

February 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

The Power of the Quiet

"But I have calmed and quieted my soul..." Psalm 131:2a

I noticed recently after a full day of activities that on my ride home from church, I did not quickly turn to the radio or listen to music on Spotify on my phone. I instead welcomed the quiet for a few minutes.

This is not my typical M.O. but I am finding myself embracing the quiet more than perhaps I ever have. Our world is filled with noise these days. God can speak to us through the noise but it's often times a lot easier to hear Him in the stillness and in the quiet. If I feel like I am not hearing from God, often times it is because I am not carving out times of quiet to allow Him the opportunity to speak.

Do you run away from the quiet or do you embrace it as a divine occasion in which You can expectantly listen to the voice of your Creator?

There is great power in embracing the quiet in our lives.

How can you make some time for quiet with Jesus today?

Here is a convicting verse that hits me between the eyes, from Isaiah 30:15.

"This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it"

Let us run to the stillness and quiet. It is there that we can be still and know that God is still God.

Dear Lord, I sometimes love busyness. I go, go, go and forget to turn to You and listen for your voice. Please grant me the grace and discipline of making time for you to speak into my life this week. I long to hear from you. Thank you for speaking so powerfully to me. Let Your Spirit speak to me in the quiet and guide me in the noise too. In Jesus name. Amen.



You can reach Pastor
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Board of Outreach



The Board of Outreach is collecting socks and underwear for the students of Toler Elementary. They need size 4T, small, and medium. Please bring any donations by Sunday, February 13th.



The Board of Outreach will be giving blankets to the homeless and to Good Samaritans of Garland. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please consider donating one. You can use your own supplies or we will be purchasing supplies with a Thrivent Action Card for this project. Please turn in any donations by the end of February.



Thank you for donating to the Angel Tree! Our final total was \$800 in cash, checks and cards. These cards were delivered to Pam Swendig, Executive Director of Good Samaritans of Garland, on January 25th. Thank you for your generosity!



Thursday, February 17th at noon
Please join us in the Narthex for lunch and then we will quilt afterward.

Saturday, February 26th at 9:00 am

We are having a Saturday workday so that more people can attend. There are a variety of tasks to do, and when we finish all are invited to go out to lunch together.

As always, no sewing skills are required.

Contact Lisa Theriot for more information.



The 2022 calendar for Altar Flowers is up on the cabinet closest to Pastor Mark's office. Altar Flowers are a great way to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and to honor and remember those we love. The cost for the set of arrangements is \$25. Sign up anytime and then put your payment (marked "Altar Flowers") in the offering plate or drop it by the office. You may take the flowers with you after worship. Arrangements that are not taken on Sunday may be taken to our sick or elderly members during the week.

Worship & Bible Study Opportunities at TOL

Please join us for worship – Sundays at 10:30 am in person and on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/TreeofLifeLCMS/>

The Adult Bible Class

Sundays at 9 am in person in E 7/8 and via Zoom.
“A Study on Proverbs”

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.

The New Testament book of Romans

All are welcome to join these classes in person or on Zoom. Contact the church office for the Zoom link

Children’s Sunday School

Elementary students meet at 9 am in E3.
Youth meet at 9 am in the Library.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 12th at 8 am
All men are invited to this potluck style breakfast with fellowship and Bible study in the Narthex on the second Saturday of each month.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Contact Megan Kortze or the church office for more information.

Offerings and Attendance for January

| DATE | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Growing To the Future | Mission Tithe |
|--------------------------|----|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1/2/22 | NA | 41 | \$2,640 | \$600 | \$264 |
| 1/9/22 | NA | 46 | \$4,211 | \$100 | \$421 |
| 1/16/22 | NA | 24 | \$2,438 | \$100 | \$244 |
| 1/23/22 | NA | 44 | \$3,905 | \$1,100 | \$391 |
| 1/30/22 | NA | 67 | \$7,316 | \$625 | \$732 |
| Total for January | | | \$20,510* | \$2,525 | \$2,052 |

*Planned for in January—\$21,942

Offerings and Attendance for December

| DATE | SS | 10:30 | General Offering | Growing To the Future | Mission Tithe |
|---------------------------|----|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 12/5/21 | NA | 62 | \$5,120 | \$910 | \$512 |
| 12/12/21 | NA | 83 | \$9,481 | \$1,100 | \$948 |
| 12/19/21 | NA | 61 | \$3,850 | \$300 | \$385 |
| 12/26/21 | NA | 40 | \$5,787 | \$100 | \$579 |
| Total for December | | | \$24,238* | \$2,410 | \$2,345 |

*Planned for in December—\$21,643

| General Offering for 2021 | Planned Offering for 2021 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$359,264 | \$259,716 |

Concordia Seminary-Saint Louis, MO

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your wonderful gift of \$699.00 to Concordia Seminary! Your partnership blesses and encourages our students as they prepare for their future ministry of boldly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ!

