

October 2022



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“I Am A Beloved Child of God!”

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" -1 John 3:1

It never ceases to amaze me. Something or somebody will try to take my attention and affection off of the eternal reality that was just defined above for me from God's word.

I am God's beloved child.

I am loved.

My worth and value flow from completely and utterly from the gospel fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again for me. God paid all the penalty for my sin and has claimed me forever as His own. I am a beloved, redeemed child of God! This is my story and this is my song!

And yet, I often find myself looking to...

- The opinions of those around me to validate my value.
- The amount of money in my bank account to quantify my worth.
- The level of my busyness and full day of activities in my day to prove that I am a productive human being.
- The shame and regret of the past which holds me back from feeling like I am worthy of being loved today.
- The laughter of others in a joke that I say to make me feel like I am a fun person and am cherished by those around me.
 - My elegant or knowledgeable words on different subjects that will hopefully make people think that I am smart and worthy of being listened to.

The list could go on and on. Where do you sometimes find yourself looking for validation, worth, and value from others or from things? Friends, none of these endless and earthly pursuits ever satisfy our insatiable desire to be loved and accepted. Only God can do that!

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.”
-Brennan Manning



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



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- October Calendar—attached

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A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." -Isaiah 43:1

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and 'you will find rest for your souls.' For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." -Matthew 11:28-30

Rest in this. You are and will always be God's beloved child. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more or any less than He already does right now in Jesus Christ.

Embrace and bask in that everlasting love! You are God's beloved child, now and forevermore.

Prayer—Lord, thank You for making me your child through the waters of baptism and by the power of Your holy, unchangeable word. Continue to bring to my remembrance that I am your beloved, forgiven and redeemed child. Lord, help me to live and breathe out of this unconditional love that You have for me. Love others through me today and each day. Thank You for the gift of eternal life that I have through Your Son's death and resurrection. I am forever Yours. Thank you Jesus. Amen.



Reformation Service
October 30 at 4:00 pm
at Bethel Lutheran Church
11211 E. Northwest Hwy.
Dallas, TX 75238

This is a combined service for all of the churches in our LCMS Circuit.



Winter Clothing Drive for Good Samaritans of Garland and Toler Elementary

We are collecting **coats, gloves/mittens, scarves & hats for adults and children** during October. Good Samaritans needs mainly men's coats in large sizes so that they can layer. Toler needs boys and girls coats in sizes 5/6 to 14/16. Please bring donations to Tree of Life and we will make sure that they are delivered in early November.

*Sponsored by the
Board of Stewardship*



Board of Youth

FOOSBALL TOURNAMENT

**October 2nd
after worship.
Lunch will be
provided.**

**Contact Amanda
Maddox for more
information.**

"Older youth" are
also 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 books of 2rd & 3rd 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

All ladies are invited to gather once a month for a time of fellowship. Contact Megan Kortze or the church office for details.

Offerings and Attendance for September

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
9/4/22	NA	65	\$9,421	\$100	\$942
9/11/22	NA	70	\$7,050	\$610	\$705
9/18/22	NA	62	\$3,296	\$600	\$330
9/25/22	NA	75	\$5,330	\$400	\$533
Total for September			\$25,097*	\$1,710	\$2,510

*Planned for in September—\$21,942

Offerings and Attendance for August

DATE	SS	10:30	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
8/7/22	NA	70	\$5,434	\$600	\$543
8/14/22	NA	67	\$2,015	\$500	\$202
8/21/22	NA	67	\$6,729	\$825	\$673
8/28/22	NA	71	\$4,962	\$500	\$496
Total for August			\$19,140*	\$2,425	\$1,914

*Planned for in August—\$21,942

General Offering for 2022	Planned Offering for 2022
\$202,621	\$197,478



October 22nd

3:00 - 6:00 pm

Please volunteer to help with the Fall Festival. It is a really fun event for our community! Speak to Amanda Maddox for more information. Sign up sheets are on the table by the Nursery.

See the Fall Festival flyer on the back page.

From the Seminary

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your wonderful gift of **\$757.00!!** Your thoughtful donation is a special blessing to Concordia Seminary and will be put to use as you have directed as we continue on in our vital mission of preparing dedicated students for their future ministry.

Our campus community is deeply grateful for friends like you who truly care that God's holy Word is presented clearly and boldly, in a way that is faithful to the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions. Taught by our renowned faculty, our seminarians devote themselves to their studies and are eager to share the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ among the congregations and communities they will serve.

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

In Christ,

Vicki Biggs
Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer

TOL's seminarians through the Adopt-A-Student program are Alexander Kauffman & Daniel Langewisch.



October 20th at noon

Potluck lunch with quilting afterward.

No sewing skill required.

All are welcome!



All TOL members are encouraged to attend a presentation by our Safety Team after worship on October 16th.

SAVE THE DATES



New Member Sunday

November 6th

More details coming soon!

**Mortgage Burning
Celebration**

Sunday, December 4th

Luncheon following worship

Rev. Michael Newman, Texas District
LCMS President, will share the special day
with us. Please make plans to attend!

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

6318 Lyons Road
Garland, Texas 75043

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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!



Fall Festival October 22nd 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Free event for the whole family!

**Food
Games
Music**

**Petting Zoo
Bounce House
Prizes & more!**

*Children are invited to
wear Halloween costumes.*



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Lutheran Church
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