



The Burning Bush

News and information about growing God's children at
Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

Odessa, DE

December 3, 2023

HYMNS

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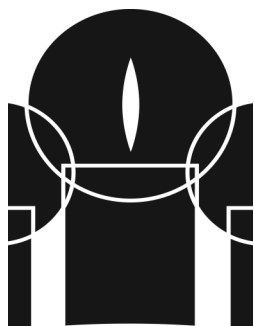
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This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We share a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person -- questions, complexities all. Join us as we do God's work for the life of the world.



Please, God, stir up your power and come!

The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore.

When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for.

But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

-sundaysandseasons.com



Welcome!

Please sign in to let us know who you are - especially if you are visiting - so we can welcome you properly.

Are you called to serve? We always need more worship service volunteers!

See Gene Zaiser.

Thank you for your stewardship

The offering for last Sunday, November 26, was \$880.00. The average weekly offering for November was \$2,083.00.

How do you like the new Worship Bulletin?

Starting this week, we are printing the **entire worship service** in the bulletin, eliminating the need for the *Celebrate* document to be included with the Worship Bulletin. We hope that this makes our service easier to follow.

If you have any corrections or suggestions for the bulletin, please share them with Gail Russell or Pr. Robbie. We will be trying this format for the next few months, then deciding whether or not to keep it.

If you have any feedback on whether you prefer this single document version or the Worship Bulletin with the additional *Celebrate* document, please also let either of them know!



Sign up today for the Live Nativity, Saturday, December 16, 2:00pm

We are hoping the whole congregation can help this year with this community outreach event which always attracts visitors. So are you willing to be the sheep and take part in this wonderful enactment of the Christmas Story? A list of the people/characters needed is in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider signing up!

The Live Nativity will be followed by a Christmas Party inside with singing, Christmas treats and beverages, to which all are invited.

Next Sunday is deadline for returning Neighborhood House family gifts

Reminder: We invite everyone to take a tag or tags if they are able from the boards in the Fellowship Room, purchase the gift(s) and return them, wrapped, with the colored tag attached **next Sunday, December 10. Good news!** We have received a \$250 grant from Thrivent in order to purchase any gifts whose tags are not taken today. **Questions?** See Pam Nichols.

Let us pray for ...

Annalise Fratta, Anya Smith, Carolyn Winiarski, Christine K., Dale & Clara Newcomb, Dallas Dean, Danielle Fangman, Elizabeth Schreppler, Elizabeth Zaiser, Erica Zaiser, Grace Haviland, Jack Barilla, Kenneth LaMar, Kimberly Cilento, Marilyn Brill, Mark Cilento and family, Mercedes Fisher, Pam Baker, Patrick Pileggi, Richard Jackson and Sarah Schreppler.

Let us also pray for those who serve and have served in our military; disaster victims and victims of violence and injustice everywhere; the health of our members and the world; our volunteers, church leaders, and Church Council; the people of Ukraine; the Israelis, Palestinians, hostages, civilians and everyone grieving —may warfare and hate give way to peace and justice.

If you would like to add someone to our Prayer List, please leave a message at 302-378-3345 or email your request to treeoflifec@verizon.net. Please include the full name of the person to be included, as well as yours. It is also important to notify the church office when this person can be taken off the list. Non-Tree of Life members will remain on the list for two weeks unless someone asks that they remain.

Good news: If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time

If you have not pledged your support of God's work in Middletown, Odessa and Townsend Tree of Life, there are pledge cards in the Narthex. Just give it to Gene Zaiser or place it in the offering plate. Please give prayerful and timely consideration because the 2024 budget is being prepared and we need your input.

The 2024 budget will be presented for your approval at the congregational meeting early next year based on our pledges.

Don't miss your opportunity to give back a portion of what a generous, loving God has given you.

Questions? See Stewardship Chair Gene Zaiser.

TOL calendar: volunteer, serve, participate!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	DEC 4 Maria Gue in office 1:00-4:00pm	DEC 5 Pastor Robbie away at Pastor Conference Monday and today	DEC 6	DEC 7 6:00pm Worship & Music Comm. Meeting	DEC 8 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office 3:30pm Kingdom Kids and Confirmation	DEC 9
DECEMBER 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	DEC 11 Maria Gue in office 1:00-4:00pm	DEC 12 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office 6:00pm Council mtng	DEC 13 10:00am Knot Quilters	DEC 14	DECEMBER 15 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office 3:30pm Kingdom Kids and Confirmation	DEC 16 2:00pm LIVE NATIVITY and Christmas party

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robbie Ketcham, pastor, Pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org

Duane Dillard, music director, duanedillard@gmail.com; Maria Gue, secretary, treeoflifec@verizon.net