



2024

Newsletter

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

Box 159, 920 15th Street

Perry, Iowa 50220 515-465-5298

Email: mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.mtolivetofperry.org

Facebook: facebook.com/mtolivetlutheranchurch

Dear beloved Mt. Olivet family,

I can hardly believe we are beginning our third month together here. There has been so much that has happened in such a short period of time. But I want to pause and say a word of thanks to you. One of the things that I am really appreciating about Mt. Olivet is your willingness to try new things. I know some of them are less than ideal, like having Lenten services on Sunday evenings, but your willingness to try them nevertheless is heartening. God seldom calls us to return to old ways of doing things and ways of being because the world around us is ever changing. It is a different experience for most of us to share a pastor (and different for the folks at Immanuel in Ogden as well) and I appreciate the good heartedness you are showing as we live into this change.

This arrangement will also change how we do Holy Week services, but hopefully will not take away from the meaningfulness of them. We will do a Last Supper focused service on Maundy Thursday. There won't be any foot washing, but there will be a meal and of course Holy Communion. We have invited the folks from Immanuel to join us that night, so hopefully this will also give you a chance to get to know some of our partners in ministry. Good Friday we will have a 5:30pm worship service. If that doesn't work for you, plans are underway with the Perry Ministerial Association for a noon community service. Please watch the bulletin for more information on that.

As we continue our journey toward these Holy Days, we do so following in the footsteps of Peter. I see so much of the human story in Peter.... How one minute we can be strong and confident in our faith, willing to take risks and then the next start sinking beneath the weight of our own fear and anxiety, of how we can be so confident that we know who God is and what God is doing and then totally miss the true nature of God's plan. Faith is never a linear journey, but one full of ups and downs, detours, scenic byways, and roadside stops.

This Lenten, I encourage you to think about your faith journey. How did it begin? Who were the people who first told you about Jesus? Where were you when you first experienced the depth of his love and grace? How has your faith led you to new people and places? Who have you passed on the faith to? What are your hopes and dreams for what God might do in your life? In your church? In your community?

For whatever reason, we have been gathered together as the body of Christ that is Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church to make a difference in each other's lives and the lives of those in our community. As we move further into the season of Lent and beyond, let us be looking for and remain open to the new things God may be doing in us.

The journey of faith is a life long road. We are on this section of it together. So what will we come together to do? How will we come together to grow? One thing is certain, we need each other for this journey.

Hope to see you soon!

In Christ,

Pastor Kimberly

Coffee and Conservation with Pastor Kim

You are invited to drop in for a cup of coffee and conversation on Mondays, at 10am. This is an opportunity to get to know Pastor Kim and visit with friends from Mt. Olivet. We will be having this time every other Monday during March (dates are: March 3 and March 17. Coffee and treats will be provided.

NOTICE: April 7th we will start worship at 8:45. There will be time to visit before worship and after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Evening Dinner Church We have discontinued this due to lack of attendance

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday - Last Supper Service at 6pm at Mt. Olivet.
(A meal will be provided)
Good Friday - Service at Mt. Olivet at 5:30pm
Easter Sunday - Mt. Olivet at 9am.



Thank you to Liz Eastman, Marvin, Claire Drizness and Brenda Golay for decorating the Fellowship Hall.

Our **Tuesday Potato Bar and Lenten Worship** on February 26 was well attended with 38 people. Thank you to the Mt. Olivet members who helped serve the luncheon.

The 2024 Sunday school for March are on the 3 and the 17. Classes be held for 2 year olds through 6th grade. A Easter Egg Hunt is planned for March 17 after worship.



Time for Healing: Healing Service will be at the start of each quarter and that would be in April. The worship service will include a time for healing where you are invited to come forward and be anointed and prayers will be offered for you. The church embraces the ministry of healing as a important way of bringing the loving care of God to people in their need.



Women of the Word - be meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 pm at church to discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. Books will be available to share, and it is also in both ebook and audio formats.

Prayer List

Prayers are powerful and as a church we want to be sure that whenever anyone in our family is hurting we are lifting them up in prayer. So please feel free to contact any of our church council members with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.



Our Sunday morning Lenten Journey will look a little different this year. Instead of the assigned texts, we will be taking a journey together. Our journey will take us in the footsteps of Jesus' much loved but very human disciple, Peter. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him unconditional love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes. You won't want to miss a week! We start Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14th) and then continue the journey every Sunday through Easter. Hope you can join us.



