

Newsletter

2024

**Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church**

Box 159, 920 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Perry, Iowa 50220 515-465-5298

Email: [mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.mtolivetofperry.org](http://www.mtolivetofperry.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/mtolivetlutheranchurch](https://facebook.com/mtolivetlutheranchurch)

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***From Pastor Kimberly***

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have been reflecting lately on how much change we have experienced in our community and congregation this past year. Some of the congregational change was to be expected with a new pastor coming in and a new partnership with Immanuel in Ogden. But other changes may have caught you by surprise. The changes in our community as a result of the school tragedy and then the Tyson plant leaving have been felt by all. Add to that having a new pastor with different ideas and ways of doing ministry and it comes up to just a lot of adjustments that we have had to make. I wish making adjustments was easy, but change, even change for the better, new comes without challenges.

Beyond just recognizing this, I want to commend you for the ways you have remained faithful through it all. In some ways we are finding a new normal and in other ways we are still working toward that normalcy. Your willingness to adapt, even when you didn't want to or felt like you shouldn't have to, have been encouraging and inspiring to me. I thank you for that.

Now that I have been here for several months, we are at a point, I think, where we can begin to ask the questions of what does it mean for us as a congregation to not only have to adapt to forced changes, but to dream about what we would like for the future. What is our mission and purpose? What are our hopes and dreams for Mt. Olivet? Where do we sense the Holy Spirit at work? How can we align ourselves with the work that God has for us to do in Perry?

These are big questions. And they are not easy ones because answering them may bring more changes that we would like to avoid. To try to get a better sense of how to answer them, I have been going back and reading some of the history and past meeting minutes of the congregation. I wanted to get a sense of where you have been so we could know where we might go. What I have seen is that you are a congregation that was formed with a heart for sharing the gospel. A mission to the children and youth of this church has always been a priority. Building strong relationships is a core value. And through your sleep space and cup of kindness ministries, your support of the food pantry, and your continued support of students through things like the school supplies drive and other initiatives aimed at supporting our schools, I see that caring for others is central to who you are. These things in your history help me to better understand who you are and where God might be calling us. They will help me and your council as we dream about our future together.

But I have also noticed in your history a pattern of needing volunteers and leaders to fulfill the mission and ministry of the congregation. It appears that this has been a struggle that has led to leaders burning out or feeling unappreciated. This is not a pattern that is good for us and one that only by working together can be changed. I therefore want to encourage you to do two things: when you see people doing the hard work of ministry, one say thank you and two ask how you can help. Not everyone can take on the big responsibilities of some of our ministry needs, but everyone can offer words of encouragement and thanks. Sending a cards, making phone calls, and reaching out to others to offer friendship or support (especially in the hard times!) are something that will build us up and make us stronger as a community. And those things go a long way toward building the kind of future we want for our church—a future where we build on those strengths of the past to face the changes, challenges, and joys that the future brings to us.

Volunteering for ongoing needs like yardwork, fellowship time, altar guild, loving our neighbors, or other activities can help the work of this church get done in a way that won't burn people out or bring resentment. Together we can have the kind of future we want for a congregation that I know each of you deeply love.

I thank you again for calling me as your pastor and allowing me to accompany you through the journey that this congregation and the larger Perry community are on. Because we don't know what the future holds, it can be tempting to cling to the past, even when its patterns don't serve us well. But we are loved by a God who ventures ahead of us into our future and rejoices in every step that we take towards it. It is a future that will build on the values and strengths and priorities that we have held dear throughout the years and it is, according to the prophet Jeremiah "a future with hope." I look forward to continuing our journey together. You have done good and hard work over the years, and especially this year. I am confident that together we can continue that.

With love in Christ, Pastor Kimberly

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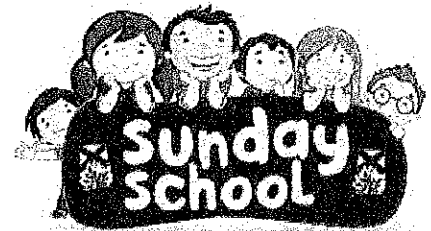


### **Mt. Olivet Rally Day is September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Kids in grades Pre K through 6th grade will enjoy fun activities from 9:45 until 10:15 AM.

All elementary age Sunday School kids will be receiving a Bible on Rally Sunday, Sept. 15 during worship.

**The 2025 Sunday school** will start on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Classes be held for 2 year olds through 6th grade.

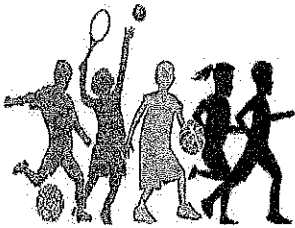


**New Phone system** We have a New Phone System that allows you to call the church phone number (515) 465-5298 and reach Pastor by pressing one. This will send all calls to her cell phone so you can get ahold of her without having to make a long distance call. Thank you Craig Lamm for setting up this new system.

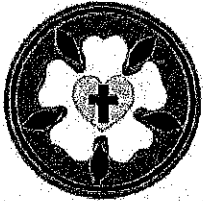
**Prayer Partners for our college students:** We are in need of a few volunteers to be prayer partners for our college students. Prayer partners pray for our college aged young people and keep in touch with one specific student. Prayer partners are asked to send a note to your student at least once a semester. Please let Pastor Kimberly know if you would be willing to serve as a prayer partner.



**Women of the Word** will be meeting on Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in the church fellowship hall to discuss *Prayers for Sale* by Sandra Dallas. Books are available to share and the audio version is on the Hoopla and Libby apps. All women are welcome to join us!



