

June 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Keeping The “Main Thing” The Main Thing

I sit here and write today’s devotion the day after the tragic school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX.

My heart aches. I am filled with unspeakable anger that this has happened again. Our fractured world is too much to bear some days.

And yet, we need to be able to process these unspeakable events with loved ones, friends, and fellow church members. Healthy venting and honest, emotional conversation is a cathartic and helpful thing to do in times like this. More than anything we know we can and should pray for all those whose lives have been wrecked by the evil in this world.

But we also need to guard ourselves each day too. There is a type of dialogue that does not bring healing, but begets toxic cynicism. There is a dark place that these polarizing conversations can sometimes ebb and flow into that we need to be sensitive to.

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 6:20-21, “Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.”

The ESV translation, instead of translating it “godless chatter” calls it “irreverent babble”. There is a lot of unnecessary “godless and irreverent” talk in our culture today. It’s the kind of communication that is laced with an “us versus them” mentality and it often appeals to our deepest fears. We need to guard ourselves from this type of divisive and ungodly type of talk. Jesus called to the mat the Pharisees of his day for projecting one thing when inwardly they were selfish, prideful, and hypocrites behind all of the smoke screen of the veneer of their empty religiosity.

It is imperative that we continue to love our neighbor, to pray for our enemies, and to continually be rooted in God’s unshakable word. Let us continue to keep our eyes on Jesus who is our only hope.

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A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

Oh, and one more thing. Take time to listen to the hearts, the hurts and fears of those around you. Withhold judgment and listen to their hearts. You will learn a lot about your neighbor and down the road you may find that they will trust you enough to listen to your story too. In time they will hear and see the gospel through your sharing of what Christ has done in your life. The Spirit can and will speak through you in your relationships as you listen first and speak second.

Let's keep the main thing, the main thing...with our eyes on Jesus until we see him face to face.

And let's keep praying for our broken world.



Living-Donor Kidney Donation

As many of you know, we have a church member who is in need of a kidney transplant. If you are interested in becoming a living kidney donor, here is how you can start the process: The first step in the donation process is for you to complete the online health history questionnaire. Before you begin, please obtain your accurate weight and height. You will need this information to proceed.

Enter utswlivingdonor.org into your internet browser navigation bar on your laptop or desktop computer. If you have questions, you can contact our living donor team at 214-645-1919 or utswlivingdonor@utsouthwestern.edu. UT Southwestern is committed to looking after your health and safety throughout the donation process.

The family of Myrtle Evans would like to thank everyone for the heartfelt prayers and beautiful cards following her going home to the Lord. We appreciate all the support our brothers and sisters at Tree of Life, and the outpouring of love show to us and our families. On behalf of Christian Care we would also like to thank you for all the flowers, visits, and love you showed to Myrtle, other residents and staff. On behalf of our family we would like to extend an invitation to all those who knew Myrtle to a small family gathering and meal on Saturday, June 18th at 11am.

The Livingston & Evans family



Worship & Bible Study Opportunities at TOL

Please join us for worship – Sundays at 10:30 am in person and on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeLCMS/>

The Adult Bible Class

Sundays at 9 am in person in E 7/8 and via Zoom.
The book of Ephesians

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.

The New Testament book of Romans

Please contact the office for the Zoom link.

Children's Sunday School

Elementary students meet at 9 am in E3.
Youth meet at 9 am in E5

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to this potluck style breakfast with fellowship and Bible study in the Narthex on the second Saturday of each month.
Please contact Bob Green for more information

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Event TBD, Contact Megan Kortze for more information.

Offerings and Attendance for May

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
5/1/22	NA	58	\$5,590	\$50	\$559
5/8/22	NA	70	\$6,990	\$400	\$699
5/15/22	NA	60	\$4,026	\$200	\$403
5/22/22	NA	54	\$4,586	\$1,400	\$459
5/29/22	NA	44	\$1,045	\$0	\$104
Total for May			\$22,237*	\$2,050	\$2,224

*Planned for in May—\$21,942

Offerings and Attendance for April

DATE	7:45	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
4/3/22	NA	67	\$5,660	\$550	\$566
4/10/22	NA	88	\$6,900	\$500	\$690
4/17/22	50	98	\$5,322	\$700	\$532
4/24/22	NA	69	\$5,301	\$100	\$530
Total for April			\$23,183*	\$1,850	\$2,318

*Planned for in April—\$21,942

General Offering for 2022	Planned Offering for 2022
\$110,258	\$109,710



Saturday, July 2, 2022

5:00 – 8:00 pm

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**Hotdogs, snow cones, popcorn,
bounce house, games, music**

*To help with this event,
please speak to Noreene Hurst.*



Retirement
Celebration

for

Rev. Melvin Symmank

Pastor Melvin Symmank, formerly of Crown of Life - Rowlett, will be celebrating his retirement on Sunday, June 12th at Zion Lutheran - Dallas. Worship is at 9:30 am and a reception with light refreshments will follow from 11 am - 2 pm in Trinity Hall. Pastor Symmank retired last year, but the celebration was delayed until now. Zion Lutheran is located at 6121 E Lovers Ln, Dallas, TX 75214.



