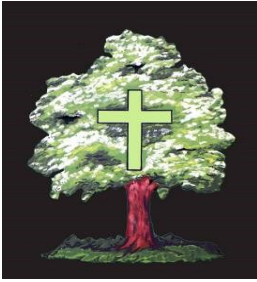


APRIL 2024



The Leaflet



HELP US REACH OUT! Do you want to help Tree of Life be more active in our community? Want to help share the love of Jesus in our community? We are hoping to start a new Outreach Team, which would brainstorm and organize ways to share God's love in the MOT area. It could include service work, presence at local events, and more! Please sign up to be part of this team on the sheets at the sanctuary entrance and outside the kitchen! Questions? Talk to Pr. Robbie.

PR. ROBBIE ON VACATION - Pr. Robbie will be on vacation April 4-9, as he and Abby travel to Ohio to see the total solar eclipse. The Rev. Wes Hamlin will return to Tree of Life to preach and preside on Sunday, April 7. An on-call pastor for any urgent needs will be announced and listed in the Burning Bush.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY - Updated church directories will be available this month. You can pick up a copy by the entrance.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - Our prayer list is again getting somewhat long, so we hope to again update it. Under our current policy, parishioners (members and regular "non-member friends" will remain on the prayer list until they ask to be removed. The names of non-members may be removed after two months, unless someone asks for them to remain on the list. If you have any questions, please talk to Pr. Robbie. Thank you.

DEA NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK DAY—APRIL 27TH

On Saturday April 27th from 10am-2pm (rain or shine) the Middletown Police Department (130 Hampden Road Middletown, DE) will host a DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Event. This is a free, DRIVE-THRU style event where participants conveniently do not leave their vehicle. *This location* is collecting: medications (pills, liquids, patches), Vape Devices (batteries removed) as well as Sharps. **Please note that not all locations hosting a DEA Take Back event will accept sharps.** In addition, the MOT Lions Club will be collecting **used eyeglasses** and **sunglasses** (prescription and nonprescription), and **hearing aids** (all kinds, including charging ports and accessories) to refurbish and distribute where needed.

Council

O As I write this, we are deeply into Lent, a time of thoughtful repentance, and deep desire to do better in our true lives, the lives we live in the every-day messiness of reality. As you read this we will be back to our “normal” lives, trying to live true to our better intentions.

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e
r A few new things are in the works to help us grow in our faith. I’m excited about the formation of a new chapter of WELCA, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, that is being sponsored and supported by Tree of Life. We are planning to focus on a Bible Study drawn from materials found in the magazine GATHER. If you don’t already have access to this magazine, see Janet Adams, who will be delighted to get you signed up. Our second meeting will be April 4 at Panera Bread at 10am.

And why Panera Bread? To get us out and visible in the community, open to all women of faith, or seeking faith and something more to life. It won’t always be Panera Bread; we will move around, using the new library perhaps, and other spaces available for meetings, but spaces in the community and accessible to all. There will be info to follow.

We had six women at our first meeting, but as one of them wryly noted, we were “all the usual suspects”! We need new ideas, so come and join us! Even if you feel a little low on “new” ideas, join us anyway. You never truly know the power you carry until you turn it loose on the world around you!

It all leads us back to our constant need for enthusiastic participation. Consider becoming more involved in our attempts to serve God, and through this service, to know Him better.

We need the help and the world we live in needs us... and that means ALL of us.

Nicky Zaiser
Council President



Pr. Robbie will be in the office
Tuesdays & Fridays 10 AM - 1 PM
Sec. Maria will be in the office
Mondays and Fridays, 1- 4 PM

All Sunday worship services are live streamed at 10:30 AM and thereafter can be found on YouTube to view at any time. Find the link on our website www.treeoflifechurchde.com

From the Pastor

Worship for All Ages

Kelley and I were as surprised as anyone when our daughter Abby started reciting the Lord's Prayer in worship one day.

She wasn't even in kindergarten yet, and we'd never tried to teach her the Prayer. Although she went to church with one of us every Sunday, she usually spent the whole hour coloring, eating Goldfish crackers and occasionally dancing to a fast-paced song. By all appearances, she wasn't paying much attention to the rest of the service.

But one day during the Communion liturgy, she spoke the Lord's Prayer from memory, along with the rest of the congregation. At home, she'd sing snippets of hymns, along with the Disney tunes she knew by heart. Occasionally, we'd even hear her say part of the Apostles' Creed. Mom and Dad were as surprised as anyone about this!

But in truth, it shouldn't have been a surprise. Several parents I know have experienced what some studies on childhood development also suggest: Even when children don't seem to be paying attention, they are still learning! Especially in a liturgical tradition like Lutheranism, children can absorb the repeated words and actions of worship, even if they don't fully understand what it all means (and even if they're coloring or munching snacks at the same time). Most important, when families

consistently come to worship with their kids, children come to see worship as a regular and important aspect of life – and an aspect of life that includes them!