**Youth Activities:** Pastor Kimberly loves to support our children and youth by attending games and activities when possible. If you would help her better be able to do this by giving her a copy of your child's team's schedule or letting her know when something special like a concert is coming up, she will try to get to some of their events. From preschool programs to high school games, she would love to support our congregation's youth and families.



**REFORMATION  
-Sunday-**

**Reformation Party :** Put Sunday, October 27 on your calendar to celebrate Reformation Day. More information coming closer to that time. It will be at LaPoste with a potluck, music and dancing. Invite your friends to the party.

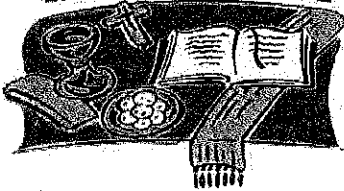


**Please note, Pastor tries very hard to take a Sabbath on Fridays.** If you call or text her, please do not expect a response that day unless it is an emergency. Emergencies are generally things like hospitalizations, deaths, or issues with the church building. Questions or concerns pertaining to anything else will not be dealt with until she returns to the office on either Saturday or Monday. Please help her with this boundary. She wants to serve Mt. Olivet for a long time, but needs a regular day off from church and community needs in order to be able to do that.

**Mt. Olivet office hours for Pastor Kimberly:** She will be at Mt. Olivet on Mondays and Wednesdays and available on Thursdays by appointment. She will be out of the office on Tuesday, Sept 17 and Monday, Sept. 23 for synod meetings.



**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.

**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.



## **Summary of Church Council meeting August 19**

Treasurer's Report: \$1100 from closed Luther League account went to Property. \$2200 from Pastor Ortiz's church went to Cup of Kindness.

Faith Formation: Rally Sunday is September 15. Kids in grades Pre K through 6th grade will enjoy fun activities from 9:45 until 10:15 AM. Sunday School will be first and third Sundays. Sunday school supplies and bibles are being ordered. It was suggested to have Randy McCauley come to speak to the adults. This would be on a different Sunday from Rally Day.

Worship and Fine Arts: Looking for someone to update the picture wall.

Social Concerns: Backpack and school supply project and blessings went well. Reformation Sunday is October 27. Looking to use the lower level of the LaPoste for a congregational get together that evening. There will be a potluck (German dishes hopefully), music and polka dancing. Pastor will have postcards that members can use to invite non-members.

Jenna Nelson requested Mt. Olivet to help her with funds when she goes to Wartburg this fall. Council voted to send her \$750 which Wartburg will match.

Property and Long Range Planning: . Replacing the front door has a quote from Pella for \$10,000. This is for door only and does not include installation or security system. Plan to try to get a quote from Scot Stokely.

Pastor's Report: Conformation: Planning meeting this Tuesday

Looking at members to connect to college student: Prayer partners, send care packages, Starbuck gift cards, Newsletter. Need their college addresses.

Looking at the possibility of Bible study off premises

World Communion and or Pet Blessing with St .Martin's - details to be determined  
Need someone to take care of Fellowship inventory.

Putting together a list of possible council members for 2025.

Joint council meeting will be moved to Oct as the current day is Homecoming for Perry. Date is Oct. 16 at 6pm at Immanuel in Ogden.

GOD IS CALLING

GOD IS ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING.  
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?

The Office of the Bishop and Southeastern Iowa Synod Council are listening and perceiving that God is calling us to proclaim, accompany, equip, and celebrate all that God is doing in the Southeastern Iowa Synod through our congregations and ministries, and rostered ministers by:

#### **Engaging the larger church**

- Synod assemblies and ELCA churchwide assemblies
- Engaging with ELCA social statements
- Civic engagement, interfaith and ecumenical groups

#### **Encouraging future leaders**

- Sharing call stories, encouraging new leaders
- Lay leadership
- Synod authorized ministers (SAMs)

#### **Offering gratitude**

- Worship, fellowship, and gratitude around the synod
- Mission support and special giving
- Retired servants luncheons

#### **Loving our neighbors**

- Advocacy
- Anti-hunger efforts
- Disaster response
- Anti-racism training and events

#### **Supporting pastors, deacons, and SAMs**

- Fall Gathering
- First Call Theological Education
- Lent gatherings and retired servant gatherings

#### **Partnering with congregations**

- Area ministry strategy meetings
- Administrative workshops
- Pulpit supply and interim networks
- Synod-wide worship
- Congregational visits

## **2024 - 2025**

### **Highlighted Synod Events**

**All are welcome!**

**Visit the synod website for a full listing of synod events.**

New events are added all the time. You can also get the news and learn more about synod ministries.

**[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)**

#### **Evenings of Gratitude**

Join Bishop Current for a light dinner and an evening of fellowship, conversation, and gratitude for the ministry we share in our synod.

- Nov. 3 - Peace, Pella
- Nov. 10 - Christ the King, Iowa City
- Nov. 17- Trinity, Pleasant Valley
- Nov. 24 - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Des Moines

#### **Synod-wide Worship**

These are pre-recorded opportunities for congregations to worship together and reflect on a shared theme across the territory of the synod.

- Sept. 29 - sermon only
- Oct. 6 - Israel-Gaza Service of Remembrance
- December 29
- April 27, 2025
- May 18, 2025 - sermon only



Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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## September 2024 – Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song “If I Could Dream” by Elvis Presley. She wondered, “What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?”

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients’ dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact [philanthropy@LSIowa.org](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org).

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

P. O. Box 159

920 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Perry, Iowa 50220-0159

Address Service Requested



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