

July 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“One Thing Is Necessary”

Happy July, Tree of Life family! I hope and pray that you are staying cool and getting to enjoy a “different” pace during these summer months. It is my prayer that we all take opportunities to slow down and be present throughout these summer weeks. It is also a great time for us to slow down and to crack open God’s word on a regular basis and to let its truth inform our actions, our attitudes, our words, and our relationships.

One of our Christian traditions that I have come to love over time is our lectionary schedule. Say what, pastor? Let me explain. Our Bible passages that we read every Sunday are actually predetermined so that in a matter of 3 years, we will have read through a majority of the Old and New Testament. For the last 2 months of June through the end of October we will be reading through the Gospel of Luke together on Sunday. One of the upcoming stories is found in Luke 10:38-42. I encourage you to open up your Bible and to read these few, short verses now.

Who are you more like today, Martha or Mary?

It changes for me and I am guessing it does for you too. I had a very recent reminder of how I have a lot of Martha in me. I started focusing on the wrong things and took my eyes off Jesus. When I do this, it never goes well for me. I become overwhelmed, irritable, and selfish in these moments. Thank goodness Jesus is always right there to forgive me and to welcome me back to sit at his feet and to spend time in His presence, listening to His always loving and truthful words.

Re-read with me Luke 10:41-42a, “But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary.”

Let’s think about that. With all of our to-do lists and responsibilities, there really is only one thing necessary in this life. Our relationship with Jesus! Everything else is icing on the cake. I’m guessing that Martha was so concerned with making sure all of the arrangements were perfect, and that the food was just right, and that the house was swept from floor to ceiling....when she was forgetting the main attraction, Jesus!

I can relate to this. Our priorities as humans can get mightily skewed at times.

Continued on page 2



Inside this issue:

<i>Block Party</i>	2
<i>Impact of Salvation</i>	2
<i>July Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	3
<i>Worship & Bible Study Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Offerings and Attendance</i>	3
<i>Grulke Bible Translators</i>	4
<i>National Youth Gathering</i>	4
<i>Painting With a Twist</i>	5

Special Points of Interest

- *Quilters Corner; pg 2*
- *From the Seminary; pg 4*
- *Onesies for Parkland; pg 5*
- *July Calendar—attached*

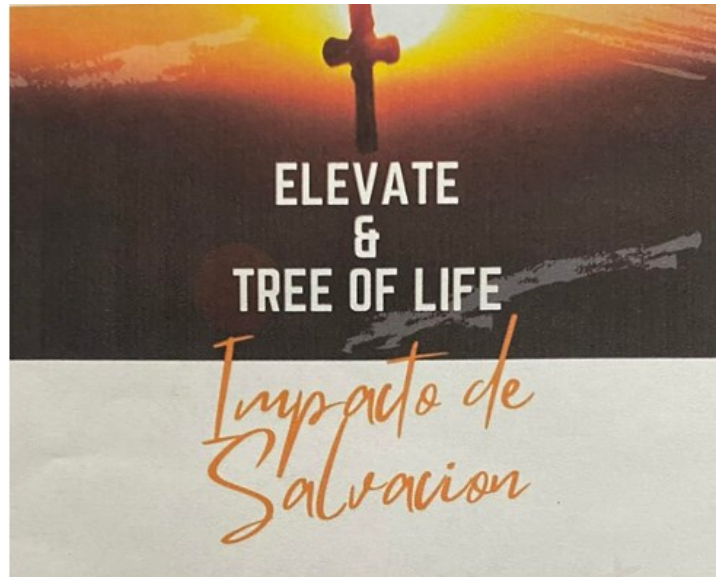


You can reach Pastor Couser at 214-908-0242 or mark.couser@gmail.com

A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

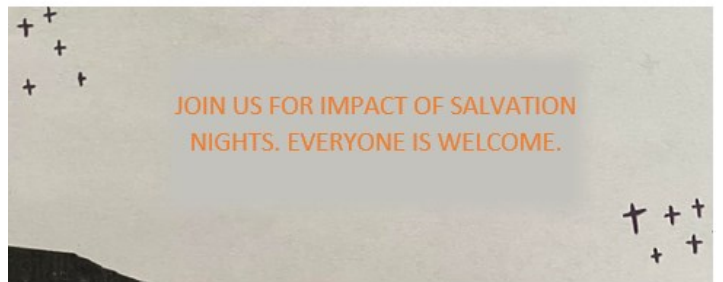
Let's remember today and each day to keep Jesus first. He is the one and only one that is necessary for this life. Let us keep our eyes on the One who has everything we need for this life and has won for us entrance into the next life as well!

