Workbooks will be handed out the first day of class.

Upcoming Classes:

9/20, 9/27, 10/11, 11/8, and 11/22

Confirmation Prep:

9th graders are asked to attend three Confirmation Prep sessions on Sundays, October 4, 11, and 18 from 6:30 to 8 PM as they prepare for confirmation. Parents and/or caregivers are invited to attend the second session on October 11.

Affirmation of Faith (Confirmation):

Sunday, October 25 | 9 AM service
All Body Shop families are encouraged to attend to support and celebrate our ninth graders!

Acolyte Training:

Sunday, December 6 during Body Shop

MEET NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, ANGEL CARLO!



I am blessed to be a mostly stay-at-home mom, even though I graduated many years ago with a teaching degree, and I work seasonally for H&R Block. I have been a part of the Lutheran church since I married Tony 35 years ago and have been a part of Olivet since 2017. Tony and I have 4 children: Christine, Rex, Gino, and Cat, ranging in age from 34 to 18. I have spent a lot of time over the years volunteering at the kids' schools, with Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, as a coach with various youth sports organizations, and in our previous churches. I am looking forward to getting to know our Sunday School kiddos better this fall.

MINISTER SPOTLIGHT

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

Get to Know Jan Kirk

Jan Kirk and her husband, Tony, joined Olivet in 1995, because it felt like a good fit for their blended family. More than thirty years later, Jan says that sense of belonging has only deepened over the decades she's spent serving here.

Ask Jan about her volunteer history at Olivet, and the list runs long. She has served on the Prayer Team and Prayer Shawl Ministry, helped lead baptism classes, spearheads Advent by Candlelight and the annual Women's Retreat, and given her time to the C.A.R.E. Group (Connecting and Reaching Olivet's Elders), Daily Bread, funeral luncheons, Common Thread Quilters, Bookworms, and women's Bible study. It's the kind of resume that reflects not a single passion project, but a life woven into the everyday needs of a church family.

For Jan, that's exactly the point. "Olivet is my family," she says simply. "The Gospel commands us to be servants." She points to 1 Peter 4:10 as a guide for how she approaches her ministry work: "Each one should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." It's a verse that shapes not just what she does, but why she keeps showing up year after year.

That sense of connection runs through everything Jan shared. Her volunteer roles, she says, aren't separate from her life at Olivet—they're how she experiences being connected to her church family. Looking ahead, her hope for Olivet is that the congregation continues to grow in its commitment to

outreach, using the talents and gifts God has given Olivet to support and help others in the wider community.

Perhaps the most fitting summary of Jan's approach to faith and service is the reflection she offered when asked if there was anything else she'd like to share: "Live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you." It's a quiet call to action—one Jan has clearly taken to heart through three decades of steady, faithful service at Olivet.

Thank you, Jan, for your years of dedication and for the example you set for all of us.

Learn more about Olivet's Prayer Shawl Ministry on the next page!



Jan crocheting a new prayer shawl for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Wrapped in Prayer: Olivet's Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer shawls are available in a variety of beautiful colors and patterns.

In the spring of 2005, two avid knitters, Charlotte Shaffer and Joyce Barger, sat down together with yarn and the intention to make prayer tangible. Over twenty years later, that intention has grown into one of Olivet's most enduring ministries. At 95, Joyce is still part of the group today, and together the team has knitted and crocheted more than 1,500 shawls, each one given freely to anyone facing illness, grief, or hard times.

The process is simple by design. Volunteers choose from a selection of provided yarn, and patterns and guidelines are also supplied. A variety of finished shawls are always kept on hand, ready for anyone in the congregation to pick up and pass along to a friend or loved one in need. Once a month, the group gathers in the atrium to turn in completed shawls, pray over each one, and stock up on yarn for the next round.

For longtime volunteer Lana Heintz, who has been part of the ministry for over 15 years, the shawls are more than handiwork. "Each stitch is filled with personal thoughts and prayers," she says, "and they act as wearable hugs to bring peace, hope, and physical warmth to people and families facing grief, illness, or hard times."