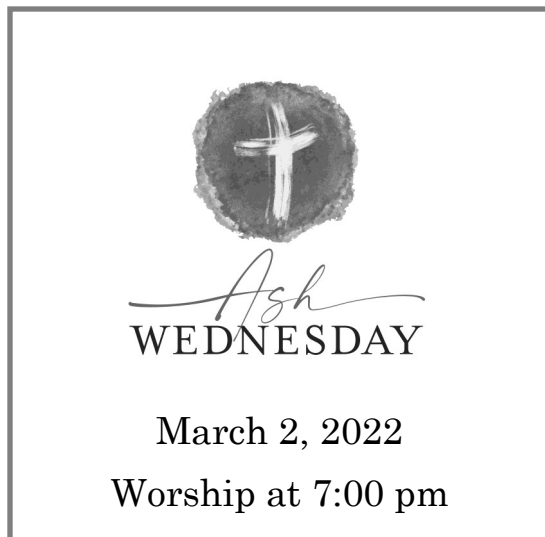
Our seminarians are truly inspiring in their passion and commitment to sharing the Gospel. Sustained by their deep faith, they study diligently, meet the challenges of their coursework and increase their theological knowledge each day. They are keenly aware that donations from caring Christians like you are key to making their education here possible, and I know they are grateful for and further encouraged by your generosity.

I thank you again for the great blessing of your gift and I send warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas.

Most cordially yours,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer



To my TOL family,

Thank you for the prayers, love, and support shown to me and my family during my son's illness and passing. I rejoice in knowing that he is happy and no longer in pain.

(Name removed)



During Lent, the Stewardship Committee will be collecting items to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each week, we will be asking for the congregation to donate one of these five items. The sixth week of Lent we will ask people to donate funds for LWR to ship the kits. You can donate one or several items each week. More information can be found at <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>. Additional information will be included in the March Breeze Through the Leaves.

One light-weight bath-size towel

Two bath-size bars of soap

One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging

One sturdy comb, remove packaging

One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

Grulke Bible Translators

Ngwaga o mosha! Happy New Year! In Botswana, you say “ngwaga o mosha” to everyone you know the first time you see them in the new year—even if you don’t see them until March! The new year is a time for renewed excitement and vigor for your family, job, church, and goals. We are happy to have started out 2022 strong!

Our school year coincides with the calendar year, so January saw the start of a new grade for each of the kids. Gideon and Isaac started Standard (grade)1, Judah Standard 4, Audrey Standard 6, and Mary Jane started Form 1 (8th grade). We are so thankful for our school. The kids are happy and learning a lot.

Kelsey had the opportunity to work with the Maun Choral Choir on setting goals and preparing for the new year. This was a chance to forge new friendships and contacts as well as help Kelsey complete a project for her graduate class that had been delayed due to COVID. We are thanking God for his provision!

Carl and the Shekgalagari translation team are deep in the nitty-gritty part of translation. They are spending hours on Zoom together with the Canada-based consultant to complete the final stage of translation—consultant checking. From there, it’s off to type setting and printing. We are praying that the checking goes swiftly!



Prayer Requests:

- For our travel—we are on the go a lot in February
- For the Shekgalagari consultant checking via Zoom
- For our visit from our colleague Michael Megahan
- For Kelsey’s graduate class—that the community involvement would go well
- We thank God for the house and school he has provided for our family
- That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you

Experience God’s Word through music!

Lutheran Bible Translators and award-winning artists have partnered together in the Living Water project. Using the English Standard Version (ESV), every verse of the New Testament is sung by vocalists to express the emotion and depth of the Bible.

Living Water captivates the listener with the beauty of God’s Word. Subscribe to receive spiritual refreshment each day. Visit lbt.org/LivingWater

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The loving family of Tree of Life, rooted
in God's Word, exists to share the joy,
love, and peace of Jesus Christ with you!

