

April 2024

Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

“God’s Mission at Tree!”

Last summer we had the blessing of gathering 18 of our servant leaders from TOL together over 2 days for a vision retreat. We have been sharing since that weekend about our 6 biblical core values that came out of that vision weekend. Those core values are...

- Rooted in the Word of God
- Loving & Caring For Our Neighbors
- Vibrant Worship
- Generous Stewards of God’s Gifts
- Welcoming To All People
- Enthusiastically Growing The Kingdom

One of the other key things that came out of this Spirit-led weekend was a fresh mission statement for us here at Tree of Life. Take a moment to read these words over a couple of times.

“Engaging the community with the love and grace of Jesus Christ.”

Think about the unique Christ-centered characteristics that make up who we are as Tree of Life. Some of the words that come to mind for me are loving, generous, warm, welcoming, and servant-hearted. What words would you use to describe the loving community of Tree? I would love to hear the words that come to mind for you too!

I also think of some of the unique events that we host throughout the year. Our annual Fall Festival, Vacation Bible School, our annual drives for school uniforms and thanksgiving boxes, and of course the one most recently on our minds, our annual Easter Egg Hunt. I realize this is not by far a comprehensive list of all the activities and generous projects we have throughout the year. But at the heart of each of these efforts is this - the desire to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ with our neighbors!!! We are called to reflect the love and grace that Jesus has always shown towards you and me.



Let’s celebrate the fact that we had over 100 of our beloved neighbors on our campus just over a week ago for our Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to Mary Mobley and to the over 37 volunteers who served and made that day happen by the grace of God! Wow! Yay God!



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- *April Calendar - attached*

A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

Guess what? We've got another opportunity right around the corner to do more of the same - to love our neighbors with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. **Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 18th from 3pm to 6pm for our 3rd annual Community Block Party!** This is going to be an awesome day to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ with our beloved neighbors once again.

Let us remember Christ's words in John 15:12-17, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."*

I am excited to see how collectively and individually the Lord continues to open up doors for us to mirror His love and to engage our neighbors with His grace. Just as we have freely received Christ's love and grace, so too we freely give to those that the Lord places around us. Keep on loving as Christ has loved you!

Christ's peace,
Pastor Mark

EASTER CELEBRATION EGG HUNT

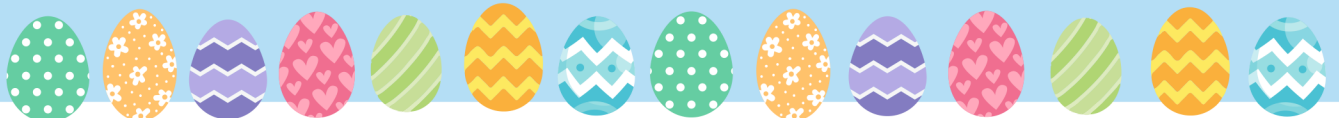
Thank you to Everyone who helped make this year's Easter Celebration Egg Hunt a major success!

- The Trustees who worked so hard to make our property inside and around TOL look so wonderful and inviting - Jerry Matzek; Jeff Matzek; Nathan Matzek; Scott Crowder; Greg Workman and David Hoppe
- The Board of Education: Carol Hanssen, Noreene Hurst, Kristin DeCandia, Sarah Lewis, Loy Lewis, Megan Kortze and Mary Mobley.
- Rick Woolery
- Ken & Betty Nixon
- Scott Crowder
- Cindy Hadley
- Margaret Ball
- Isaac Lewis
- Teagan Lewis
- Aiden Lewis
- Kyrie Lewis
- Sarah Lewis
- Loy Lewis
- Amanda Maddox
- Annabelle Maddox
- Wanda Samples
- Caren Pankonien
- Kara Jander
- Pam Stewart
- Lisa Theriot
- Dean DeCandia
- Garry Samples
- Caree Rahberg
- Dave Rahberg
- Allie Banda
- Linda Hill
- Mary Wick
- Sam Choate
- Scott Crowder
- Tucker Pierce
- Pastor Jaime Durkin
- Al Pankonien
- Pastor Mark Couser
- Patti Gibbs
- Jeannine, Allen and Sean Gray
- Shannon Murphy and Stacey Karlin who filled and taped 667 Easter eggs

THANK
you

- So many more who stayed and helped at our workshop on March 17th and our loving family at TOL who filled 3,168 eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt!

