Lent 40-Day Bible Reading Challenge

The season of Lent begins this year on February 14, on Ash Wednesday. If you are new to the church, the season of Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

Over the years we have had a number of different Lenten focuses—including giving something up or taking something on—to grow in our walk with Christ and serve others. In this newsletter you will find a Bible reading plan. This forty-day challenge will lead us through the Gospel of John in forty days. We will also be offering an additional worship service on Wednesday evenings. We encourage you to attend these special services in addition to our weekend worship services. This year we will feature dramas titled Monologues for Lent. We will hear from different Biblical characters about their encounters with Jesus.

For our 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service on February 14, Pastor Dave and Pastor Andrew will be addressing your questions about death, dying and the afterlife. Please email your questions to pastordave@olivetlutheran.org.

The Eight-o’clock Worship Service is moving!

At the request of a number of our eight-o’clock worship attendees, we are moving the service to the new Celebration Chapel during the season of Lent. This is just a “trial” to see how this new worship space feels and how it will be experienced by those attending.

Beginning February 18 through Easter Sunrise service we will be in the Celebration Chapel and the doors on the south side of the building will be open, so you may want to park on that side of the building.

Soup & Sandwich Suppers

Each Wednesday during Lent
starting at 5:45 p.m.

- February 21: Host: Men of Olivet
- February 28: Host: Kids’ Church & Youth
- March 7: Host: Prayer & Bible Groups
- March 14: Host: Women of Olivet
- March 21: Host: Leadership Team

There are many opportunities to sign up to donate soup, sandwiches or dessert. Help setting/cleaning up is always appreciated! Sign up sheets are at the Connection Center.
From the desk of Pastor Dave

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name goes all the glory for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Psalms 115:1 NLT

Olivet’s focus Bible verse for 2018 is 1 Thessalonians 2:8 NLT, “We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.” And the vision statement for 2018 is “Loving People to Life.” We truly believe that this Bible verse and vision statement summarize the vision and mission that God has given to Olivet.

Our first priority is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. To preach, teach and share with others God’s perfect plan of salvation. That God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to redeem all those who call upon His name. We are also called to invest our time and resources into the lives of others. We are called to walk alongside others and invest our lives into the lives of others.

We do this in numerous ways at Olivet and beyond. When we serve in a ministry at Olivet we are sharing our lives with others. It may be in our worship ministries, worship support ministries, caring ministries, community outreach ministries, education ministries, small group ministries, youth and family ministries, recovery ministries, hospitality ministries, community service ministries, and many other ways you are “loving people to life” in the name of Jesus.

God has provided another amazing year at Olivet and we thank Him and praise Him for all that He has done. We had the great joy of moving into our newly constructed Christian Education Building and we are seeing the new building filled with activities every week. With the numbers below we can see how God is doing marvelous things at Olivet and we give Him all the thanks and praise!

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a word of thanks. I am so very thankful for the countless hours of service that you, as the followers of Jesus, and as disciples of Olivet have offered in service to God and other people. I thank God for each one of you, our members and friends and the time that you devote in service to our Savior and the mission work He has put before us. You know who you are...some of you working in front of the congregation and others behind the scenes so our ministry can be effective as possible for the glory of God. Individuals who want no recognition or praise – just wonderful people who have a servant heart for God’s Kingdom work. Thank you for doing, sharing, caring, giving and supporting the work of God at Olivet Beacon of Light Lutheran and beyond. Olivet is healthy, growing and strong because of your love and dedication. I THANK YOU! Thank you for responding to God’s mission and purpose for our lives, the life of our church, and our community.

I am also VERY thankful for our dedicated and hard-working staff for all that they do for the glory of God and His plans and mission for Olivet. There are many hours and much hard work that goes on every week “behind the scenes” to keep the good ship Olivet afloat! I am very thankful for the staff’s tireless efforts in serving God by serving you and others. Please thank them and the hard work that they complete each and every week.

I thank God for His presence in our lives and the life of this church. I can only imagine how God is going to do even more amazing things with us as we boldly walk faithfully into 2018.

Pastor Dave

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income General</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>Benevolence Giving</th>
<th>Christmas Eve &amp; Christmas Day Worship</th>
<th>Worship Total for the year</th>
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<td>+815%</td>
<td>+1,253%</td>
<td>+566%</td>
<td>+1,524%</td>
<td>+319%</td>
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</table>
“Sharing the Light and the Love of Our Lord”

From the desk of Pastor Andrew

“I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God” (Ephesians 1:16-17).

It has been a year of amazing growth and blessing at Olivet, even as we have faced many challenges along the way. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ! I’m reminded that even though we do not know every detail of the future, we know who HOLDS the future, and His plans and purposes for us are GOOD!

God’s family has been the story for me in 2017. We represent so many different denominational backgrounds, ministry experiences, and giftings, but God has made us one family. How do families grow? By doing life together—worshiping, serving, praying, learning, growing, (eating!), and walking together through highs and lows—with Christ right at the center! May His family at Olivet continue to grow as we bring the love of Jesus to those who still are walking in darkness outside our four walls.

