

April 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

A Heavenly Perspective

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1-3)

We are moving ever so closer to the celebration of Easter. Before we get to the empty tomb, we must go through the pain and agony of reflecting on the cross. Even before that, we meditate on Jesus washing the feet of his friends, that first Lord’s Supper in the upper room, the sweating of blood in the garden, and the arrest of Jesus. The beatings, the mockings, the spitting, and the unfairness of it all. I know you don’t want to go there often. Neither do I.

But He did it all for love.

In the words above, we have Paul’s explicit words to view everything in light of heaven. We are not to be bogged down with a mundane, earthly perspective as if we don’t know the end of the story. In Christ we do know how this life and this world will culminate. Victory for all of God’s redeemed children because of what our Savior won for us on the cross and by His being raised from the dead.

Remember Jesus words in John 11...

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”



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

So my encouragement to each of us is to ask God for a heavenly perspective each day. We need to view things in light of eternity and the approaching kingdom of heaven that is closer today than it was yesterday.

“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Romans 13:11-12)



Inside this issue:

Veritas Art Show	2
Lent/Holy Week Schedule	2
April Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Worship & Bible Study Opportunities	3
Offerings and Attendance	3
From the Seminaries	4
Easter Celebration Egg Hunt	4
Grulke Bible Translators	6

Special Points of Interest

- Quilters Corner; pg 2
- Youth Group News; pg 2
- Easter Breakfast; pg 4
- Lenten Project; pg 5
- Thanks; pg 5
- Spring Voters’ Meeting; pg 6
- April Calendar—attached

Continued on page 2

A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

When we have this heavenly perspective, we can then embrace an attitude of wearing this life “like a loose garment”. As a good friend of mine once told me, “Don’t sweat the small stuff....and it’s all small stuff.” When we meditate and remember what Christ has already won for us, we can view today’s perils, trials, and fears in light of the fact that we already know the victorious end of the story.

You and I win, my friends. Jesus is ri___. We’ll fill in the blanks again on Easter Sunday. ;)



Thursday, April 21st at noon

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

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

A poster for an art show fundraiser. The background is a painting of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The text is in white and yellow on a dark background.

Art Show Fundraiser
Benefits Veritas Scholarship Fund

Friday, April 8th
5:30-8:30pm

Each ticket purchase enables access to touring and purchasing the artwork both of current students and local artists. Enjoy locally sourced hors d'oeuvres and music!

All donations are tax deductible.



background image by guest artist Jonathan Todryk "Light of Life"

More info at:
veritasacademics.org/art-show-spring2022/



The Senior Youth would like to thank everyone that brought aluminum cans over the last several months. We brought them to be recycled on March 26th. We had a total of 114 pounds at \$1.00 a pound. \$114 received to benefit TOL's youth.

Thank you!



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.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday
April 14th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 15th at 7:00 pm

EASTER - APRIL 17
Sunrise Service 7:45 am
Breakfast 9:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



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 Jonah in Us"

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.

The New Testament book of Romans

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

All men are invited to this potluck style breakfast with fellowship and Bible study in the Narthex on the second Saturday of each month. Please contact Bob Green for more information

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Event TBD, Contact Megan Kortze for more information.

Offerings and Attendance for March

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
3/6/22	NA	65	\$6,256	\$600	\$626
3/13/22	NA	65	\$5,176	\$100	\$518
3/20/22	NA	59	\$2,995	\$225	\$300
3/27/22	NA	78	\$3,767	500	377
Total for March			\$18,194*	\$1,425	\$1,821

*Planned for in March—\$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
\$64,838	\$65,826

From the Seminaries

March 7, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$608.00 to Concordia Seminary! Your donation in support of our Savior's mission will be used with careful Christian stewardship to help prepare the shepherds who will boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

While devoted to their studies, our seminarians are eager to move from the classroom to church service, where they will apply the Christ-centered, confessional Lutheran learning and ministry preparation that led them to the Seminary. It is your partnership, prayers and gifts that sustain our students during this formational time. I cannot overstate how grateful we are for your caring commitment to God's work.

Thank you again for your wonderful support of Concordia Seminary, and may the Lord continue to bless you!

