NOV. AND DEC. NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Letter

It hardly seems possible that we are nearing the end of the church year, the season of Advent, and Christmas. But that time is upon us. And so are the many things that crowd our calendars. From sports to church events to family gatherings there are so many good options of ways to spend our precious free time and prepare more for the season. In our newsletter, you will find many church events over the next six weeks or so. I hope you will join us as you are able. We have such a wonderful church family that it is always a joy to get to spend time together. Plus participating in the life of the church can also help us stay connected deeply to God and God's tremendous love for us.

This year Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 29. We will be using materials for worship developed by a group of artist and clergywomen from several different denominations to guide our worship life. They have produced devotional books that will be available for pick up in the fellowship hall starting this week. The devotionals compliment the weekly themes and are full of art, music, and reflections on Scripture. If you are a devotional type person or you are looking with something to share with family this season, please help yourself to one of the books. The theme for Advent this year is Until the Dawn: Actions for Advent. I could explain it myself, but I think the introduction from the creators of it is much better, so let me share that with you instead. They write:

Every Advent, we light candles and speak of hope. We wait for the good news that God is born. We prepare with pageants and presents. Yet, in the midst of our busy waiting, we know all too well that the world is not as it should be. Wars rage on, violence persists, new tragedies unfold. God's promises are real, and God's promised day has not yet come. This tension keeps us yearning–for a new day, a new way, a world made new.

This series focuses on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. Night is a time when the way forward may seem unclear, when our senses are heightened and fear may creep in. And the darkness also brings gifts–rest, regeneration, dreams, intimacy with God. In our sacred stories, angels often arrive in the night, calling for courageous action and singing good news. In the night, Mary's labor pains crescendo and Christ is born. In the night, shepherds and Magi follow the stars to get closer to God. And so, in the metaphorical night, we will carry on with the work that is ours to do.
Just as surely as the sun rises, God's steadfast love and mercy are made new every morning. As we move toward the horizon, we will cry out, start somewhere, speak up, take courage, build up, and choose joy. These actions will help us resist despair and put our prayers in motion. Until the day when God's love reigns and all the earth echoes shalom, let us keep moving, singing, resisting, and rejoicing–trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent.

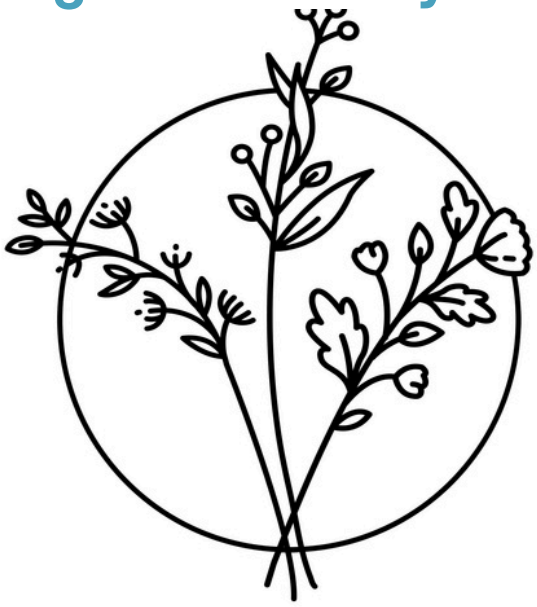
We will carry this theme through the Christmas season with special Christmas Eve worship at 5:30pm on Dec. 24 and a special Breakfast Church service at 8:45am on Sunday, Dec. 27. I hope you can join us for one or both of these services.
I wish you a blessed remainder of the year and hope that your heart may be lifted and filled with love through the many things that fill your calendar this season. May you know hope and most of all may you always know the steadfast love of God that carries you at all times.

In Christ,
Pastor Kimberly





Together For Joy



Sing to God a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

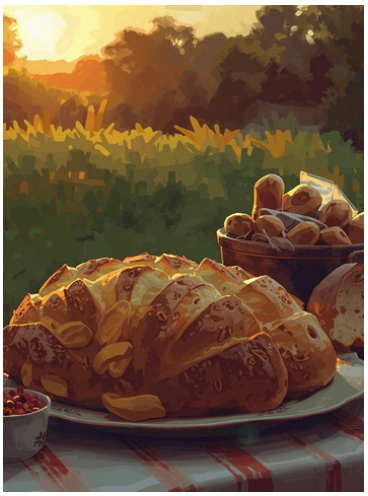
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy.

