

May 2024

# Breeze Thru the Leaves

## Tree of Life Lutheran Church

### “Thank God For Kids”

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” -Matthew 19:14

It is a humbling and amazing fact that each of us came into this world as helpless little babies. None of us could care for ourselves. We couldn't feed ourselves, bathe ourselves, or provide shelter for ourselves. And God took care of us kids!

Sometimes we may forget what it was like to be a child. All it takes for me is even a brief interaction with a child and I am transported back to my younger days. Life was simpler. The world was my oyster! There were new experiences and new things to learn each and every day.

If we are honest, sometimes children can struggle with knowing the difference between right and wrong (adults struggle with this sometimes too). Kids can get on our nerves or be a little too rambunctious for our liking or energy level at the moment. We may feel uncomfortable around children because they have different interests or ways of acting that are foreign to how we grew up.

But if we take a look at God's word it says this in Matthew 18:1-3, "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Kids are not only here for us to teach, but by their childlike faith and joy, they are also our teachers as well. Kids can help us slow down and remember what is most important.

We continue to have the blessing of seeing new and familiar faces of children in our worship at TOL each Sunday. What a blessing! What a joy! It is so important that children have positive interactions with us here at church and outside of the church building as well. Investing in our youth

and children is investing in the future leaders of the body of Christ. The legacy of faith that has been passed on to us, we are blessed to get to pass it on to others. The Gospel goes far beyond our life span but goes on for all eternity, as well as from generation to generation until Christ comes again!

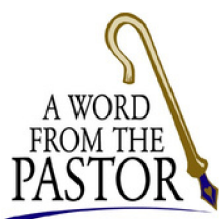


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You can reach  
Pastor Mark Couser  
at 214-908-0242

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## A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

So next time you see a child, be kind to them. Take notice of them. Embrace their childlikeness and share Jesus with them in loving ways too. View them not only as those that we can teach but as our teachers too (like Jesus said). They are the NOW and the future of the church today and always. Thank God for kids!

Prayer - Lord, thank you for all of the children and youth that you have placed in our midst here at TOL. Help us to be positive Christian examples to them in all we think, say and do. Raise them up in your Word and protect them from the evil one, Lord. Empower all of us, adults and children alike, to serve and love you with our lives. Thank you for your heart for each of us and the unconditional love that you pour out on us, your beloved children. Amen.

Christ's peace,

*Pastor Mark*

**VBS 2024**  
**JUNE 3-5 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**



**JOIN US ON A JUNGLE JOURNEY FROM  
CREATION TO REVELATION!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING WITH  
THE MEAL, CRAFTS, STORY TIME, SNACKS, AND GAMES.  
SIGN UP AT THE VBS TABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

**VBS 2024 WORKSHOP DAY**

**JOIN US IN A PRODUCTIVE WORK DAY TO PREPARE OUR  
FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY MAY 5TH.**

**CONTACT KRISTIN DECANDIA WITH ANY QUESTIONS!**



## 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/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/@treeoflifelcmstx>

### The Adult Bible Class

Sundays at 9 am in person in E 7/8 and via Zoom. Join us as we do a deep dive on our biblical core value of “Being Welcoming to All People”. Let us look into God’s Word and discover His compassionate and welcoming heart for us and for all people.

### The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.  
 “6 Core Biblical Values of a Christ Follower”

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 8AM 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 March

DATE	8:00	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
3/3/2023	NA	73	\$7,504	\$750
3/10/2023	NA	89	\$3,100	\$310
3/17/2023	NA	85	\$8,003	\$800
3/24/2023	NA	91	\$5,535	\$554
3/31/2023	50	100	\$12,020	\$1,202
<b>TOTAL FOR MARCH</b>			\$36,162	\$3,616

- PLANNED FOR IN MARCH: \$26,286

## Offerings and Attendance for April

DATE	SS	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
4/7/2024	NA	81	\$5,040	\$504
4/14/2024	NA	94	\$4,596	\$460
4/21/2024	NA	90	\$3,730	\$373
4/28/2024	NA	62	\$5,796	\$580
<b>TOTAL FOR APRIL</b>			\$19,162	\$1,916

- PLANNED FOR IN APRIL: \$26,286

GENERAL OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024	PLANNED OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024
<b>\$97,285</b>	<b>\$105,144</b>

# STAR WARS

## MOVIE OUTING

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!  
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE YOUTH IN  
 AN OUTING TO SEE THE 25TH  
 ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE OF STAR  
 WARS: EPISODE 1 - THE PHANTOM  
 MENACE AT THE CINEMARK IN ROCKWALL  
 AT 12:45 PM. RATING IS PG AND RUNTIME  
 IS 2 HRS & 11 MINS. THERE ARE STILL  
 GROUP TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE  
 ONLINE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
 GROUP SEATING, PLEASE CONTACT  
 AMANADA MADDOX.

Quilters corner will be meeting for their monthly quilting on Thursday, May 16th starting at noon. Join us for a potluck followed by quilting together. No sewing skills required to participate! All are welcome!

# BLOCK PARTY

**Saturday May 18th**

**3:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**FREE Community Event for the Whole Family!**

**Hotdogs, snow cones, popcorn, bounce house, games, and live music!**

**To volunteer or donate to our event, please contact Noreene Hurst.**

**MEN'S**

## Breakfast



The monthly Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday May 11th at 8 am. Join the men of Tree of Life for some food, fellowship, and diving deeper into God's Word together.

## Onesies for Parkland NICU

For the month of May we will be collecting premie onesies.

These must be new and unused, and must have short sleeves and be legless. They will be given to families who find themselves unexpectedly in the Parkland NICU for premature deliveries. Help us bless the hospital and families by bringing in your onesies and leaving them in the baby carriage in the fellowship hall.

# Gift Cards Order Day

RaiseRight is a gift card program that supports TOL with every purchase.

Gift card order day is April 7th.

We will have a selection of cards available on Sunday morning. If you don't see the card you need, you can place your order with Kara on Sunday or email her at: karajander@gmail.com. Cards ordered are usually available in one week.

To see all the 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

DON'T FORGET OUR SERVICE GROUP "BLESS AN ADDRESS" WILL HAVE TWO WORK DAYS THIS MONTH.

MAY 4TH 9 AM - 4 PM

MAY 25TH 9 AM - 4 PM

MOST OF THE WORK WILL BE PRIMARILY PAINTING AND STAINING, BUT MANY HANDS MAKE FOR LIGHT WORK!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT NORM WICK OR LEE WILSON.

"LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP." (GALATIANS 6:9)



We are looking for volunteers to help pack breakfasts and lunches for children of families in need at Sharing Life Community Outreach (3795 W. Emporium Drive. Mesquite). We are looking for 10 people to volunteer on May 30th and 10 people on May 31st from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

The sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall near the church office.

**As we welcome younger families and children into our congregation, we are looking for volunteers to help staff our nursery during worship service.**

**Please contact Rebecca Olivares if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our two Stewardship Projects during Easter. We were able to send \$128 to Lutheran World Relief for their 2024 Hunger Relief Campaign collected from the free will offerings during our Lenten dinners. We also collected \$1,310 for our Caring and Sharing fund to purchase gas cards and Walmart gift cards for our neighbors in need. To God be the glory! Stewardship Committee – "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



## 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!

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**Our aluminum can recycling continues!  
The funds from this project go towards  
our youth and their trip to the National  
Youth Gathering.**

**A kind reminder that we are only  
collecting aluminum cans for our  
fundraising.**

**Thanks again for your gracious support  
of the TOL Youth!**

**Your sister in Christ, Amanda Maddox**