Stuff the Altar: During February and March, we are going to "stuff the altar" once again on behalf of the Perry Food Pantry. We will be collecting food and hygiene items for the pantry. Drop your donations off in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall. The kids will bring them forward on Sundays so that we can try to fill the altar up with tangible signs of love for our neighbor. Here are some suggestions: canned fruit, peanut butter, toiletries, raviolis, easy to heat meals/single serve meals, juice, cereal, crackers

Quarter Tube: Bring your quarters in to fill the Quarter Tube to benefit the Perry Ministerial group.



Worship Leaders & Greeters - March

March 3: Hardys

March 10: Sandy Seeman and Marlene Johnson

March 17: Jessica Renken and Sally Radke

March 24: Gregorys

March 31: Reuters



Fellowship for March

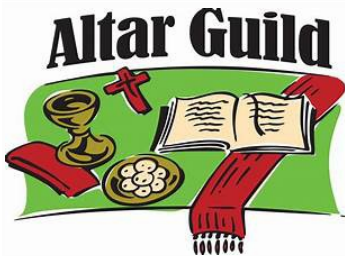
March 3:

March 10:

March 17:

March 24:

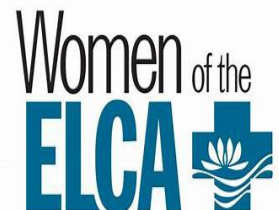
March 31: Samuelsons



Altar Guild

Altar Guild: All those interested in helping out with the Altar Guild, please talk with Darlene Lyons to learn about procedures and showing you where the documentation is for all procedures and the calendar for parament colors.

36th Annual Convention and Gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA will be June 14th and 15th at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clinton, Iowa. For more information or registration materials, please see the community event bulletin board.



The Cluster 1 Spring WELCA Gathering will be April 6, 2024 at Immanuel Lutheran in Ogden. Please let pastor know if you would like more information



April 7th after worship will be our spring clean up day inside and outside the church. Come dressed to help clean up the yard and or dust and clean areas inside the church.

Church Council Meeting February 22, 2024

All members were present and Pastor Kim and Theresa were there too.

The minutes and the treasurer's reports were approved.

Worship and Fine Arts: Lenten Services planned for Sunday evening and Tuesday noon service with Potato Bar luncheon.

Faith Formation: Vacation Bible School was the topic. Will other churches help out or should Mt. Olivet offer VBS and open it to the public? Any groups that would do that would need to be reserved in advance. Could children help out in the community garden?

Property and Long-Range Planning: Researching Key Code Locks, exterior lighting or outside cameras. With warmer weather bell tower will be tuck pointed and restored. April 7th after worship will be Spring clean up day inside and outside the church. Lawnmower will be serviced and a sign up sheet for starting mowing in April will be in the foyer.

Social Concerns and Fellowship: Easter Egg Hunt will be after worship on March 17.

Pastor gave her monthly report

Committee members should look to add five other folks to help them with their projects

Outreach Idea: Looking at a Healing Service for the staff at the schools after Spring Break. Get the Ministerial churches to help out.

Ideas to reach members if church is canceled: email, phone, Facebook, radio and TV. Will look at other options.

April 7th we will start worship at 8:45 will regular Fellowship time before and after service.

Bock Foundation applications are due March 1. Several members are completing the application

Motion passed to upgrade copier to a color copier.

Inform members about what is involved in Altar Guild.

Have some short term projects that might get more members involved.

Next meeting March 19 at 5:30pm.



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church 2024 Church Council

Officers: President: Roger Niemeyer Vice-president: Rusty Burgett
Secretary: Linda Huntington

Committee Assignments

Worship and Fine Arts

Linda Huntington, 515-669-9799, linda.huntington@g.perry.k12.ia.us
Roger Niemeyer, 515-729-7635, rogerniemeyer9@gmail.com

Property and Long-Range Planning

Carol VanKirk, 515-490-4655, carolvk@outlook.com
Nick Gregory, 515-570-7504, Nick_gregory83@hotmail.com

Social Concerns – Fellowship and Care

Martha Stetzel, 515-669-0784, marthasetzel@gmail.com
Darlene Lyons, 717-357-1706, dlyons1941@gmail.com
Sleep Space Darlene Lyons

Faith Formation

Craig Lamm, 515-291-6020, lamm.craig@gmail.com
Rusty Burgett, 515-708-8850, rustyburgett@gmail.com

Pastor Kimberly Belken, email: kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com

Cell phone: 402-312-4822, address Address: 3309 McKinley St. #307, Perry, IA 50220

Office hours: Monday and Thursday and Wednesday by appointment

Theresa Burns, church secretary: 515-975-6102 and email:
theresadburns@gmail.com