+ Psalm 98

Our stewardship theme this year is Together for Joy and we are celebrating all things Mt. Olivet. It has been a great year of coming together as a community for fellowship and serving others in Jesus' name. We will have a special stewardship themed worship on Sunday, Nov. 15 and reflect on all that God is doing here at Mt. Olivet. The congregational council would also like to invite you to consider increasing your financial support to help us close the gap between what we have received in giving this year and what we have budgeted. As of the end of October, we are about $8,000 behind budget.

Bread Breakers

Bread Breakers continues to meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at noon for fellowship and lunch. We will meet Wednesday, Nov. 18 for a baked potato bar and Wednesday, Dec. 16 for a holiday meal. We will also have a Christmas carol sing along following lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 16. If you would like to help with the meals, there is a sign-up sheet under the mailboxes.



Christ the King Sunday: Youth Lead Worship

As part of their learning in confirmation, our youth will be putting together a special worship service for Christ the King Sunday on Nov. 22. All Sunday School, high school, and confirmation students are invited to help lead worship that morning. Come join us for worship and help support our youth!

Congregational Meeting

We will be having a special congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 22. The business of this meeting will be to approve modifications to our shared ministry agreement with Immanuel in Ogden. We are looking to change to a 50/50 split of pastor's time and salary expenses. Council feels this will be more sustainable going forward with our budget. Please plan to join us that morning for this discussion. We will also elect three new council members at this special meeting.

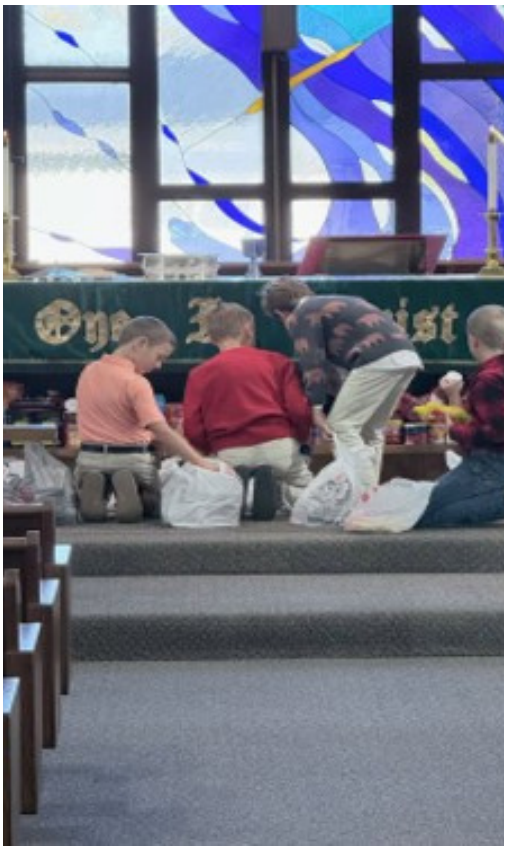
Yard Mowing Thank You



Thank you to Darek VanKirk, Doug Stetzel, Tyler Huntington, Randy Reuter, Mike Ramsey, Ned Menke, Pierce Menke, and Rusty Burgett who helped with the yard mowing this summer and so late into the fall. We appreciate your willingness to share your time and help keep the exterior of Mt. Olivet looking great.

November Intergenerational Service Project- Nov. 29

Join us during fellowship on Sunday, Nov. 29 to put together holiday treat bags to be given out for kids whose families use the Perry Emergency Food Pantry.



30 Days of Thanks

Help us stuff the altar for 30 Days of Thanks. We are collecting items for the Perry Emergency Food Pantry. While all donations are welcome, the pantry is in particular need of what they call miscellaneous items which are things that help make a meal taste better or help round out a meal. Think things like: jelly, ketchup, mustard, bbq sauce, side dish items (like pasta salad, potato or rice dishes), chil/potato/other hearty soups, pickles, salt and pepper, cake mixes, frosting, crackers, coffee, tea, drink mixes, jello, sugar, pudding, oatmeal, hamburger/tuna/chicken helpers, etc. Also needed are laundry soap, paper towels, women's deodorant, and diapers (especially sizes 5,6,7).

Star Words



Do you still have your star word that you received at the beginning of January to guide you through the year? If you do, here are some reflection prompts for this fall as you continue on your journey.

·How has your star word inspired thankfulness in you this year?
·Reflect on your star word journey this year– where has it taken you? What have you learned?

