

August 2023



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“You Are What You Eat”

In 1826 French physician Anthelme Brillat-Savarin said some groundbreaking words, “Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are.” In the 1920’s an American nutritionist brought this same sort of thinking into the mainstream of thought and repurposed it into our English language when he coined the phrase in a 1923 United Meat Markets ad, “You are what you eat.” No matter what we may think about either of these historical figures now and their bent on healthy eating, the fact remains that what we put into our bodies does have an effect on us, whether good or bad.

God in His word says it this way in Matthew 15:17-19, “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”

Friends, what we take in and digest from the broken world around us can have a great effect on our attitudes and upon our hearts. What are you digesting via the Internet, TV, radio, or other social media apps? These untrustworthy and flawed “voices” can work in tandem with our sinful flesh to lead our hearts astray.

This is why it is imperative that we continue to feast daily on Jesus, “the Living Bread” (John 6:51). Jesus says in this verse, “If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.”

Have you found in yourself recently the tendency to be more irritable with others?

Have you found yourself more angry and frustrated with the affairs of the world?

Have you been more on edge when driving your car with those “crazy drivers” out there?

When our attitudes and outlook are negative, oftentimes it can be because we are feasting more on the flawed voices and

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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*

perspectives of this broken and sinful world. When we are like this, we are often not feasting enough on the living and breathing Spirit of God found in His always truthful and all-encompassing Word. It may be that we need to hit that holy reset button of prayer and take a few moments to meditate on the love and abiding presence of Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. We need to feast on the Living Bread, and not on the moldy crumbs of selfishness, dissension and despair that this world tries to convince us to feed on rather than on God's word. God's word reminds us where our strength is, "Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live" -Isaiah 55:2a-3b So, what are you going to feast on today and each day? Let us continue to eat on the life-giving and love-enfusing Word of God.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8)

Rally Day



Rally Day Bowling
Sunday, August 13th at 1:00 pm
at the Rowlett Bowl-A-Rama

Come for 90 minutes of bowling, pizza and sodas. The cost is \$15 per person. **If you have signed up, please pay by Sunday August 6th. All payments go to Mary Mobley.** The Board of Youth and the Board of Education are covering the extra costs as well paying for the Youth. Spots are limited, so please contact Mary Mobley if you are interested in attending.

Aluminum Cans

Thank you to everyone that brought aluminum cans for the youth to recycle.

Amanda brought them in on 7/22/2023.

70 lbs * \$0.35 / lb = \$24.50

raised for the National Youth Gathering
Please put your aluminum cans (bagged securely) behind the fence near the kitchen.



Thursday, August 17th
Join us for a potluck lunch at noon
and then quilting after that.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School is scheduled for Now—August 6th, as well as August 20th. We are looking for volunteers who have a love for children and youth to teach a Sunday or two to give our regular teachers a break. You can team teach with a friend if you like. Please consider signing up. The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board by the nursery. See Mary Mobley for more information.



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, August 12th 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.



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 summer study will be “The Sermon on the Mount”.

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 June

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Mission Tithe
6/4/23	NA	80	\$8,578	\$858
6/11/23	NA	93	\$4,839	\$484
6/18/23	NA	88	\$3,820	\$382
6/25/23	NA	82	\$4,595	\$460
Total for June			\$21,832	\$2,184

*Planned for in June—\$21,664

Offerings and Attendance for July

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Mission Tithe
7/2/23	NA	83	\$6,995	\$700
7/9/23	NA	58	\$3,792	\$379
7/16/23	NA	75	\$6,730	\$673
7/23/23	NA	86	\$7,790	\$779
7/30/23	NA	73	\$4,191	\$419
Total for June			\$29,498	\$2,950

*Planned for in July—\$21,664

General Offering Total for 2023	Planned Offering for 2023
\$170,461	\$151,648

Grove Picture Board Update

We are starting a project to update the pictures on our grove board located in the fellowship hall. Many of the pictures are very dated and for many of our newer members we have no picture. We want to rectify this situation and would like to do one of the following:

- 1- You can provide an updated picture for us to post on the board.
- 2- We can use a photo from the congregational directory that was taken a few years ago.
- 3- We are blessed to have Cindy Hadley agree to take pictures for this project on selected Sundays in the future. More details to come on dates.

