

THE OLIVE PRESS

the quarterly newsletter of
Olivet Lutheran Church

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



New artwork on display in the church office designed by Sara Martin.

Dear People of Olivet:

As Olivet's young people return to school this fall, our congregation embarks upon a faith formation journey together.

Narrative Lectionary

Our worship this scholastic year will be centered around the narrative lectionary. Any lectionary is simply a compilation of scripture readings indicated for certain days. The narrative lectionary is relatively new, developed at Luther Seminary by professors Rolf Jacobson and Craig Koester to cover the full arc of the biblical journey in one school year.

Olivet has used this lectionary before, but it's been a while. We revive it this year as an additional support for our Body Shop (confirmation) youth who will be studying both the Old and the New Testaments.

To learn more about the narrative lectionary:
www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-faq

[continued on next page]



Our Vision

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

Sep - Nov 2025 | Contents

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2025 Congregational Council

President	Ed Rupley
Vice President	Linda Gubbe
Secretary	Amber Espinosa
Treasurer	Bill Cook
Financial Secretary	Mike Vince

Members

Janet Beilstein Dave Bell
Noel Heisler Dave Hupp
Kent Jackman Mike Linehan
Steve Mierzejewski
Jennifer Quackenbush
Steve Sanderson

Pastor

Rev. Melissa Micham, Lead Pastor

Let's Meet the Neighbors

Check out Upcoming Events (page 6), for details about the first in a series of opportunities to become more familiar with the people and places in Olivet's immediate vicinity.

Pastoral Care

Finally, a word about pastoral care. While our Call Committee reengages its work to call an associate pastor to Olivet, our council, office staff, and lead pastor (me!) are committed to providing pastoral care. While we may not be able to respond to every need as robustly as I would desire, we want to *know your needs*. Please communicate with the church office or me directly. Understanding the full pastoral needs of the congregation enables our leaders to develop appropriate ministry partnerships for immediate needs and plan effectively for the future.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Melissa Micham

Lead Pastor

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As of August 17, **Pastor Melissa Micham has officially been extended a call to become Olivet's next Lead Pastor.** Read the Call Committee's full announcement on page 13.

OLIVET REWIND | MAY - AUGUST



BOOKWORMS MAY RECAP

At our May Bookworms (women's book club) meeting, we held a discussion of "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood. This story highlighted African Grey parrots who have the intelligence of a five-year-old and can learn hundreds of words and concepts. A special guest at our meeting was Maggie Mae, an African Grey parrot who resides with Greg and Cynthia Fett. She delighted us with impromptu phrases throughout our discussion.



Crosses of every color decorated by kids at VBS.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

53 kids "roadtripped" their way through Vacation Bible School in June! The week was filled with fantastic lessons and projects made possible by a team of about 60 volunteers. Whether you helped plan, construct decorations, donated supplies, taught the kids, served food, cleaned up, or supported in any way—THANK YOU for helping to make the week an incredible one for our kids!



SPOKE FOLK JULY 7

The Christian bike and musical group, Spoke Folk, road into Olivet on a hot, July 7th summer day. The agenda for these 26 youth and mentors is to visit and minister to area churches on a 10-day Ohio & Michigan bike tour by bringing stories, music, puppets, and celebration to local communities. All they ask for is a place to stay and two meals while they worship. Ryan Veil, Spoke Folk director says: "The performance is about an hour long, and includes music, testimonies and sing-alongs to get people engaged about family, life and Christ." The group performed here at Olivet and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

RUMMAGE SALE

JULY 31 - AUGUST 2

With gratitude for our village of hard-working & kind-hearted volunteers, Olivet served our community quality STUFF at this year's rummage sale, while raising \$8,818. An anonymous donor's contribution brought our net total to \$10,003. Additionally, a giant pallet box was filled to overflowing during with old electronics brought in to be recycled. Thanks for many generous donations of food to feed the crew and to Holly Lewandowski for organizing and serving it day after day. And to the many sub-committee leaders who together with leaders Chalise Underwood, Deb Shock, and Shannon Walker, commit their time year after year.



Emily Hepner was one of the many volunteers who helped make the rummage sale a success!



BETTER TOGETHER AUGUST 16

On Saturday, August 16, the streets were ready, the floats were fabulous, and the energy was electric! Members of Olivet allied with 28 worshipping communities in the Northwest Ohio area to support our friends in the Toledo Pride Parade. Kicking off at noon along Adams Street, making its way through downtown Toledo all the way to Summit Street! Members marched proud, handing out candy and showing support, that we are better together as a community and that Jesus teaches us love for all.