This is one reason you'll see a change in our church building over the coming weeks. After conversations with our Education and Facilities teams, and with Council's approval, the pastor's office and the nursery will be switching locations. The new nursery will now be called a "Wiggle Room," and will include basic supplies for babies as well as a quiet toys for children. Families will be encouraged to worship together in the sanctuary – but if young children need a little break, they can go with a parent to a nearby and welcoming spot to unwind. Our sound system already includes speakers in this room, and we hope to hook up a screen to show our YouTube feed of the service. Plus, while the "Wiggle Room" will be mostly intended for young children, it could also offer a calmer space for people of any age who face sensory disorders (such as some forms of autism), where too much stimulation can be a problem.

There are some other reasons for this change. Right now, the pastor's office is quite a distance from the main office, so not everyone knows it's there. If someone new wants to meet with the pastor, navigating the whole



Treasurer's Report

Expenses through February 29, 2024: \$22,119.18

Income through February 29, 2024: \$24,733.33

Our financial situation is looking good. The snow removal budget was actually used this year. There are a few maintenance issues that need to be taken care of but nothing that seems too daunting.

Our income and is keeping up with our expenses.

Thank you for your continued support of Tree of Life.

~Denise Lindquist~



You're invited to join us for a Women's Bible Study on Thursday, April 2, at 10 am at the Panera restaurant in Middletown.

We will use the Bible study provided in the *Gather* magazine. Copies will be available; you don't have to subscribe. Come enjoy some fellowship.

This is a start to our Women of the ELCA at Tree of Life. We will also have other activities later to include those who can't make an activity on weekday mornings. Questions? call Janet Adams

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL

Ed Bullock	April 4
George Matz	April 11
Donna Parks	April 25



Do we have your birthday? If not, please let the office know so we are able to acknowledge and celebrate your special day.

KINGDOM Kids

Come join the Kingdom Kids on Fridays at 4pm. Our Kingdom Kids will be learning more about the “Heroes of the Bible,” including Jonah, Noah, Daniel, Joshua, Miriam and Moses, David, Esther, Peter and John and Dorcas. And the Confirmands are now exploring in more depth both the Old and New Testaments.

We love visitors whenever you would like to stop by and see what we’re up to!

Questions? Speak with Pastor Robbie or Pam Nichols.



(Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

The OWLS will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 11th, at McGlynn’s Pub (800 N. State Street, Dover) at noon. Following lunch the OWLS will drive through the capitol to see the many tulips that will be in bloom. After the tulip drive, if anyone is interested, they may want to view the Victrola Museum. Please RSVP to Dee or George Matz by Sunday, April 7th.

KNOT QUILTERS

Tying knots for Lutheran World Relief

Matt 25:40. “...in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”



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The KNOT QUILTERS, meet the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 at Tree of Life to create quilts to be donated through Lutheran World Relief. The greatest need Knot Quilters currently have is for more volunteers to help knot the quilts and knot the edging for the fleece blankets we are currently making for the Linus Project The Linus Project gives fleece blankets to local people in need, mostly children.

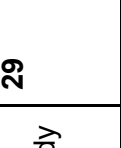
Join us and learn more about both ministries and enjoy good times with likeminded people who also tie knots. Nicky Zaiser KNOT QUILTER

Project Linus
Providing Security Through Blankets



APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 10 AM WELCA @ Panera 6PM Worship & Music Mtg	5 4 PM Kingdom Kids/Confirmation	6
7 10:30 Worship Service Pr Hamlin presiding	8	9 6:PM Council Mtg	10 10 AM Knot Quilters	11 12PM OWLS outing	12 4 PM Kingdom Kids/Confirmation	13
14 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	15	16	17	18	19 4 PM Kingdom Kids/Confirmation	20
21 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	22	23	24	25	26 4 PM Kingdom Kids/Confirmation	27 10-2 DEA Rx Take Back
28 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	29	30				





VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
Apr. 7	G. Matz	Kaitlyn Yetsko	J. Pileggi	S. Vetrano	N. Zaiser	G. Zaiser
Apr. 14	B. Lindquist	Anders or Aleksandra Fratta	E. Kruah	G. Zaiser	B. Bullock	E. Kruah
Apr. 21	M. Campbell	Liana Yetsko	G. Zaiser	M. Campbell	C. Lewis	G. Zaiser
Apr. 28	C. Lewis	Olivia Brill	J. Adams	S. Vetrano	C. Fiske	M. Campbell

Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~

Cont'd from page 3

building to find the office can be intimidating. And sadly, in an age where churches must be aware of abuse concerns, having the pastor's office isolated from the rest of the building can be off-putting. Having the church and pastor offices next to each-other will also allow us to eventually have a separate key for the office areas of the church, improving overall security.

For those who have been at Tree of Life for many years, all of this might sound familiar. Originally, the nursery was at the end of the sanctuary, where the Wiggle Room will be. I am aware that this was moved for a reason: At one time, there were concerns that kids in the nursery were being too noisy. We are working to dampen the sound from this room, and we will be asking that parents remain with their kids when in the Wiggle Room to help ensure their children can have fun but not go crazy!

