

May 2022



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## Getting By With A Little Help From Our Friends

This past weekend was a really special one. It was my Mom's birthday and my aunt and uncle surprised her by flying in from Indiana for the occasion. I got to play chauffeur on Saturday and Sunday in between the different family gatherings. All was going well with this "job" until Sunday evening. I got in my car to go pick up my aunt and uncle. The battery light popped up on my dashboard. Uh oh!

I called my Dad and he said he would pick up my aunt and uncle. I was also supposed to pick up our dinner for my Mom's birthday party. My sister and nephew Daniel said they would go pick up the food instead. I quickly turned off my AC, the interior lights, the radio and used as little power as I needed to run the car. It actually made it to the party without a hitch!

Well later that night I was surprised when the car started up again with the battery light still on. I drove about a quarter of a mile and the car died. To make a long story short, my Dad, my uncle, my brother-in-law and a nice man that was driving by all pitched in to help jump my car and get it safely back to the driveway of my sister's house. It was later towed to a mechanic shop and they diagnosed the problem. I need a new alternator.

From Sunday night until my car was fixed on Tuesday afternoon I had the help of 2 tow truck drivers, 2 Uber drivers, 2 loving members of Tree of Life, a mechanic, and overall more than 12 different people who helped me with this ordeal with my car. I am a blessed man!

Are you like me though? Do you struggle to ask or receive help? There was a part of me, especially on Sunday night, that really didn't want to be a burden on other people. But guess what, that's called life! As human beings we all need each other from time to time. I was blessed and felt loved by all of the people that helped me along the way and made sure I was safe in the process.

God's word tells us in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." So also we have a similar admonition from God's word in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."



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



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### Special Points of Interest

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## A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

So, keep your eyes open for opportunities to be there for another person. Perhaps the more difficult and humbling thing - is keeping your heart open to a time very soon where you may really need help and where Jesus is calling you to get over your pride and to pick up the phone and ask a trusted friend for a hand. You would do the same for them, so why not let them do the same for you?

Oh, and if you see the battery light on your car sometime soon...don't keep trying to drive it across town like I did. ;)

Prayer - Lord, thank you for all of the times that others have been there to help me through this life. People are a gift from you! Show me Lord how you want me to be a good neighbor to the people around me. Help me also to get over my pride and to ask for help when I need it. Continue to strengthen my relationships with the people around me by the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for the ways that you connect us at just the right time and place. Your timing and providence is flawless, Lord. Thank you for always having your protective hand over me and my family and friends. Keep my eyes open to those you desire for me to help today and each day. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.



Sunday, May 22nd after service the youth will be having lunch. After lunch we will carpool to **Prairie Creek Park** to explore 37.25 acres. The park is located at 2305 W Prairie Creek Dr. and Campbell Rd. in Richardson.

<http://northtexasrails.com/2020/06/29/prarie-creek-park/>

If the weather is bad, we will be going here instead:

### **Retrocade**

6320 Dalrock Rd #100,  
Rowlett, TX 75088

<https://retrocadeoftexas.com/>

All are welcome to this event. Please let Amanda Maddox know if you will be attending so she knows how much food to purchase for lunch.



**Thursday, May 19th 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.**

## Board of Outreach-Clothing Drive

The Board of Outreach is sponsoring a clothing drive throughout the month of May. Please bring your donated clothing, neatly bagged or boxed, to the church library and the Board of Outreach will take it to several organizations that are currently accepting donations.



**ICE CREAM SUNDAE SUNDAY**  
**I SCREAM! YOU SCREAM! WE ALL**  
**SCREAM! FOR ICE CREAM!!!!**

**May 15th - after service**

**Come enjoy a sweet treat from  
the sweet ladies of the LWML!!**



## 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.

New study of the book of Ephesians

### 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
<b>Total for March</b>			<b>\$18,194*</b>	<b>\$1,425</b>	<b>\$1,821</b>

\*Planned for in March—\$21,942

## Offerings and Attendance for April

DATE	7:45	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
4/3/22	NA	67	\$5,660	\$550	\$566
4/10/22	NA	88	\$6,900	\$500	\$690
4/17/22	50	98	\$5,322	\$700	\$532
4/24/22	NA	69	\$5,301	\$100	\$530
<b>Total for April</b>			<b>\$23,183*</b>	<b>\$1,850</b>	<b>\$2,318</b>

\*Planned for in April—\$21,942

General Offering for 2021	Planned Offering for 2021
<b>\$88,021</b>	<b>\$87,768</b>

## Board of Stewardship

During Lent we collected items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We will be able to send approximately 50 care kits to Lutheran World Relief. We also collected \$392 to add tooth paste to the kits and for shipping. The extra items that we gathered will go in our homeless kits.

Thank you to everyone who donated!



