

August 2022



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## “Gifted for Good”

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” -Ephesians 2:8-10*

You are one gifted person! You can take this statement to the bank and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Now, don't get me wrong....there are days where I feel anything but gifted. Life can really humble us at times. But, regardless of what happens in your life or in the world today, I know this for a fact....you are gifted!

How do I know? Well let's look at a couple places in scripture.

*“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” -Galatians 3:27*

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” -1 Peter 2:9-10*

*“But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.” -Ephesians 4:7*

Baptized child of God, when you were washed clean through the waters of baptism, Jesus Christ took up permanent residence in you and He also blessed you with unique gifts and abilities that He bestowed on you with His grace. You were gifted in your baptism and those gifts were given to you to be given away!

For the month of August we will be going through a series that is about this very thing....“Gifted for Good”! At the end of this series which concludes on Sunday, August 14th we will be asking each of you as members of Tree of Life to set aside 20 minutes to take an online survey that will help us to dive deeper into what our unique God-given gifts are. Thanks to our Board of Stewardship we have come across this great resource from one of our awesome Lutheran organizations, Lutheran Hour Ministries. Please find and read the article in this month's Breeze that is about the Every Gifts Inventory and how it is going to help the Tree of Life family to better prayerfully

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You can reach Pastor Couser at 214-908-0242 or mark.couser@gmail.com

## A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

consider how we can better love our community as well as one another! Like a Lutheran pastor friend of mine Rev. Greg Finke says, it's a good question to ask ourselves wherever we go, "What good can we do around here?"

Lord, open our eyes to see our God-given gifts and to connect them with the needs of those whom you love around us. Lord, help us to be your hands and feet to our neighbors! Amen.

PS - You also don't want to miss our Sunday sermon series from July 31st to August 14th entitled "Gifted for Good". I can't wait to see the fruit and blessing that God is going to bring about in us as we learn more about the amazing ways He has gifted us as His children here at Tree of Life! God is on the move!



Community Block Party - I would like to thank one and all for the outstanding help and turn-out for such a fantastic, successful event: the community block party!

Thanks to Triton (Comfort Dog) and Messiah Lutheran Church, Garland Fire Dept. and the musical entertainers - who were wonderful (thank you Jeff and Sonia Durkin).

Plans are being made to have another Block Party in 2023!

To God be the glory! WE did this! WE are a unit - one! WE are his instruments/messengers! Thank you all!!! God Bless!  
Noreene

*Editor's note: Special thanks to Noreene Hurst for her leadership for the event!*

## Board of Youth



Our Youth will be visiting the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell, TX on **Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am. If carpooling, we will meet at church at 9:15. After the museum we will have lunch at Ham Orchards. **All are welcome to attend.** Museum general admission is free, but please be prepared to pay for your own lunch. Contact Amanda Maddox if you would like to carpool.

Tree of Life Youth are selling the few Tree of Life purple shirts that are left for \$15 each. The funds will go to the National Youth Gathering in 2025 in New Orleans. Sizing is a little hard to judge because of the manufacturer, so we suggest you try it on before you purchase.

Please find Amanda Maddox on Sunday to purchase.

Size	Qty on hand
S	4
M	1
L	1
XL	3
3XL	4



Thanks to everyone that provided funds over the past 3 years so that Pastor, Megan, Barb, Breyden, Annabelle, Aiden, and Isaac could go to the National Youth Gathering. They had a great time and we are working on putting together photos to show before service soon.



## 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 1st John

All are welcome to join these classes in person or on Zoom through the following link:

Contact the church 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

All ladies are invited to gather once a month for a time of fellowship. Contact Megan Kortze or the church office for details.

