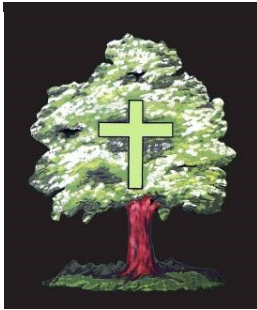


JULY 2023



# *The Leaflet*



## **Twists and Turns with Jesus** **Odessa Community Bible Camp 2023**

**July 24-28, 2023**

**5:30pm-8:00pm**

Free family supper!

No registration fee!

For all youth, kindergarten through teenager

Tree of Life Lutheran Church  
505 Osbourne Ave, Odessa 19730  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
406 Main St., Odessa 19730

From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides you through the twists and turns of life. And even when you mess up, it's never "game over" when Jesus is with you!

**July 24 and 25 at Tree of Life**

**July 26 and 27 at St. Paul's**

**July 28, afternoon trip to Killens Pond Water Park**

Waterpark cost: \$8 (48" and under) \$10 (over 48" tall); financial help available if needed

**Sign up today!**

ONLINE: [www.treeoflifechurchde.com](http://www.treeoflifechurchde.com) or [ww.stpaulsodessa.org](http://ww.stpaulsodessa.org)

PHONE: Tree of Life 302-378-3345 or St. Paul's 302-378-2420

# Council

Summer is almost upon us, those lazy days ... remember that concept?

Well, not around here! Tree of Life is busy hiring a secretary, planning what sounds to me like a rather elaborate Vacation Bible School in cooperation with another near-by church, making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and looking forward to a welcome back Hymn Sing and potluck dinner to kick off the fall season.

And of course the Owls are always out to lunch! You don't have to be old to join them because they don't think they're old! It all looks kind of exciting and fun. Of course, we know that we all go on vacation and/or hit the beach with family in tow, but there will always be enough of us around to keep things going, so we are definitely not shutting down, or even slowing down for summer.

Kingdom Kids has a garden growing which they will be attending all summer. So there's plenty to do!! If you'd like to volunteer a bit over the summer, you can certainly do that. See Gene Zaiser and he'll definitely find you something to do! Getting yourself plugged in to your community of faith, and doing good things as you go, is the best way to find happiness that has yet been found.

Nicky Zaiser  
Council President

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There are two jackets looking for their humans. They are patiently hanging around on the coatrack as you come in the sanctuary.

Don't let them continue to be disappointed like this zebra. Check them out and if they belong to you, please help them be reunited with you.

# From the Pastor

## Summer Fun and Faith

It's already almost midsummer – and that means it's almost time for Vacation Bible School at Tree of Life! This is often one of my favorite times, as I get to know kids and their families both from the congregation and the wider community. I look forward to my first time helping lead VBS at our congregation!

“Twists and Turns” is the theme of this year's VBS, which will run July 24-28. The Bible lessons for the week follow the story of Jesus and the disciple Peter. Lifeway Christian Resources, which publishes the program, describes it as a “celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up, it's never ‘game over.’”

This year's VBS will be a bit different from the past few years, though similar to what Tree of Life originally offered for many years. Rather than an all-day camp, VBS will mostly take place in the evenings. Rather than charging a registration fee, we'll offer VBS for free to anyone who wants to come. And rather than going it alone, we'll be working with St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Odessa to offer one VBS for the whole community.

These are more changes than I'd usually want for my first year, so I want to briefly explain the reasoning behind them. The main goal with these adjustments is to make VBS as accessible and inviting as possible. Many young people today have a packed summer schedule of camps and programs. Likewise, many adults have work schedules that make volunteering a challenge. By holding VBS in the evenings, kids and families can still take part in other daytime activities, then come to VBS afterward. To make this as easy as possible, we'll be offering a free supper for the whole family at 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. (But kids need not worry: On Friday, we will still meet all day for our usual trip to Killens Pond!)