As always, I continue to enjoy the many hats I get to wear as Pastor of Discipleship at Olivet—

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry continues to grow with God’s blessing. We do “life together” every Wednesday with 45 youth (middle school and high school) enjoying dinner, worship, prayer, studying the Bible, and exploring how to apply the Christian faith to our everyday lives. The confirmation age youth (6th-8th grade) have adult mentors who share their own faith on a personal level, while our high school students gather around the Word of God and have deeper conversations about the intersection between life and faith. This past summer, we were blessed to have Patrick Strain come onboard as our Youth Coordinator. We also have many adult leaders who bring their passion for God and the youth every week.

Youth ministry has changed over the years and decades—today’s youth have so many pressures and temptations bearing down on them. What has not changed (and never will!) is God’s deep love for every generation and His wondrous Gospel invitation to come and follow Him. Thank you for your continued prayers as we share the love and light of Jesus Christ with this young generation!

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a wonderful ministry of care, support, and prayer here at Olivet. Stephen Ministry offers confidential, one-on-one, distinctively Christian care to people who are walking through life challenges of all kinds—grief, loss, loneliness, divorce, life transitions, and many other difficult situations. Stephen Ministry’s mandate comes from Galatians 6:2, “bear each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” This care is completely confidential.

Stephen Ministers receive regular, ongoing Christian Education and are available to meet with their “care receiver” in a variety of settings—at home, at a coffee shop, or even at the church. The caring ministry can last anywhere from a few weeks to several years at a time. Please talk to one of the pastors or any of our Stephen Ministers for more information (you’ll recognize them by their distinctive blue name badges!).

As we look ahead to 2018, we are so thankful for the many ways God continues to grow this ministry. We are looking to offer our next Stephen Ministry training class late this summer to meet the growing ministry needs at Olivet. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Pastoral role at Olivet

It continues to be a tremendous blessing to serve as your Pastor of Discipleship at Olivet. As God’s people, we stand on the unchanging Word of God and are Spirit-led with a desire to know God more and follow after Him with all of our hearts. You continue to be so generous in spirit and in deed. When newcomers walk in the door for the first time, so many of them say, “there’s something different about this church. You can just feel the love and power of God here!”

Beyond my involvement in the many ministries of the church, some of my favorite times are the simple, day-to-day interactions with each of you—whether through music, Bible studies, visiting together, or just conversing over a cup of coffee. It’s doing life together! It’s also a joy to serve alongside Pastor Dave and all of our many gifted, dedicated, and wonderful staff. I thank God all the time for the joy of serving here.

Pastor Andrew
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<th>Sun</th>
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<th>Wed</th>
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<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4am Worship/HC</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Fellowship</td>
<td>6:30pm Parables</td>
<td>10am Worship</td>
<td>10am Kids’ Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4:30pm Holy Stretch</td>
<td>5:50pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.</td>
<td>6pm Financial Peace University</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>7am Women’s Bible Breakfast &amp; Prayer Group</td>
<td>9am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:15am Small Group Study</td>
<td>10:30am Prayer Circle</td>
<td>11:45am Deacons Meeting</td>
<td>5:45pm Prayer Gathering</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10am Bible Study</td>
<td>5:30pm Women’s AA Meeting</td>
<td>6:15pm Youth Ministry Family Dinner</td>
<td>6:45pm MS/HS Youth Groups</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>4pm Stephen Ministry Leaders’ Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm Musicians Rehearsal</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6:30am Men’s Bible Breakfast</td>
<td>7:30am Men’s Prayer Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11am – 2pm Winter FunFest</td>
<td>5:30pm Worship</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>5:30pm Worship/ Holy Communion</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>8am Worship/HC</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Fellowship</td>
<td>8:30am Parables</td>
<td>9:00am Hospitality Team Meeting</td>
<td>10am Worship/HC</td>
<td>10am Kids’ Church</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>6:30am Men’s Bible Breakfast</td>
<td>7:30am Men’s Prayer Group</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>7am Women’s Bible Breakfast &amp; Prayer Group</td>
<td>9am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:15am Small Group Study</td>
<td>10:30am Prayer Circle</td>
<td>5:45pm Vision Board Mtg.</td>
<td>5:45pm Prayer Gathering</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>10am Bible Study</td>
<td>5pm Servolution Team Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm Musicians Rehearsal</td>
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<td>10am LCMC Ministerium</td>
<td>4pm Stephen Ministry Leaders’ Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm Musicians Rehearsal</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>6:30am Men’s Bible Breakfast</td>
<td>7:30am Men’s Prayer Group</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>5:30pm Worship</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>8am Worship/HC Celebration Chapel</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Fellowship</td>
<td>8:30am Parables</td>
<td>10am Worship</td>
<td>10am Kids’ Church</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>BEACON DEADLINE</td>
<td>10:30am Bible Books</td>
<td>4:30pm Holy Stretch</td>
<td>5:15pm Stepping Into Freedom</td>
<td>6pm Financial Peace University</td>
<td>6:30pm Concerned Persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>7am Women’s Bible Breakfast &amp; Prayer Group</td>
<td>9am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:15am Small Group Study</td>
<td>10:30am Prayer Circle</td>
<td>11am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>5:45pm Prayer Gathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>10am Bible Study</td>
<td>5pm Scouts Exec. Comm. Meeting</td>
<td>5:30pm Women’s AA Meeting</td>
<td>5:45 Soup &amp; Sandwich Supper - Hosted by the Men of Olivet</td>
<td>7pm Lenten Worship &amp; Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm Musicians Rehearsal</td>
<td>7pm MOPS</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>6:30am Men’s Bible Breakfast</td>
<td>7:30am Men’s Prayer Group</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>5:30pm Worship/ Holy Communion</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>8am Worship/HC Celebration Chapel</td>
<td>8:30am Bible Fellowship</td>
<td>8:30am Parables</td>
<td>10am Worship/HC</td>
<td>10am Kids’ Church</td>
<td>1pm Prayer Shawl</td>
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<td>MONDAY MEALS</td>
<td>4:30pm Holy Stretch</td>
<td>5:15pm Stepping Into Freedom</td>
<td>6pm Financial Peace University</td>
<td>6:30pm Concerned Persons</td>
<td>6:30pm Understanding Depression</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>7am Women’s Bible Breakfast &amp; Prayer Group</td>
<td>9am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:15am Small Group Study</td>
<td>10:30am Prayer Circle</td>
<td>5:45pm Prayer Gathering</td>
<td>6:45pm Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>10am Bible Study</td>
<td>5:30pm Women’s AA Meeting</td>
<td>5:45 Soup &amp; Sandwich Supper – Hosted by our Youth</td>
<td>7pm Lenten Worship &amp; Drama</td>
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**February 2018**
## Worship Assistants for February