Thank you all!
With Love - Mary Mobley





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/>
<https://www.youtube.com/@treeoflifelcmstx>

The Adult Bible Class

Sundays at 9 am in person in E 7/8 and via Zoom.
 Join us as we explore together the book of Philippians. Learn about what Paul shared with the church in Philippi and how it still applies to our own lives today.

The Thursday Morning Bible Class

10 am in person in the Narthex and via Zoom.
 “6 Core Biblical Values of a Christ Follower”
 All are welcome to join these classes in person or on Zoom. 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 at 8AM on the second Saturday of each month. Please contact Bob Green for more information.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies’ Fellowship meets monthly for a variety of activities and events. For more information about the group and what is planned, contact Megan Kortze.

Offerings and Attendance for February

DATE	SS	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
2/4/2024	NA	84	\$5,445	\$545
2/11/2024	NA	68	\$6,053	\$605
2/18/2024	NA	75	\$4,514	\$451
2/25/2024	NA	89	\$7,452	\$745
TOTAL FOR FEBRUARY			\$23,464	\$2,346

- PLANNED FOR IN FEBRUARY: \$26,286

Offerings and Attendance for March

DATE	8:00	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
3/3/2023	NA	73	\$7,504	\$750
3/10/2023	NA	89	\$3,100	\$310
3/17/2023	NA	85	\$8,003	\$800
3/24/2023	NA	91	\$5,535	\$554
3/31/2023	50	100	\$12,020	\$1,202
TOTAL FOR MARCH			\$36,162	\$3,616

- PLANNED FOR IN MARCH: \$26,286

GENERAL OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024	PLANNED OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024
\$78,123	\$78,858

EASTER BREAKFAST

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT BROUGHT FOOD AND DONATED FUNDS TO OUR ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST! THANK YOU TO SARAH LEWIS FOR COORDINATING AND TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR SETTING UP AND CLEANING UP AFTER.

\$1,798 WAS RAISED FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN 2025! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS!
- BOARD OF YOUTH



Quilters corner will be meeting for their monthly quilting on Thursday, April 11th starting at noon.

Join us for a potluck followed by quilting together. No sewing skills required to participate! All are welcome!

Spring Voters Meeting

Mark your calendars for our annual Spring Voter's Meeting! Following service on Sunday April 28th, please plan to stay and learn more about the various happenings within our church and what each board is planning for the year!

Tree of Life's outreach organization, "Bless an Address" is gearing up for two work days this spring, the first on Saturday, April 20th; the second on Saturday, May 4th. Both dates will take place from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the home of Becky Carr and her grandson Cody (2436 Richview Ct. in Garland) and consist mainly of painting and staining work. For those who worked in the Fall—find your "Bless an Address" T-shirt and mark your calendar! Those who want to add their names to help in this good cause are welcome to sign up in the narthex on April 14th before and after the service. Contact Norm Wick at (214)-392-1436 or Lee Wilson at (214) 475-4987 if you have questions or if you won't be at church on April 14th. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Dear TOL Family,



I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous gift in honor of my 5th year anniversary here at Tree.

For those that may not know, a lot of TOL members came together to purchase for me 2 tickets to Opening Night to see my beloved Chicago Cubs play our beloved Texas Rangers. Who could have known

that we would also be raising a World Series Champion banner when those tickets were bought before the playoffs had even begun last year! The game was absolutely perfect and I felt so loved by your generous gift and show of love. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. I am a blessed man! God has great things in store for us as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus! I love each of you.

Rooted in Christ,
Pastor Mark



MEN'S Breakfast



The monthly Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday April 13th at 8 am. Join the men of Tree of Life for some food, fellowship, and diving deeper into God's Word together.



Gift Cards Order Day

RaiseRight is a gift card program that supports TOL with every purchase.

Gift card order day is April 7th.

We will have a selection of cards available on Sunday morning. If you don't see the card you need, you can place your order with Kara on Sunday or email her at: karajander@gmail.com. Cards ordered are usually available in one week.

To see all the brands available go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands> If you decide to order online, you will be asked for Tree of Life's enrollment code: EL5E2575514L5 See Kara Jander for more information

Our aluminum can recycling continues! The funds from this project go towards our youth and their trip to the National Youth Gathering.
A kind reminder that we are only collecting aluminum cans for our fundraising.
Thanks again for your gracious support of the TOL Youth!
Your sister in Christ, Amanda Maddox

EASTER CELEBRATION EGG HUNT PHOTOS!



Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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!

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THE LORD IS MY
Light
AND
Salvation

PSALM 27:1