

Average Attendance per week (this year vs. last year)

	Feb. 2018	Feb. 2017
Sunday and Wednesday services	306*	269*
New members received in 2018:	13 to-date	

*Although many have asked to see these comparative figures, keep in mind that many variables contribute to a possible skewed view. This year Ash Wednesday/Lent was in February, but in March last year. Also, due to weather, we didn't have an 11 am service on Feb. 11. S. Walker

Olivet recently received this note. This is the ministry we connected with last summer in our Fremont Mini-Mission and the group for whom we collected items at Christmas-time with our OCNS families—Pastor Melissa

Hello and Good Morning Everyone,

I am Alamar Arriaga the Coordinator Of Bridge of Hope/ Puente de Esperanza Ministry. I am sending this informational email to give an update of how you and your church members have greatly helped meet the needs of many needy and homeless people in our surrounding area. We have such kind hearted partner churches and members who have given of themselves to help us in this ministry. This ministry has been here for the last 14 years and has grown tremendously in the last 5 years with the kindness of you, the church pastors and your church members.

Here is a breakdown of how the donations of food and clothing have helped this ministry during this past 2017 year:

diapers/wipes	64 packages given	19 families
welcome baskets	69 given	69 families
clothing	kids/adults	81 families
food given	drinks/snacks/food	143 families
san ctv vouchers	written for families in need	56 families
book bags given in office	bags/supplies	5 families
translation/resources	referrals	25 families
Bibles given		<u>32 families</u>
Total:		411 families

Bibles given: 32

Individuals who walked into office for help: 163

All in all, we helped 231 children and 282 adults meet their needs spiritually, emotionally, physically

Events in 2017

Poster boards up/ asking for donations for the following events:

Fiesta:	28 volunteers, 62 kids , 51 adults	141
Christmas:	30 volunteers, 45 kids, 44 adults	119
Learn English/Spanish classes:	8 adults and 4 children	
Book Bag Give-Away:	600 book bags filled with school supplies were given to local children. We participated/donated with other partner churches.	

Thank you so much for all your giving and kindness.
God Bless You! Alamar Arriaga



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunities to learn and grow in your word. Thank you for the expanding turnout at the Tuesday evening Bible Study with Pastor Nate and for the questions we can ponder over and explore together. Thank you for the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study and the Adult Study between services on Sunday.

Thank you for the focus on prayer during our mid-week Lenten services as we consider a variety of approaches to center ourselves and communicate with you. As we grow in faith, help us to become more comfortable with sharing you with others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Lord, Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you. I long to be closer to you. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies you in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and keep saying, "Tomorrow, I will spend more time in prayer," but now my longing meets your love and I want to do it now. Help me to rely on you for help. The prayer asks you that I reach perfection. Please, Lord, remind me that "perfection" isn't the crazy, "successful" way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self. My "perfection" might be holding my many flaws in my open hands, asking you to help me accept them. Heal me, Lord, and help me to find you in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out in this darkness and feel your hand and love there to guide me. Amen. Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/Daily-prayers-00.html>

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." In every danger, illness, uncertainty and difficult circumstance, we turn to God in prayer asking for His loving attention, mercy, direction and healing. We pray the Holy Spirit will help us focus on the cross throughout Lent, seeing with greater clarity and richness its symbolism and meaning for the world as a daily reminder of the gift we have in Jesus Christ, a gift that gives newness, hope, purpose and direction for daily life. Amen.

We remember in prayer communities nervously anticipating potential spring storms and severe weather. We pray their preparations, if needed, help preserve life and property, and give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response, first responders, volunteers and members of the military who stand ready to assist. Source: www.elca.org/prayerventures




If you are thinking about having your child baptized, please attend the next class on **Sunday, March 18** at 10:10 in the Library. Only one parent needs to attend this 25 minute class. You will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism in the Lutheran tradition. Adults who wish to be baptized may speak with Pastor Nate or Pastor Melissa. Please call the office 419-882-2077 and let us know you will be there.



Wednesday Lenten Services
in the Sanctuary
6:45 p.m. ~ Feb. 21—March 21

March 25
March 29
March 30
March 31
April 1

Holy Week
Palm Sunday—9 & 11 a.m.
Maundy Thursday—6:45 p.m.
Good Friday—6:45 p.m.
Vigil of Easter—6:45 p.m.
Easter Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 — Sanctuary
11:00 — Christian Life Center

Words of comfort may have been difficult but there was no shortage of them recently at the loss of our grandson, Conner, on February 14th. The special cards, the many hugs, the tears, the flowers, the Norfolk Island Pine, the three hour trips made to Conner's memorial - WOW! Skip and I were overwhelmed by your love. 

Thanks for being such great, ever-loving friends!
Shannon & Skip Walker

You will be greeted by a young person at our 9 AM & 11 AM worship services through March 18.