Most cordially yours,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement

March 9, 2022

To All the Saints at Tree of Life

Greetings in Christ from Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne

Thank you for your continuing support of the Seminary and its seminarians. You may like to hear that we currently have 9 TEXANS enrolled. 3 of them will graduate this year, one of them is from Plano. I suspect all 3 hope to return to Texas. They are all currently filling out some documentation so that the synod's Council of Presidents can place them in a congregational CALL. Thank you and Blessings to you all.

Rev. Mark DeLassus

Adopt-a-Student Seminararian

Greeting to everyone at Tree of Life Lutheran Church!

As you well know, the season of Lent is upon us. I hope this season allows for reflection on our Lord's life and ministry, up to His ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Our Spring Semester is in full swing! As a first-year student, we are getting our very basic foundation laid. This semester includes studies on the Pauline epistles, one of the Gospels, a cross cultural class, a class on the Lutheran Confessions, and most exciting, our first class on preaching! So far, the semester has been full of great content, and it is such a blessing to be sharing it with all the other first year seminary students.

As an update on married life, everything with Lizzy and I is going great! We had a very nice and small wedding ceremony in Michigan with close friends and family. We are adjusting to living together, and will be for the foreseeable future, but all these adjustments are positive ones! We both are learning a lot as newly weds. Thank you so much for your continued prayers now and for the ones back in December. We greatly appreciate them!

Lizzy and I graciously thank you for your financial and spiritual support. Your sponsorship makes attending the seminary possible, and we are very grateful for that.

Peace in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
Alex & Lizzy Kauffman



The sign-up sheets are out to bring items for the Easter Breakfast (9:00 Easter morning).

Please sign-up to bring an item or two.

Contact Margaret Ball or Patty Gibbs for details.



Thank you to all the TOL members that donated material and your time and talents to make the Warmth from the Heart Thrivent Action Team project a success. With the two extra cold snaps the blankets were sure to keep those in need warmer. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Mary Marks

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>



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

Dear TOL,

We could really use your help for the Easter Celebration Egg Hunt! We are so looking forward to opening up our church and our hearts to the Community this year! **We are still seeking volunteers to help at the event.** There are volunteer sign-up sheets on a special Easter Celebration Egg Hunt table located near the Nursery.

If you have taken home empty Easter eggs to fill with candy, please bring them back to church by Sunday, April 3rd.

Also on April 3rd, we will have a workshop after church to decorate and prepare our activities for the event. Please plan to stay and help after worship. Lunch will be provided!

Please contact Mary Mobley for more information.

Thank you for all your help!
The Board of Education



Milestone Reached!

March held a big milestone for the Shekgalagari team: we have officially finished our consultant checking of the entire New Testament! This is a screen shot of our team when we finally finished: Myles Leitch, our consultant, Carl, Tshwari and Pontsho. We have been working on Zoom for the last several months, 4 hours a day for 4-5 days at a time. Praise God for new laptops that could handle the work and a (somewhat) reliable internet connection during this time.



That is the last "official" step in the translation process; now we will move to pre-production of the actual printed New Testament. That means proofreading, typesetting, more proof-reading and coordinating with the printer. The world-wide supply chain and shipping issues have hit the printing industry as well, so please pray for this process as we hope to be able to have the printed New Testaments in our hands for a launch later this year.

We are heading back to Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, in 2 weeks to renew our kids' passports at the US Embassy there. It should go smoothly, but anytime we have to do something with all 5 kids, it's a bit more complicated. It's about a 10 hour trip for us, so pray for safe travel, no complications at the embassy and a chance to visit some fun places in the capital. One highlight for our kids is visiting the Toys R Us there; did you know those were still around?!

Our kids have been flexing their swimming muscles this last month in a variety of swimming events at their school. They may not be the fastest, but they do a great job and are improving so much. Gideon competed in the mini-biathalon and watching 6 year olds compete in swimming and running is just as cute as you think it is! Carl even got in on the action with an adult triathalon team as well.

Keep us in your prayers:

- For the Shekgalagari project reaching such a big milestone!
- For the printing process, that things would go smoothly and shipping would not be delayed
- For passport renewals to go smoothly and quickly
- For a wonderful school that gives our kids chances to enjoy all kinds of activities
- For the future of Bible translation in Botswana and the role that God has for LBT here
- That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

Sunday, May 1st
After worship
Potluck following
the meeting