Pool Party

Join the youth for some fun in the sun (and in the pool) after church on August 20th at the Maddox home. Hot dogs, buns, chips and watermelon will be provided. Please bring your own drinks, towels, sunscreen, goggles, nose plugs, etc. You don't have to be a kid to come. Everyone is welcome to come hang out. Please let Amanda know if you will be attending so we can get a head count on food. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact Amanda Maddox.

Thank You from Kara

Dear Tree of Life Family,
Thank you all so much for the wonderful reception on July 16th. It has been such a privilege and a blessing to be your secretary! Thank you for the beautiful cross and for the James Avery gift card. I will go shopping soon and will be eager to show off some new charms and other shiny accessories! I also want to thank all of you who took time to bring or send cards and wrote such sweet notes and well-wishes. I will cherish those always! Thank you again for all the kindness, grace, and generosity you have shown to me through the years.

Love,
Kara



Toler Elementary

Please join us in supporting Toler Elementary this year!

From NOW—August 2nd, we are collecting uniforms for students in grades PreK-5. We are in need of sizes 4T-small, medium, and large (12/14) in the colors red, white, khaki, and blue. Please leave donations in the box on the LWML table.



We are also in need of volunteers for the 1st day of school on August 8th. We will help welcome students, distribute supplies, and support educators as they kick off the school year. If you are interested in volunteering, you **MUST** completed the volunteer application and verification no later than **August 1st**. Please visit <https://garlandisd.net/connect/volunteer/volunteer-application-process> to register.

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information about volunteering throughout the school year, please contact Noreene Hurst.

We are also planning to create and deliver Teacher Appreciation Goodie Bags for Toler teachers for the first day of school. We want to include classroom supplies and snacks. We are using a Thrivent Action Team gift card to purchase the supplies and we are asking the congregation to donate candy bars, energy bars, microwave popcorn, and crystal lite water flavoring packets. We are also asking for \$5 Starbucks and Sonic gift cards.

Please bring all donation to the church prior to August 6th. After service, we will be putting the bags together. If you would like to stay and help, it would be much appreciated!

Concordia Seminary-Saint Louis, MO

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$624.00 to Concordia Seminary. Your donation will be used with careful Christian stewardship to help prepare the shepherds who will shine the light of our Lord into the lives of so many.

In its 184-year history, 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 steadfast in our commitment to our vital mission, which would not be possible without the ongoing support of caring Christians like you.

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

Most cordially yours,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Bice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer



Gift Card Fundraiser

RaiseRight is a gift card program that supports TOL with every purchase. You can place your gift card order with Kara via email at: karajander@gmail.com. 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.



Donated Items

Please do not leave any donated items anywhere in the church unless you have cleared this with the board or committee that would use it. We have designated collection times throughout the year for items such as onesies, school uniforms, clothing, etc.

Thank you for your help in keeping the church in order!

Onesies for Parkland—THANK YOU!

TOL,

Thank so much for your extremely generous gift of onesies to the Parkland NICU! Our babies and families will be tickled to get them.— Parkland NICU Child Life

TOL,

On behalf of Parkland, and our newborn care/ NICU units, thank you for a donation of 200 onesies, and other baby items. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. — With love, Volunteer Services

Thank you members for donating so many wonderful onesies and other necessary items for Parkland NICU!



Grulke Bible Translators in Botswana



We have officially received our work and residence permits for Botswana! It takes a lot of effort and work to get everything turned in, so we are happy to have these in hand. Unfortunately, we only received two years of residence instead of the five years that we asked for. The Bible Society of Botswana is going to appeal this decision and ask for more years in the permits; we have lots of work left to do! Please pray for us and the Bible Society during this time as we work to able to stay here and keep working.