There is also hope that an evening schedule will encourage more volunteers. A successful VBS takes a lot of people: folks to teach classes, help with games, do crafts, lead music, prepare food and serve general needs. In talking with some members, I got the sense that an all-day camp was becoming hard on their time and energy. So hopefully, more folks will be interested in volunteering, knowing it's just a few hours a day.

Cost is also a factor. If VBS is seen as an all-day childcare option, then a registration fee makes sense. But if we're trying to reach as many kids as pos-



# OWLS

(Older **W**iser **L**utheran **S**eniors)

Thursday, July 13th, will find the OWLS at one of their favorite lunch spots . . . Woody's Crab House in North East, MD. There are many menu options to choose from but the Thursday special is lobster. The OWLS will meet at Woody's at noon.



Please let Dee or George Matz know if you will be attending by Sunday, July 9th. Also let them know if you will want to carpool.

Planning ahead, the OWLS will take a lunch cruise on the Chester River (Chestertown, MD) on Thursday, September 9th. Lunch is buffet style and includes filet sliders and cold shrimp.

The cost is \$45 per person for a two hour cruise and lunch. Friends and family are welcome (boat holds 100 people). This is a private event and not open to the public; just OWLS and their families and friends.

The boat leaves from the wharf at the end of High Street promptly at noon.



There is plenty of room inside the boat with its large picture windows as well as a lovely open top deck with plenty of seating. We will cruise down the beautiful Chester River looking at gorgeous scenery— and maybe some eagles and osprey will show themselves.

Checks should be made out to Chester River Packet Co. and can be given to Gail Russell at church or mailed to Jeff Russell (13970 Pinewood Road, Galena, MD

21635) or tickets can be purchased on the Chester River Packet's website below..

Chestertown is a quaint town which you might enjoy exploring before or after the cruise. For more information check out the website

Chester River Packet – Cruising the Chester River along the shores of historic Chestertown, Maryland ([chesterriverpacketco.com](http://chesterriverpacketco.com))

# Treasurer's Report

Expenses for May 2023: \$9,337.67    Year to Date Expenses: \$62,135.42

Income for May 2023: \$21,512.00    Year to Date Income: \$63,325.45

Thank you everyone for your continued support towards the ministry at Tree of Life.

Denise Lindquist

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## JULY

Sylvia Schill	July 1
Johanna DiLeonardo	July 23
Brooklyn Baker	July 25
Buddy Lindquist	July 26
Liana Yetsko	July 27



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





We ended our study of ACTS, specifically the Apostle Paul, with a family picnic plus several games including *Who Am I?* using Biblical names from our les-

sons for the entire year. The great thing was, everyone participated – all the adults including Pam and John Baker and our special guests Pastor Greg Johnson (JP helped!) and Lay Pastor Jim Guldner! We enjoyed a JP presentation and also watered the garden (and several kids!). Each family will take a month: June – Brill's; July – Frat-ta's; August – Yetsko's; September – Miss Pam. And Pastor Robbie will keep an eye out during hot weather when he has office hours.



The kids encourage you to continue bringing in clean, washed, non-sticky prescription bottles during the summer. There is a box for them underneath the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

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Pastor cont'd from pg 3

sible, we don't want anyone to skip because they think they can't afford it. This year, everything will be free, except for Killens Pond (and even there, financial assistance is available).