AROUND OLIVET

OLIVET'S FOOD MINISTRIES

by Holly Lewandowski, *Daily Bread* Head Chef

Stop by the Christian Life Center on nearly any Wednesday and you will find a beehive of activity as Olivet's Food Ministry teams prepare for a busy day. It all starts in the morning, when the truck from the Northwestern Ohio Food Bank makes its weekly delivery of produce and baked goods. A team of volunteers goes to work, sorting the food by type and quantity. When the sorting is complete, individual boxes are filled, ready for the drive through distribution that begins at 1 PM. Meanwhile, the shopping and preparations for the evening Daily Bread meal are underway at local grocery stores and in the kitchen.

And this is only what you see. A behind the scenes look may give you a better understanding of Olivet's food ministries.

One of the most asked questions is "Where do you get the food?" Our congregation has always been generous in their donations of food. In addition, on Tuesdays, a gentleman brings breads that are slightly outdated and have been pulled from grocery store shelves. Every Wednesday, a truck from the Northwestern Ohio Food Bank delivers four or more pallets, stacked with boxes of assorted produce and baked goods. Often, the delivery includes a Gaylord (very large box), filled with anything from breads to beverages.

On Monday and Wednesday, during church office hours, the Olivet Food Pantry has bags of dry groceries available. Each household can pick up one bag, every two weeks. Twice a month, the pantry can purchase up to 2,700 pounds of food, which is then sorted, shelved, and put into the bags, ready for pick up. As needed, meat for the Daily Bread meal is also purchased as part of the monthly allotment.

On the average week, 75 bags of groceries are distributed, 115 families receive the boxes of produce, and between 100 and 150 meals are served at the Daily Bread drive through.

How does all this happen? Simply put...it's the crew of wonderful volunteers who give of their time. Olivet's food ministries wouldn't be the success they are without the 45-50 people it takes to keep the program running smoothly.

Thank you, all, for the support you have given us through the years!

THE VOZNIUK FAMILY: YEAR 2 COMPLETE!

On Sunday, July 13, the Vozniuks commemorated their two-year anniversary in the United States by attending worship and speaking to the congregation to express their heartfelt appreciation for bringing them to the United States and helping them achieve this milestone. During their comments, they passed along that they had recently bought their first house here—a huge accomplishment! They also communicated that they were very proud of Ivan for making Honor Roll at Sylvania's McCord Junior High for the school year. They also mentioned that Tymofii would be having surgery on his leg to help him (hopefully) walk easier. The surgery was on July 23 and went well. Tymofi is in a leg cast for 6 weeks and wasn't initially too happy about that but quickly acclimated.



PROJECT PIKI PIKI FUNDS RAISED

Thanks to the generosity of our Vacation Bible School families and members of Olivet, we were able to donate \$4,961 towards purchasing piki pikis (motorbikes) for the evangelists in the Dodoma Diocese of Tanzania. This buys 3 bikes!! This amount will be matched by the Northwestern Ohio Synod. Thank you for making the work of these evangelists easier as they spread the Good News of Jesus to the people of Tanzania.

OLIVET CHOIR FALL 2025

Talent, Dedication, Spirit &
Convincing Musical Selections

This is my 35th year serving as Director of Olivet Choir. In this role, I am able to mold a diverse group of people into a unified ensemble that serves to enhance worship. In turn, every singer who I direct strengthens my commitment to stay on top of the game. I am called upon to be a cheerleader, a worship leader and an example for others. This task is not so difficult, because I couldn't ask for a better bunch of people, my choristers, to keep me on track. They always deliver the music that I have selected for them in a sensitive and convincing manner. But would they excel to the degree to which I have become accustomed if they didn't love the music itself? Probably. Still, I labor with finding appropriate repertoire every year. And this coming year, I predict, will be the best!!

We have an abundance of new selections to share with our great congregation. To explore a new avenue of praise, the choir will deliver selections borrowed from secular living, such as "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Climb Every Mountain," and "Seasons of Love" from the musical Rent. It is my belief that the every day aspects of life can be Christ-based if we just open our hearts, minds, eyes and ears.

I will wind down by saying that you will be inspired by the music with which you will be presented by Olivet Choir. It is different, charged with hope, joy and profound sentiment for scripture.

Do yourself a favor. Try not to miss a single Sunday of worship this year. Great music from the choir and bells! Great messages from our new lead pastor. New spirit from you and our membership. I'm counting on you. I promise that together, we will feed our souls in newness of Life.