EFANGELE JHWAAGKA
E LE KWALWE KE
MATHAIO

Gka ga lokwallo lo
Efangete Jhwagka e le Kwalewe ke Mathaio e bola gka Mabogho owa a Molemo, owa a re, Jesu Keresete ke mbediki yo mo sholobehwe, ewa yo Morimo iye wa rihagaha rihlolelweho jhe iye wa ri rha le banyho kamo mo Kgalaganung ye e Kgalagadi. Mbe Mabogho owa a Molemo owa, ha se a dijare biri, keso lo Jesu iye e belegwa mo golo, mbe ke a banyho bohe.
Efangete jhe Mathaio e valaganywe ebente. E simolola gka bozalo jhwaga Jesu, e be e thalola gka kolobeto le tyhalelo yagwe. E bola gka tyhomo yagwe ya go rerele banyho, le go ruyya, le go hawisa banyho ba Kgaladi ya Galilea. Efangete ye e bola gantshi gka loeyo lwaga Jesu go jhwa mo Galilea go ya mozenogolo wa Jerusalema. E bola le gka malati a bobelo a ga Jesu, le gka papulo le tsoyo yagwe bananwang.
Efangete jhe Mathaio e bola gka Jesu e le Moruyi yo motyona, yo o na le tyalo ya go ranona Molao wa Morimo, le go nanya gka bogotshi jhwa Morimo. Efangete jhwagka e le Kwalewe ke Mathaio, e kgaaganwe gka rikarolo il le rihano:
(1) Tybero ya i tyaheng, ye e tyahaganwe le rityho, bantsho, le zangwa ya karumeri bohe boogotshing jhwa legotimo (kgalo 5-7)
(2) Rityalo baaruyweng mba ha ledome le boberi (kgalo 10)

The Shekgalagari new Testament is at the printer! We are so excited to be at this stage of the process and it represents a HUGE milestone for the team and the community. Our dedication for the New Testament is currently planned for November 25, 2023 in Kang. Please pray for us as we prepare for this launch. There is a lot to do: planning, organizing, fundraising, communicating and more. We hope that everything will go smoothly and our printed Bibles will be in hand on that date!

We have been enjoying the amazing parts of Botswana's natural beauty over the last month. We had the chance to go camping on the Makgadagadi Pan, a giant inland sea that dried up long ago. It was amazing to be out there in the midst of a huge flat area; it felt like being on the moon!

Travel is always full of excitement here. Carl blew a tire on the way to Kang earlier this month for an advisory committee meeting. We've had more experience with changing tires in the last 5 years here than our entire lives in the US, including that first blown tire on our very first visit here in 2017. Hazard of living in a thorny desert environment, I suppose!

The Thamaklane River is almost back to Maun! In preparation for the return of the waters of the river, many locals will burn the tall grasses along the banks of the river, as well as setting up fish traps and laying brush in the main channel of the river to give fish somewhere to congregate. This makes fishing much easier!

August 1-4 - Carl in Cape Town, South Africa, for a meeting of Lumin Africa, a Bible translation collaborative

August 5 - Grulkes leave for vacation!

August 13 - Kelsey and MaryJane head to the USA for her to begin high school

August 21 - MaryJane starts high school in America!

August 23-25 - Training workshop on budgeting and goal setting for the Bible Society of Botswana

Sept 4 - Happy birthday Kelsey!

Sept 11 - Term 3 starts at Matshwane Primary School

Scripture Corner

Jude 24-25: To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Prayer Requests

Keep us in your prayers:

For the printing of the Shekgalagari New Testament

For the Shekgalagari Advisory Committee as they plan the launch of their New Testament

For the MaryJane's transition to school in America

For a well-deserved rest as we take a week for vacation

For the process of appealing our residence and work permits

That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

6318 Lyons Road
Garland, Texas 75043

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