Audie Jaqua, entering her third year with the group this fall, says she prays for each future recipient as she works, asking God for strength, courage, and faith to face whatever they're going through. One Sunday, she spotted a woman in the pew ahead of her wearing a shawl she recognized as her own handiwork. "I was overcome with emotion and had tears in my eyes," she recalls. "I felt very blessed because something I knitted had given someone else comfort and joy." That comfort travels further than volunteers often realize. One family wrote to share that a shawl had comforted their mother during her final illness — and that after she passed, her granddaughter asked to keep it to sleep with at night.

New knitters and crocheters—and cash donations to keep the yarn stocked are always welcome. No experience or deadlines required, just willing hands. The ministry meets the second Monday of each month at 1 PM in the atrium; the next gathering is September 14.



(Left) An early gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. (Above) In June 2021, Sharon Heuberger completed her 400th prayer shawl!

FAITH IN ACTION | GET INVOLVED

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD & GIVING TREES

The holiday season will be here before we know it! Below is information about two of Olivet's annual Christmastime giving opportunities.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Information will be available in early September. Shoeboxes will be blessed on Sunday, November 15 before being taken to a collection center the following week.

Giving Trees

Giving trees will be up by Thanksgiving outside the sanctuary, Christian Life Center, and church office. Due date for purchased gifts is still to be confirmed and announced.

COMMON THREAD QUILTERS

Thank you to members who have sewn quilt tops for Olivet's Quilt ministry! Quilt top packs are available for those interested in sewing together squares for quilt tops. Directions are included in the packs of quilt squares. Also appreciated are the sheets donated for quilts. Keep them coming!!

October 4th our quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary and Christian Life Center to be "blessed" during both services. This year is our 10th year of giving boxes of quilts to Lutheran World Relief for distribution in other countries. Quilts are also given out in our area.

Volunteers are always welcome to help on Tuesdays in the Christian Life Center when quilt layers are assembled. Contact Carol Leupp at 419-868-6623 if interested.

PRAYER TEAM FOR FEEDING MINISTRY GUESTS

At Olivet, we gather prayers from our Wednesday feeding ministry guests in the afternoon at food distribution and in the evening at Daily Bread. After a member of our team gathers those prayers, they are then emailed out to a prayer team who lifts them up in prayer. Many of our guests thank us for the prayers and for God's comfort and healing.

There are two ways to join our prayer team:

Collect prayer requests from our guests. Caring volunteers are needed to collect prayer requests from our guests from 12:30 to 2:30 on Wednesdays. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our guests on a more personal level, and is deeply appreciated by those we serve. If interested or for more information, please contact Penny Moran at 419-517-4335 or pcreedmoran@gmail.com.

Be on our email list to receive prayer requests from our guests. Each week, you will be sent an email with prayer requests collected from our guests. Please contact Susan Santoro at scsantoro711@gmail.com or 419-344-7071 if interested or with questions.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT REDEEMER ONE ROLL AT A TIME

982 rolls of toilet paper have been delivered to Redeemer Lutheran Church so far this year, changing the lives of those in need. Thank you for your generosity!!

The need at Redeemer is greater than ever. Just in the last month, 100 new people requested assistance. Please continue to donate as you are able. Toilet paper donations can be placed by either outhouse located in the Welcome Center near the sanctuary or by the entryway to the Christian Life Center.

Together we are making a difference!!



FAITH FORMATION

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

ADULTS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. 10:10 AM | Adult Ed Room (no meeting on Sundays with 10 AM worship service)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Mondays at 9:30 AM | Teen Room | resumes 9/14

MEN. GUYS 'N' GOSPEL. Tuesdays | 7-8 AM | Panera on Central Ave | resumes 9/8

THURSDAY TABLE TALKS: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING.

This fall, Table Talks begin a new rhythm. Starting in September, we'll gather the first **Thursday of every month**, from **6 to 8 PM** in the Olivet **Teen Room** for evenings of Scripture, conversation, and a warm meal.

