

November 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“Faith or Fear?”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” -Hebrews 11:1

If at the beginning of every day, you and I were asked a multiple choice question, what would your answer be?

How would you like to live life today?

- a) in fear
- b) in faith

I am guessing that most of us would choose faith over fear. But is that how we live each day? I know that on a regular basis I am confronted with the tendency to choose fear over faith. God and His holy and truthful word talk me out of my fears and ground me continually in a faith that goes beyond what I can see.

November means that Thanksgiving is right around the corner. This year it also means that it is time for another voting cycle. There is much trepidation for whatever reason this particular year.

*God remains in control.
Nothing catches Him by surprise.
He has already won the ultimate victory.
He can handle and hold in His Almighty hands
all of our fears and worries.*

So, the question remains....will you and I, by the power of the Holy Spirit, choose faith over fear right now and throughout this day?

As the passage from God's word in Hebrews 11 reminds us today, faith is not based on our view of our external reality right now in this present moment. I strongly encourage you to read all of Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter) and see how God's sovereign hand moved then and is still moving now, beyond what we can see.

In conclusion, let's heed the interaction of Jesus and the father of the boy who was healed of a demon in Mark chapter 9:22-24. The boy's Dad says to Jesus, "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

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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*

“If you can’t?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Let us pray. Lord, my mind and heart are filled with fear at times. Sometimes my fears seem to come out of nowhere. I know that you gave me the gift of faith through your Word and in my baptism. I am blessed beyond measure to have the eternal gift of faith that you won for me by your death on the cross and by your resurrection from the grave. Jesus, drive out all my fears right now and awaken my faith in You. Keep me steadfast and immovable in your most Holy Word. When I am tempted to fear again, draw me to your Word and lead me also to open up and share about my fears with my fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. Lord, thank You for giving me the power to believe and to overcome my unbelief today and always. In Christ Jesus’ powerful name I pray. Amen.



New Member Sunday November 6th

During worship we will officially welcome the following new members:

Shelley Hirst

Pam Stewart

Loy, Sarah, Aiden, Isaac,

Kyrie & Teagan Lewis

Carolene Boardman

John Knowles

Dean, Kristin, Anna & John DeCandia

Please plan to attend and stay for a spaghetti lunch and get to know our new members.

Board of Youth

The Tree of Life youth group has grown in the last year. This is a wonderful blessing! Amanda Maddox, chairman of the Board of Youth, is looking for fresh ideas for the youth group in 2023. If you have a heart for youth and are interested in being part of the board of youth, please contact Amanda.

THANKSGIVING BOXES FOR TOLER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The Board of Outreach is asking for your help to provide the following **non-perishable food items** so that families in our community can have a blessed Thanksgiving. We request that these items be brought to TOL by **November 11th**.

Canned goods requested:

- Carrots
- Corn
- Cranberry Sauce
- Fruit
- Green Beans
- Peas
- Pumpkin
- Sweet Potatoes
- Tomatoes

Boxed goods requested:

- Cake mix
- Corn Bread mix
- Instant potato mix
- Instant stuffing mix
- Mac n cheese
- Pie crust mix
- Rice
- Tea

Page-Borders.com



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 book of Galatians

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

Please 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 at 8 AM 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 September

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
9/4/22	NA	65	\$9,421	\$100	\$942
9/11/22	NA	70	\$7,050	\$610	\$705
9/18/22	NA	62	\$3,296	\$600	\$330
9/25/22	NA	75	\$5,330	\$400	\$533
Total for September			\$25,097*	\$1,710	\$2,510

*Planned for in September—\$21,942

Offerings and Attendance for October

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
10/2/22	NA	55	\$7,686	\$200	\$769
10/9/22	NA	50	\$4,530	\$200	\$453
10/16/22	NA	68	\$5,335	\$520	\$534
10/23/22	NA	71	\$6,350	\$800	\$635
10/30/22	NA	58	<i>unavailable</i>		
Total for October			\$*	\$	\$

*Planned for in October—\$21,942

General Offering for 2022	Planned Offering for 2022
<i>Total unavailable</i>	\$219,420

Gifted for Good- Board of Stewardship

Volunteering at Toler Elementary is extremely heartfelt. I didn't know what to expect my first time, dealing with little kiddoes, 5-8 years old. I had changed my mind when I pulled up into the parking lot at the school. Prayers were needed! Much! So True! But not in the way I was thinking about at that time...

Needless to say, when I saw the little ones my heart changed for the better. I felt sincere, with a pure heart wanting to spread the love that I felt for all of the kiddoes that I was involved with, totally and completely. Plus, I felt some of their sorrow also...

Those little kiddoes made my day then and now. They have plenty of questions, they are loveable with their smiling faces, they like to hold your hand. Their love is oh SOOO strong, WOW! You can feel their needs.

Whatever you are assigned to do with them, it's all good! Games, events, telling stories, reading and or just listening to their stories. By giving them some of your time, love makes your day worth while, and a smile.

Thank God for that moment in time with the Kiddoes.

Noreene Hurst



The Quilters will not meet again
until January 2023.



Tree of Life Lutheran Church is signed up as an AmazonSmile charitable organization. When you shop through AmazonSmile you can generate donations for Tree of Life! Shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to TOL—no fees, no extra cost.