Carols and Cold Ones

Love singing Christmas carols and hanging out with your friends from Mt. Olivet? Join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4pm at Darek and Carol VanKirk's home in Perry (1517 18th St) for Carols and Cold Ones. Bring an appetizer to share and a cold one to enjoy.

Advent and Christmas Decorating: Sunday, Nov. 22

We will be decorating for the Advent and Christmas season following worship on Sunday, Nov. 22. Please stick around to help out and make our space ready for the holidays.

Jordan Project Update

In August, Mt. Olivet was selected to participate in the Jordan Project, a program for churches in small towns and rural communities that are led by a woman pastor. As part of this project, we will be receiving a grant to do something for our community as well as spending time working with a coach from Grandview on vision, mission, and serving our community. A small team from Mt. Olivet (Jolene Niemeyer, Gene Grell, Rusty Burgett, Jessica Renken, and Teresa Painter) have been meeting monthly for this. In November, we will meet with three community leaders to learn more about urgent needs in our community and school that we might want to look at addressing with some of our grant funding. We will meet on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 6pm. Please keep this project in your prayers and watch for updates in the newsletter as well.

Community Thanksgiving Service- Nov. 22 at 4pm

The Perry Ministerial Association invites you to a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22 at 4pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Come worship with your friends from other Perry churches and give thanks to God for God's abundant blessings. A special offering will be taken to support the Perry Ministerial Association's Good Samaritan Fund which helps community members in need primarily with payments toward rent or utilities.



Blue Christmas Service: Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6pm

The Perry Ministerial invites you to a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 20 at 6pm at Mt. Olivet that is designed for those who need something different from the hustle, bustle, and joy of the holiday season. Please talk to Pastor Kimberly if you would like to know more.





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION SERVICE

DEC. 24 AT 5:30PM

Breakfast Church: Sunday, Dec. 27

Sunday, Dec. 27 we will have an informal worship service in the fellowship hall and enjoy breakfast together! Sign-up sheets to bring food will be sent around in December. We hope you can join us as we continue our Christmas celebrations at 8:45am that morning and make new fun memories together.

Women of the Word

Women of the Word will meet Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7pm to discussion Sarah's Song by Karen Kingsbury. It is a short holiday book that will be easy to read and fun to discuss.All women of the congregation are invited to come and bring a friend, even if you haven't read the book. The fellowship time is fantastic!

Worship Leaders

Nov. 15: Jessica Renken and Torey Olsen
Nov. 22: Lamm family
Nov. 29: Norman family
Dec. 6: Hardy family
Dec. 13: Sandy Seeman and Marlene Johnson
Dec. 20: Gregory family
Dec. 24: Reuter family
Dec. 27: Stetzel family

Altar Guild

Nov. 15: Marlene Johnson
Nov. 22: Teresa Painter
Nov. 29:
Dec. 6: Teresa Painter
Dec. 13: Marlene Johnson
Dec. 20:
Dec. 24: Becky Reuter
Dec. 27: No communion: Breakfast Church

Fellowship Hosts

Nov. 15: Menke Family
Nov. 22: Dardanes family
Nov. 29: Hoger family
Dec. 6: Wanita Ramsey, Dixie Slight, and Deb Rose
Dec. 13: Nelson family
Dec. 20: Teresa Painter
Dec. 27: Breakfast Church

Youth Group

Mt. Olivet Lutheran and First Christian Church are coming together to for a youth group for middle school and high school students. Our first meeting was Sunday, Nov. 8th and our Christmas party will be on Sunday, Dec. 6. Youth group will meet from 5-7pm at Mt. Olivet and dinner will be served. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend.

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS











EACH MONTH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH HELP LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN A FELLOWSHIP HOUR SERVICE PROJECT.

IN SEPTEMBER, WE TURNED OLD T-SHIRTS INTO REUSABLE BAGS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO AREA FOOD PANTRIES BY THE FOOD BANK OF IOWA.

IN OCTOBER, WE MADE BACKPACK SACK MOTIVATIONAL CARDS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE BACKPACKS OF FOOD EACH WEEKEND. THESE CARDS OFFER WORDS TO UPLIFT THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM KNOW THEY MATTER! THE FOOD BANK OF IOWA DISTRIBUTES 4,100 OF THESE CARDS EACH WITH THEIR FOOD.

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes, that's the book for me



SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH RECEIVED NEW BIBLES IN WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.









Reformation Potluck at LaPoste

We gathered on Sunday, November 1st for our annual Reformation potluck at LaPoste. Thank you to Kendra Norman for organizing the event and to everyone who came for food and fellowship. A great time was had by all.

