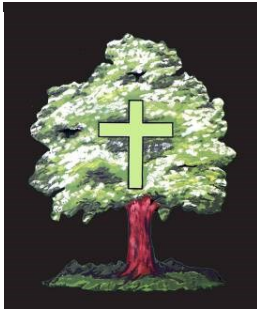


JUNE 2023



The Leaflet



BLESSING OF GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 4, Tree of Life will recognize and pray for God's continued blessing upon member E.J. Kruah and any other recent graduates related to parishioners. E.J. is scheduled to graduate from MOT Charter High School on June 3. If someone in your family is graduating this year and you would like them included in our prayers that day, please let Pr. Robbie know. Congratulations to E.J. on your hard work in school, and blessings in all your future endeavors!

REV. GORDON SIMMONS TO PREACH AND LEAD FORUM

The Rev. Gordon Simmons, director of the Delaware Lutheran Office for Public Policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, will serve as guest preacher on Sunday, June 18. After worship, he will offer a forum to anyone interested about the work of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy. (Pr. Robbie will preside at worship and be available for any other needs.) Pr. Simmons has previously preached and offered this forum at Tree of Life, so please consider welcoming him back on his annual visit to our congregation.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly will take place June 9-10 in Westminster, MD. Please keep all the clergy and lay leaders from our synod in your prayers, as we seek to discern how God is calling our wider church in the coming year.

SAVE THE DATES FOR BIBLE CAMP

Summer is coming and so is Odessa Community Bible Camp 2023! Tree of Life and St. Paul's Methodist Churches are joining together for Bible Camp Monday, July 24, — Friday, July 28. Monday and Tuesday at TOL, 5:15—8:00 PM (free family supper at 5:15; VBS at 6 PM). Wednesday and Thursday at St. Paul's (same schedule as above). Friday, all-day wrap-up and fun at Killens Pond, schedule still in the works. Watch the *Burning Bush*, Facebook and July *Leaflet* for further details. Questions: See Pastor Robbie.

Council

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It has been a busy spring season here at Tree of Life, with some very big changes. First off, John Baker has resigned as Council President, and the Vice President, Nicky Zaiser, has taken on the job. However, these changes leave TOL's Council in need of a Vice President and also a Secretary. If you, or someone you know, feels called to join Council in either of these positions, please let us know. In these special circumstances, TOL's Constitution and Bylaws allow us to appoint council members as needed between elections. Current Council members are Nicky Zaiser, Denise Lindquist, Dirk Schulze, Merna Smith and Annalise Fratta.

Tree of Life's budget looks to be facing a sizable gap. We ask all to please consider stepping up your giving as you are able.

You may have noticed some damage to the ceiling in one corner of the Fellowship Room. The leak was coming from a chimney which has now been solidly repaired. Cosmetic repairs to the ceiling will be undertaken as soon as our priorities allow.

Additionally, one of our heat pumps has been replaced. TOL's HVAC system is now set up for regular yearly maintenance. Property Chair, Dirk Schulze, expects that our next big expense, which we hope will be a long way into the future, will be a new roof and we should begin preparing financially for this project.

And now, I think, we are entitled to some joy, bordering on exhilaration, for how far the congregation of Tree of Life has come. To those who have been with us for a while, our past must seem akin to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. We have worshipped in store fronts and school gyms and have had office space in houses and, on at least one occasion, a member's basement; dragging our possessions with us as we went. It was a journey of faith, and at times, too much excitement. And it was a lot of work!

As I listened to Duane's beautiful music during Pastor Robbie's installation, I was suddenly aware of how glorious it is to have our very own church building and our very own pastor!

Truly, thanks be to God.

Nicky Zaiser, President

From the Pastor

The Blessed Ordinary

This June brings the start of the Season After Pentecost in the Christian calendar. This season was once commonly called “Ordinary Time,” as there are no major church holidays for a while. But in fact, there are quite extraordinary blessings in “Ordinary Time!” For in these summer and fall weeks, you and I can find time to grow in our relationship as pastor and congregation, to grow in how we all carry out everyday Christian life, and to discern ways that Tree of Life can grow in ministry.

For more than a thousand years, the Christian year has been divided into seasons that reflect the story of God’s love for us. The first half of the church year – the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter seasons – is quite busy, as we focus on the earthly life of Jesus. This part of the year is centered around our two great holidays: Christmas, when we celebrate God’s grace born in Christ; and Easter, when we celebrate God’s grace fulfilled in the cross and resurrection.

The second half of the church year is a bit less frantic. On the holiday of Pentecost, we hear of God’s grace poured out on all Christians by the Holy Spirit. Then during this Season After Pentecost, we get to reflect on how the Good News of our salvation in Christ is Good News for our lives today. Without the busyness of major holidays, we have the chance to deepen our everyday life with Christ, as individuals and as a church. And rather than the often-changing symbolic colors on the church altar from Advent through Pentecost, the altar for much of this season is decked out in green: the color of ongoing life and growth. For in this season, we have the chance to grow in our awareness of God’s love for us, and in our discipleship and obedience to God’s will.

