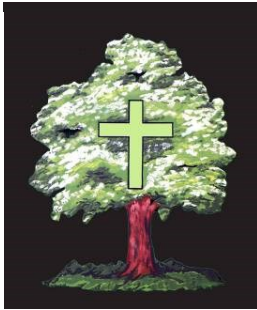


MAY 2023



The Leaflet

YOU'RE INVITED . . .

Pastor Robbie Ketcham's Installation
Saturday, May 13, 3:00 PM
Bishop Bill Gohl will preach and preside.
Other ELCA and area clergy will be in attendance

Come join this special service
as Pastor Robbie "officially" becomes TOL's pastor.
If you have any questions, speak with Pr. Robbie.



EJ Kruah's Graduation Cookout
(graduating from MOT Charter High School)
Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 5:00 PM
521 Middlesex Drive, Middletown, DE 19709

Please RSVP

Edwin 302-598-4319
Elizabeth 302-566-5448

Council

r
n
e
r

No information was submitted by the Council for this issue of The Leaflet.

PR. ROBBIE 'OFFICE HOURS

Pr. Robbie hopes to offer regular times for anyone to stop by the church office and chat. These will typically be from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, but are subject to change. There will be no office hours on May 2 and May 9, due to other appointments. And of course, you can always call or email to set up a time to talk at y our convenience.



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

5/2: NO pastor office hrs

5/5: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

5/9: NO pastor office hrs

5/12: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

5/16: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

5/19: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

5/23: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

5/26: Pastor office hrs, 10 AM—1PM

From the Pastor

New Opportunities at Tree of Life

In last month's *Leaflet*, I wrote how the Easter season is a celebration of new life. First and foremost, we celebrate the new and eternal life that Christ has given us through his death and resurrection. But we also celebrate the ongoing new life that God gives us and our congregation, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What I didn't expect when writing that article was how quickly the Spirit would bring Tree of Life a couple exciting new opportunities for ministry!

First, we will be trying a new feeding ministry this month. A few weeks ago, our congregation's leadership learned that the Food Bank of Delaware operated a "Mobile Food Pantry," a truck that travels to different locations to distribute a month's supply of food for anyone in need. According to the Food Bank, "the truck comes filled with non-perishables, fresh produce, dairy, beverages and other refrigerated and frozen items, as well as personal products when available." The truck comes to a host site's parking lot, and any Delaware resident can drive up and receive a box of food at their car. All the food is provided by the Food Bank, in partnership with the USDA. A host site needs only to provide volunteers to help carry the food to cars, and to help spread the word about the truck. (You can learn more about the Food Bank and the mobile pantry at www.fbd.org/program/mobile-pantry)

President John Baker has taken a lead in working with the Food Bank, and they seem excited about possibly working with Tree of Life. There are currently no locations for the Mobile Food Pantry in the MOT area, despite our region's growth. Tree of Life's parking lot is convenient and accessible, being next to U.S. 13 with two driveways. So at 11 a.m. Friday, May 12, the Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled to be at Tree of Life! We already have volunteers to help load the cars, but please help share the word! Our hope is that this can continue the legacy of our Grocery Club's feeding ministry, while tapping into another agency's resources to help alleviate some cost and labor. What an exciting new opportunity for our congregation to serve our community!

Second, we have a budding new relationship with St. Paul's Methodist Church in Odessa. The Rev. Linda Ray has been pastor at St. Paul's since last fall, and called our office a couple weeks ago to explore working together for Good Friday worship. She also invited us to their "open sanctuary" for silent prayer on Good Friday, and their Easter Egg Hunt that Saturday. Years ago, our congregations had a strong relationship, and as the two mainline churches in Odessa, it seems natural to rebuild those ties. I found our joint worship at

Cont'd pg 6

Pa



OWLS

(Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

Join the OWLS for lunch on Thursday, May 11th, at Fish Whistle at the Granary (100 George St., Georgetown, MD). After lunch, there will be a tour of Painted Sky Alpaca Farm and Fiber Mill in Earleville, MD (cost \$10-\$12 pp). Reservations are needed for both lunch and the Alpaca Farm. You can just do lunch or you can do lunch and the Alpaca Farm tour.

Please let Dee or George Matz know if you will be coming and which parts of the day's outings you will be participating. Please let them know by Sunday, May 7th.