The Easter Celebration / Egg Hunt was held on Saturday April 9th from 10am-12:00pm. It was a wonderful turn out !!! There were 112 people from the Community that attended. There were 32 volunteers from our church who did everything from bake cookies for the Cookie Decorating Station to helping set-up the 3 outside areas for the Egg Hunts.

Scott Crowder was our photographer and he took over 100 photos during the event. Pastor Mark welcomed the children and families as they arrived. Our Story Teller read the book "A New Day, A New Life ... Jesus Lives" as the pictures were shown on our big screen. There were many activities to keep everyone entertained - including 4 Craft Stations, a Seed Potting Station, Relay Games Room, an Easter Bingo Station with prizes, Cookie Decorating Station, Stuffie Throw, and a decorated Photo Op Area complete with a giant inflatable bunny. The new popcorn machine was a hit and everyone had a bag or two! Our Board of Fellowship provided refreshments as well as set up the Cookie Decorating Station. The Board of Outreach provided free seed packets to all the adults.

The Board of Ed would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make the Easter Celebration / Egg Hunt a success. We couldn't have done it without the loving family of Tree of Life!!!

## Adopt-a-Student Seminarian

Dear Tree of Life Lutheran Church,

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I hope and pray that you had a blessed Easter resting in the good news that we have a savior who has conquered sin, death, and hell so that we could spend eternity with him. I am writing this the week after Easter, so I am still coming down from the high of last week seeing the church packed with people praising God for what He has done.

I am now coming down the home stretch of my vicarage here at Woodbury Lutheran Church. It has been such a joy to serve in a congregation like this. I have grown so much throughout this year, and I know that God has been using this year to form me into the pastor he desires me to be. It is going to be extremely bittersweet when this vicarage comes to an end in August.

However, August will be extremely exciting as well as that is when my wife, Kali, is due with our first child. We recently had our first ultrasound and it really is incredible the miracle that God is doing with the creation of a life. I found myself in awe of our God as I saw this little human being formed before my eyes. I ask that you continue to keep me and my wife in your prayers as we are getting closer and closer to the due date in August. The due date also happens to be the same week that we are supposed to pack up our townhouse and move back to St. Louis. That is going to be a crazy transition. I ask for your prayers that God would give us peace and joy as we enter into that new season of life during a lot of transition.

I find for myself that I can sometimes enter a "spiritual slump" after Easter. I think Satan tries to attack people after the high of praising God that has just occurred. I pray that, wherever you are at in your faith walk today, that Jesus would guard you from those attacks, and that you would be able to continue to grow in your love and trust in him.

I am so grateful for your continued generosity. It is what allows me to do what God has called me into—sharing the good news of this Easter message, that Jesus is alive and his love for you is secure. I pray that you can rest in that love throughout the rest of this year.

In Christ,  
Daniel Langewisch



**Sunday, May 1st after worship  
Potluck following the meeting  
We will also be honoring Aiden Lewis.**



Ngwaga o mosh! Happy New Year! In Botswana, the first time you see a person in the new year you greet them with “happy new year,” even if it’s already March! This year is off to a great start and we’re so excited to share about what’s going on in Botswana.

By the time you’re reading this, the whole New Testament will have been through all four translation steps: drafting, team review, community review and consultant checking. Now, we are preparing to publish! This in itself is a huge undertaking: typesetting, final proofread, printing and shipping. The New Testament will be printed in South Korea (did you know most Bibles in the world are printed in South Korea?) and then shipped to us here in Botswana.

Due to worldwide shipping problems and the ongoing effects of the pandemic, production and shipping are slow. Pray with us for the New Testament to be available in print to the Bakgalagari soon! While we wait for printing, we’ll be busy recording an audio version of the New Testament, as well as turning it into a smartphone app. The advisory committee will be busy planning a launch celebration for this amazing accomplishment.

Before we came to Botswana, we trained for a year through the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (now Dallas International University). Kelsey began a master in World Arts with an emphasis in Scripture Engagement. She’s been taking classes one at a time to finish the degree. This term, Kelsey is taking Directed Practicum in World Arts. The bulk of the class is learning an artform from a culture that’s not your own, so Kelsey has taken up the local tradition of basket making. It’s been a great way to learn more about local cultures and practice Setswana!

The Wayeyi team is working hard and making progress! Last year, we shared with you how we were able to release the audio version of the book of Mark as well as the app version alongside the printed version. There was much excitement surrounding the launch, but we weren’t sure if the recording was making a difference long-term. Then, we got a report from the team that, on their most recent community checking visit to the same villages, people were reading the material to the team! Usually, the team reads to the community, but they had been using the book of Mark and the accompanying audio to teach themselves to read Shiyeyi. Praise God with us for this exciting news, and pray with us for guidance as we explore literacy-building ideas with the team and community.

Please pray with us for the possibility of new projects and the language groups that still remain without Scripture here in Botswana.

Thanks to your generous giving, we met our 2021 budget goal! Praise God!

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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!

