

March 2023



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## “Get Well Soon”

“Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” (John 5:2-6)

Raise your hand if you are not well?

That question could be taken and answered in many different ways, couldn't it? None of us probably wants to air out all of our dirty laundry or deepest wounds with the whole world. Many of us don't even like to admit to ourselves, let alone another, that we are “not ourselves”. And yet, when we look at ourselves in the mirror, many of us have unresolved things that may cause us to feel “stuck”. The brokenness of the world and the sin of our own hearts and those around us have an effect on us whether we want it to or not.

The story above from John's gospel is one about a man who hadn't been stuck for just a few days, or weeks, or years. No, he had been stuck and “not well” for nearly 4 decades!!! At first glance it may seem that Jesus is being highly insensitive when he poses to him a very personal question, “Do you want to get well?”.

Picture Jesus asking you that question right now? I believe that Jesus has given us all that we need in His word and in His presence and in the body of His church to bring us healing, hope and freedom from our deepest hurts, selfish habits, and flawed ways of thinking. So, I am going to challenge you with something and am going to offer you an invitation this Lent.

Would you join me and our church family for a 5 week sermon series on Wednesday night during these 40 days of Lent? If you can't make it physically to church every Wednesday, would you commit to listening to each week's message on our Facebook page and prayerfully join us as we walk the road of healing with Jesus leading us through it together? Many of us need Christ's restorative care mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. This year's Lenten series will be a step by step roadmap that can get 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*

on track with inviting the Holy Spirit into our deepest places of hurt, bitterness, and helplessness.

So, I invite you to join me and our church family every Wednesday in Lent at 7pm. And if you come in-person, you can have a free meal and break bread together with your fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus as we journey together with our loving Savior. Treat this mealtime as an opportunity to be vulnerable and share with another person what is going on in your life as well. You may be surprised that the person sitting with you is also going through a trial as well. We are not alone, my friends. God's word reminds us to, "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NIT)

I am so looking forward to walking this road of freedom together with our Savior Jesus these next 40 days. Blessed Lent to each of you!

Love,  
Pastor Mark

## New Bible Study

Starting on Thursday, March 9th @10am the Thursday Morning Bible Study will begin studying The Gospel of John. This is a great time to join this wonderful group and to study together this powerful Gospel book. We also always have coffee and we usually have snacks too! Join us starting Thursday, March 9th and invite a friend.



During the Lent, we will have a meal at 6:00 pm and worship at 7:00 pm. The Elders and their Groves are responsible on the assigned weeks. Your Elder will contact you with more information regarding how you can help. A freewill offering will be taken for the meal and that money will go to provide transportation for community members to go to GED classes. (*See Stewardship article*)

March 1 – Live Oak/Jander

March 8 – Pecan/Hinkel

March 15 – Maple/Wick

March 22 – Hickory/Nixon

March 29 – Palm/Morgan  
& Walnut/Livingston

Maundy Thursday

April 6th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 7th at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

Worship at  
Breakfast at

*Gala Invitation*

Join us at our  
Expansion  
Mission Network  
DFW Gala Tour!

**March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6p.m.**

Zion Lutheran Church  
6121 E Lovers Ln, Dallas, TX 75214

To RSVP Contact:  
Jaime Gonzalez  
Ph: 469.653.7086  
Email: jaimegdesantiago@gmail.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.  
“A Study on 1 Peter”

### 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 or the church office.

## Offerings and Attendance for January

| DATE                     | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Mission Tithe  |
|--------------------------|----|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 1/1/23                   | NA | 52    | \$6,136          | \$614          |
| 1/8/23                   | NA | 80    | \$3,031          | \$303          |
| 1/15/23                  | NA | 73    | \$5,411          | \$541          |
| 1/22/23                  | NA | 73    | \$5,198          | \$520          |
| 1/29/23                  | NA | 67    | \$5,751          | \$575          |
| <b>Total for January</b> |    |       | <b>\$25,527*</b> | <b>\$2,553</b> |

\*Planned for in January—\$21,998

## Offerings and Attendance for February

| DATE                      | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Mission Tithe |
|---------------------------|----|-------|------------------|---------------|
| 2/5/23                    | NA | 75    | \$5,290          | \$529         |
| 2/12/23                   | NA | 84    | \$5,399          | \$540         |
| 2/19/23                   | NA | 82    | \$2,671          | \$267         |
| 2/26/23                   | NA |       |                  |               |
| <b>Total for February</b> |    |       | <b>\$*</b>       | <b>\$</b>     |