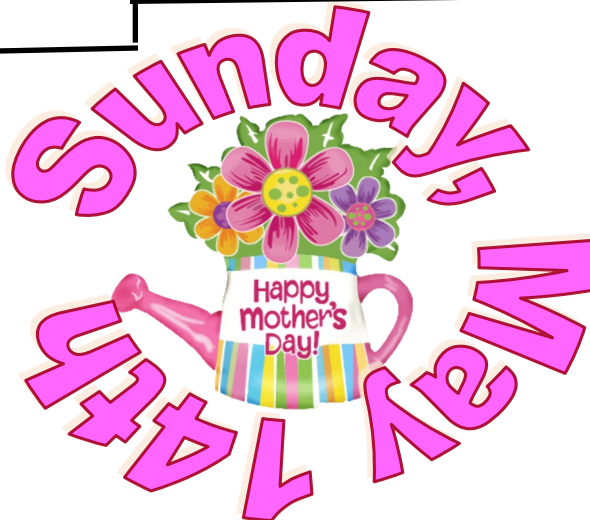
Painted Sky
Alpaca Farm & Fiber Mill

Volunteers!



WE NEED YOU!

Several of our volunteers have had to step down for various reasons. Can you help? I bet you can. I bet you have talents that may seem simple to you but would be a BIG help to TOL. See Gene Zaiser to volunteer.



Treasurer's Report

Expenses for March 2023: \$12,356.93 Year to Date Expenses: \$39,074.23

Income for March 2023: \$10,193.00 Year to Date Income: \$29,352.45

The total pledged for 2023 is \$82,596.00. The budget that was approved for 2023 is \$152,920.80.

This is a shortfall of over \$70,000.

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

Denise Lindquist

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY

Jerry Campbell	May 1
Dolores Billé	May 2
Elizabeth Kruah	May 2
EJ Kruah	May 4
Sasah Yetsko	May 7
Karen McCord	May 13
Kaitlyn Yetsko	May 20
Gregory Johnson	May 22
Paul Schuler	May 23
Chris Collett	May 27



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 will be meeting throughout May and then taking a break until they resume in September. The lessons since right before Easter have all been from the New Testament:

Holy Week, The Ascension, The Holy Spirit, God Uses Paul, Paul jailed in Jerusalem and shipwrecked near Malta, and Jesus Will Return. Check out the crafts done by our youngest each week: they are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room.

Our final Kingdom Kids, May 31, will combine a party with games (Bible trivia from our lessons) and perhaps some gardening.

During the summer the Kingdom Kids families will be busy tending to our garden out back (under the talented guidance of John Baker) as well as sending off clean pill bottles to the Matthew 25 ministries.

As usual, Kingdom Kids is successful because of the involvement of the parents. Many thanks to the Brill's, the Fratta's, the DiLeonardo's and the Yetzko's.

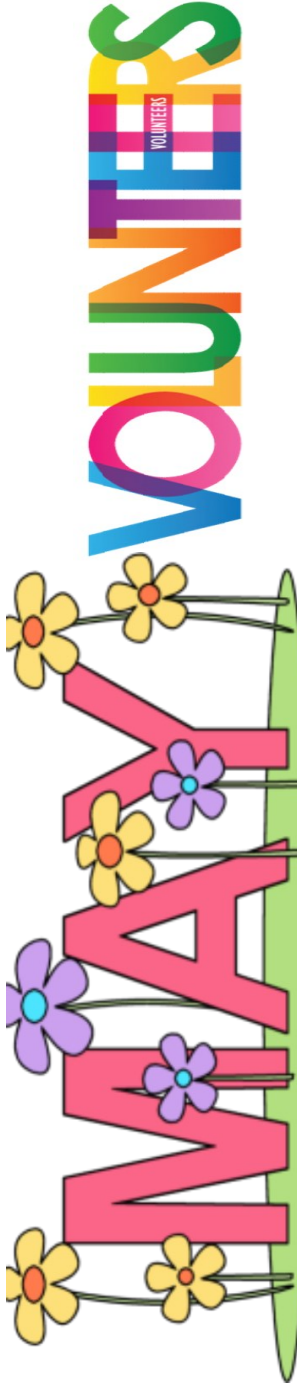
Pastor cont'd from pg 3

Tree of Life quite moving, and Pr. Linda and I hope to explore other ways our congregations can support one-another. Over the summer, I hope to meet with some other area clergy to build fellowship and see how we can help each-other in our witness to Christ. Of course, Tree of Life will always have our own unique ministries and activities. But cooperating on some efforts can help us share resources, and can help reflect Christ's hope "that we all may be one" (John 17:21).