Prayer - Lord, my priorities can get really skewed at times. Help me to be more like Mary in a Martha world. Lord, when I am overwhelmed fill me with your peace and remind me that you are my One and only necessary Savior in this life. Help me to long for You and Your presence, Jesus. Thank you for winning for me salvation for eternity. I am nothing without You, Lord! Amen.



July 15, 16, 17 at 6:00 pm

6318 Lyons Rd.
Garland, TX 75043



Saturday, July 2, 2022

5:00 – 8:00 pm

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Hotdogs, snow cones, popcorn,
bounce house, games, music

*To help with this event,
please speak to Norene Hurst.*



July 21st at noon
Potluck lunch with quilting afterward.
No sewing skill required.
All are welcome!



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 Ephesians

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.

The New Testament book of 1st John

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

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

We will be attending the Painting with a Twist event on July 23rd from 5:30—7:30 pm in Rockwall. Cost is \$40. Contact Megan Kortze or Shannon Murphy for details.

Offerings and Attendance for May

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
5/1/22	NA	58	\$5,590	\$50	\$559
5/8/22	NA	70	\$6,990	\$400	\$699
5/15/22	NA	60	\$4,026	\$200	\$403
5/22/22	NA	54	\$4,586	\$1,400	\$459
5/29/22	NA	44	\$1,045	\$0	\$104
Total for May			\$22,237*	\$2,050	\$2,224

*Planned for in May—\$21,942

Offerings and Attendance for June

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
6/5/22	NA	48	\$5,195	\$200	\$520
6/12/22	NA	55	\$5,368	\$700	\$537
6/19/22	NA	61	\$6,150	\$800	\$615
6/26/22	NA	73	\$6,191	\$700	\$619
Total for June			\$22,904*	\$2,400	\$2,291

*Planned for in June—\$21,942

General Offering for 2022	Planned Offering for 2022
\$133,162	\$131,652



Noka e gorogile! The river has arrived!



Every year in Maun, the rivers dry up for a few months. Then, when the water from the rains in the Angola highlands makes its way here, our rivers fill up again. You can imagine the excitement that comes with the river! Fresh water! Life! Happy crops, happy livestock, and happy people. This year, for the first time, we were able to watch the river trickle in. What a joyful occasion! How much more refreshing is the River of Life that never dries up and quenches the soul's deepest thirst!

Right now, Carl is in South Africa working with a cross-border cooperative group to revise the 1970 version of the Setswana Bible. Since there are Setswana speakers in both Botswana and South Africa, scholars from both countries are contributing to the revision.

June featured several exciting events at school (not to mention lots of exams). Book Character day: each kid dressed up like a favorite book character. We also had a walk-a-thon, an international food night, and a pajama day.

The house we rent is on the grounds of Thuso Rehabilitation Center. It offers physical and vocational rehabilitation. It is owned (as is our house) by the Lutheran church. The center is going through major changes, some of which will affect us. Pray with us for God's will to be done!

Please pray for our youth and their adult leaders who are attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering July 9–13. Those attending are: Aiden Lewis, Isaac Lewis, Annabelle Maddox, Breyden Purcell, Pastor Mark Couser, Megan Kortze, and Barb Morgan.

From the Seminary

June 15, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your wonderful gift of **\$637.00** to Concordia Seminary! Your donation is a special blessing, as is your partnership in the Seminary's mission of forming our church's future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and other leaders.

Our students are truly inspiring in their passion and commitment, showing us each day that they clearly see ministry as a calling from God that the Seminary is preparing them to answer. They work hard on their studies, eager to begin their many years of sharing the Gospel and leading people to a deeper understanding of God's Word and an increasing awareness of the Lord's unfailing love.

I know you join me in praising God for raising up these faithful workers for the harvest, and **I thank you again** for your generous gift!

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs

Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer

You're invited!

This event will be hosted at the Rockwall, TX
Painting with a Twist studio.

Tree of Life

[Saturday, July 23, 2022](#)

[5:30 PM to 7:30 PM](#)

The studio is located at [513 E Interstate 30,](#)
[Rockwall, TX 75087](#)

You can [register and pay online](#) using the
password **PARTY**. If you have any questions or
need to get in touch, please call or email us.

Thanks,

Painting with a Twist Rockwall, TX

[\(469\) 314-8110](tel:(469)314-8110)

<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/rockwall/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pwatrockwallTX>



We will be painting this!

The cost is \$40.
Please register and
pay as soon as
possible. Contact
Shannon Murphy if
you have any
questions.

During May 2022 TOL collected 202 onesies.

Betty Nixon donated 43 hand-knitted
baby caps and Margaret Ball donated
14 quilted bibs. This effort was sponsored
by the TOL board of Stewardship and all
items were donated to the Parkland
Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Thank you to all who donated!