For me, this particular “Ordinary Time” will be especially important. Having started at Tree of Life in Advent, I feel like I’ve spent so much of the past six months jumping from special season to special season that I’m still just getting to really know our congregation (I haven’t even had the chance to unpack most of my office supplies and decorations yet!). So this will be a time when I really hope to grow in my familiarity with our church, and my relationships with all of you. I hope to get in touch with many of you in the next few months, calling to say hello and see if you’d like to meet and become better acquainted. I hope to get to know the Middletown-Odesa-Townsend area better. I hope I can learn more about our history at Tree of Life, and how we can continue to grow in our witness and service. This will be a busy season of growth!



OWLS

(Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

Join the OWLS for lunch on Thursday, June 8th, at Sully's Irish Pub located on the Square in Middletown. Please let Dee or George Matz know if you will be coming by Sunday, June 4th.



OWLS need to plan ahead for the September outing (Thursday, 9/14). This will be a lunch cruise on the Chester River (Chestertown, MD). Lunch is buffet style and includes filet sliders and cold shrimp.

We need a minimum of 15 people to commit (and pay) by June 1st to hold the date. 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 Pineywood Road, Galena, MD 21635).

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)

Remember payment is due by June 1st!

Treasurer's Report

Expenses for April 2023: \$13,723.52 Year to Date Expenses: \$52,797.75

Income for April 2023: \$12,461.00 Year to Date Income: \$41,813.45

We thank everyone for their continued support towards the ministry at Tree of Life.

Denise Lindquist

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

Becky Bullock	June 8
Annalise Fratta	June 18
Denise Lindquist	June 23
Patty Blair	June 25
Louis DiLeonardo	June 26
Janet Parks	June 29



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



The Kingdom Kids are on Summer break. They will be around, tending to the community garden, the pill bottle ministry, as well as a few other activities. Look for them to start meeting on Wednesday evenings again in September.

Pastor cont'd from pg 3

And I hope that you will also consider ways you can grow in your ministry with Tree of Life. If you would like to drop by the church and chat about anything, I hope to be in the office every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (if a scheduling conflict arises, I try to announce it in the Leaflet, *Burning Bush* or our Facebook page). If you would like to become better acquainted and I haven't gotten in touch yet, please call or e-mail me to plan a time to meet (my cell number is 614-554-1226 and my e-mail is pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org). If you have thoughts about Tree of Life or ideas for our future, please let me know. If you haven't been to worship in a while, come back and see what God is doing here. And if you haven't helped out with our ministry lately, consider how the Holy Spirit might be calling you to serve your church.

There is extraordinary promise in this "Ordinary Time." The coming months offer us all a chance to get to know each-other better, to discern how God is calling Tree of Life, and to commit ourselves to being part of our church's future. So let's get ready to grow together!

Blessings to you all,
Pr. Robbie+



Friday, 6/2, 10-1

Tuesday, 6/6, 10-1

Friday, 6/9: NO office hours (at synod assembly)

Tuesday, 6/13, 10-1

Friday, 6/16, 10-1

Tuesday, 6/20, 10-1

Friday, 6/23, 10-2

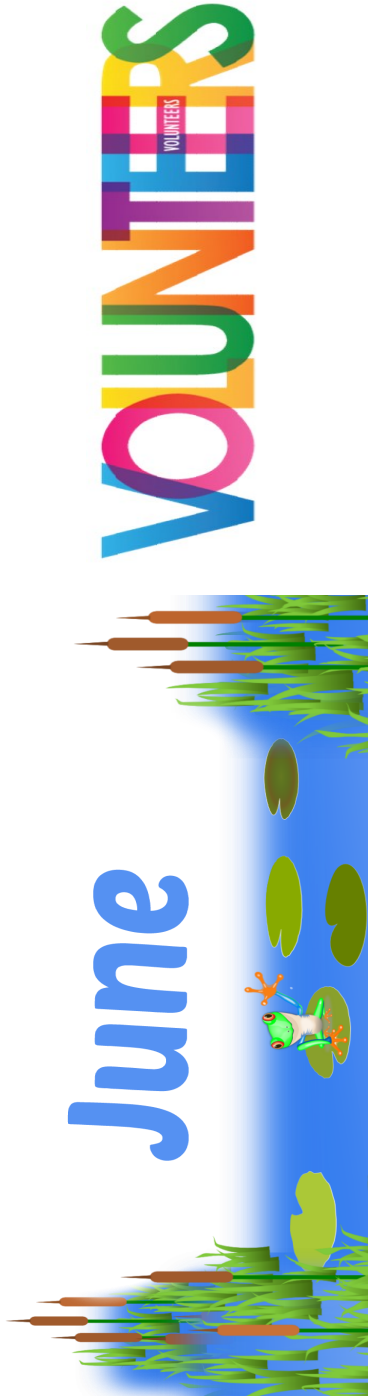
Tuesday, 6/27, 10-1

Pr. Robbie at (614) 554-1226 / Pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org