Steve Hodge Choir Director

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

As of July 2025, Olivet's Prayer Shawl Ministry has given 1,461 handmade shawls since we began in 2005. These shawls have been given to family or friends around the world, by our pastors and Olivet members. They have brought comfort to so many through tangible evidence of our love and prayers. We are a small group who knit or crochet to create these treasured shawls. If you knit or crochet, please consider joining us in this wonderful ministry. We provide the yarn needed, shawl guidelines and patterns. Our group meets on the second Monday of each month starting September 8 at 1 PM in the church atrium.

Thank you, Olivet members, for your continued support of this wonderful ministry.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

REJOICE & JUBILEE HANDBELL CHOIRS

We will be starting our handbell rehearsals on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Rejoice rehearses 5:30-7:30 and Jubilee rehearses 7:30-9:00 PM in the sanctuary.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Barb Myers, who is retiring from Rejoice Handbell Choir. Barb has been a member since 1990 (35 years). Barb, you have been a fantastic ringer, and we are going to miss you terribly. Thank you for the many wonderful years of ringing with Jubilee and Rejoice. You have been a gift to all of us! God bless you for your 35 years of ringing.

I am looking for several new ringers to ring in Jubilee. It is a wonderful group! The only qualification is to have some musical background and be able to read music (such as playing piano, having played an instrument in a band, singing in a choir, etc.). I would love to meet with you and teach you handbell techniques prior to our first rehearsal. If you are interested, please give me a call or contact the church office and they will contact me. We have a wonderful time and enjoy presenting beautiful music at our 9 AM service once a month.

God bless you all!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Church office closed | Labor Day

*SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Homecoming Day | see below
10 AM worship | sanctuary

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Pr. Melissa lead pastor installation service
6:30 PM | sanctuary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Euchre | 7 PM | Teen Room

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Leisure League's Harvest Sale | see below

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Crafting & Scrapbooking Day
8 AM - 6 PM | Christian Life Center

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Clean Your Streams Day | page [7]

OCTOBER

MONDAYS IN OCTOBER [6, 13, 20, & 27]

Accessibility book study | 6:30 - 8 PM
Teen Room | see page [12]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Euchre | 7 PM | Teen Room

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Urban Wholistics Farms Golden Hour Gala
6 - 9 PM | Christian Life Center | page [7]

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Sylvania Fall Festival Parade

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

All Saints Sunday | daylight savings ends
Acolyte training between services

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Sylvania Bingo | 4 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Sylvania Bingo | 4 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Euchre | 7 PM | Teen Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Adulting 101 | 5 - 7 PM | Teen Room

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Church office closed | Thanksgiving

*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10 AM worship | Christian Life Center

HOMECOMING DAY

Sunday, September 7 | after 10 AM service

Join us for Homecoming Sunday (AKA Rally Day)! Bring a lawn chair & enjoy root beer floats from the Tapped 419 Firetruck, relax with friends, or join in a lawn game or two.

LET'S MEET THE NEIGHBORS

500 yards across the parking lot from our Christian Life Center is Sylvania Bingo. On any Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening, the parking lot is full. **Join Pastor Melissa on Thu, Nov 6 and Sun, Nov 9 for an evening of Bingo** to be with our immediate Sylvania community. **Doors open at 4 PM.** Series play begins at **8 PM.** Look for more details in a forthcoming Olive Branch.

* denotes **one combined worship service** at 10 AM

LEISURE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL HARVEST SALE

Sunday, September 14
before, between, & after worship services

Baked Goods • Produce • Crafts

All profits used to create & supply personal care bags for Cherry Street Mission's clients.

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Advent by Candlelight | 7 PM
"The Bells of Advent"

FAITH IN ACTION | GET INVOLVED

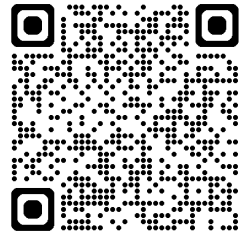
CLEAN YOUR STREAMS DAY

SEPTEMBER 27 | 8 AM - 12 PM | SIDE CUT METROPARK

Make a difference and join Clean Your Streams Day! Every September since 1997, volunteers have undertaken a Northwest Ohio environmental tradition of removing trash from their local streams, rivers, and ditches. To date, more than 407,000 pounds of trash have been removed from area waterways by over 16,000 volunteers!

