

September 2023



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“We Are Tree”

Dear Tree of Life Family,

These are exciting days for us here at Tree! God has continued to bless us in this new season of being debt free! We continue to see His hand of blessing as well with the addition of new members to our church family, exciting opportunities to minister to our local community through Toler Elementary and other community ministries, the growth of our Spanish speaking congregation (Elevate) and so many more blessings!

In this season of excitement, **I want to invite you to join me and our church family on a 6 week journey together starting on Sunday, September 17th!** When we had our Vision Weekend for our TOL leadership this past July, one of the things that came out of that weekend was a renewed sense of purpose. There were 6 resounding, biblical core values that came to the surface that weekend. These are foundational to who we are as the people of God here at Tree and are firmly rooted in Holy Scripture. You and I will become acquainted with them this Fall.

So starting Sunday, September 17th we will be launching a 6 week sermon series on our core values entitled “We Are Tree!”. In this issue of the Breeze there is also a “Bible Reading Plan” that has a bible verse or verses that correspond with each of our 6 core values. **It is my hope that each day we will all meditate on the verse(s) of the day and let God’s Word grow in and through us.** Each Sunday in Bible Class at 9 am we will also be doing a deep dive into where each of these core values flows from in the Bible. I really believe this Fall is going to be a time for all of us to be refined and challenged in a righteous way by these foundational truths and attitudes from God’s Word. This will only further unite and galvanize the kingdom movement here at Tree of Life as we embark on this adventure together. By doing this we can, by God’s grace, further embody the words that Jesus spoke of in his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Please make sure that you either attend worship with us on each Sunday of this series or that you watch each week’s message online so that you and I get further acquainted and can grow in further understanding our God-given purpose as the Lord’s servants here at Tree of Life.



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

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A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

It is my hope that we will righteously wrestle and embrace these powerful biblical values by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So let us adventure together with Jesus this Fall as the family of God here at Tree of Life as we grow more and more in our relationship with our Savior and His amazing grace! It is an exciting time to be the people of Tree, as we engage our community with the love and grace of Jesus Christ!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Mark

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers (and sisters), by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
(Romans 12:1-2)

Fall Festival

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 will be available in the Narthex/Fellowship area soon! Please contact Mary Mobley for more info.

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

Youth Gaming Event

We will be having a gaming event in the large classroom on Friday September 29th from 6 pm to 8 pm. There will be Mario Kart, Guitar hero, Rocket League, and more! Supper will be provided (not sure what's on the menu yet). Please let Amanda Maddox



know if you are planning to attend! We will also have some craft or painting projects available for those that are interested in that instead of video games.



Thursday, September 21st
Join us for a potluck lunch at noon and then quilting after that.

Fall Sunday School – Youth

There will be **NO Sunday School** for youth Sunday September 3rd. Fall Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday September 10th. See Mary Mobley for more information.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, September 9th 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 is “The Sermon on the Mount”, and starting on September 17th the fall study will be part of the 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 July

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Mission Tithe
7/2/23	NA	80	\$6,995	\$700
7/9/23	NA	93	\$3,792	\$379
7/16/23	NA	88	\$6,430	\$379
7/23/23	NA	82	\$7,790	\$779
7/30/23	NA	73	\$4,191	\$419
Total for July			\$29,198	\$2,920

*Planned for in July—\$21,664

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

General Offering Total for 2023	Planned Offering for 2023
\$192,878	\$173,312

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.

Bless an Address

A volunteer group designed to help people in our community maintain their homes is kicking off this fall! The group will target homeowners who are unable to perform the work themselves and need assistance paying for repairs or upkeep. We will call this group “Bless an Address.”

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.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Gal. 6:9-10)

Toler Elementary

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Toler Elementary Uniform drive and Toler Teacher Goodie Bags.

We successfully delivered 18 individual uniform items. This includes 12 pairs of socks and 30 complete sets of uniforms. We also were able to donate new volleyball and basketball nets for the school playground.

We also were able to bless 60 teachers with bags full of “teacher must-haves” for back to school.



If you are interested in volunteering at Toler throughout the school year, Please visit <https://garlandisd.net/connect/volunteer/volunteer-application-process> to register. Contact Noreene Hurst and Lisa Theriot for more information.

Special Birthday Celebration

Join us after Worship on Sunday, September 17th for a cake and punch reception celebrating the 90th birthday of our beloved member, Ted Keitch! Happy Birthday, Ted!!! Feel free to bring a card with you to wish Ted a very special birthday.



Congratulations Durkin familia

Congratulations to Jaime & Sonia Durkin of Elevate as they have been accepted as students at our beloved Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. They are in the Hispanic Ministry



Institute and began their studies the last week in August. Sonia will be studying to be a deaconess and Pastor Jaime to become an ordained pastor in the LCMS.



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 September 3rd** 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!

Grulke Bible Translators in Botswana

Continue praying for the Grulke family as they continue their missions of translating the Bible for the people of Botswana.

TOL Ladies Outing

Spend some time in fellowship with fellow TOL ladies of all ages this month!

On September 30th at 10am, there will be an outing to Quiggly's Clayhouse. Located in Richardson, this fired arts studio allows for a variety of projects. They offer pottery painting, glass fusion, mosaics, shard art, clay sculpting, letter art, door hanger kits, and more!

The cost of each project is dependent upon the size and type of project, and there is a "supply charge" of \$8 per adult and \$6 per child. To see more individual prices, visit their website: <https://www.quigglys.com>

There is a plan to carpool from church if needed. Please contact Megan Kortze for more information and to RSVP to the event.

Rally Day Recap

Much fun was had by all at our annual Rally Day bowling!



We had over 35 people in attendance, and it was a fun afternoon of fellowship, bowling, and cheering!

Core Values Bible Reading Plan & Sermon Series Plan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TEUESDAY	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 Jonh 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 Revelations 7:9-10

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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!**