2023

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6PM Worship & Music Mtg	2 10-1 Pr Office Hrs.	3 5 PM EJ's Graduation Party
4 9AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	5	6 10-1 Pr. Office Hrs.	7	8 10-2 Lutheran Day @ the Capitol 12PM OWLS Outing	9 NO Pr Office Hrs. Synod	10 Assembly
11 9AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	12	13 6:30 PM Council Mtg 10-1 Pr. Office Hrs.	14 10 AM Quilt- ers	15	16 10-1 Pr Office Hrs.	17
18 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service Pastor Simmons @ TOL Father's Day	19	20 10-1 Pr. Office Hrs.	21	22	23 10-1 Pr. Office Hrs.	24
25 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service	26	27 10-1 Pr Of- fice Hrs	28	29	30	
All Sunday worship services are live streamed at 10:30 AM and there after can be found on YouTube to view at any time. Find the link on our website www.treeoflifechurchde.com						



Date	Usher	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
June 4	G. Matz	L. Yetsko	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	G. Zaiser
June 11	B. Lindquist	E.J. Kruah	E. Kruah	M. Campbell	B. Bullock	E. Kruah
June 18	C. Lewis	Alex Fratta	J. Adams	N. Zaiser	C. Fiske	G. Zaiser
June 25	M. Campbell	K. Yetsko	G. Zaiser	G. Zaiser	C. Lewis	M. Campbell

Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~

Seaman's Center Donations

The Seaman's Center is located at the port of Wilmington where most of the bananas we consume arrive from South America. Many others fruits, oil, autos and general cargo pass through Wilmington. The Center maintains a safe, pleasant location within the port where seafarers can spend time playing games, watching tv, reading and generally relaxing away from their ships. These hard working men and women spend long periods of time away from home and family and need time to unwind in a safe environment.

Each year at Christmas the Center provides gifts of articles of personal hygiene to hundreds of seafarers through donations from generous organizations such as Tree of Life. Below is a list of items which can be left in the church office for delivery to the Seaman's Center;

Full size items of:

Knitted scarves and hats
Chapstick
Cough drops
Deodorant
Disposable razors
Winter gloves
Gum/candy
Hand lotion

Pens & stationary
Playing cards
Sewing kit
Shampoo
Shaving cream
Soap
Socks
Toothbrush/paste

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

THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET

As I write this, the legislators in Washington DC are trying to settle the matter of the “debt ceiling”. By the time you read this, the matter may have been settled...or perhaps not. The U.S. government spends more than it takes in (the last time it didn’t was back in the late 1990’s). Raising the debt ceiling allows it to “borrow” a little more.

It is sometimes said that the one party wants to cut spending and the other to increase it. That’s not exactly true. The real problem is that there is disagreement about where the cuts should be made. I imagine that almost any legislator (or President) could present a balanced budget. The problem is that it would not likely pass. Compromises happen. “I’ll support your priority if you support mine.” Getting to a balanced budget proves almost impossible. Debts grow.

State governments are required to present balanced budgets. Early in the year, Governor John Carney submitted a proposed \$5.48 billion budget proposal. It is balanced – in fact it continues to set aside some funds for reserve. (The state now has over \$400 million in reserves.) The budget will fund raises for state workers, extra monies for clean water initiatives, double the money set aside for early childhood education, and (with significant federal assistance) allocate over \$100 million for affordable housing.

The balanced budget is likely to include tax reductions for most residents. The standard income tax deductions will be raised, largely benefiting the middle class.

The Legislators won’t approve the budget until the last days of June, but the Governor’s proposal is likely to be largely approved. It will, in Delaware, be another year of a balanced budget.

--Gordon Simmons, DE Lutheran Public Policy Officer

There will be a “Lutheran Day at the Capitol” this year, at Legislative Hall in Dover on Thursday, June 8 from 10:00 to 2:00. There will be presentations, and opportunities to meet with State Legislators. You can register now at delutheranpublicpolicy@gmail.com

On Friday, May 12th, TOL, in partnership with the Delaware Food Bank, hosted its first mobile food pantry. Volunteers from TOL distributed food provided by the Food Bank to those who drove through TOL's parking lot, receiving canned goods, chickens, pork patties, apples, milk, butter, eggs and, if needed, baby formula. The Food Bank is totaling the number of people served and will be coordinating with John Baker for our next mobile food distribution. Listen for an announcement for the next opportunity to volunteer.



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

Lydia Chemij, Office Manager

COUNCIL

Nicky Zaiser, President

, Vice President

, 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

Interior Review—Janet Parks

Future Facility—Mark Cilento

Mutual Ministries

Outreach

Stewardship

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