



# The Burning Bush

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

Odessa, DE

November 19, 2023

## HYMNS

707

815

464 & 479

NWS 7

**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.



## Jesus calls us to use our gifts for the greater good

Our readings this month speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress.

Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good.

In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

- [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com)

**Welcome! Please remember to sign in. Thank you!**

**We thank today's worship service volunteers**

Carolyn Lewis, usher; Anders Fratta, acolyte; Jim Pileggi, worship assistant; Nicky Zaiser, altar preparer; Carla Fiske, fellowship providers; Gene Zaiser, offering counter; and Gail Russell, computer tech

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

**See Gene Zaiser!**

Thank you for your stewardship: The offering for last Sunday, November 12, was \$3,308.10. The average weekly offering for October was \$1,798.00.



## Why Neighborhood House exists:

*"Christ's love compels our service"*

Thanks to our partnership with Neighborhood House ([www.neighborhoodhse.org](http://www.neighborhoodhse.org)), we have the opportunity to help out two low-income families in the MOT area (eight people) with Christmas gifts again this year. In the Fellowship Room are display boards with colored tags, each listing a gift, the size if applicable, whether it is for a boy or girl and the age. We invite everyone to take a tag or tags if they are able, purchase the gift(s) and return them, wrapped, with the colored tag attached. The colors tell us which person the gift is for. The deadline to bring your gift(s) back to the Fellowship Room is **Sunday, December 10.**

**Good news!** We have received a \$250 grant from Thrivent in order to purchase any gifts whose tags are not taken. **Questions?** See Pam Nichols or contact her at [pamela.nichols65@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.nichols65@gmail.com).



## Fifty-three "Snowman Packets" and nine knit caps delivered this week

Pastor delivered our Snowman Packets and wool caps to the Stockings for Soldiers outreach program this past week. This large operation works out of donated office space in north Wilmington not too far from where he lives.

Each fall this organization ramps up its efforts to collect, organize and send large stockings to our soldiers serving overseas. ([www.stockingsforsoldiers.org](http://www.stockingsforsoldiers.org))

Last year, over 1,000 volunteers helped mail out 1,100 boxes packed with **9,000** homemade Christmas Stockings that were filled with over 30,000 pounds of goodies.

## Let us pray for ...

Annalise Fratta, Anya Smith, Brian Fluck, 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.


## Community Thanksgiving worship set for Tuesday, November 21

Tree of Life is joining with St. Paul's UMC in Odessa and Bethesda UMC in Townsend for a community Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, at St. Paul's (406 Main St.).

The Rev. Samuel Harrell of Bethesda will preach; Pr. Linda Ray of St. Paul's and Pr. Robbie will help lead. Offerings will be split between Our Daily Bread and Neighborhood House in Middletown.

Please come and join with Christians in our community as we give thanks to God for all that He has given us!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 19 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	NOV 20 Maria Gue in office 1:00- 4:00pm	NOV 21 10:00am- 1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office  7:00pm Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's UMC	NOV 22	NOV 23 	NOV 24 No specific Office Hours  No Kingdom Kids or Confirmation	NOV 25
NOVEMBER 26 <b>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</b> 9:00am Bible Study of Book of Job 10:30am Worship Service	NOV 27 Maria Gue in office 1:00- 4:00pm	NOV 28 10:00am- 1:00pm Pastor Robbie in office	NOV 29	NOV 30	DECEMBER 1 10:00am-1:00pm Pastor Robbie and 1-4pm Maria Gue in office 3:30pm Kingdom Kids and Confirmation	DEC 2 Christ- mas in Odessa

### 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)