

October 2023



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“Exciting Things Are Happening At Tree!”

Dear Tree of Life Family,

Wow! What an awesome 2 weeks we have already had as we have begun our series “We Are Tree” and have taken a deep dive into our resounding, biblical core values here at TOL. We started with “Being Rooted in God’s Word” and this last week we talked about our call to “Love & Care For Our Neighbors”. Ironically this very weekend 14 members of TOL are going out into the community to help a neighbor in need with house projects as we officially launch our new ministry “Bless An Address”. If you would like more information about how to get involved in a future project or have a person in mind who could use help with house repairs or the upkeep of their home, please contact Dr. Norm Wick. Thank you Dr. Norm for helping us launch this new ministry of TOL!

We also have some bittersweet news to share about 2 of our elders who are needing (for separate reasons) to step away from being elders here at church. Both Lynn Hinkel and Lyle Livingston are stepping down from their role as elders. I want to personally thank the both of them for their servant hearts, their leadership, and their counsel especially during the last few years of my time here at Tree of Life. Well done good and faithful servants! In this time of transition, if you are in either Pecan Grove (formerly Lynn Hinkel’s grove) or Walnut Grove (formerly Lyle Livingston’s grove) then

please contact me for any pastoral or spiritual needs at this time. If you would rather speak with an elder about

anything that arises then please contact head elder Ken Nixon. I am currently identifying potential future elders. It is vital that we not “jump the gun” on the appointment of new elders. We must continue to follow the scriptural guidelines on biblical eldership for the overall growth and well-being of our ever growing congregation. I appreciate your patience as we move forward in this process.

Continued on page 2



Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Join Board of Youth</i> | 2 |
| <i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i> | 3 |
| <i>Worship & Bible Study Opportunities</i> | 3 |
| <i>Offerings and Attendance</i> | 3 |
| <i>Fall Festival</i> | 4 |
| <i>Stewardship Preview</i> | 4 |
| <i>Special Celebration</i> | 5 |
| <i>Bible Reading Plan</i> | 6 |

Special Points of Interest

- *Portals of Prayer; pg 3*
- *Quilters Corner; pg 4*
- *Men’s Breakfast; pg 4*
- *Coat Drive; pg 4*
- *Raise Right; pg 5*
- *Bless an Address; pg 5*
- *Fall Festival Flyer; pg 7-8*
- *October Calendar—attached*



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

A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

Lastly, I have some VERY exciting news for you. Our spanish-speaking congregation Elevate continues to connect with new people in our community and is growing as they worship at 1pm on Sunday's here at TOL. They have also launched a new satellite ministry at an assisted living center the last few months that continues to grow. Jaime & Sonia Durkin have also taken a major step and have been accepted as seminary students through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis through the Hispanic Ministry Institute. We are going to have a special commissioning service for Jaime & Sonia on Sunday, October 15th at 10:30am. This will be a joint worship gathering with the families of Elevate as well. Jaime will be commissioned as a vicar and Sonia as a deaconess in training. The Texas District has stepped up to pay for their seminary studies and we couldn't be more excited for this new chapter in their ministry here at TOL in reaching our Spanish-speaking neighbors! Please plan to join us for worship & a potluck lunch together on October 15th!

This all reminds me as well of 2 of our other core biblical values that we will dive deep into this month through our series "We Are Tree". These values are "Welcoming To All People" and "Enthusiastically Growing God's Kingdom". Remember Christ's parting words of commissioning to his disciples and to us as His church in Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

So also we have this powerful prayer that Jesus prayed in Matthew 9:36-38. It says, "When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.**"

How awesome that the Lord has again answered this prayer by placing among us a loving, godly couple in the Durkin's to go out into the harvest field to share the Gospel in their native tongue. Our God is awesome, isn't He?!

One last bible passage comes to mind when it comes to these biblical core values and what the Lord is doing among us. Meditate on this one with me. It is in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23, "**I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.**" How can you and I "be Christ" in tangible, loving, and purposeful ways to our neighbor today and each day?

Let us pray. Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us to share your Good News as we are rooted in your Word so that more and more may come to know You and Your salvation, all to the glory of Jesus. Amen!

Rooted in Jesus,
Pastor Mark

Join the Board of Youth

If you enjoy working with teens and are looking for a way to make an impact, the Board of Youth is looking for you!

We are in search of young adults willing to dedicate a little time with our youth.

All we need is for you to just show up. No planning or prep work required.



Portals of Prayer: Oct–Dec

Our Portals of Prayer for October—December are now available on the welcome table and the wall by the mailboxes. These are wonderful, free devotionals for personal or family use.



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.

Throughout the month of October, the Adult Sunday Bible Class will be taking a deeper dive into Pastor Mark's sermon series "We Are Tree".