At the same time, I acknowledge that there might sometimes be a bit more noise. But in many ways, I see that as a good thing! Right now, our worship is often too quiet, because we

don't have many children in the congregation. Bringing in more kids will be a long-term effort, but a first step is letting visitors see that we embrace their whole families – squirms and wiggles and all. Our current nursery, located far from the sanctuary, risks suggesting to a visitor that we are trying to keep children separate from the rest of church. Having a nice space right off the sanctuary will hopefully tell visitors that we see worship as an important experience for all ages.

Of course, moving some furniture and rebranding some rooms will not bring in new kids overnight! I'm thankful that members of our Education Committee are doing some excellent brainstorming about other ways to engage the current youth of our congregation and to bring in new young people. I also encourage all of you to invite new families to check out Tree of Life. And as always, if you have any thoughts about these new spaces or anything else, I'm always happy to talk! Easter blessings to you all,

Pr. Robbie +

Easter Word Search

Z C D Z V C U G B Z U F C L G
Q R S U P E Z A M J F V U D V
Q O A W V L F B O T X K C E Q
X S B U W E F B I F R N H C F
R S O V E B S B O W W P I O O
Y Y N Z Q R B J T U R T C R W
V F N G P A Y X C A Q F K A B
V G E P R T D H Z B L U G T U
E O T D T I Y D X Y P B E E N
E A N D N O E F B A S K E T N
G I S U K N R Y D J Q L T F Y
F W G T C C O T T O N T A I L
L G S X E P Y Q C T M B B O X
E M Z R Z R T T F C A R R O T
U C H O C O L A T E W R K E Z

BASKET
BONNET
BOUQUET
BUNNY
CARROT
CELEBRATION
CHICK
CHOCOLATE

COTTONTAIL
CROSS
DECORATE
DYE
EASTER
EGG
FIND
RABBIT



Spring Blessings from LCM at UD!



April is a beautiful month, as the days grow longer and many delicate flowers come into view. For students, who are juggling such full and demanding schedules, it's also retreat time! We're looking forward to a spring getaway near Rehoboth Beach, which will include beach games, meals, worship, and a service project component. Please pray for good weather during the weekend of the 20th.

Our next **property workday** has been scheduled for Saturday, April 6, beginning at 10 AM. Students, staff, board members, and community members are all invited to chip in to help spruce up the LCM property at 247 Haines Street for the spring season. If you have a few hours to spare, please drop by.

We're also looking for new members for our **Directing Committee** (governing board), as well as members for LCM's sub-committees, such as property care and Mutual Ministry. If you have a heart for this ministry and you'd like to get more involved in LCM at UD, please reach out. Thank you!

We're very grateful for all the tasty meals that have been provided to LCM since September by teams from local congregations. Yum! We still have open dates for **meals in May**. For more information, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are always grateful for the dinners and shared fellowship.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, care, and prayers! Please pray for our students, as the intensity of projects, papers, and other activities builds up, that they will continue to prioritize faith in the midst of all that they're navigating... and that they will know the peace of Christ amid their daily walks of faith.

May God's love and joy surround and delight you during this blessed Easter season!

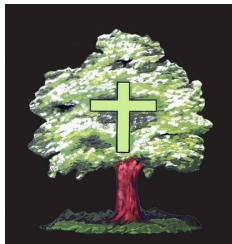


*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*

*Joyful greetings from some of our student leaders...and UD's cows!
Gabby and Elizabeth, in the foreground, are two of our seniors.*

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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Odessa, DE 19730-0064
(302) 378-3345 / treeoflifelc@verizon.net
www.treeoflifechurchde.com
www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch/



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

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

STAFF

Rev. Robbie Ketcham
Duane Dillard, Music Director
Maria Gue, Office Manager

COUNCIL

Nicky Zaiser, President
Donna Parks, Vice President
Sylvia Schill, Secretary
Denise Lindquist, Treasurer
Carla Fiske
Dirk Schulze

COUNCIL / COMMITTEE LIAISON

Altar Guild
Christian Ed— Analise Fratta
Outreach—Denise Lindquist
Property— Dirk Schulze
Stewardship—
Worship & Music— Sylvia Schill

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild—Maxine Campbell
Facilities— Dirk Schulze
Christian Education— Pam Nichols
Fellowship - Carla Fiske
Interior Review—Janet Parks
Outreach
Stewardship—Gene Zaiser
Worship & Music—Sylvia Schill

VOLUNTEER CHAIRS

Burning Bush—Pam Nichols
Financial Secretary— Ed Bullock
Leaflet Editor—Donna Parks
OWLS—Janet Parks, Dee & George Matz
Quilting Circles—Nicky Zaiser
Volunteer Coordinator—Gene Zaiser
Webmaster— Paul Schuler
Worship Folder—Gail Russell