We're launching the season on **Thursday, September 3**, with a special guest. Pastor Chris Hanley of Glenwood Lutheran Church will lead an interactive, from-memory recitation of the Book of Philippians, followed by group discussion. Hearing an entire New Testament letter in one sitting offers a fresh perspective on Paul's message—whether you're revisiting Philippians or hearing it with fresh ears.

On **Thursday, October 1**, we'll explore Living the Sermon on the Mount, discovering what it means to put Jesus' most challenging teachings into practice in our everyday lives.

Then, on **Thursday, November 5**, we'll take a fresh look at the Bible's Most Misunderstood Stories, uncovering surprising insights and new meaning in some of Scripture's most familiar passages.

Whether you've attended Table Talks for years or have never joined us before, this is a great time to jump in. Mark your calendar for the first Thursday of each month. We hope you'll join us for inspiring evenings of Scripture, meaningful conversation, and a warm meal.

THURSDAY TABLE TALKS

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

faith, food & fellowship

IMMIGRATION STUDY SERIES

Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, & 29 | 6:30-8 PM

Much of the news revolves around the issues of refugees and immigration. New Testament scholar, Mark Allan Powell, writes "The Bible does not address all of the issues that affect modern discussion of immigration and refugee status—but it does deal with a number of themes that might guide those conversations."

In this study, we will be using Dr. Powell's material which he shared with us at the 2023 retreat for former Bishops and spouses. Both the Old and New Testament will be examined. We found the presentation to be both stimulating and helpful. We invite you to join us in a review of this material and subsequent conversation.

-Marcus and Heidi Lohrmann



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

Something We Said: Richard Pryor, a Notorious Word, and Me. The author, Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor, is a professor of history at Smith College, where she teaches a course on "The Etymology of the N-word." More than 50 years ago, her famous father thrust that word into the spotlight, forcing the country to reckon with it. This book is a fascinating look at the history of the n-word and the man whose free use of it changed the language of American culture. That one word made him wealthy and famous, but in later life, a revelation in a Nairobi hotel "hit him like a lightning bolt" and made him realize, "Oh my God, I been wrong!" and disavow the n-word in his art and in his life.

Books may be signed out from the JEDI Library for up to one month, but please return as soon as you are finished reading them so others may enjoy them.

GET TO KNOW PASTOR BILL PAVUK

After a season of prayerful discernment and a congregational vote, we're delighted to welcome **Bill Pavuk** as Olivet's new **Pastor of Community Life**! We asked Pastor Bill to share about his faith journey, his family, and what he's looking forward to as he joins our Olivet family. Read on to learn a bit more about the newest member of our ministry team!

Where did you grow up? The East Side of Toledo, attending Navarre Elementary, then East Toledo Junior High, then Morrison R. Waite High School. I attended church at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Tell us a bit about your family. My parents are John and Betty Pavuk. They are both still living, in Rossford. I had one sibling by birth, my brother, Bob. He was two years older than me. Bob died of a heart attack in 2021. My dad worked for Libby-Owens-Ford in Rossford. My mom worked as a stay-at-home provider most of my childhood, including not only my brother and I but later watching my two cousins for many years. She later worked at the Douglas Company, Planned Parenthood, and Lutheran Social Services.

While my immediate family is rather small, my extended family is a bit larger and most live in close proximity to Toledo, either in NW Ohio or just a little north of the border.

I met my wife while we were both attending seminary in 1996. We began dating in 1997 and married in 2000. She has been teaching in schools, teaching piano at home, or working in some capacity with care of children for most of our married life; and recently accepted a position at Westside Montessori. She is a brilliant teacher, musician, thespian, and theologian.

We have one son, Niklaus. He is 21, and a student in Environmental Science with a focus in Geology at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. He is also a great musician, and currently plays bass in a few of bands.



Pastor Bill, Dana, and their son, Niklaus.