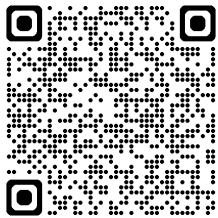
Kickoff is 8 AM that day at Maumee Rotary Centennial Pavilion (1025 W. River Rd. in Maumee). The clean up will run 1-2 hours. Basic materials will be supplied but it is "handy" to bring your own gloves and a grabber device if you have one. A free volunteer appreciation picnic will follow at the Lucas County Fairgrounds Arts & Crafts Center. Bring a friend!

Adults may sign up online or via the sign up sheet on the Caring for Creation bulletin board in the atrium hallway. Youth may sign up by contacting Becky Cress (rcress@olivetsylvania.org). All participants must also fill out a waiver. Contact Barb Stough (barbstough@gmail.com) or Becky with questions, to request a waiver, or to sign up.



Scan to sign up!

Sign up link: partnersforcleanstreams.my.salesforce-sites.com



URBAN WHOLISTICS FARMS GOLDEN HOUR GALA OCTOBER 18 | 6 - 9 PM

By now, you've heard about Olivet's ongoing partnership with Sonia Flunder-McNair and her incredible work through Urban Wholistics, an urban farming program that empowers youth and nurtures community wellbeing.

Each fall, Sonia hosts the Golden Hour Gala, the primary fundraiser that sustains her summer youth programs. This year's event will take place on the evening of **Saturday, October 18**, and we are proud to deepen our support by hosting the gala at Olivet in the Christian Life Center.

To make this event a success, we will need many volunteers from our Olivet family and beyond to lend a hand in various roles throughout the evening. Scan the QR code above for a list of assistance opportunities. Volunteers will receive free admission to the gala—though contributions to Urban Wholistics Farms are always appreciated!

If you're able to assist in any way, please reach out to Mike Linehan at mline926@gmail.com or call/text 614-595-6666. Our goal is to have all volunteer slots filled by September 30.

OLIVET TO ADOPT A "YOUNG ADULT IN GLOBAL MISSION" (YAGM)

A new group of YAGMs will be starting in Mexico in September. Calla Gilson (Director of Community and Global Engagement for the Northwestern Ohio Synod) had the great idea, fully supported by Pastor Soliette Lopez, that congregations in Northwest Ohio "adopt" a YAGM for their 2025/2026 year in Mexico.

The Olivet Global Mission team thought it would be wonderful for Olivet to participate—especially given our connection with Soliette and Mexico YAGMs over the past few years. This simply means that we do various things to support the person (more so in spirit than financially). This might include letters or drawings from Sunday School and Body Shop classes, keeping our adopted YAGM in our prayers, or sending a care package here and there. According to Calla from her experience as a YAGM in the Holy Land..."Small things can mean a great day. I can't tell you the joy a box of Kraft mac and cheese brought to us as YAGM far away from home!!"

It will provide us at Olivet an opportunity to connect and understand the work that the YAGMs do, and it intends to comfort the YAGMs to know that there are people outside their immediate sphere that care about them and their journey.

Be on the lookout for more information from the Global Mission Team about Olivet's adopted YAGM and ways to support!

YOUTH & FAMILIES

NURSERY.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL. [resumes Sep 14]

10:10-10:55 AM

Spark. Ages 3 - 2nd grade; Spark Room
Club 345. Grades 3-5; Clubhouse

TEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

[resumes Sep 21]

10:10-10:55 AM | Grades 8-12; Adult Ed Rm.
[first & third Sundays each month]

Upcoming Dates:

September 21
October 5 + 19
November 2 + 16

CHILDREN'S BIBLE WORKSHOP.

Grades 3-5 (students who attended before may attend again!)

6:30 - 8 PM | atrium | Monday, November 10

BODY SHOP. [resumes Sep 14]

TWO SUNDAYS EACH MONTH

12-2 PM | TEEN ROOM

Upcoming Dates:

September 14 + 21
October 5 + 12
November 9 + 16

Confirmation Prep

(9th-grade Body Shop graduates)

Sundays, October 5, 12 + 19

6:30-8 PM | Teen Room

Confirmation Sunday: Oct 26 at 9 AM

Reception to follow in atrium

[NEW!] Body Shop Parents' Group

Will meet monthly for lunch & conversation during Body Shop classes.

12:30 - 2 PM | Dates & locations:

September 14 at MyWay Bistro
October 12 at Roosters
November 9 at Te'kela

OLIVET YOUTH BOOK CLUB.

Calling all youth readers! Do you love to discover and read exciting new books that you can share and discuss with your friends? Then this club is for you! The Olivet Youth Book Club has been reading and discussing books for about 4 years. We also do fun activities, service projects and enjoy ice cream together from time to time! Our ages span from 5th to 10th grade at this point. We typically meet on **Thursdays at 4:15**, but can adjust the time if needed to mesh with after school activities! We will begin again this fall on **September 11** in the **Teen Rom**.