\*Planned for in February—\$21,998

| General Offering Total for 2023 | Planned Offering for 2023 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>\$25,527</b>                 | <b>\$21,998</b>           |

## Board of Stewardship

For Lent this year, we thought we would try something new. We've noticed that many of our neighbors lack transportation because DART does not service the Garland area south of I-30. We are teaming up with First Baptist Church in Downtown Garland to help our neighbors who need transportation to GED classes. We hope this will encourage others to continue their education. We will have a Lenten Angel Tree this year to raise money for Lyft cards. It's about \$15 one way to downtown Garland. Pastor Mark will also have some Lyft cards to distribute at his discretion. If you donate a Lyft card, please make it for \$15. You are welcome to donate any amount you like by cash or check.

## Celebration for Pastor Thierfelder

Former TOL Pastor Thomas Thierfelder will be celebrating his 60th birthday and 30 years in the ministry on March 26th.

Anyone who would like to send cards to Pastor Tom may do so through his daughter Aprille:

Pastor Thomas Thierfelder  
c/o Aprille Ullerick  
1400 18th St.  
Great Bend, KS 67530



If you receive Choice Dollars from Thrivent Financial, you must direct 2022 funds by March 31<sup>st</sup>. You can designate to any non-profit organization, including Tree of Life. See Lisa Theriot for more information.

## Board of Outreach

We received the following letter of thanks from Kathy Hill at Carter Bloodcare:  
"We very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 14 donors registered, 1 donor was deferred and 14 units were collected! We also registered 6 first time donors!" Thank you all!!!

**Toler Elementary School**

**Donations Needed!**

**Underwear and Socks**

**PK-5th grade**

**March 1st - March 27th**



**Thursday, March 23rd —  
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.**

# Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt



*It's almost time ...*

for our annual Easter Celebration / Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 1st, 10-12 noon.**

This event helps us share with our Community just how much Jesus loves us by His death and Resurrection.

We will need our loving family at Tree of Life to help by signing up to volunteer for this event. *We will also be asking for candy, treats, plastic Easter eggs and styrofoam egg cartons for crafts.*

## Men's Breakfast

**Men's Breakfast**  
**Saturday, March 11th**  
**8:00 am at TOL**

Come enjoy fellowship, Bible study and potluck style breakfast. Talk to Bob Green or Pastor Mark for more information.

## Gift Card Fundraiser

Would you like to raise money for the ministry of Tree of Life while you do your everyday shopping? It's easy with our RaiseRight gift card program! RaiseRight is not just physical gift cards. When you download the RaiseRight app, you have gift cards at your fingertips. And every purchase helps TOL. Here is a link to a short video to walk you through the setup:

<https://youtu.be/c-v65F0xr2c>

To see all the brands available go to:

<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

When you sign-up, you will be asked for Tree of Life's enrollment code: **EL5E2575514L5**

See Kara Jander for more information.

Gift card order day is **March 5th** if you would like to order physical gift cards.



Good morning to my Tree of Life family. I want to thank everyone for their prayers for me and Bill at the passing of my mom Bea Heggie.

She lived a full life and was ready to go home again to be with Jesus and all the family that has already passed. We will have a memorial in Oregon with the family. Although I miss her and will continue to I am also rejoicing as her pain is gone and I know I will see her again when it's time for me to return home.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill and Elaine Dickson

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,003.00 to Concordia Seminary! Your financial support is such a blessing. We deeply appreciate your partnership in our mission of forming shepherds to lead congregations like yours and those of your loved ones.

Our seminarians, along with the rest of the Seminary community, are so very grateful for caring Christians like you who give so generously, enabling them to prepare for dedicated church service. Inspired by their love of our Lord, our students study diligently to learn sound Lutheran doctrine and practical ministry skills to preach to and teach the faithful and to reach out to those who know little of Christ's love.

I extend my deepest thanks, once again, for your thoughtful gift and wish you and your loved ones a blessed New Year! **Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity!**

Most cordially yours,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement  
Concordia Seminary - Saint Louis

**Thank you to everyone who brought their recycled Christmas cards! Our crafter is extremely thankful and happy and will be very busy with your beautiful donations!!!**

Thank you to all who have brought in aluminum cans. Amanda Maddox took them to be recycled. 50 lbs. x \$0.57 = \$28.50 for the National Youth Gathering in 2025!