Pastor Bill and his wife, Dana.

I mentioned one sibling "by birth," my brother. While my parents did not adopt, I have two very close friends who go back to childhood for me, one living in Toledo and the other in Virginia, who I will refer to as my brother and sister: Bruce, and Kara. This can sometimes require some explanation so, there, I explained it.

What led you to pursue ministry? While I was very active in attending church throughout childhood, the call did not happen until mid-way through college. I was studying pre-law, as I'd aspired to do since 6th grade, but I found that what made me truly come alive and feel purpose was my work with various campus ministries. My sense of call was affirmed through my campus pastor and two years of serving as a peer minister at the Ohio State University, as well as processing things through two mentors, my home church pastor in Toledo at the time, and my friend Jeannine who was then in seminary. I have always had an intense

interest in sharing God's love through word and action, in advocating for those who are vulnerable and under-represented, and engaging against injustice. It's what led to an interest in law, and what made it feel natural when I shifted my thoughts toward ministry.

GET TO KNOW PASTOR BILL PAVUK (continued)

Is there a Scripture passage that's especially meaningful to you? From the prophet Micah, "God has shown you what God desires - to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with your God." From the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the parable of the sheep and the goats, that what we do unto the least among, we do to Christ. From the Gospel according to St. John, "Do you love me...feed my sheep." From the book of Acts, chapter 10, from the vision given to Peter, "what God has made clean, you must not call profane." I'm also a big fan of the prophet Jeremiah.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Music is a source of tremendous rejuvenation for me, so I listen to a lot in my free time. I also like walking and soon returning I hope to jogging. I look forward to utilizing Wildwood Metropark a lot. It's fairly close to the home we're planning to purchase. Current events/politics and college football are also passions of mine.

What's something people would be surprised to learn about you? I did not learn to ride a bike until I was in my 20s. I have two tattoos, one on each shoulder: a Celtic cross, and a Block-O.

What are you most looking forward to getting to know about the Olivet community? Oh, wow. So much. It has such a long history, and I'm excited about getting to know the staff more and more who I've already come to admire and appreciate from what I've already learned. But two other things that I think about a lot is to immerse myself in the community efforts that Olivet has been involved in and hearing from the people about what sets them on fire, drives their faith. Some who attended my meet and greet in July learned that this is something I love to hear about from people.



Pastor Bill was installed as Olivet's Pastor of Community Life on Tuesday, August 25.

PRAYERS & PASTORAL ACTS

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For those hospitalized or anticipating tests/procedures: Chuck Cook, Linda Lewin (9/1).

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

For those in assisted living, extended care, or rehabilitation: 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: Walt Lewin, Beccy Lamley, Logan, Anna Dykstra-Smith, Claude Cecire, Brian Hyland, Susan Mann, Judi Brooker, Mark Glodowski, Bob Damman, Marie Hoetzel, Craig Timm, Maureen Venus, James LaPlant, Molly Cress, Donnie Reck, Tom Evans, Barb & Bob W., Sara & Chris, Jan Kistner, Ukrainian people & leaders, the family of Rita Kerstiens, Scott Reynolds, Heather Taberner, Garrett.

For those in the military: Christopher Adams, Kurt Budde, Tanner Eggers, Jacob Gritzmaker, 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 | JUNE - AUGUST

Wedding:

Olivia Shuff & Tarik Harris (6/20)

Funeral:

Tom Althoff (7/15)

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.



Olivet Lutheran Church

5840 Monroe Street
Sylvania, OH 43560

Church Office Hours

419-882-2077

Mon-Thu | 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Fri | 8 AM - 1 PM

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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!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

beginning Tuesday, September 8

Monday-Thursday | 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday | 8 AM - 1 PM

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

AT 10 AM

September 6 | sanctuary

November 29 | sanctuary

see **page 7** for full worship schedule

HOMEcoming SUNDAY

September 13 between services

outside in the bell courtyard

games | donuts | cider | community



faith in action

love in motion