### February 3-4
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Carla Swerman</td>
<td>P. Christensen &amp; Stan Bell</td>
<td>Tim &amp; Paula Betlach</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>C. Brenengen &amp; K. Dearman</td>
<td>Stan Bell</td>
<td>Open-not staffed</td>
<td>Betty Fagan &amp; Donna Kemp</td>
<td>Alan Gerken &amp; Steve Gillman</td>
<td>Sheila Horstman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 8am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kim or Bayle Dearman</td>
<td>Kevin &amp; Bonice Sipley</td>
<td>Doug Olson &amp; Gina Mikrut</td>
<td>PD &amp; PA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bonice Sipley</td>
<td>Penny Becker</td>
<td>S. Hoover &amp; Chuck Huth</td>
<td>Kevin Josephson</td>
<td>Marianne Shugrue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 10am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Josephson</td>
<td>Verdel &amp; Carol Dawson</td>
<td>M. &amp; S. Hellerud/C. Marker/C. Nelsestuen</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dale Groshek</td>
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### February 10-11
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Judie Doolittle</td>
<td><strong>Volunteers Needed</strong></td>
<td>A. Zeisler &amp; S. Horstman</td>
<td>Pastor Dave/Pastor Andrew</td>
<td>L. Dettinger &amp; M. Wuensch</td>
<td>Nick Teff</td>
<td>Open-not staffed</td>
<td>B. Schneider &amp; M. Doolittle</td>
<td>Kyle Blank &amp; Steve Gillman</td>
<td>Judie Doolittle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 8am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Binnebose</td>
<td>Nelleen Noack &amp; John Olson</td>
<td>Kim &amp; Bayle Dearman</td>
<td>PD &amp; PA</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Marianne Shugrue</td>
<td>Marianne Shugrue</td>
<td>E. Brauer &amp; A. Gerken</td>
<td>E. Brauer &amp; A. Gerken</td>
<td>Toni Groshek</td>
<td>Sharon Hoover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 10am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy LeCleir</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Sam/Sophia Karlovich</td>
<td>D. Hanson/K. Duerwachter/P. Buchner/J. Brokaw</td>
<td>PD/PA/Jacqui Brokaw/ H. Fortuine</td>
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<td>Alice Gerken &amp; Erica Knerzer</td>
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<td>Jackie Dawson &amp; Carol Dawson</td>
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### February 14
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<td></td>
<td>Kevin Josephson</td>
<td></td>
<td>KC Pavel &amp; Sandie Perry</td>
<td>Linda Liethen</td>
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### February 17-18
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jean Ann Voss</td>
<td>Dan &amp; Betty Fagan</td>
<td>Al &amp; Diane Brague</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Stan Bell</td>
<td>Open-not staffed</td>
<td>Paula Betlach &amp; Anne Zeisler</td>
<td>Alan Gerken &amp; Steve Gillman</td>
<td>Kathy Vongroven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 8am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tricia Gibbons</td>
<td>Maurie &amp; Jan Pearson</td>
<td>Chuck Huth &amp; Joel Olson</td>
<td>Pastor Dave &amp; Erna Brauer</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Jane Binnebose</td>
<td>Emma Snodgrass</td>
<td>Penny Becker</td>
<td>J. Pearson &amp; T. Houlihan</td>
<td>Toni Groshek</td>
<td>Jane Binnebose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 10am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Shelly Nelson &amp; Conner Knerzer</td>
<td>M. Bellisle/C. Maier/K. &amp; L Anderson</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lucas Eilertson</td>
<td>Penny Becker &amp; Kayla Korish</td>
<td>Carol Maier</td>
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### February 17-18

*Continued on page 6...*
If you are unable to make your scheduled assignment, please find someone to take your place and contact the church office so we know of the change. Please call 783-1484 or e-mail info@olivetlutheran.org.