To learn more, please contact Donna Mens | 419-341-5061 | donnamens011@gmail.com



YOUTH DAY AT CEDAR POINT JULY 28

Fourteen youth and young adults joined together for a day of sun, unforgettable rain, and plenty of fun at Cedar Point. Thanks to our drivers Hunter M, Meredith M, and Pastor Melissa. We also thank Pastor Kristin from Hope Lutheran Church for orchestrating our group discount.

MINISTER SPOTLIGHT

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

Get to Know Mary Glover

by **Sara Martin** Communications Specialist



Mary Glover was born at Toledo Hospital on May 9, 1951, and grew up in Sylvania. Mary's father, Al, was from Pennsylvania and came to the area with the National Guard to help with a construction project. Mary's mother, Carol, met Al in 1948 while she was working at a movie theater in town with her sister. Carol and Al married in Indiana in 1950. After Mary, they had two more children: Albert Jr. and Barbara.

Carol and Al celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at Olander Park shortly after Carol was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor. During the anniversary celebration, then-pastor of Olivet, Pastor Cox, snuck in a surprise: a wedding vow renewal ceremony for every married couple present! "It was the nicest thing you ever saw in your life," Mary recalled fondly. "It was special because it was just a little bit before my mom passed away."

Olivet has been Mary's church home for nearly all her life, "including the nine months I came with Mom before I was born," Mary added. Carol and Mary were both confirmed at Olivet (although Mary delayed her confirmation a year when the pastor at the time falsely accused her of smoking in the church).

Mary's family was very involved at Olivet. She and her mother would pull Mary's two younger siblings in a wagon from their home on Centennial Road to Olivet and back each Sunday. Among her many other roles at church, Carol served as a Sunday School teacher along with Mary's aunt. When asked what her first volunteer role was at church, Mary honestly answered, "They weren't voluntary." She remembered being volun-TOLD what to do often and was determined to never be like her very-involved mother. However, at age 16, Mary's involvement at Olivet became a personal choice—and passion.

Mary has always had a deep love for helping people. When she was 16, she began working at a nursing home, and started volunteering (by choice!) at a free clothing store Olivet ran at the time. She's assisted with the rummage sale by helping break down boxes and sorting donated jewelry. She's helped with Olivet's food pantry, preparing bags and assisting food pantry guests. She currently serves twice weekly as a volunteer in the church's main office. Mary's also helped provide childcare for many of Olivet's kids over the years, an area of ministry she discovered she was suited for thanks in part to, of all things, her asthma. When sorting dust-laden rummage sale donations began triggering asthma attacks, Mary was tasked with watching the other volunteers' children—something she, and others, realized she was a natural at.



Sugar is one of the dogs Mary dog-sits; Mary has a special love for dogs.



Carol & Al Glover with newborn Mary.

Mary has faced numerous health challenges in her life, yet continues serving at Olivet as she is able. One condition she developed was heart disease as the result of a high fever while sick with strep throat around age 8. Mary was so determined to perform her solo in the choir on Christmas Eve, she refused to tell anyone how unwell she was really was. After the service, her father realized she was burning up and got her the treatment she needed. Needless to say, she never performed with strep again!

From the many physical challenges she's endured, Mary's developed a deep sense of compassion for others. "You've never been in that person's shoes," Mary has told those who've previously passed judgment. "Don't judge them."

Mary's passion for helping others is clear in the way she lights up with joy remembering special people and memories. Woven throughout our conversation were numerous stories she's collected of those she's met, served, and loved. She summarized her heart for others so beautifully: "I care for everybody that I know. Even people I don't know. I know that God's with us always; I've never doubted that. This is the love that I have for God, and when my love is there, it's there for everybody that I know. And sometimes when people come [for food assistance at Olivet], it's even for them when I don't know who they are, and they're telling me their saddest points. And I listen."

Mary credits Olivet for helping instill this posture of compassion and service in her. The faith she finds at the heart of Olivet resonates with her own faith, making Olivet feel more like home than home. "I go home every time I come here," Mary shared. "Sometimes I don't want to leave here."

Thank you, Mary, for your 58 years of "voluntary" volunteering!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

COMMON THREAD QUILTERS & SCHOOL KITS (LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF)



Over 200 quilts made by Common Thread Quilters were blessed last fall before being shipped to LWR.

