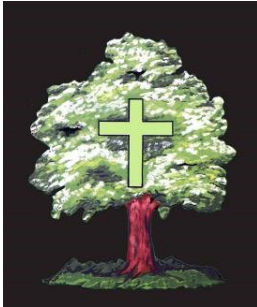


SEPTEMBER 2023



The Leaflet



IT'S A POTLUCK Picnic

Sunday Sept. 17th at Noon

**PLEASE BRING A DISH
TO SHARE!**
Sign up sheet in church's
Kitchen or on Sign Up Genius (link below)

<https://www.signupgenious.com/go/10C0545A5a92fa6fc1-welcome>

RSVP TO
TOL 302 378 3345



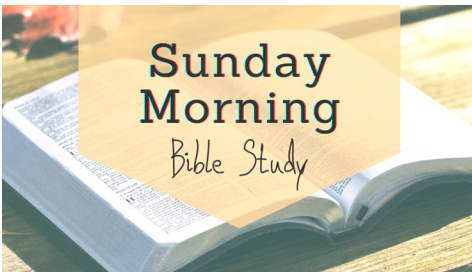
Council

o As we move into fall, there are two large issues facing Council and the congregation. One is the rapidly approaching need to replace and/or upgrade our current heating and air conditioning systems, which we are addressing carefully and with ample research. The second is a need to update our by-laws which still refer to us as "St. Mary's Lutheran Community Church". Both issues are being diligently addressed, and you will hear more about them as we move forward.

r A movement is taking shape to possibly form a ***Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, WELCA***, sometimes referred to as Circles. So far, Janet Adams is the energy and vision behind this venture. It will consist of Bible Study and prayer with the intention and hope of building the supportive community that a women's organization can provide.

r Please continue to uphold Council in your prayers.

Peace and Blessings,
Nicky Zaiser
Council President



WHY DOES GOD LET BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Tree of Life's adult Bible study will resume at 9 AM Sunday, Sept. 24.

We will be exploring the question of why a good God lets bad things happen, through a study of the Book of Job. After finishing Job, we will read the play *The Trial of God* by Elie Wiesel. On the 24th, we will be hearing some background about the Book of Job, and starting to discuss chapters 1-2 from any Bible translation you prefer. All are invited to join this time of Scripture and conversation! For questions, please talk to Pr. Robbie.

From the Pastor

Falling Back into Church

Can it really be fall already? I still have so many items on my to-do list for those “lazy days of summer” – yet somehow, amid family activities and Vacation Bible School fun and so much else, those “lazy days” never seemed to arrive!

Maybe you’ve also been busy this summer with your own travel, to-do lists, work responsibilities or family time. For many folks, summer schedules can become so busy that even church gets lost in the shuffle. If so, then September is a perfect season to “fall back” into church!

On Sunday, Sept. 17, Tree of Life is holding a special “Welcome Back to Church” worship and potluck picnic. We’ll have a festive service, which will include prayers asking God’s blessing upon our new confirmation students, all teachers and students and all our ministries at Tree of Life. Then after worship, we’ll have all kinds of delicious foods, prepared by different members of the congregation. (A sign-up list of potluck items can be found on the kitchen bulletin board – but please know that you don’t have to bring anything to come and enjoy this exciting day!)

When I was growing up, a Sunday like this was often called “Rally Day,” and would mark the start of the Sunday School year. But the start of our fall church year is a wonderful time for all ages in the congregation to gather in worship, prayer and fellowship. And again, if you’ve been away for the summer, this is an especially wonderful time to resume your own participation in worship. For that matter, if you’ve been away for a longer this would be a wonderful opportunity to come back and see the exciting ministries that are taking place in your congregation. I would love to see you!

Several ministries will also be resuming in late September. Our Kingdom Kids will meet again starting on Wednesday, Sept. 20. I’m excited for our adult Bible study that will start at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, when we’ll begin exploring the Book of Job and the question of why God lets bad things happen. I’m also excited for a river cruise with our OWLS on September 14. Meanwhile, we continue to collect pill bottles for use in health clinics worldwide, and to harvest fresh produce from our community garden for Neighborhood House in Middletown. Plus, all the ELCA congregations in New Castle County are working together on a new youth group for teens, which will meet once a month.

In all these ways and more, God is indeed doing a lot through Tree of Life – and God is calling each and every one of *you* to be a part of that growth! So fall back into church this fall, and let’s experience all that God has in store!

Blessings to you all,

Pr. Robbie+

OWLS

(Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)



As you have heard for the past few months, the September outing is a scenic buffet lunch cruise on the Chester River. This will take place on Thursday, September 14. The boat will be **departing the dock at noon** with boarding at 11:45 a.m. The boat can handle people on walkers but there are a few steps with railings on each side. The bathroom is below deck and has steps with railings. You will not be able to use a walker to get to the bathroom.