**February 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Mary Jo Sanchez</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Don &amp; Cheryl Brenengen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greeters</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Sharon Hellerud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acolyte</td>
<td>Reece Tudahl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Penny Becker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counters</td>
<td>Betty Fagan/Donna Kemp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Tech</td>
<td>Kyle Blank &amp; Steve Gillman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connection Center</td>
<td>Ernie &amp; Sue Stetzer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are unable to make your scheduled assignment, please find someone to take your place and contact the church office so we know of the change. Please call 783-1484 or e-mail info@olivetlutheran.org.
**John in 40 Days**

Follow this schedule from Ash Wednesday until Easter and you will read the Gospel of John. On Sundays, you may want to reread text that tugged at you or focus on the passages used in worship.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reference</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1:1-28</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1:29-51</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12:27-50</td>
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**Tips for succeeding in Bible reading!**

- Set a time and place where you will do your reading.
- Place your Bible someplace visible as a reminder. For example, if you are going to read in the morning, put it in front of your coffee pot. Or if you are a night reader, place it on your pillow in the morning, so it is waiting for you when you go to bed.
- Track your progress by marking off readings as you complete them on the chart provided.
- Make no exceptions! Vow to do it no matter what.
- If you blow the last tip, then just start over from where you left off. Don’t worry about what you missed. Pick it up on a light day or on a Sunday. Most people allow catching up to be an obstacle to just getting back on track.
- Think of this as a gift to God. Have fun giving it and share your story with someone else. Your accomplishment may inspire them.
Volunteer Opportunities at Bethany-Riverside

Olivet hosts the Bingo games and the resident monthly birthday party for the month of February at Bethany-Riverside Nursing Home located at 2575 S. 7th Street (behind Gundersen Medical Center).

Bingo is played on Tuesday, February 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Four volunteers are needed each time to help serve coffee and then assist the residents who have hearing or visual needs while playing bingo.

The monthly birthday party will be held on Thursday, February 22 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to serve cake and coffee. As host for the month, our volunteers also provide cake and small gifts for the residents.

Volunteering at Bethany-Riverside is a wonderful way to spend a few hours helping others! The residents really enjoy being with and talking to visitors.

Sign-up sheet at the Connection Center or call Ann Wuensch at 781-2107.

Monday Meals

Monday Meals began in the fall of 2002 when St. Luke’s Methodist Church invited several churches to a meeting to discuss working together to provide a free hot meal for the north side community of La Crosse. Following several meetings, eight churches agreed to take turns proving a hot evening meal at no cost to those who came. St. Luke’s agreed to serve as the host site and to be responsible for providing the essential staples for each meal, such as paper products, seasonings, coffee, tea, peanut butter and jelly.

There are seven churches currently providing Monday Meals and the host site is now at Trinity Lutheran, 1010 Sill Street, on the north side of La Crosse. Each church determines their menu—Olivet provides meatballs and homemade mashed potatoes—accumulates groceries, prepares and serves the meal, and cleans up afterwards. In addition to the cost of groceries, each church contributes $130 per year towards supplies, building maintenance and Hunger Task Force fees. In 2017 the Monday Meals program served 5,519 meals!

If you would like to get involved in this ministry, sign up sheets go out about 3 weeks prior to “our” Monday. Help is always welcome and appreciated! Here are the remaining dates that Olivet will be serving in 2018:

- February 26
- April 9
- May 21
- July 9
- August 20
- October 8
- November 19

We have four new classes starting on February 12!

STEPPING INTO FREEDOM: A Christ-centered 13-week program (class is 75 minutes in length) to help those struggling with life controlling problems of addiction. Begins Monday, February 12, 5:15-6:30pm at Olivet.

CONCERNED PERSONS GROUP: This class is for those who want to help a loved one who struggles with life controlling addictions. Nine 75-minute classes starting on Monday, February 12, 6:30-7:45pm at Olivet.

UNDERSTANDING & OVERCOMING DEPRESSION: This class is for anyone struggling with depression. Come and find solutions to help you prosper. Nine 75-minute classes starting on Monday, February 12 at 6:30-7:45pm at Olivet.

CONCERNED PERSONS GROUP (OFF-SITE): this alternative class offering meets at Crossfire Ministries in downtown La Crosse, 422 Main Street, starting Tuesday, February 13, 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

To register or for more information, contact the church office.

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The Browns - Gospel Music
Bus Trip—Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Deadline to reserve your spot is February 15. $70 per person includes the bus ride, lunch and a matinee concert by The Browns. Checks can be made payable to Olivet and dropped off in the office. Sign up sheet is located at the Connection Center.

Other trips planned for 2018 are:

Saturday, June 23, 2018 - A Second Helping—The Church Basement Ladies Sequel
Tuesday, October 9, 2018 - A concert featuring Triumphant Quartet

Young at Heart
Potluck Lunch & Fellowship
Thursday, February 8 @ 11:30 a.m.
Olivet Fellowship Hall

Come for lunch, entertainment and socializing. Anyone age 55 and over is invited to attend. Bring a friend or neighbor who would enjoy some companionship and a nice meal out.

Please stop by the Connection Center to RSVP and to sign up to bring a dish to pass. This month Olivet will provide baked chicken!

OLIVET LOGO CLOTHING!

We are excited to announce that Olivet Logo Clothing is here! We have set up a "Company Store" with the Monogram Company here in La Crosse. The link to our store is www.monogramco.com/olivet. On that site you will find many styles of men’s, women’s and children’s clothing that can all be embroidered with the Olivet logo. Simply choose your style, color and size, place it in your cart and check out using a debit or credit card.