Join us for a military send off for KyRon James, grandson of Noreene Hurst. KyRon is joining the Army and will be leaving for Ft. Jackson - South Carolina in early July. We will honor him with a reception after worship on June 26th.

Adopt-a-Student Seminarian

Greetings to everyone at Tree of Life Lutheran Church,

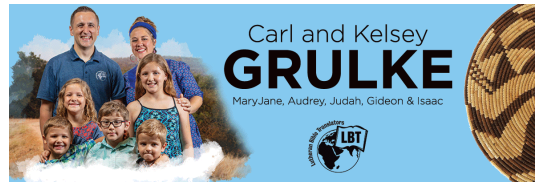
He is risen! May you rejoice in our Savior's empty tomb and the promise He brings to all sinners this Easter season.

Our Spring Semester is on its final leg here at the seminary. Lots of final projects, papers, exams, and sermons are coming due. For our first preaching class, our final project will be delivering one of the sermons we wrote this semester to the class. I am looking forward to that first delivery. We had a few half-semester classes, so I have two more new classes since the last time I wrote. One is studying the Gospel of Matthew, and the other is an in-depth study of the Small and Large Catechism. Both half-semester classes are packed with great material and pastoral formation.

In our personal lives, Lizzy and I will be moving out of our apartment in Manchester this summer and moving into married housing on the seminary's campus. We are looking forward to being closer to friends, other married students, and the ability to participate in more of the on-campus events!

We wish to thank you once again for your continued support of us, both through financial means and through prayer.

Peace in Christ, our Risen Lord,
Alex & Lizzy Kauffman



May was packed with many good things-Family things, Bible translation things, community events, and more. As we look back on the month, we are finding so many things to be thankful for. God truly provides for all of our needs. What a privilege to witness God's provision and to look for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus by watching for opportunities to provide for others as well.

Carl, MaryJane, and Isaac all contracted African Tick Bite Fever in April. They all recovered in the beginning of May. We are thankful that the doctor recognized the illness early and that it was treatable with antibiotics.

Kelsey finished her graduate class- Directed Practicum in World Arts. This class gave her the opportunity to interact with local craftspeople and practice artistic, cultural, and language skills. Only two more classes left now until she graduates with an MA degree!

Term 2 began at the kids' school. With it came the return of Friday assemblies! Each Friday, the school gathers for songs, announcements, and celebrating special achievements. One class presents something special as well. These assemblies had been on hiatus due to COVID, but they have now returned.



The Shekgalagari Advisory Committee met for their quarterly meeting. Currently, the translation is in its final proofread, so they are busy planning a launch. We are experiencing some delays due to technology and global supply chain issues. Join us in praying for the successful launch of the Shekgalagari New Testament!

Kelsey spent time in May visiting her sister in Washington, D.C. Her brother also joined in the fun! We feel so fortunate that Kelsey had this time to get away and come back renewed and reinvigorated in her work of family life and Scripture Engagement.

Keep us in your prayers:

- For patience, wisdom, and discernment as we continue in our translation work and look toward new projects.
- For energy and passion for the Shekgalagari advisory committee and community as they plan the launch of the New Testament
- For patience and perseverance as the Wayeyi team continues their translation work
- For Judah, Audrey, and MaryJane's mid-year school exams
- For a vehicle to borrow when we are back in the US at the end of the year.
- That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

SCRIPTURE CORNER

John 15:9

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you.

Shekgalagari:

Heri jhwaagka Tate e ntyhatya, le nna ke le ratyago. Gyaanong rula mo loratyong lwagka. – Johane 15:9

Shiyeyi:

Ngahoshi Tate a ma ndi sunu, indji yeme nda ni sunu. Ni sikame ngaho moku rusuno rwanga.—Johani 15:9

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The loving family of Tree of Life, rooted
in God's Word, exists to share the joy,
love, and peace of Jesus Christ with you!



Rainforest Explorers
Jesus Leads the Way
+

Join us for Vacation Bible School
June 27—July 1
6:00—6:30 pm—Light supper
6:30—8:30—VBS activities
Register at: www.treeoflifelcms.org
Invite your family and friends! Flyers available at church.
Workdays after church June 5 and set-up on June 26 at 3:30 pm.
Please plan to help on these days if you are able.