All worshipers are invited to

- select a number between 1 & 144
- make a donation of that amount
- sign & place a "hand" on the board
- cover the number of your donation size with a sticker!

Please make checks payable to Olivet Lutheran Church, memo line: Youth Gathering.



Sunday, March 18

Both services will be held in the Sanctuary for the presentation of "Harvest of Sorrows" by the Olivet Choir. We look forward to this meaningful message in music.



Each fifth Sunday of the month in 2018 will offer us an opportunity to meet together in ONE combined worship service and hear from one of our Missions Emphases groups. Plan on attending church at **10:00 a.m. on April 29 in the Sanctuary** where it will be special "Community Missions Emphasis Day" with a NOISY OFFERING to benefit the Houston trip.

The Olive Branch

The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of
Olivet Lutheran Church
5840 Monroe Street - Sylvania, OH
Office 419-882-2077 - Fax 419-824-0213
www.olivetsylvania.org

Nathan J. Tuff, Lead Pastor
Melissa Micham, Associate Pastor
Donna Mens, Director of Faith Formation
Shannon Walker, Director of Operations

Our Community Vision:
Celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit by inviting all people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus

Our Three-Fold Mission:
~ Create a safer place for growing, learning, listening and loving
~ Address social issues by focused engagement in community partnerships
~ Make direct connections for learning, mutual support and relief with people around the world



THIRD SUNDAY
In Lent


March 4, 2018
John 2:13-22



FOURTH SUNDAY
In Lent


March 11, 2018
John 3:14-21

Sunday	4	9:00 AM	Worship -Sanctuary w/Spark/Club 345
		10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study-AE
		10:15 AM	Community Team meeting-Chapel
		11:00 AM	Worship -CLC w/Spark/Club 345
Monday	5	6-8 PM	Monday Matters - Meet at Steak & Shake
		6:30 PM	Praise band practice-CLC
Tuesday	6	6:30 AM	Parables at Panera-Talmadge Rd.
		9:30 AM	Bible Study-TR
		10:30 AM	Quilters-AE
		6:30 PM	Bldg Visitors Group-L
		6:30 PM	Financial Peace - AE
		7:00 PM	Pr. Nate Bible Study-TR
		evening	OCNS annual BENEFIT DINNER-CLC
Wednesday	7	5:15 PM	Daily Bread Meal-CLC
		6:45 PM	Worship-CLC this week
		7:30 PM	Olivet Choir- ea wk
Thursday	8	7:00 PM	Bookworms-AE
		7:00 PM	Euchre Group-TR
Friday	9	11 AM-9:30	Tae Kwon DO-CLC
Saturday	10	9-11:30AM	3rd Grade Bible Class-TR
		11AM-5	P.A.C.T. in kitchen
Sunday	11	9:00 AM	Worship -Sanctuary w/Spark/Club 345
		10:15 AM	Baptism Class-Library
		10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study-AE
		11:00 AM	Worship -CLC w/Spark/Club 345
		Noon	Body Shop-CLC
Monday	12	7:00 PM	Prayers Shawl-Atrium
		5:30 PM	Finance Team-Library
Tuesday	13	6:30 AM	Parables at Panera-Talmadge Rd.
		9:30 AM	Bible Study-TR
		10:30 AM	Quilters-AE
		11:00 AM	Grief Support - A
		6:30 PM	Financial Peace - AE (last)
		6:30 PM	Band practice-CLC
		7:00 PM	Pr. Nate Bible Study-TR
Wednesday	14	5:15 PM	Daily Bread-CLC
		10:00 AM	New Life-TR
		5:15 PM	Daily Bread Meal-CLC
		6:45 PM	Worship-Sanctuary
Thursday	15	7:00 PM	Council-AE
Friday	16		
Saturday	17	11AM-5	P.A.C.T. in kitchen
		9AM-11	Cantata Choir practice-Sanctuary
Sunday	18	9:00 AM	Worship -Sanctuary w/Spark/Club 345
Cantata		10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study-AE
9 and 11 am		11:00 AM	Worship -Sanctuary w/Spark/Club 345
		Noon	Body Shop-CLC
Monday	19		
Tuesday	20	6:30 AM	Parables at Panera-Talmadge Rd.
		9:30 AM	Bible Study-TR
		10:30 AM	Quilters-AE
		5:30-9 PM	Handbells practice-Sanctuary
		6:30 PM	Band practice-CLC
		6:30 PM	Holey Knitters-AE
		6:30 PM	Rentner meeting-Atrium
		7:00 PM	Pr. Nate Bible Study/Book of Matthew-TR
Wednesday	21	8AM-2	Directions CU meeting-CLC
		5:15 PM	Daily Bread-CLC
		6:45 PM	Worship-Sanctuary
		7:30 PM	Olivet Choir- ea wk
Thurs/Friday			OCNS Easter Programs -CLC




Monday Matters
March 5 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 We will meet at Steak 'n Shake,
 5395 Monroe St.
 Please RSVP by text: 419-309-0114

Homework Help at Redeemer
Monday, March 12 and 26
 Depart Olivet: 3:30 p.m.—Return 5:30 p.m.