Orders are processed on Fridays and items are delivered to Olivet in approximately 2 weeks. You can order at any time--no minimum required. If you do not have access to a computer or need other assistance, please contact the office and we would be glad to help you place your order.

Church Directories

If you have not yet picked up your copy of the new directory, please stop in the office. One is reserved for you if you had your picture taken. If you were unable to participate in the photo sessions, but would still like a copy of the directory, please stop in the office. We have a limited supply available.
It is hard to imagine now—this time last year we were 40 kids strong meeting in the Fellowship Hall. It was loud, but manageable—we had to. We had families that wanted their kids to be in a Bible based “Sunday School.” The same is true today, except for the fact that we are in the new education wing. Yeah God!

Main points of the past year were:

- 2 Sundays of an advertised Preview of VBS in Kids’ Church, to get families excited about our VBS week in August. Advertising this in advance brought more kids into KC on 01.29.17 and 02.05.17.
- April 16th was Easter. We had three stations of activities for kids: a craft, the Easter story, and a Resurrection egg hunt. No outside egg hunt due to being under construction. Attendance: 53.
- August 7-10 was VBS week. Our theme was “Maker Fun Factory.” God made us, God loves us, God cares for us. 92 registered kids, 40+ volunteers, and 120+ God Moments in 4 days! Thank you for praying for us daily during this time—you helped make it a success, once again.
- The Orange curriculum was started in September, and is working well.
- “A Forever Birthday” was our KC Christmas program this year. The Christmas program was held, for the first time, on its own day and time—2 p.m. on Saturday, December 16. We had 119 attending in the congregation, along with 6 confirmation students, 40 kids’ parts, and 11 volunteers. We had good reviews for this change and will keep it for another year.

Thank you staff and volunteers of Kids’ Church this past year. May God give you peace. I ask the congregation to remember us. These times are challenging, and our opportunity to make a change is not in the way we cast our votes, but in teaching the young what is God’s way. If you want to see change, be it—help us, by getting back to the basics of God’s Word. Be a teacher or be a shepherd in KC and you will be doing more than you could ever imagine to make the world a better place.

Bless Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Melanie Wuensch, Co-Director of Olivet KC

Kids’ Church - Age 2-4K

In January 2017 we were on a rotational model for Kids’ Church. The children rotated to different teachers, and three teachers were able to prep the same lesson for 3-4 weeks in a row, which really helped our volunteer teachers. With Olivet’s growth, and lack of space in early 2017, it just made more sense to do it this way, as it gave our volunteers a break. We capped off the end of the school year in June with that same model, and offered a condensed Kids’ Church program over the summer.

VBS was a huge hit, and for the first time we did have an exclusive Pre-K class. This class did not rotate to all the stations, but it actually worked out quite well. All the kids got the same lessons, just at more of an age-appropriate level, and it helped the littles with familiarity throughout the day and week. VBS was another huge success thanks to all our leaders and volunteers!

In September, we kicked off Kids’ Church in the new addition, along with a new curriculum. 4K kids are now receiving lessons from First Look, which is one component of the Orange Curriculum. First Look offers weekly lessons and tools to serve all kids from infancy through 4K/PreK. This has been very effective, but with the change, we have seen an influx of kids starting as early as age 2 that want to be a part of the Kids’ Church program. An attempt to keep them in with the PreK classroom was made; however, it soon became hard to service the 4K kids, as the learning levels were so drastically different, even being able to talk through the story.

Planning has been made, and starting in January 2018, I have created a way to incorporate the two and three year olds into the worship and craft time, but doing a brief “Break-Away” session for story time. This will allow for all children to participate in the Kids’ Church programming, but still have appropriate age groups for the story and conversation to allow all kids to hear God’s word and message.

Kelly Remus, Co-Director of Kids’ Church, Age 2-4K
Over the summer, Olivet was willing to invest in the MOPS and MOMSnext program for our community. There is only one other church in the immediate area that offers MOPS, but it is during the day, so working moms are unable to attend. We jumped in at a time when we could get both groups/packages for a great price, so this is what we went with, so that we can hopefully service most of the moms in our congregation and surrounding area.

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers. MOMSnext encompasses mothers with at least one school-aged child. Our first meeting kicked off in September, with a low turnout, but a lot of interest was expressed. We have since grown to include five members, along with a few others who have been attending regularly and will become members of MOPS in the very near future. MOPS and MOMSnext is currently the same group meeting together, but that may get restructured as we continue to grow.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The 2nd Thursday of the month meeting always takes place at Olivet. Currently, we are using the 4th Thursday meeting time as a “Mom’s Night Out” where we gather to do dinner, workshops, have guest speakers, game night, or gather at another mom’s home. During Mom’s Night Out, many times we recap the previous lesson, what we have done with the lesson provided, and what we are trying to incorporate into our families. This is a time where we can relax in a different atmosphere, and are hoping to reach moms who may not currently be comfortable in a church setting.

We are planning to have a guest speaker come to talk on Managing Marriage and Motherhood, and in March we have a woman coming in to do a Bible journaling workshop. We have a few other activities planned, and are really looking forward to seeing this group begin to thrive. Our online presence has more than tripled, so we are working on getting those moms through the door.

Kelly Remus
MOPS/MOMSnext Leader
Benevolence & Missions . . . Karyn Menagh

Thank you for allowing me to represent each of you on the Leadership Team the past three years. It has been a pleasure to walk with you as we have been the hands and feet of Jesus and served others for the glory of His kingdom.