The cost is \$45 per person for a two hour cruise and lunch. Friends and family are welcome so feel free to invite others to join this fun outing (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) or payment can be made on line—web address was circulated in and OWLS email.



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](http://chesterriverpacketco.com)
 [\(chesterriverpacketco.com\)](http://chesterriverpacketco.com)

Did I mention the boat departs at NOON!?

Treasurer's Report

Expenses for July 2023: \$16,020.64 Year to Date Expenses: \$96,659.23
Income for July: \$11,012.49 Year to Date Income: \$81,615.94

Stewardship Sunday will be coming up in October with Consecration Sunday to follow in November. The dates are being finalized and will be announced soon.

Time, talents and financial help are all very valuable in the life of our church. Please prayerfully consider what you are be able to give towards the ministry of Tree of Life.

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

Denise Lindquist
Treasurer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

Grace Cilento	9/7
Bill Glass	9/9
Tommy Young	9/9
Cristina Young	9/12
Abby Vetter	9/16
Dot Schreppler	9/17
Gail Russell	9/20
Pam Baker	9/22
Sam Lintz	9/27
Dirk Schulze	9/29
Tom Young	9/29



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



Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Our quilting group has continued through the summer, but at a more subdued pace. Even so, we have 15 finished quilts, 2 needing the edges stitched down, and 3 we have to tie the knots on. That's a total of 20, which I think is fairly impressive.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, Arrive at 10:00 and stay as long as you want, though we usually only stay until noon. We need volunteers to join us, so consider adding us to your busy life.


TOL's Annual School Backpack Project a HUGE Success!

The VBS mission was to stuff backpacks to give to Neighborhood House to give to those kids who need a boost in starting school with the supplies they need. Our initial goal was 4 backpacks—2 elementary/middle school and 2 high school.


With a Thrivent grant we were able to purchase backpacks and with the generosity of our TOL congregation, we donated TWELVE, yes 12!, backpacks. Thank you to everyone to participated in this project—making kids happy and prepared for the new school year.



Completed backpacks, L-R Dot Schreppler, Karen McCord, Janet Adams, Carla Fiske, Pam Nichols and Dee Matz

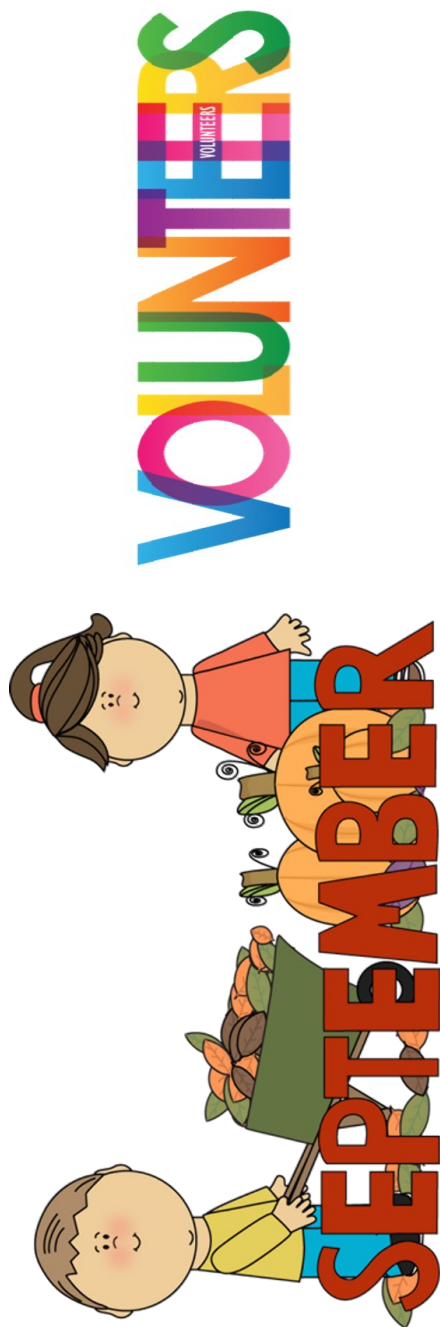


September



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pr. Robbie will be in the office Tuesdays & Fridays 10 AM - 1 PM Secretary Maria will be in the office Mondays & Fridays 1- 4PM						
3 10:30 Worship Service	4	5	6	7 6 PM Worship & Music Mtg.	8	9
10 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Choir Practice 5PM Youtherans Nat'l Gathering Mrg. Pg 9	11	12 6:30 PM Council Mtg	16 10 AM Quilters	14 12PM OWLS Outing	15	16
17 10:30 Worship Service 12 PM Welcome Back Picnic	18	19	20 6 PM Kingdom Kids	21	22	23
24 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 'YOUTHERANS' FOR TEENS Helping at SPCA	25	26	27 6 PM Kingdom Kids	28	29	30
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						



Date	Usher	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
Sept. 3	G. Matz	A. Fratta	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	M. Campbell
Sept. 10	B. Lindquist	E.J. Kruah	E. Kruah	M. Campbell	B. Bullock	E. Kruah
Sept. 17	C. Lewis	L. Yetsko	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	C. Fiske	G. Zaiser
Sept. 24	M. Campbell	K. Yetsko	J. Adams	S. Vertrano	C. Lewis	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

First rehearsal Sunday, September 10th.

