

September 2022



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## “Change Ain’t Always Bad”

*“He (God) alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;  
I shall not be greatly shaken.” -Psalm 62:2*

I recently had the blessing of spending a couple days with my brother and my godson & nephew in Austin. My 19 year old nephew is now a college student (and he’s back in Texas at our beloved Concordia University). I remember waiting to go back to college for my senior year so that I could meet Andrew when he was born back in 2003. It’s hard to believe that he is a college freshman, but he is and I am extremely proud of him!

Both nights we were in Austin we would drop Andrew off at his new dormitory and my brother and I would head back to our hotel. This gave us ample opportunity to process this change that was happening. It honestly has been hard on my brother and his family, and yet they know this is God’s will and know that they are only a phone call or a FaceTime call away. They also know that Uncle Mark and other family members are only about a 3 hour car ride down I-35 as well!

Have you experienced any change in your life recently as well?

How do you find yourself handling that change?

If you are like me, change often brings about fear...anxiety... excitement... questions galore...and wondering how the change will shape out and what the future will be like after the dust settles.

Thank goodness we have an unchanging and consistent Savior amidst all of life’s constant changes. Some great reminders for us from God’s always truthful word are,

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” -Hebrews 13:8*

*“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.” -Malachi 3:6*

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” -James 1:17*

Let’s meditate on these words from scripture. When life is up in the air, God is always there right with us to see us through whatever life throws our way. One of the words that is used to describe our Almighty God is “a rock”.

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

## A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

“There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.” -1 Samuel 2:2

I also invite you to turn to Psalm 62 and to meditate on the comforting words of this Psalm.

One last thing, sometimes when things are changing we may think in our minds and hearts that this is a very bad thing. Sometimes when things are changing God is about to do something very cool and unexpected that only He could envision to do in His omniscience. Trust that He is working beyond what we can see. One last word from scripture reminds us that, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

Let us pray and lean on Jesus when change comes. What the devil or this sinful world means for evil, God can and does use for His good! Embrace those new, Holy Spirit changes that God is bringing about in your life. God is doing new things and this is a very good and exciting thing if we keep our eyes and our faith upon Him!

Prayer - Lord, help me to embrace your will and to not fight You when You are bringing about righteous and new, good change into my life and into the lives of those around me. Settle my heart with Your peace and presence knowing that You hold me and the whole world in Your Almighty and loving hands. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Your kingdom come and your will be done. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Mark

**Lutheran Hymn Festival**  
**September 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm**  
**Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center**

Tickets:

- \$20 each (Orchestra Floor, Terrace, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> floor boxes)
- \$15 each (Dress Circle, Grand Tier)

Tickets may be purchased at

[www.lutheranhymnfestival.org/tickets](http://www.lutheranhymnfestival.org/tickets)

Questions – Contact Adam Hengeveld at 972-646-0905 or [tickets@lutheranhymnfestival.org](mailto:tickets@lutheranhymnfestival.org)



On Saturday, October 1, from 8:00-4:30, Tree of Life members are asked to take part in a painting project through the City of Garland’s “Code Cares” program. The code compliance officer will identify a homeowner in our area for us to help, whose property is out of compliance due to the deterioration of its exterior paint and possibly the need for minor repairs. Homeowners selected by this program are both physically and financially unable to bring the house up to code, and are generally elderly or disabled persons who would otherwise face fines for non-compliance. Members who are interested in participating should call Dr. Norm Wick. Partial day participation is welcome and so are youngsters with parental permission and adult supervision. A rain date of October 8 in case of wet conditions is set up as a contingency.



Sunday, September 11th is Rally Day. During the Education Hour we will have special activities for the children and youth. After worship, all members are invited to stay for pizza at church and then we will go to **Retrocade** located at 6320 Dalrock Rd #100, Rowlett, TX 75088. Lunch and Retrocade fees are paid by the Board of Youth, however, donations to the Board of Youth to help cover the costs of the event are welcome. See Amanda Maddox for more information.



## 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:

<https://zoom.us/j/436739948>

Meeting ID: 436 739 948

### 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 August

| DATE                    | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Growing To the Future | Mission Tithe  |
|-------------------------|----|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 8/7/22                  | NA | 70    | \$5,434          | \$600                 | \$543          |
| 8/14/22                 | NA | 67    | \$2,015          | \$500                 | \$202          |
| 8/21/22                 | NA | 67    | \$6,729          | \$825                 | \$673          |
| 8/28/22                 | NA | 71    | \$4,962          | \$500                 | \$496          |
| <b>Total for August</b> |    |       | <b>\$19,140*</b> | <b>\$2,425</b>        | <b>\$1,914</b> |

\*Planned for in August—\$21,942

| General Offering | Planned Offering |
|------------------|------------------|
| \$177,524        | \$175,536        |



Save the date:  
**October 22nd**  
**3:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Please volunteer to set up and clean up. It is a really fun, free event with a bounce house and petting zoo. Hotdogs and chips will be served.**

## From the Seminary

Dear Friends in Christ,

**Thank you** for your generous gift of **\$687.00** to Concordia Seminary! Your donation in support of our Savior's mission will be used with careful Christian stewardship to help prepare the shepherds who will shine the light of our Lord into the lives of many.

The Seminary has graduated more than 13,000 servants in Christ who have shared the Gospel message with our church's congregations and those who otherwise may never have known Jesus or come to faith in Him. We remain strong in our commitment to our vital mission, which would not be possible without the extraordinary support of caring Christians like you.

On behalf of our entire campus community—our students, faculty and staff—I **thank you again** for the great blessing of your gift!

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs  
 Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement  
 Chief Communications Officer



September 22nd at noon  
 Potluck lunch with quilting afterward.  
 No sewing skill required.  
 All are welcome!

## Ladies' Fellowship

Saturday, September 24th  
 Time TBD

We will meet at Rosini Vineyards  
 411 Texas Highway 205 Rockwall, TX 75032  
 More details to come. All ladies are invited.  
 Contact Megan Kortze for more information.



*LWML Meeting*  
*Wednesday, September 14th*  
*at 10:00 am at TOL*  
*All ladies are invited!*

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 10th  
 at 8:00 am

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

# Hellooooo~

LWML is having a  
**Tea Party**  
Check us out!

Saturday • September 17, 2022

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tree of Life Lutheran Church  
6318 Lyons Road • Garland 75043



Tea Hats  
Encouraged  
*(although not  
required)*

The Tea Party  
will  
recognize all the  
Mission Grants  
of the  
Lutheran Women in Mission  
*(donations appreciated)*

Please RSVP by  
September 1st  
to  
Noreene  
norjohnson7@gmail.com

**PRIZE FOR THE BEST TEA HAT!!!!**  
AND...A FEW GIVE-AWAYS, TOO!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies! The estimated value was \$1,498 and helped 51 students! What a blessing to those students and their parents!

# Thank you!!!



## Tree of Life Lutheran Church

6318 Lyons Road  
Garland, Texas 75043

Phone: 972-226-6086  
E-mail: [tolsec@treeoflifelcms.org](mailto:tolsec@treeoflifelcms.org)  
[www.treeoflifelcms.org](http://www.treeoflifelcms.org)

**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!**