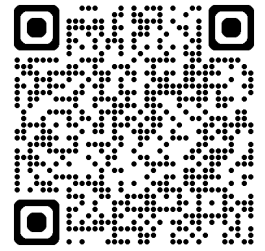
struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster, and conflict. Since its founding, Lutheran World Relief has distributed over 28 million quilts. Olivet's quilting group, Common Thread Quilters, creates and sends quilts every year around the world through Lutheran World Relief.

Common Thread Quilters, led by Olivet member Carol Leupp, began in 2016 with six members. They have grown in number to 12 members, plus many volunteers who donate sheets and help tie quilts on a Saturday in March or April. In 2024, the quilters completed 220 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief and to give out locally to Redeemer and Salem Lutheran Churches and Wolf Creek residents. Quilters are always welcome to join the group on Tuesday mornings as they assemble the layers needed for each quilt.

In addition to supplying lovingly-created quilts, Olivet also assembles school kits for Lutheran World Relief each back-to-school season. These school kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Olivet's Global Mission Team is so thankful for members of Olivet who have generously contributed to our goal of completing 100 school kits. We are also grateful to our Body Shop students and teachers who assemble and pack the kits. Thank you for making education possible for children around the world!

This year, Lutheran World Relief is celebrating 80 years of doing ministry in communities who are experiencing poverty, war, and natural disaster. This organization was formed in 1945 to help Lutherans who were impacted by World War II in Europe. Today, Lutheran World Relief operates in East and West Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. Their work focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery.

Olivet contributes to the work of Lutheran World Relief in two primary ways: making quilts and assembling school kits. Mission quilts make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world



Watch a 2-minute video celebrating 80 years of LWR quilts!



Body Shop students pack school kits for LWR using supplies donated by the Olivet community.

HISTORY OF OLIVET PART 3

by **Tyler Martin** in collaboration with the research of Bob Mens

In Part 2, we explored Olivet as it expanded and became a staple in the community.

In Part 3, we will explore some of the trials that Olivet faced.



In 1957, Olivet had expanded to include an office and education wing, as well as a chapel (shown left). On February 13, 1959, tragedy struck when a fire damaged the basement and front area of the nave. If it wasn't for Sylvania Officer L. D. McMahon who saw an orange glow through the door window at 1:45 AM, the entire church would have been lost. This fire occurred where the elevator, stairs to the basement through the Welcome

Center, Usher's Closet, and steps to the choir loft are located today. Services were held at Maplewood School until the \$10,000 worth of damages were repaired.

In July of 1961, Olivet bought a new parsonage for \$20,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Meeks at 5741 Alexis Road. This property bordered Olivet's 5-acre lot and was a perfect addition to the church. Pastor Joseph Peaslee would be the first pastor to live in this parsonage. This house stands today and is now owned by Dave White.

In late 1962 to early 1963, Olivet faced its first major conflict. Pastor Gunther (1961-1962) resigned for "personal reasons" in September 1962 with a 2-month leave of absence. Then, Pastor Peaslee (1958-1963) resigned in December 1962 with a 1-month leave of absence, and took a number of parishioners to start King of Glory Lutheran Church, currently located on Brint between McCord and Main/Holland-Sylvania. The only reason known to this day was found in a letter from Olivet's council secretary to the congregation in January 1963, stating "being a member of The Ohio Synod, it cannot support a mission not approved by the Synod." Like all conflicts, this eventually passed. Pastor Philip Anttila was called in May of 1963 and served as pastor until 1969.

By 1964, it was determined that the 15-year-old sanctuary would not be able to sustain the current growth rate from the Baby Boomer generation. Plans were created to increase the footprint of the sanctuary and education wing, adding 10 classrooms, a new and larger steeple, and new offices. This project came to a cost of \$265,000. Construction started after Easter Sunday in 1965 and was completed and dedicated by Thanksgiving the same year. Services were held at Sylvania High School (the Burnham Building) during construction. This became the sanctuary as we know it today and included the current choir room, Spark room, and nursery.



The sanctuary expansion completed in 1964, which remains the sanctuary's present design.

On September 24, 1967, Olivet's founding pastor, Dr. Alvin Bell, passed away. During his years of ministry, Dr. Bell



Dr. Bell's grave marker at Toledo Memorial Park.

founded Augsburg, Olivet, and Bethany Lutheran Churches. Dr. Bell officiated the baptism of 3,336 children, 846 weddings, and 912 funerals. He is buried in Toledo Memorial Park. On September 24, let's all have a moment of silence to remember that without Dr. Bell, this church and great community of people would not exist.