Sunday, November 13th
After worship
No potluck this time.



Come enjoy dinner before our Wednesday Advent Services. Dinner begins at 6 pm and worship is at 7 pm. This year the meals will be hosted by the Elders and their Groves. Your Elder will contact you with items that you can help with. More details coming soon. Our first Advent meal is Nov. 30th.



Winter Clothing Drive for Good Samaritans of Garland and Toler Elementary

We are collecting **coats, gloves/mittens, scarves & hats** for adults and children **through Nov. 6th**. Good Samaritans needs mainly men's coats in large sizes so that they can layer. Toler needs boys and girls coats in sizes 5/6 to 14/16. Please bring donations to Tree of Life and we will make sure that they are delivered in early November.

*Sponsored by the
Board of Stewardship*



From our Adopt-A-Student Seminarians

Dear Tree of Life Lutheran Church,

I want to reach out and thank you so much for your financial support that has allowed me to continue down this path of becoming a pastor. I want to give you a quick update about what is going on in my family's life to give you a snapshot of the people that you are supporting!

These last few months of been some of the most exciting, yet stressful, months of me and my wife Kali's lives. The most exciting news is the birth of our first daughter, Naomi Lynn Langewisch, on August 11. We are absolutely in love with her and she makes the lack of sleep that we are getting all worth it. She was baptized on the last Sunday of my Vicarage in Woodbury, MN which was very exciting. She has been a great baby and is growing so fast!

However, not everything was smooth sailing for us in August. We packed up all of our belongings in a POD and had it sent to St. Louis while we drove in our car separately. Our POD never arrived in St. Louis. No one from the company could tell us where our life's belongings were or when (or even if) they would arrive. We lived in an empty Seminary apartment with a new born for nearly a month. Fortunately, our friends here at the Seminary were so gracious to us, letting us come over to use whatever things we needed in the meantime. After countless phone calls, our POD finally arrived in late September. While I was so relieved to finally have all of our stuff, I also was reminded during that month of the most important things in life—an amazing wife, a healthy daughter, and a gracious God that continues to provide no matter the circumstances.

We are greatly anticipating the call that we will receive in April. We had our placement interview with the placement director, Dr. Glenn Nielsen. We could not be more excited to find out where God is going to have us serve. I ask for your prayers over that entire process—that the church I am sent to would be a great fit, that it would be a place where Naomi can grow up to know the love that Jesus has for her, and that God would continue to mold me into the pastor that this congregation will need me to be. Thank you for your continued support. We feel so blessed.

In Christ,

Daniel Langewisch



Greetings to everyone at Tree of Life Lutheran Church,

I hope this letter finds you well. Classes are now in full swing for this semester!

I am now in my second year at the seminary. My wife, Lizzy, and I moved onto married housing this Summer. We have been able to participate in more of the Seminary Community events now that we are on campus. It is such a joy to be around other Christians all working together toward the same goal.

These next two semesters the seminary is shaping and preparing us for Vicarage, our yearlong internship in a parish. This involves many practical classes, such as how to teach the faith to others, more advanced preaching, etc. We also are diving into more advanced theology classes in our systematics courses. Although we are only a little over a month into the semester, it is shaping out to be a very interesting and rewarding one!

Your financial and spiritual support helps to make this pastoral formation and education possible. Thank you so much for being a part of it!

Peace in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
Alex & Lizzy Kauffman

From the Grulkes—Bible Translators

The Grulkes' newsletter is posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. They ask for your prayers:

- For the Shekgalagari team as we continue with proofreading work and keep preparing for the launch of the New Testament.
- For the Wayeyi communities as they prepare for launching another Gospel, that God would inspire a love for God's Word and for reading their own language in their hearts.
- For son Judah as his arm heals and for the wonderful blessing of evacuation insurance and the doctors here who were able to treat him.
- For the possibility of new projects and the language groups that still remain without Scripture here in Botswana
- For our time in the United States later this year, that God would use it to refresh us, help us reconnect with family and friends, and allow us to connect with our supporters!

Tree of Life is Debt Free!

Please make plans to join us as we celebrate this blessed milestone!

Special guest preacher,
Texas District President,
Rev. Michael Newman

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Worship at 10:30 am

followed by a special catered lunch

Former pastors and members are invited. Please speak to Mary Mobley if you have contact information for former TOL members. This is an occasion to celebrate with all who have been a part of the family of Tree of Life. Let us praise God for His faithfulness to us the last 36 years and beyond!



Wed. Nov. 23rd
7:00 pm
Service of Praise
& Thanksgiving



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall Festival! It was a tremendous success with over 350 people in attendance! We so appreciate your donations, volunteering during the event, inviting friends & family, helping with set-up and clean-up, prayers, and all the ways you helped us show the love of Jesus to our community! Thank you!



**Remember to set your
clocks back one hour on
Saturday evening,
November 5th.**



You can purchase a poinsettia to decorate the altar for Christmas. The cost is **\$13** and orders need to be turned in by November 27th. Fill in the order form in your bulletin and leave it with a check or cash in the office or in the offering plate. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve Service.

Remember—order by Nov 27th!

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!