2017 was a year of generous giving. A variety of food and items were collected throughout the year. The members of Olivet provided the zip and zest for picnics, back to school supplies for Summit Elementary students, peanut butter for the Salvation Army Christmas food basket, ninety-one shoeboxes were filled which will share the love of Jesus to children around the world and locally 50 children received new clothes and small gifts because of Olivet’s Caring Tree.

The benevolence fund provided financial gifts to many organizations. These financial gifts benefit local, regional, national and international organizations. This was the first year Olivet has provided financial support to missionaries. Our congregation supported the Bucher’s in NYC and the Olsen’s in Ecuador. Olivet continued to support HaitiChildren, Mercy Ships and International Christian Concern in their missions. Olivet, through member giving, provided support to victims of the devastation hurricanes. Also, we provided a financial gift to First Lutheran Church of Tivoli, TX which suffered significant damage from hurricane Harvey. These are just a few of the many organizations Olivet is able to bless because of your generous and regular giving.

It is a blessing to see so many members participate in the various mission opportunities offered at Olivet. The youth had the privilege to participate in a packing event for Feed My Starving Children at Tomah. This past Christmas members had the opportunity to give of their time at the Salvation Army distribution event. It was humbling to assist local families with their food baskets. Olivet also has regular opportunities to serve others, through hospitality, by helping with Mondays Meals and Breakfast with Friends.

I encourage each of you to ask God how He can use you in 2018. Be open to His nudging and trust He will provide you with the skills and tools you need to further His mission.

Women’s Clothes Closet

Now Accepting Spring Items

The Women’s Clothes Closet is transitioning to spring and summer clothing items. They accept gently used in-season clothing that is fashionable, clean and in good repair. Bras (new only), shoes, handbags, scarves and jewelry are also appreciated. Items can be placed in the large barrel in our collection area near the Fellowship Hall.

The mission of the Women’s Clothes Closet is to provide gently used clothing to low-income women, especially those who are entering or are in the workforce.

WAFFER & Onalaska Food Basket

Suggested items for the month:

Spaghetti, Noodles and Spaghetti Sauce

Non-perishable food items and personal items can be put in our pantry cupboard located in the collection area near the Fellowship Hall. Not only are we able to bless the local food pantries with these items, we are able to help walk-ins with an occasional bag of food.

112 items were taken to WAFER in January—thank you for your donations!
From the Hospitality Team

In 2017 did you have the opportunity to enjoy or participate in refreshments after services, including those special events such as Memorial Day, Ladies Spring Fling, Father’s Day Ice Cream Social, Fourth of July or Labor Day? How about the Soup and Sandwich meals during Lent? Do you remember the homemade Easter refreshments provided after our wonderful Easter services? Now, what about Harvest Dinner or First Taste of Pumpkin Pie or Advent by Candlelight? Were your children involved with Vacation Bible School (VBS) or the Christmas Program?

Those are just some of the events that the Hospitality Team has sponsored or supported. We are a small team of about 6 very active church members. We do not plan and facilitate all of these events (11) by ourselves however. All of these events need YOU to make them a success! Jesus tells us that we are to serve him by using our Time and Talents. Each member of this congregation has a bit of Time or a hidden Talent that can assist our Hospitality Team make all of those 11 events a success.

Men, this isn’t a team just for women, we need your talents, whatever they may be! Do you like to cook? Can you handle tables and chairs? Are you able to be a Greeter at one of our events? Are you one of the talented people that understands the Tech Booth?

Can you make coffee? Do you have a truck or trailer that can be used to put Harvest Dinner or Cookie Walk signs out?

Ladies you don’t need to feel that all of our events have to do with cooking talents! We need your help in so many ways! Do you have a flair for decorating, greeting, preparing mailings or can you help at a registration/sign up table? Please watch for our sign up sheets for the best opportunity for you to use your Time and Talent.

Please watch for new events in 2018 and please think of ways you can use your Time and Talents in Service here at Olivet! Thank you to all who support us in so many ways!

Jane Binnebose, Hospitality Chair

From the Deacons/Deaconesses

Starting the Day

Today I consider the intentions I set for the new year and take time to reflect on what’s important to me. In so doing, I am filled with gratitude for the infinite goodness of God. I give thanks for the blessings of the past and those yet to be received. I make gratitude a priority. It is my intention to express gratitude as much as possible throughout the day. Gratitude is more than just a one-day event.

Developing an attitude of gratitude opens our minds and our hearts and works wonders in our own lives, allowing us to see how much more we have to be thankful for.

God’s Blessing,

Mike & Marge Marshall

Sing Praises to the Lord, O you His favorite ones, and give thanks to His holy name.

Psalm 30:4
Tuesday Bible Study
*Genesis* - 7 p.m.

Did you know Jesus’ story began thousands of years before we meet him in Bethlehem?

The Genesis Bible study will soon be leaving Noah and his family after the flood, and begin the journey with Abraham and his family to the Promised Land. How does Jesus fit in with these nomads of long ago?

Join us in the Peace Room on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m., for answers to these questions and more. The sessions last one hour. No prior study required. You will not be asked to read or recite.

For information call Sandie Perry at 608-269-2774 or email hjperry@charter.net.