'YOUTHERANS' FOR TEENS

ELCA congregations throughout northern Delaware and northeast Maryland have partnered to form "Youtherans," a new multi-church youth group for anyone in grades 6-12. The group is led by the teens, with some organizational help from pastors and youth leaders. Here are the Youtheran events for the fall:

Sept. 24: Help at the SPCA, armed with dog and cat treats

Oct. 29: Picking apples and carving pumpkins

Nov. 19: Service project

Dec. 17: Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange

Further details will be shared when they're finalized. Questions? See Pastor Robbie.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN 2024

Lutheran high schoolers from around the country will be coming together next July for the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering. From July 15-20, thousands of teens will come to New Orleans, LA., for worship, Bible study, service and sociability. This is an opportunity for anyone entering grades 8-12 this year. There will be a meeting to learn more about this at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, via Zoom or in person at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1530 Foulk Rd., Wilmington. Joining this meeting is not a commitment to attend the Gathering, but simply a way to learn more about it. Questions? See Pr. Robbie.



I just want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers during my recovery of my reversible shoulder operation. The operation and physical therapy has gone very well for me.

Bless you all, Maxine

VBS THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our participants and volunteers for helping make this year's Vacation Bible School a success! We had 17 kids from pre-K through 8th grade take part during the course of the week. We also had several teens and adults help lead, which made for a safe and enjoyable time. Special thanks to our volunteers from Tree of Life: Michelle Brill, Annalise and Anders Fratta, Pam Nichols, Donna and Janet Parks, Gail Russell, Sylvia Schill, Kaitlyn Yetsko, and Gene and Nicky Zaiser. Plus, thanks to a generous donation as well as sharing costs with St. Paul's Methodist Church, we were able to cover the full cost of the program, meals and Killens Pond trip for all families. Thank you all again for this time of fun and faith in the middle of our summer at church!



Kingdom Kids

KINGDOM KIDS ARE BACK!

Kingdom Kids will meet again, starting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20. This year, we will have special lessons for both our younger and older youth. After we all gather for an opening devotion, our younger kids will remain with Pam Nichols for an age-appropriate Bible lesson and activity. Meanwhile, our confirmation-age youth and teens will stay with Pr. Robbie for a deeper dive into our faith and how it ties into daily life. Of course, we'll all come together again for a snack at the end. All kids from kindergarten through high school are invited to come and join this time of fun and spiritual growth! Questions? Contact Pam Nichols or Pr. Robbie.

And don't forget Kingdom Kids is still collecting pill bottles for the Matthew 25 Ministries. Any empty over-the-counter or prescription pill bottles, with labels and glue residue removed, and washed in hot, soapy water, thoroughly dried with caps back on can be placed in the marked box in the back of the church.



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY at the University of Delaware

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD is primed for another great academic year ahead! Our student group is strong, fun, and faithful, and we're pleased to welcome a new office administrator, Mike Mekailek, to our team. This past summer, various student members worked at externships and summer positions, traveled to Europe, took courses, volunteered at camps, and reconnected with family and friends.

Please save the date of **Saturday afternoon, November 4!** We will meet at Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle for our first in-person LCM fundraiser in four years. Hooray! We look forward to tasty food, a fun auction, and the grace of gathering with our wider LCM community once again.

During this fall term, we welcome your ongoing prayers for LCM:

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will draw new students to our group, for whom LCM can be a blessing and a safe Christian community. May we welcome them warmly and accompany them with grace and joy, as they grow in faith and service.

Please pray for wisdom in identifying new members for our Directing Committee (governing board), that we may expand and strengthen our leadership team. Thank you!

If you'd like to visit LCM on a Tues-

day evening, please let Mindy know. We enjoy connecting with visitors and are so grateful to those who bring a dinner to share. Please keep an eye on our website (www.lcmde.org) for updates and opportunities. We're grateful for your continued support through prayers, dinners, and contributions, and we look forward to connecting this fall at the fundraiser.

We wish you God's blessings, abiding peace, and daily grace!

In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †

Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD

302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org



A great student retreat at the beach in late April 2023!

P. O. Box 64 / 505 Osbourne Street
Odessa, DE 19730-0064
(302) 378-3345 / treeoflifelc@verizon.net
www.treeoflifechurchde.com
www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch/



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.

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

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

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

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

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