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.
 The Gospel of John

All are welcome to join these classes in person or on Zoom. 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

The Ladies' Fellowship meets monthly for a variety of activities and events. For more information about the group and what is planned, contact Megan Kortze.

Offerings and Attendance for August

| DATE | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Mission Tithe |
|-------------------------|----|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 8/6/23 | NA | 81 | \$3,039 | \$304 |
| 8/13/23 | NA | 94 | \$9,223 | \$922 |
| 8/20/23 | NA | 76 | \$4,975 | \$498 |
| 8/27/23 | NA | 77 | \$5,580 | \$558 |
| Total for August | | | \$22,817 | \$2,282 |

*Planned for in August—\$21,664

Offerings and Attendance for September

| DATE | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Mission Tithe |
|----------------------------|----|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 9/3/23 | NA | 64 | \$6,614 | \$661 |
| 9/10/23 | NA | 77 | \$4,492 | \$449 |
| 9/17/23 | NA | 81 | \$4,559 | \$456 |
| 9/24/23 | NA | 78 | \$5,946 | \$595 |
| Total for September | | | \$21,611 | \$2,161 |

*Planned for in September—\$21,664

| General Offering Total for 2023 | Planned Offering for 2023 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$214,489 | \$194,976 |

Quilting—End of the Year

Thursday, October 19th

Join us for a potluck lunch at noon and then quilting after that. No sewing skill is required to participate. For more information contact Lisa Theriot



This is the LAST MONTH to join the quilters for the year of 2023! We will be sending them off on November 11th.

Fall Festival

Saturday October 21st 3pm-6pm

Fall is almost here and you know what that means...yes...wait for it...our Annual Community Fall Festival will be here before you know it!

Highlights:

Petting Zoo Bounce House Live Music
Food Cake Walk
Games, Games, Games
Sack & Pumpkin Races Hay Rides

City of Garland Fire Department #5, Police Department, Environmental/Waste Department, & Animal Services (bringing adoptable pets)

Come be a part of it! Volunteer sign-up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall on the table near the nursery. Youth will be helping as part of their monthly events.

Volunteers should arrive at noon the day of the event.

(We are looking for someone with a tractor and trailer to help us out with the hayrides)

See the last page of the breeze for a flyer to share with a community member!
Help spread the word!

Stewardship Preview

Here at TOL, we have a lot of ways to serve and bless our local organizations and community members. See below for a preview of some upcoming opportunity to serve or give:

- Coat Drive - OCT.
- Advent Freewill Dinner Offering - DEC.
- Christmas Angel Tree - DEC.
- Souper Bowl Sunday - JAN. 2024

This preview is to help you plan ahead and decide how you can participate! There is no expectation for you to participate in every event. Please talk to Lisa Theriot for more information on each event, or how you could help our stewardship committee.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, October 14th at 8:00 am. All men are invited to gather at TOL for breakfast, Bible study and fellowship. For more information about the monthly Men's Breakfast, please contact Bob Green or Pastor Mark.

Coat Drive

It is time for our annual fall coat drive!

We are collecting winter coats for both Toler Elementary and for the Good Samaritans of Garland. If you would like to donate, please bring

in the following sizes of coats:

- For Toler: 4T-14/16 (must be in new condition)

- For Good Samaritans: Men's & Women's gently used larger sized coats to allow for layering.

Our coat drive will begin on Sunday October 1st and conclude on Wednesday November 15th.

Please contact Lisa Theriot or Noreene Hurst with any questions!



A Special Celebration!

Join us for a **BIG Celebration** of Jaime & Sonia Durkin starting their seminary studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. We will also commission Jaime as a vicar that Sunday & Sonia as a deaconess student.



- Sunday, October 15th @ 10:30am
- Joint Worship Service with Elevate (our Spanish Speaking congregation).
- Potluck Lunch to follow Worship
- Please bring a side dish or dessert to share on this special Sunday!

Praise God for the mission work being done through the Durkin's & Elevate. Let's celebrate!

Gift Card Fundraiser

RaiseRight is a gift card program that supports TOL with every purchase. You can place your gift card order with Kara Jander **Sunday October 1st** or via email at:

Cards ordered are usually available in about one week. To see all of the different brands available go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

If you decide to order online, you will be asked for Tree of Life's enrollment code:

EL5E2575514L5

See Kara Jander for more information.



Aluminum Cans

We are continually collecting aluminum cans to help with our fundraising to send our youth to the National Youth Gathering. Please put your aluminum cans (bagged securely) behind the fence near the kitchen.

THANK YOU!

"Spreading the Love" Kits

Our kits to help spread God's love to the homeless are available on the table in the fellowship hall. Please take one to distribute!