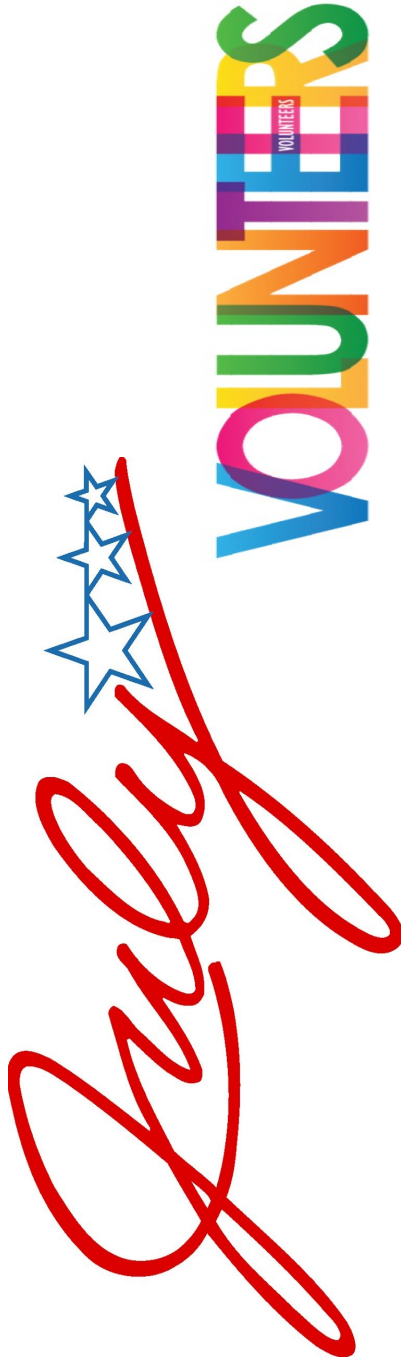
By working with our neighboring church in Odessa, we also hope to make this VBS more fun and inviting. Many kids might already know each-other from school or other activities, so this way there's a better chance of seeing a friend at VBS. And by combining our finances and volunteers, it's possible that our two relatively small churches can offer a bigger VBS than we could do on our own.

All of this will be re-evaluated later. If it turns out that doing our own all-day VBS seems better for everyone, we can consider returning to that format. But my hope is that by working with our Christian kindred at St. Paul's and by focusing on an evening format, we can make this time of fun and faith accessible and exciting for even more people. So spread the word to any kids you know, and consider how you can help out with this wonderful ministry!

Blessings to you all,  
*Pr. Robbie+*

# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Robbie has office hours every Tuesday and Friday from 10 AM—1 PM unless stated otherwise.						
<b>2</b> 9AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Happy Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6 PM Worship & Music Mtg.	<b>7</b> 11 AM VBS Mtg	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Council Mtg	<b>12</b> 10 AM Quilters	<b>13</b> 12 PM OWLS Outing	<b>14</b> 10	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	.	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	<b>24</b> At TOL 5:30—8PM	<b>25</b> At TOL 5:30-8PM	<b>26</b> At St. Paul's 5:30-8PM	<b>27</b> At St. Paul's 5:30-8 PM	<b>28</b> Killens Pond Noon—6 PM	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	<b>31</b>	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 <a href="http://www.treeoflifechurchde.com">www.treeoflifechurchde.com</a>				



Date	Usher	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
July 2	G. Matz	Anders Fratta	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	G. Zaiser
July 9	B. Lindquist	E.J. Kruah	E. Kruah	M. Campbell	B. Bullock	E. Kruah
July 16	C. Lewis	L. Yetsko	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	C. Fiske	G. Zaiser
July 23	M. Campbell	Alex Fratta	G. Zaiser	G. Zaiser	C. Lewis	G. Zaiser
July 30	B. Lindquist	K. Yetsko	J. Adams	M. Campbell	B. Bullock	M. Campbell

*Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~*





### Calling All Singers!

The Choir is restarting and you're invited to participate!

Rehearsals will be held after the service bi-monthly and once a month on Wednesday night. No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to share your talents with the congregation. Recordings of music will be provided so you can practice on your own time as well.

Please contact Duane if you are interested or have any questions.

[duanedillard@gmail.com](mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com)

# Volunteers!



### Calling all volunteers!

Experiences can be so much more meaningful when you also participate. The only way you can find out if this is true is to volunteer yourself. Ask any worship volunteer if they feel their effort is meaningful.

If you want to give this a try, see Gene Zaiser or a Council member.

Thanks to all volunteers and also to those who will risk sharing.