All are welcome to New Life!
 On **Wednesday, March 14** we will meet in the Teen Room from 10 - 1 to be entertained by Fred Sandmann. There will be a PRIZE for the person wearing the most green items. A noon lunch will follow. RSVP to church office .

CONGRATULATIONS!
 to our former pastor, Chrysanne Timm, who recently earned her Doctor of Ministry degree. Cards and letters may be sent to
 Rev. Dr. Chrysanne Timm
 19253 Maple Street
 Lake Ann, MI 49650



MEETING
Monday, March 12
from 7 - 8 p.m.
in the Atrium

If you knit or crochet, come join us in this worthwhile ministry. Yarn and easy patterns will be available.

Hand-made prayer shawls are given to those who are undergoing some type of stress in their lives. Prayer shawls are a way of showing God's love and how much we care. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl, you may come to the office anytime during office hours, or call if you are not able to stop by.

The Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus

A Woman Overwhelmed

Olivet Women's Retreat


April 7-8, 2018, Bellevue, Ohio

This annual opportunity for renewal, fun and fellowship is open to all Olivet ladies and friends.

Our study will be on Mary, the mother of Jesus, and a highlight will be visiting the Shrine of the Most Sorrowful Mother, with its beautiful grounds, chapel and gift shop.

Registration forms inserted last week, or located at Welcome Center and near CLC doors.

Children learn about God through SPARK and Club 345 during worship each Sunday morning.



Please plan to have your child participate in this meaningful part of their faith development. We meet during the worship service, where children have a short time with the pastor, then adjourn to their classes. Children return in time to receive Holy Communion with their families.



FROLIC BEGINS TODAY!
Infants/Toddlers AND Parents
Ages Newborn - 3 Years Old

Meet at 10:10 a.m. in the Teen Room. Through story, music, activities and play Frolic engages both child and parent. Enjoy this focused time with your child, as well as meeting and getting to know other parents of young children in the congregation! Heidi Lohrmann will facilitate, assisted by Mary Glover.

Please join us!


SPARK Bible Exploration
Saturday, March 10
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Teen Room



Pastor Nate will help you explore your Spark Bible and learn how to use the cool stickers in the back. He'll lead you on a scavenger hunt and he just might teach you a song to help remember the books in the New Testament!


This workshop is for Third Graders and others who received their Spark Bible this year. Parents are encouraged to join in the learning and the fun!

Saturday, March 24, is our Annual EGGS-TRAVAGANZA!!
10:00 - Noon in the CLC



Come with your friends to enjoy games, Lenten and Easter crafts, face painting, snacks and dying Easter eggs. Egg hunts will begin at 11 a.m.

VBS PLANS ARE UNDERWAY!




Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! **I'd love to have a decorating team who would plan, create and decorate!** Extra hands always help with the work and make it more fun! Please see Donna Mens if you're willing to help this year. The earlier we begin, the more time we have to make awesome

VBS 2018
June 11-15



All children ages 4 - 5th grade are invited to attend. Cost remains at \$10 per child or a maximum of \$25 per family.


Do You Have a Background in Social Work?
Do You Love to Help People?



Guests who come to Olivet for food on Wednesdays often have a host of other needs. We are seeking someone, preferably with a background in social work, to support these individuals as they identify and seek out other community resources.

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.— Perishable food item distribution
 5:15 p.m. — Daily Bread, our free community meal.

If you are available during these times, please contact Penny Moran: 419-517-4335 or let Pastor Melissa know.



CALLING ALL EUCHRE PLAYERS!!

We want YOU to join us on **Thursday, March 8** in the Teen Room at **7:00 p.m.** We always have lots of fun and you are welcome no matter the skill level you have. Participants bring a snack to share, but that's not entirely necessary. You may speak with Ed & Joyce Rupley or John & Carol Borton if you have any questions.

Can You Give a Helping Hand?


Redeemer Lutheran church is asking for our help with their Easter Egg Hunt on March 17 from 10-11:30 am.

They need:

- ◆ plastic eggs
- ◆ small wrapped candy
- ◆ stickers or small tokens that would fit in the eggs
- ◆ volunteers during the event
- ◆ coffee
- ◆ juice
- ◆ muffins

There will be crafts but that list is not available yet. Please place your donations in the boxes located at the church entrances and at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions you can contact LeeAnn at Redeemer: 419-536-3781. *Thank-you for your support.*

BLOOD DRIVE
TUESDAY, April 3



American Red Cross

Olivet's Christian Life Center
12:30 p.m - 5:30 p.m.

Appointments not necessary. If you would like to reserve a time, please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code OLVETLUTH.