## Offerings and Attendance for July

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
7/3/22	NA	57	\$5,015	\$200	\$502
7/10/22	NA	42	\$7,010	\$300	\$701
7/17/22	NA	60	\$4,801	\$100	\$480
7/24/22	NA	65	\$3,845	\$1,100	\$385
7/31/22	NA	77	\$4,551	\$975	\$455
<b>Total for July</b>			<b>\$25,222*</b>	<b>\$2,675</b>	<b>\$2,523</b>

\*Planned for in July—\$21,942

## Offerings and Attendance for June

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
6/5/22	NA	48	\$5,195	\$200	\$520
6/12/22	NA	55	\$5,368	\$700	\$537
6/19/22	NA	61	\$6,150	\$800	\$615
6/26/22	NA	73	\$6,191	\$700	\$619
<b>Total for June</b>			<b>\$22,904*</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>

\*Planned for in June—\$21,942

General Offering for 2022	Planned Offering for 2022
\$158,384	\$153,594



Dear friends at Tree of Life,

*Greetings from Botswana! We are enjoying our winter cooldown here in the Southern hemisphere while we continue to work on the Bible translation projects. We love living here and love the work that we are doing. Thank you for partnering with us in the Gospel through your prayers and support over the years. We appreciate you all!*

*In Christ,*

*Carl & Kelsey Grulke*

## From the Seminary

July 20, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I thank God for His continued blessings to you and for your stewardship of those gifts. Please know that your much appreciated gift will continue to grow God’s Kingdom through Word and Sacrament ministry. If I can assist anyone with information please call or email me.

Blessings,

Rev. David L. Witt

Advancement Officer

Concordia Theological Seminary

In the month of August, we at Tree of Life will be focusing on the gifts God has blessed us with. As you learned in Pastor Mark’s article, he will present a sermon series titled “Gifted for Good”. In the next few weeks, you will have the opportunity to take the EveryGift Inventory. It was created by Lutheran Hour Ministries in partnership with Barna and is based on extensive nationwide research. This inventory will help you discover your gifts across 12 distinct areas. This Inventory is based on these key concepts:

- You are a gift from God with gifts to share.
- You are uniquely gifted with aptitudes, innate abilities, and acquired skills.
- God wants to bless others with your gifts.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we will have laptops (and helpers) available for members to take the Inventory after worship. If you would like, you may take the Inventory at home at <https://everygift.org/> or you can use the QR code below to access the inventory. **If you are taking the Inventory at home: You need to print your results and write your name on it, or you may save it as a pdf and email it to [tolsec@treeoflifelcms.org](mailto:tolsec@treeoflifelcms.org).**

We want to assure you that this is not a way to assign people to serve on boards or be Sunday School teachers, etc. This is a tool to help YOU discover gifts that you may not have considered. This tool will also help the Vision Team and leadership of TOL to plan how TOL can best use our gifts/strengths to serve our community.

Thank you in advance for your participation. We can’t wait to see your gifts brought to light for the glory of God!

Board of Stewardship







Thank you to everyone that brought aluminum cans over the last few years for the National Youth Gathering. Annabelle and Amanda took the last load of cans on July 2nd before the trip on Saturday July 9th.

We received 33 pounds at \$0.51/pound, totaling \$16.83 today.

The Tree of Life Youth Group will continue recycling aluminum cans for the National Youth Gathering in 2025 in New Orleans.

Your sister in Christ,  
Amanda Maddox  
Board of Youth Leader



The VBS mission fountain raised \$32.49 for Toler Elementary Uniforms. Thank you to everyone that donated.

Your sister in Christ,  
Amanda Maddox  
Rainforest Explorers VBS Coordinator



August 18th at noon  
Potluck lunch with quilting afterward.  
No sewing skill required.  
All are welcome!



*LWML Meeting*  
*Wednesday, August 10th*  
*at 10:00 am at TOL*  
*All ladies are invited!*



*Men's Breakfast*  
**Saturday, August 13th**  
**at 8:00 am**

**All men are welcome to enjoy the potluck style breakfast, fellowship and Bible study**

## Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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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!



*AUGUST*