I cannot say for sure what the future holds for these or any of our ministries. Some ideas and activities will flourish, while others might not be a good fit for our congregation. But I do give thanks to God for opening these new windows of opportunity for Tree of Life, and for inspiring the people of our church to seek new ways to serve. And I know that God is not done! God has many more big plans for our congregation! So what are some ways that you see God calling Tree of Life to witness and serve in Jesus' name? I'd love to hear your insights!

Continued Easter blessings to you all,
Pr. Robbie+

[illegible]



Date	Usher	Acolyte	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
May 7	G. Matz	L. Yetzko	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	M. Smith
May 14	B. Lindquist	E.J. Kruah	E. Kruah	N. Zaiser	M. Smith	E. Kruah
May 21	M. Campbell	O. Brill	J. Adams	G. Zaiser	C. Fiske	G. Zaiser
May 28	J. Baker	Alex Fratta	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	B. Bullock	M. Campbell

Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~



HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR LEAFLET?

To control postage costs, please consider picking up your monthly *Leaflet* in church at the start of the month, or signing up to receive it by mail or e-mail. You can find a chart to indicate your preference at the entryway to the sanctuary and on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

REVISING THE PRAYER LIST

To help control the length of our prayer list, Pr. Robbie and Council approved a new policy for removing names. Members, including the homebound and those in military service, will remain on the list until they ask to be removed. But starting Sunday, May 7, non-members will remain on the list for 2 months after being added, unless someone asks that they remain. If you would like a non-member currently on the prayer list to remain after May 7, please let the church office know as soon as possible. For any questions or concerns, please talk to Pr. Robbie.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2023 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly will take place June 9-10 in Westminster, Md. In addition to clergy, Tree of Life can send one man, one woman and anyone between confirmation and age 30. If you are interested, please talk to Council President John Baker or Pr. Robbie.

DEATH PENALTY BILL SUBMITTED IN DE LEGISLATURE

Representative Sean Lynn has introduced a bill in the State Legislature which would ban the use of the death penalty in Delaware.

The state does not currently have the death penalty because a few years ago the law which covered it was ruled unconstitutional by a judge. Following a case from Florida that had gone to the Supreme Court, the judge ruled that the Delaware law gave too much discretion to the judge and was thus not allowable.

Representative Lynn wants to make sure that the use of the death penalty will not come back to the state. His proposal requires life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for a person over eighteen years of age who is convicted of first-degree murder.

Lutherans are not necessarily pacifists, so we would not argue in principle that the state never has the power to take life. However, the Lutheran church has usually taken the position that state-sponsored violence (i.e. war, capital punishment) should be used rarely if at all.

The ELCA has a Social Statement (long-standing, adopted already in 1991) which says that *“Capital punishment focuses on retribution, sometimes reflecting a spirit of vengeance...capital punishment makes no provable impact on the breeding grounds of violent crime...We would be a better society by joining the many nations that have already abolished capital punishment...we urge the abolishment of the death penalty.”*

The statement also makes the point that capital punishment is rarely used equitably. The rich, in murder trials, seldom face the death penalty; the poor often do.

Do you have an opinion about this bill? Your legislator would like to know.

--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



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY at the University of Delaware

Wow, it's May once again, with another academic year drawing to a close. LCM at UD has been wonderfully blessed this year with strong student leaders, great theological discussions, fun outings, and consistent service through FISH, *Fellowship In Serving the Hungry*. We're grateful for God's faithful provision and continued guidance amid ongoing changes and opportunities.

As our LCM students finish this school year, we invite your prayers for focused times of study, meaningful learning, and successful outcomes on final projects and exams, as well as rich times of fellowship and worship to close out the year together. May they remember that they are loved not for what they do or for how well they perform, but for who they are, God's beloved children. Please also pray for open doors before them for summer internships and employment opportunities!

Thank you for your continued support through prayers, volunteering, and financial gifts. LCM is a shared ministry of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, many congregations, and a beautiful network of individual volunteers. Special thanks to those who have served on our LCM Directing Committee (board), as well as subcommittees like FISH and Mutual Ministry, this past year. Our committed and gifted lay and pastoral leaders help LCM to thrive, and I'm grateful for our shared teamwork!

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



A few of our LCM students, wishing you sunny, blessed days!

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

John Baker, President

Nicky Zaiser, Vice President

Analise Fratta, Secretary

Denise Lindquist, Treasurer

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