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Small Group Studies

**Sundays:**
Olivet Bible Fellowship (O.B.F.) @ 8:30 a.m.
(Four Spiritual Temperaments)

**Tuesdays:**
Bible Study @ 9:15 a.m.
(Lead Me Holy Spirit)
Bible Study @ 6:45 p.m.
(Ephesians)
Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.
(The Book of Genesis)

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Prayer Groups

**Tuesdays:**
Women’s Prayer Group @ 8:00 a.m.
Co-ed Prayer Circle @ 10:30 a.m.
(Praying for Revival and Renewal)
Evening Prayer Group @ 5:45 p.m.
(note earlier starting time)

**Fridays:**
Men’s Prayer Group @ 7:30 a.m.

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Life Groups
*(Follow the Worship Theme)*

**Tuesdays:**
Women’s Bible Breakfast @ 7:00-7:45 a.m.

**Wednesdays:**
Group Study @ 10:00 a.m.

**Fridays:**
Men’s Bible Breakfast @ 6:30-7:15 a.m.

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Recovery Group Meetings

**Weekly Meetings:**
*(open to anyone recovering from any type of addiction)*

**Tuesdays:**
Co-ed AA group meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays:**
Women’s AA group meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

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Prayer Partners

Olivet’s Deacons/Deaconesses are:
Patti Barney, Donna Jobe, Steve Kemp, Marge and Mike Marshall.

Deacons are available following each worship service for a time of prayer. If you prefer, you may request that a Deacon pray with you privately.
SMILE.....JESUS LOVES YOU!

The bright yellow happy face message is one of several posted on my kitchen cupboards. Olivet occasionally hands out Bible verses or bits of wisdom to keep us focused. Remembering to put Jesus first, others second, and myself third (JOY), just seeing these messages does exactly that. Here are some of my favorites that help me.

God Didn’t Promise Days Without Pain, Laughter Without Sorrow, Nor Sun Without Rain....But He Did Promise Strength For The Day, Comfort For The Tears, And Light For The Way.

Life is wonderful, but sometimes stormy. With emotional tears near the surface for any number of difficult situations, this beautiful message helps me remember our gracious God's many promises. What a great opportunity for prayer, thanking, trust, and praise!

While I may make a mistake, I am not a mistake. I no longer need to run, hide or blame. God knows me. God loves me. Thanks be to God.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 NLT

I make mistakes, lots of them! Most are minor, some foolish and embarrassing. This comforting verse gives perspective when I am tempted to run or hide; it is heartwarming to remember that my forgiving God still loves me despite my mistakes. How awesome is that!!

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3

This reminder is very important, considering the impact of impulsive speech. Appreciating a gentle nudge from God who already knows my thoughts, I need to pay careful attention to this Bible verse, making sure my words are positive and never harmful.

The Ten Commandments

These powerful directives, a constant guide, will remain posted as I continue my Jesus walk. Wanting my thoughts, words and actions to be pleasing to God, I know I have work to do. A recent sermon reminded us that we are works in progress. That is a great comfort! Thank you, Olivet, for sharing these word gifts of scripture, love, and guidance.

Peace.

Doris Schwingle
8:00 a.m. Music Team Leader

Chaplain Ministry now at Olivet

As our community continues to grow at Olivet, so do our needs. One of these areas of need is with health care visits, as well as other types of short term crisis intervention. Because of this, our first class of Chaplains have been trained and are ready to walk alongside Pastor Dave and Pastor Andrew to fill this need.

What will these Chaplains do? They are trained to do hospital visits, surgical/emergency room visits and nursing home/assisted living center/rehabilitation visits. The Chaplains are also trained to assist those who are grieving, or in many other types of crisis.

Koinonia is a Greek word that is the essence of the relationship that God wants His children to have with each other. Briefly, it is a sense of community and intimacy because of shared accountability and encouragement within the Body of Christ. As Church Chaplains, it is our goal to share that sense of community and intimacy with those we are sent to care for.
January Worship Attendance and Offering

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<td>121</td>
<td>General</td>
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<td>Sun., January 14 8am</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Mort/Prin</td>
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<td>Designated</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
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<table>
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<td>Totals</td>
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<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$7,048.00</td>
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Thank you for your faithful support of God’s mission at Olivet and beyond.

Introducing new ways to give to Olivet Mobile App and Giving by Text

We are excited to share with you a new church giving app. GivePlus Church is a mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app for free and start donating today!

You can also use your smartphone to donate by text. Simply send a text to 608-467-5654 with the amount you want to give and press send! The first time you use texting, you will be asked to register your payment information; after that, simply send a text!
At the end of Luke, Chapter 6, Jesus tells the parable of the two builders. The first builder builds his house on a strong foundation and it cannot be shaken by the storms. Although this is an illustration about obedience to God’s word, it seems to go well with the building addition we completed in 2017. We were able to build this addition because of our strong foundation in Christ. And we are strengthening that foundation through the activities and Bible studies that are taking place in the addition.

The addition was completed in August of 2017 and the construction loan was converted to a mortgage in October 2017. Funds raised to pay for the addition have been applied to the mortgage and three mortgage payments were made, leaving a year-end balance of $1,226,085.

Total giving in 2017 was $1.356 million which exceeded 2016’s $1.101 million.