Victoria Neave Criado
State Representative



VICTORIA NEAVE CRIADO
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE



Trustee Monica Lira Bravo
Chair, Dallas College Board of Trustees

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2023
9 AM - 12 PM
6TH ANNUAL**

**HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE
FAIR**

 **DALLAS COLLEGE EASTFIELD CAMPUS
3737 MOTLEY DR, MESQUITE, TX 75150
5-BUILDING, ROOM 100-101**

- Overview of the Financial Aid Process
- Meet with Colleges, Universities, & Organizations
- Resume Workshop

Bless an Address

Our new volunteer group "Bless an Address" is kicking off!

The possible types of work would include things such as: painting, light carpentry, yard cleanup/ landscape projects, repairing fencing or siding, garage cleanup/removal projects, deck or porch repair, accessibility ramp repair or construction, etc.

We would like to begin activity with at least two home projects before the end of 2023, so please contact Dr. Norm Wick, (214) 392-1436 or doctornorm@gmail.com if you'd like to take part!

Contact Dr. Norm also with the name, phone number, address, and type of work involved in home projects. Congregation members in need, persons aware of congregation members' needs, family, friends and neighbors of members are all welcome to submit their project ideas.

Core Values Bible Reading Plan & Sermon Series Plan

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 17 "Rooted in the Word of God" | Sept 18 Psalm 1 | Sept 19 Hebrews 4:12 | Sept 20 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | Sept 21 Matthew 7:24-26 | Sept 22 Colossians 3:16 | Sept 23 Psalm 119:105 Isaiah 40:8 |
| Sept 24 "Caring for and Loving our Neighbors" | Sept 25 Matthew 22:35-40 | Sept 26 1 John 4:21 | Sept 27 1 Corinthians 10:24 | Sept 28 Galatians 6:2 | Sept 29 John 15:13 | Sept 30 Luke 10:29-37 |
| Oct 1 "Vibrant Worship" | Oct 2 Psalm 95:6-7 | Oct 3 Romans 12:1-2 | Oct 4 Hebrews 13:15 | Oct 5 2 Kings 17:36, 39 | Oct 6 John 4:23-24 | Oct 7 1 Chronicles 16:29-33 |
| Oct 8 "Generous Stewards of God's Gifts" | Oct 9 Psalm 24:1 1 Peter 4:10 | Oct 10 2 Corinthians 9:6-12 | Oct 11 Luke 6:38 | Oct 12 Proverbs 11:24 | Oct 13 Proverbs 3:9-10 | Oct 14 Acts 20:35 |
| Oct 15 "Welcoming To All People" | Oct 16 Matthew 28:18-20 | Oct 17 Acts 1:8 | Oct 18 Romans 10:14-15 | Oct 19 2 Timothy 2:2 | Oct 20 Ephesians 4:11-16 | Oct 21 Matthew 9:35-38 |
| Oct 22 "Enthusiastically Growing God's Kingdom" | Oct 23 Matthew 9:9-13 | Oct 24 Matthew 25:34-40 | Oct 25 Psalm 67:1-2 | Oct 26 Hebrews 13:1-2 | Oct 27 John 3:16-17 | Oct 28 Galatians 3:28 Revelation 7:9-10 |

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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!

6318 Lyons Road
Garland, Texas 75043

Phone: 972-226-6086
E-mail: tolsec@treeoflifelcms.org
www.treeoflifelcms.org

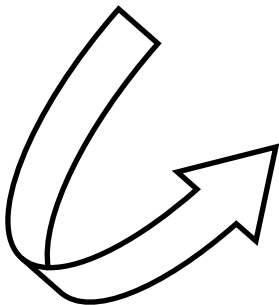


HELP SHARE OUR EVENT!

Please cut out the
Fall Festival flyer and
share with a friend,
neighbor, coworker,
a family member,
etc.

This wonderful event
is free for all! Keep
our event in your
prayers as we hope
to show God's love to
so many in our
community.

Wanting to volunteer,
please contact Mary
Mobley as soon as
possible!



Fall Festival October 21st

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Free event for the whole family!

Food
Games
Music
Hayrides
Petting Zoo

Bounce House
City of Garland:

- Animal Services
- Sanitation & Waste Management
- Fire Department
- Police Department

Prizes & more!

*Children are invited to
wear Halloween costumes.*



Tree of Life
6318 Lyons Rd.
Garland, Texas
972-226-6086
www.treeoflifelcms.org



A Community event, not a school event



Festival de Otoño

Octubre 21

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Evento gratis para toda la familia!

Comida

Juegos

Música

Paseo en carro

Zoológico para niños

Brincador

**Departamentos de la
Ciudad de Garland nos
estarán acompañando:**

- **refugio de animales**
- **gestión de saneamiento y residuos**
- **Departamento de Bomberos**
- **Departamento de Policía**

**Premios y mucha
alegría!**

*Los niños son invitados a vestirse
su atuendo favorito!*



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*Un evento comunitario,
no un evento escolar*