



The Burning Bush

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

Odessa, DE

December 17, 2023

HYMNS

254/241

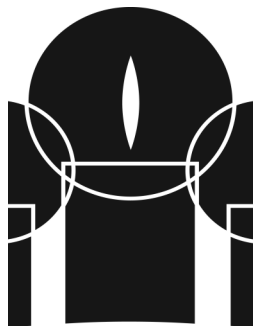
592

471 & 481

579

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.



Today is the Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy.

"All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear.

We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

-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:

Carolyn Lewis, usher; Gene Zaiser, worship assistant; Olivia Brill, acolyte; Nicky Zaiser, altar preparer; Carla Fiske, fellowship provider; and Gene Zaiser, offering counter.

Thank you for your stewardship

The offering for last Sunday, December 10, was \$3,795.00. The average weekly offering for November was \$2,083.00.

Rejoice!

Christmas Eve Day Worship, Sunday, December 24, 10:30am

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

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

Advent Calendars are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary.



Thanks to your generosity, two families will know the warmth of God's love this Christmas

You donated 50 gifts for eight people, plus an additional 10 gifts thanks to a \$250 community action grant from Thrivent Financial.

Pictured here are (from left) Carla Fiske, Dee Matz, Karen McCord, Olivia and Michelle Brill and Craig Brill. They helped finish the sorting and bundling into bags. And Craig Brill carried them out to the car. The gifts were delivered to Neighborhood House last Monday.

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. 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?

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 (including the entire worship service except for hymns) 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!

Coming January 7, 2024 after worship, free CPR training. Stay tuned!						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	DEC 18 Maria Gue in office 1:00-4:00pm	DEC 19 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office	DEC 20	DEC 21	DECEMBER 22 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office NO KINGDOM KIDS OR CONFIRMATION	DEC 23
DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE AND FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT No Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	DEC 25 OUR SAVIOR IS BORN! ! 	DEC 26 Pastor Robbie out of town and on vacation through Dec. 30; on-call pastor will be announced	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29 Maria Gue in office 1-4pm NO KINGDOM KIDS OR CONFIRMATION	DEC 30

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

505 Osbourne St., P.O. Box 64, Odessa, DE 19730-0064; 302-378-3345; www.treeoflifechurchde.com

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

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

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

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