Look forward to the next installment of Olivet's history in the December-February Olive Press!

FAITH FORMATION

YOUTH

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

ADULTS

[NEW!] HOLY PEPPERONI.

Wednesdays | 5:30-7 PM | Jo-Jo's Pizzeria (5614 Mayberry Square)
Begins Wednesday, **September 10**

Gather with other working adults to explore life's meaning and purpose alongside our narrative lectionary (scripture) for the upcoming Sunday. First pitcher and pizza provided. Come once or enjoy weekly.

However this fits into your schedule, let's connect and engage!

[No gatherings on Nov 19 or 26; or Dec 24 or 31]



SUNDAY SCHOOL. 10:10 AM in the Teen Room. Mike Moore leads this great Bible study using the Upper Room devotional (available freely at each entrance).

FAMILIES. TUESDAY TABLE TALKS: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Second Tuesday of the month | 6:30-8:00 PM

Registration required. Light meal provided; childcare available. Call the church office or visit olivetsylvania.org/ttt to sign up.

No September gathering

October 14 - The Seasons of Planting and Reaping (Harroun Community Park)

November 11 - The Circle of Generosity and Harvest (Christian Life Center)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. Mondays at 9:30 AM | Teen Room [resumes September 8]

This fall, Olivet's Women's Bible Study will be studying the book of Galatians. The major themes of this book are grace, faith, justification, freedom and life in Christ, the fruit of the Spirit, and new creation. Come to discover why this was a favorite book of the Bible for Martin Luther. All women are invited to this time of study and prayer. All that is needed is a Bible and an open heart to hear what God is speaking to us today. See Heidi Lohrmann for more information. As an added bonus, you could stay for a wonderful hour of yoga in the Christian Life Center afterward at 11:00 AM.

MEN. GUYS 'N GOSPEL. Tuesdays 7-8 AM at Panera on Central Ave. [resumes September 2]

**MY BODY
IS NOT
A PRAYER
REQUEST**

*Disability Justice
in the Church*

AMY KENNY

BOOK STUDY OFFERED BY ACCESSIBILITY TEAM

Each Monday in October [6, 13, 20, & 27] | 6:30 - 8 PM | Teen Room

Featuring the book "My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church" by Amy Kenny. Books will be provided for the first 15 people to sign up, or \$12 each after that. Contact Becky Cress (rcress@olivetsylvania.org) to reserve your spot!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE OLIVET CALL COMMITTEE

by **Judy Gonia** *Call Committee Chair*

We are pleased to announce on Sunday, August 17, 2025, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the recommendation of Olivet's Call Committee and Church Council to extend a call to Pastor Melissa Anne Micham as our next Lead Pastor.

The Call Committee is continuing to work on updating our Ministry Site Profile to reflect the qualifications and talents desired to fill Olivet's Associate Pastor position. We are working closely with the Northwestern Ohio Synod and anticipate that we will begin interviewing candidates in late September.

The Call Committee is guided by the Holy Spirit and asks for your prayers as we continue the search/call process.



Rev. Melissa Micham

Pastor Melissa will be officially installed as Lead Pastor on **Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend this special service!

YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.



ELCA bishop-elect Rev. Yehiel Curry

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," Curry said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, met July 28-August 2 under the theme "For the Life of the World." The assembly participated in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They also spent time in worship and engaged in various ways of theological reflection.

Scan to watch "Meet the
Bishop-elect of the ELCA,
Rev. Yehiel Curry"



PRAYERS & PASTORAL ACTS

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For those hospitalized or anticipating tests/procedures:

For those grieving: Family of Milo Danzeisen (7-20); Roy Glodowski & Jennifer Quackenbush at the passing of his father, Joe Glodowski (7-20); John & Rinda Holshoe at the passing of his sister, Catherine McMillan (7-22); Becky Opperman at the passing of her mom (7-24).

For those rejoicing: For those rejoicing: Craig & Barb Stough at the marriage of their daughter Lyndsey Stough to Christopher Staller (7-17).

For members who have requested prayers because of illness or recovery from injury or surgery:

Marty Kupsky, Bruce Quatman, Chuck Cook, Kelly Cipiti, Steve Hodge, Sandy Frank, Scott Franklin, Mary Glover, Hunter Morrison, Bev & Brian Hart, Jan Cook, David Tucker, Sandy Owen, Dale Heuberger, Bill Smith, Jennifer Quackenbush, Ash Lovegood, Jim Rentner, Eric Adams, Pastor Nate Tuff & Kim Nielsen.

