

March 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Praying For Our World

“Heavenly Father, God of peace and harmony, You would have Your children on earth live together in peace and quietness. Frustrate the plans of all evil men who would stir up violence and strife; spoil the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed; and according to Your will, end all wars in the world. Lead us to confess the truth of Your Word that from the lusts of our own hearts come wars and fighting among us.

Help me by Your Word and Spirit to crucify my sinful flesh and to root out all evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that to the best of my ability, I may be at peace with my neighbor. Mercifully hear my prayer and grant us peace in our days. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.” (Lutheran Book of Prayer, A Prayer for Peace)

We have hopefully all been driven to prayer with what is happening in the world today. War is breaking out in Ukraine and the nations are raging once again. Lord have mercy.

The Bible speaks of war a lot. It can all be linked back to that first mortal sin of humanity when Adam and Eve wanted to be like God. Death, destruction and evil polluted the perfect world that God had made.

So, what are we to do when the nations rage?

PRAY. And keep praying. And pray some more.

We are reminded in God’s word that, “The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.” (Psalm 33:10) Even though it looks like evil may be winning today, God always wins in the end and He is working beyond what our human eyes and ears can see and hear. Pray for peace and pray for God’s will to be done. Pray for wisdom and integrity of heart for all of the leaders of the nations that are involved in the conflict. Remember as well that Jesus instructs us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. (see Matthew 5:43-45)

But in closing today, I would prefer for my words to be fewer today and for God’s word to be our main ingredient of digestion in this devotion.



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- *March Calendar—attached*



You can reach Pastor Couser at 214-908-0242 or mark.couser@gmail.com

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A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

Take 10 minutes and really meditate on these words from Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Pray these words for your heart, mind and soul. Speak them out loud over yourself. Let these words, God's words, change us from the inside out.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:9-21, NIV)

Let us pray and let us love as Christ has loved us.

With Love,
Pastor Mark



Thursday, March 17th at noon

**Please join us in the Narthex
for lunch and then we will
quilt afterward.**

**As always, no sewing skills are
required. Contact Lisa Theriot for
more information.**

Board of Outreach

I would like to THANK EVERYONE for their donating to the UNDIES/SOCKS drive for Toler Elementary School. It was successful! We donated 572 pairs of undies/socks. Thank you ALL for your help, time, effort and prayers.

To God be the glory!

Noreene Hurst/Outreach Committee

*After Easter, the Board of Outreach
will have a clothing drive. Time to
think about cleaning out the closets!*



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.
"The Book of Jonah"

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 through the following link:

Please 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 E5.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 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

Saturday, March 26th, Event TBD

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 February

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
2/6/22	NA	54	\$10,321	\$700	\$1,032
2/13/22	NA	57	\$2,920	\$600	\$292
2/20/22	NA	56	\$3,155	\$100	\$316
2/27/22	NA	71	\$9,738	\$600	\$974
Total for February			\$26,134*	\$2,000	\$2,614

*Planned for in February—\$21,942

General Offering for 2021	Planned Offering for 2021
\$46,644	\$43,884

Concordia Seminary-Saint Louis, MO

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$703.00 to Concordia Seminary! Your financial support is a special blessing, as is your partnership in our mission of forming shepherds to lead congregations like yours and those of your loved ones.

Our students are humbled and deeply grateful for caring Christians like you who give so generously, enabling them to prepare for years of dedicated church service. Inspired by their love of our Lord, they study diligently to learn sound Lutheran doctrine and practical ministry skills to preach to and teach the faithful and reach out to those who know little of Christ's love.

Along with all of the Seminary's students and our faculty and staff, I thank you again for your wonderful gift, and I wish you and your loved ones a blessed New Year!

Most cordially yours,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer



March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6

Meal at 6:00 pm

Worship at 7:00 pm

Please sign up to bring an item or 2 for the meal. There is a sign-up sheet at church by the offering plate or call the office.

2022 Lenten Project

The Stewardship Committee is asking members to donate items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits during Lent. Each week we are asking members to bring a different item

March 6: 2 bath size bars of soap



March 13: Toothbrush in packaging



March 20: Comb



March 27: Nail Clipper



April 3: Bath size light-weight towel



April 10: Cash donation for shipping

Each \$2.65 ships one kit and adds a tube of toothpaste.

Thank you for this important donation.

For more information, please visit

<https://lwr.org/kits>



Thank you all for your prayers. I am back to work. A special thank you to Kathy Troxell for referring me to a different doctor. Another special thank you to Mary Wick for bringing our family supper. We are so blessed having a wonderful church family.

Your sister in Christ,
Amanda Maddox

Texas District Church Extension Fund

February 18, 2022

Dear Pastor,

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is with sincere delight we highlight one of the many wonderful results of our blessed partnership in ministry—a Loan Rebate! This is direct evidence of the faithfulness of your congregation investing with and borrowing from Texas District Church Extension Fund.

Congratulations! Your congregation has received a 2021 Loan Rebate Check in the amount of:

\$1,557.17

In closing, and most importantly, we send you our deepest gratitude for your faithful leadership. We are extremely blessed to have such strong, dedicated shepherds that are continuously guiding and leading the flock. Please know of our ongoing prayers for you and your ministry as we ask God to work through all of us as vessels of healing, hope, and peace.

Abundant blessings on your journey,
Becca Jones, Executive Director
Texas District Church Extension Fund



Saturday, April 9, 2022
10:00 am – noon

Dear TOL,

We could really use your help for the Easter Celebration Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9th from 10:00 am - 12 noon. We are so looking forward to opening up our church and our hearts to the Community this year! We will need volunteers to help with Crafts, Games, Snacks and the Easter Egg Hunt. We are also asking for our loving members of TOL to help us fill plastic eggs with candy and treats for the Easter Egg Hunt. There are bagged empty eggs in the Narthex/Fellowship Area. Please take some home and bring them back to church by Sunday, April 3rd. We will need about 100 egg-shaped sugar cookies for the kids to decorate for their Snack Activity. Sign-up sheets will be on a special Easter Celebration Egg Hunt table located near the Nursery. Please contact Mary Mobley for more information.

Thank you for all your help.
The Board of Education

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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!**

