

# The Burning Bush

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

Odessa, DE

December 10, 2023

## HYMNS

254/519

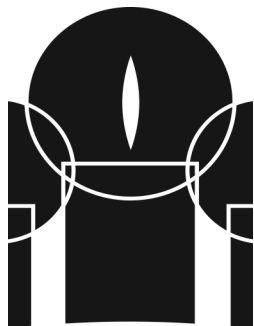
244

471 & 481

677

**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.



**"See, your God is coming!" -Isaiah 40:10**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones.

Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

-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?* To serve during worship, see Gene Zaiser.

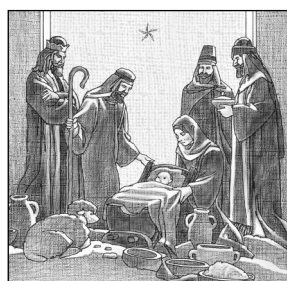
*We thank today's worship assistants:*

Buddy Lindquist, usher; Edwin Kruah, worship assistant; Kaitlyn Yetsko, acolyte; Susan Vetrano, altar preparer; Becky Bullock, fellowship provider; and Edwin Kruah, offering counter.

*Thank you for your stewardship*

The offering for last Sunday, December 3, was \$7,180.00 (No, this is not a typo.).

The average weekly offering for November was \$2,083.00.



## Live Nativity this Saturday, December 16, 2:00pm

Thanks to all who have signed up to be a part of our annual Live Nativity, including helping with providing treats and beverages for the party afterwards.

Come join in on the festivities, and the retelling of the Christmas story with "live" people and sheep. And we thank the Worship and Music Comm. For organizing this joyous event, and building and displaying the white Nativity cut-outs on the east lawn.

Participants in the Live Nativity are invited a brief rehearsal, after worship and choir practice today."

## Rejoice!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Sunday, December 24, 7:00pm

Christmas Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 31, 10:30am

## Good news: If you haven't pledged yet for 2024, there is still time

If you have not pledged your support of God's work in Middletown, Odessa and Townsend and the world through 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. *Questions?* See Stewardship Chair Gene Zaiser.

If you have not yet picked up your **offering envelopes for 2024**, you can find them at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you do not see any with your name, please let Maria in the office know. Thank you!

## 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](mailto: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.

## How do you like the new Worship Bulletin?

Starting last week, we began 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!

### TOL calendar: volunteer, serve, participate!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 10</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	<b>DEC 11</b> Maria Gue in office 1:00-4:00pm	<b>DEC 12</b> 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office 6:00pm Council mtng	<b>DEC 13</b> 10:00am Knot Quilters	<b>DEC 14</b> Noon - OWLS luncheon at the Fish Whistle at the Granary, Georgetown, MD	<b>DECEMBER 15</b> 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office 3:30pm Kingdom Kids and Confirmation	<b>DEC 16</b> <b>2:00pm LIVE NATIVITY and Christmas party</b>
<b>DECEMBER 17</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	<b>DEC 18</b> Maria Gue in office 1:00-4:00pm	<b>DEC 19</b> 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office	<b>DEC 20</b>	<b>DEC 21</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22</b> 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office NO KINGDOM KIDS OR CONFIRMATION	<b>DEC 23</b>

### Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

505 Osbourne St., P.O. Box 64, Odessa, DE 19730-0064; 302-378-3345; [www.treeoflifechurchde.com](http://www.treeoflifechurchde.com)

Nicky Zaiser, president, Church Council; Pam Nichols, editor, *Burning Bush*

Facebook: [TreeofLifeLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch); Email: [treeoflifec@verizon.net](mailto:treeoflifec@verizon.net)

The Rev. Robbie Ketcham, pastor, [Pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org](mailto:Pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org)

Duane Dillard, music director, [duanedillard@gmail.com](mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com); Maria Gue, secretary, [treeoflifec@verizon.net](mailto:treeoflifec@verizon.net)