For those in assisted living, extended care, or rehabilitation: Patty Cross 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; Brad Kupsky at Elizabeth Scott; Mae Kyser at Genacross, Wolf Creek Campus; Marjorie Lay at The Lakes of Sylvania; Margaret Timm at Brookdale Sr. Living, Carmel, IN; Matthew Wesley at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center.

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

Family and friends for whom prayers have been requested: Mason DiLorenzo, JoAnn Hoppenjans, Maureen Venus, Wagner family, Erna & Gernot Pomrenke, people & leaders of Ukraine, Rita & Larry Kerstiens, Anna, Jan Kistner, Jon Alspaugh, Cindy Milbry, Sara & Chris, Charles, Scott Reynolds, Heather Taberner, Amy McMacken O'Brien, Eric Zokowich, Rick, Pat, Sam, Barb & Bob W., Bishop Brenda Bos, Kathy W., Shanon Bostater.

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

For our bishops: NWO Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, & ELCA Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry.

For Olive's local mission partners and international missionaries: Redeemer Lutheran Church; Salem Lutheran Church; Rev. Dr. David (and Alicia) Brondos of Augsburg Theological Seminary in Mexico City.

For Olive'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

MAY - MID-AUGUST

Funerals:

Phyllis (Jean) Daly (May 9)
Sandra Belinske (May 24)
Jim Vines (May 31)
Luann Kornowa (June 19)
Milo Danzeisen (July 23)

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.

MEMORIAL GIFTS AS OF 8/21

PHYLLIS (JEAN) DALY

Darla Culberson

SUZANNE MILHAM

Gail Anderson

SANDRA BELINSKE

Warren & Noreen Wright

Glenna Flick

Carol Miller

Emilyn Jakes

Darla Culberson

JIM VINES

Warren & Noreen Wright

Darla Culberson

John & Kathy Benya

Marlene Schober

LUANN KORNOWA

Carol Miller

Emmy Jakes

Ronald & Jean Kornowa

Darla Culberson

Marlene Schober

CAROL SAVOLAINE

Marlene Schober

ALEX HAMILTON

Marlene Schober

Gail Anderson

MILO DANZEISEN

Carol Leupp

Richard & Myrna Sanner

Pat & Laurie Cassidy

Barry & Ann Ramlow

Ron & Marlene Smith

Craig & Barb Stough

Ronald Glick

Mike & Janice Cook

Darla Culberson

Karen Baldwin

Stephen & Cara Arbenowske

Olivet's Endowment Trust Fund.

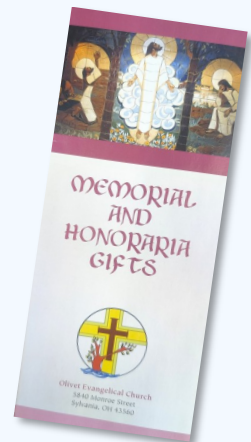
The **Outreach Ministry Endowment of Olivet** encourages generous giving to ensure the future of Olivet's local and global ministry commitments. Both cash and non-cash donations (e.g., as listed beneficiary, retirement distribution, or via charitable trust) are welcome! This fund is invested within the Toledo Community Foundation.

LEARN MORE 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

Shannon Walker, Director of Operations, at 419-882-2077 or email operations@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

Email

operations@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

Shannon Walker

operations@olivetsylvania.org

Membership Coordinator

Jill Hepner

membership@olivetsylvania.org

Communications Specialist

Sara Martin

communications@olivetsylvania.org

Sunday Worship

God's gifts of Word and Sacrament
are offered in two distinct settings:

9:00 AM—Traditional

Liturgy, hymns and music by a
select group of gifted musicians.

Meets in the sanctuary.

11:00 AM—Contemporary

The Vine casual service with music
by The Vine Praise Band. Meets in
the Christian Life Center.

Both services live streamed:

www.olivetsylvania.org

Sunday School—10:10 AM

Adults | Children (ages 3-5th grade)

Teens (grades 8-12; 1st & 3rd

Sundays of the month)

PASTOR MELISSA MICHAM

LEAD PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE

Tuesday, September 9 | 6:30 PM | sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

MON **September 1** (Labor Day)

THU + FRI **November 27 + 28**

(Thanksgiving)

UPCOMING COMBINED

WORSHIP AT 10 AM

August 31 | Christian Life Center

September 7 | sanctuary

November 30 | Christian Life Center

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

November 2 | fall back 1 hour!



Stay connected!

Sign up to receive weekly
devotional + announcement
emails right to your inbox. Scan
the QR code or call the church