Gene Zaiser  
Volunteer coordinator



### Quilting for Good at Tree of Life

Quilt Circle meets the second Tuesday of every month from 10:00 to 12:00 at Tree of Life to create warm, and hopefully beautiful, quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are knotted rather than traditionally sewn with tiny quilting stitches, so that you can join us without worrying that you aren't an accomplished seamstress, or even able to sew at all! Our quilts are pieced, and later, bound at members homes by people who do sew. During our time together, we only tie sturdy knots, talk, and laugh a lot.

We do not, at this time, need donations of material or money. What we need is more people to come be a part of our group and tie those knots.

Apparently, we have at least one quilting fairy among us, as beautiful and skillfully sewn quilt tops keep magically appearing in our closet for us to tie and donate! This benefactor has chosen to remain anonymous, but whoever you are, please keep it up! We need you and thank you!

We are not planning to take the summer off, since at least some of us are usually in town. So please come and join us. We need the help and a troubled world needs our quilts.



Happy 4th of July—Independence Day! In the midst of all the barbeques, firecrackers, parades and concerts, let's take a moment to honor the men and women who fought, and continue to fight, for the freedom that we're celebrating. Let us remember to uphold the true spirit of America today, and everyday, and practice kindness, loyalty and camaraderie and serve our nation to the fullest. Have fun and be safe.

### **Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center "Wild Feelings" and Great Success**



In the closing days of the 2022-23 school year, students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center were concentrating on their math and STEM skills. Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says students performed several chemistry experiments. "(One) experiment was called 'Bean in the bag.' During that experiment we placed two paper towels (one wet and one dry) into a zip-lock bag with 3-4 beans and watched what changed about the beans over a few days. The last experiment we tried was 'Fishing for ice' in which the students tried to pick up a piece of ice using string and table salt from a cup of water."



In addition, Teresa says students completed grade appropriate social emotional learning. "One activity...completed by our rockstar kindergarteners and first graders was called 'Wild Feelings' where they would choose a feeling to draw and write a sentence about it. An activity completed by our fabulous second and third graders was 'Feeling Faces' where they had to match each feeling with the correct picture of a face. Our outstanding fourth, fifth and sixth graders completed an activity called 'What's Max Feeling' where they used pictures from the story we read to describe the character Max's feelings."

Now, a couple of success stories. Thousands of children have passed through the doors of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center over the decades. Among these are many children who have grown up and made a positive mark on Society. One of those recent examples is Kiah Spinks, a summer camp participant for several years. According to former Executive Director, Jea Street, "in the early 1980's (Kiah) was one of a group of participants to go to Federal Court to see Theo Gregory prosecute the KKK. When we left the courthouse (one) day, she said she wanted to be a lawyer. On June 12, 2023 she was sworn in as a Judge in Manassas, Virginia." Congratulations, Judge Spinks!

Finally, numerous children, too numerous to count, have "graduated" from Hilltop over the last 60 plus years the center has been serving the Hilltop Community. All of those children are special, but this year there is one graduate who stands out. According to former Center Executive Director Street, "SaNiyah ...has been a student throughout her childhood. She began to receive scholarships for college in 7th grade. She graduated from Delcastle High (in June) with a 5.0 GPA . She is the great granddaughter of Sylvia Kee. Ms. Kee (affectionately known to us as Ms. Chubby) was the Hilltop Cook for several decades, beginning in 1971." Congratulations, SaNiyah!

*Eric F. Mease*

*Member, Board of Directors*

*Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center*

## **Tree of Life Lutheran Church**

P. O. Box 64 / 505 Osbourne Street  
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  
, Office Manager

### **COUNCIL**

Nicky Zaiser, President  
, Vice President  
Sylvia Schill, Secretary  
Denise Lindquist, Treasurer  
Analise Fratta  
Merna Smith  
Dirk Schulze

### **COUNCIL / COMMITTEE LIAISON**

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

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Altar Guild—Maxine Campbell  
Building/Property —Dirk Schulze  
Christian Education— Pam Nichols  
Evangelism  
Fellowship - Carla Fiske  
Interior Review—Janet Parks  
Future Facility—Mark Cilento  
Mutual Ministries  
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