Total expenditures for 2017, after adjusting for the building addition costs, additional mortgage payments and expenditures related to other funds (i.e. the columbarium) were $562 thousand compared to the 2017 budget of $643 thousand.

Looking ahead to 2018, the Vision Board is proposing a budget of $715.9 thousand. This is $85.1 thousand higher than the 2017 budget. The increase relates to rising costs and possible future staffing. We prayerfully request support of this proposed budget.

As we move forward into 2018 and beyond, if we continue to remain obedient to God’s word, we will be able to weather any storms that may come our way.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Lefevre, Treasurer

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**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory of Mattie Thomason**

Carol Barney - Mortgage Reduction
Stan & Sophie Bell - Mortgage Reduction
Gerrie Brown - Mortgage Reduction

Jan Kehr - Mortgage Reduction
Stuart & Tammy Hyttinen - Mortgage Reduction
Marjean Riisager - Library Fund
Jim & Carol Thiele - Mortgage Reduction

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**Funeral Team for February**

**together we serve**

**Caller:** Alice Gerken
**Kitchen lead:** Sue Wittenberg

**Provide dessert:**
Phyllis Buchner, Kim Dearman, Betty Fagan, Alice Gerken, PJ Green, Carol Halvorson, Sharon Hoover, Audrey Johnson, Jessica Teff, Sue Wittenberg

**Serving & Cleanup:**
Phyllis Buchner, Alice Gerken, Audrey Johnson, Larry Johnson, Mike Pavel, Jan Pearson, Doris Schwingle, John Schwingle

Please call Ann Wuensch at 781-2107 if you are no longer able to serve and want to have your name removed from the list, or if you would like to be added to a list for future months.

Thank you for volunteering for this service to others.
I believe that at every meeting, I have heard several Stephen Ministers state that God is working in their lives through this ministry. They feel they get so much out of their relationships with their care receivers. Wait! Isn’t it supposed to be the other way around? Not really. A relationship is a two-way street.

I would like to share the words to a song by Richard Gillard that speaks to this theme.

**The Servant Song**

*Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.*

*Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey. We are brothers on the road.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.*

*I will hold my hand out to you. Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.*

*I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony; Born of all we’ve known together, of Christ’s love and agony.*

*Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you.*

*Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

For some people, Valentine’s Day is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, the death of a loved one, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, or another life challenge. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus’ love (God’s ultimate Valentine) back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders, Judy Knutson, Mike Pavel, Kristi Josephson, or KC Pavel.
"Sharing the Light and the Love of Our Lord"

BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Bennett Knerzer
2/2 Emily Chitwood
2/3 Sandy Bittner
2/4 Irene Hauser, Avert Eklov, Steve Kemp
2/7 Sharon Hooper, Mike Pavel,
     Signe Hurlbert, Dani Stuhr
2/8 Mark Hellerud, Jr., Mia Harter
2/9 Randy Cross
2/10 Sue Butzler, Carolyn Tudahl, Christian Wilder,
    Megan Bakalars
2/11 Gayle Pierce
2/13 Gerrie Brown, Angie Zietlow, David Pierce
2/14 Gordie Rieber, Tim Schneider, Johnna Mansfield,
    Dan Schneider
2/16 Pam Eilertson, Sue Aiken
2/17 Sandy LeCleir, Rod Blank, Eric Baldukas,
    Trista Szafran, Arianna James, Sawyer Knerzer
2/18 Eileen Goyette, Bob Schneider
2/19 CJ Menagh, Bob Hembd, Jr.,
    Megan Mc Cormick
2/20 Mary Jane Belisle, Jim Stuhr, Brian Liethen,
    Cindy Lefevre, Diane Hanson
2/22 Mary Dangerfield, Candace Ogen,
    Kelly Wheeler
2/23 Judy Hall, Judy Buchan-Collins
2/24 Cheryl Collins, Steve Knudsen, Dan Warner,
    Ben Levan, Violet Bell
2/26 Arvid Nilsestuen, Kyle Joseph,
    Breann Stuhr, William Adamson
2/27 Dave Amundson, Megan Redenbaugh,
    Kayla Korish

ANNIVERSARIES

2/9 Rick and Sue Gates
2/9 Brian and Jodi Stroik
2/12 David and Karen Howe
2/14 Mike and KC Pavel
2/15 Don and Donna Jobe
2/23 Dennis and Luanne Sorenson

Happy Birthday!

"This is the day
    the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24

“The LORD God said,
"It is not good for the man to be alone.
I will make a helper suitable for him."
Genesis 2:18

Altar Flowers

The 2018 flower chart has been posted in the Narthex. If you would like flowers placed at the alter in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up for the appropriate weekend, fill out an order blank and turn it in to the office. The flowers are ordered from Cottage Garden Floral at a charge of $25.00 per bouquet.

If you would rather provide your own flowers, please notify the church office that you will be bringing them in.

New Address? New Email?

Please let us know if you have new contact information so we can keep our information current.

We want to make sure our mail gets to you and the post office will charge us for returned mail.
Every weekend at Olivet we are having a B.Y.O.B. party at our worship services. We encourage you to **Bring Your Own Bible** to worship and Bible studies.

**Worship Service Times:**
- Saturday @ 5:30 pm  
  Blended Worship
- Sunday @ 8:00 am  
  Traditional Worship
- Sunday @ 10:00 am  
  Contemporary Worship
Kid’s Church @ 10:00 am