

February 2024

Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church



“Recounting The Ways That God Has Been Faithful”

"Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood"

("Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing", verse 2)

These are the memorable words of a modern hymn that we have sung at TOL here before. Have you ever wondered who or what Ebenezer is? The answer is found in the Old Testament book of 1st Samuel.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."
(1 Samuel 7:12)

The children of Israel had been beaten right and left by the evil Philistines. Things were not looking good. All the sudden their leader Samuel pauses and offers burnt sacrifices. The people worship God and the Lord rescues His people once again. Then Samuel recounts the faithfulness of God. This empowers the people in their faith in the Lord even more!

This recently came up in our Sunday morning Bible class in our study of Philippians. One of our beloved members made a great observation. We need to recount the faithfulness of God more often! We don't do this as much as we should!

If you need an example of this in scripture, look at Nehemiah chapter 9. Hebrew chapter 11 is another great example of this.

Inside this issue:

<i>Lenten Meals Schedule</i>	2
<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	2
<i>February Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	3
<i>Offerings and Attendance</i>	3
<i>Study Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Chili Cookoff</i>	4
<i>Fellowship Chair</i>	4
<i>Gift Card Order Info</i>	5

Special Points of Interest

- *Holy Week Preview, pg. 2*
- *Souper Bowl Sunday, pg. 4*
- *Men's Breakfast, pg. 4*
- *Thank You from Betty, pg. 4*
- *Quilters Corner, pg. 5*
- *Rescheduled Ice Skating, pg. 5*
- *February Calendar - attached*



You can reach Pastor Mark
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Continued on page 2

A Word from the Pastor, *continued*

I encourage you to pick up a pen or open your notes section in your phone. Take a few minutes to recount the ways that the Lord has been faithful to you throughout your life. Now, don't just keep this redemption story to yourself. Look for opportunities to share it with a world that needs that reassurance of God's faithful and loving activity in their lives too. Let us praise our Savior not just on Sunday, but on Monday through Saturday out in the world too!

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)

Christ's peace,

Pastor Mark



Ash Wednesday service will be on Wednesday February 14th at 7pm. If you cannot join us in person, we will be streaming the service on our Facebook and YouTube (www.youtube.com/treeoflifelcmstx)



LENTEN MEALS

During the season of Lent, we will have a meal before each midweek service. The meal will begin at 6:00 pm and service will begin at 7:00 pm. The Elders and their Groves are responsible on the assigned weeks. Your Elder will contact you with more information regarding how you can help. A freewill offering will be taken for the meal. Below are the scheduled weeks for the month of February:

February 21 - Maple Grove/Wick

February 28 - Hickory/Nixon



Holy Week Schedule

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28TH - WORSHIP @ 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29TH - WORSHIP @ 7 PM

EASTER SUNDAY
MARCH 31ST - WORSHIP @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM
BREAKFAST @ 9:15 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/>
<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.
 The Book of Colossians
 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 December

DATE	SS	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
12/3/2023	NA	83	\$8,144	\$814
12/10/2023	NA	77	\$13,065	\$1,307
12/17/2023	NA	77	\$4,855	\$486
12/24/2023	NA	61	\$5,224	\$522
12/31/2023	96*	62	\$7,659	\$766
TOTAL FOR DECEMBER			\$38,947	\$3,895

- PLANNED FOR IN DECEMBER: \$21,664
- *ATTENDANCE FOR EVENING CADLELIGHT WORSHIP

Offerings and Attendance for January

DATE	SS	10:30	GENERAL OFFERING	MISSION TITHE
1/7/2024	NA	83	\$5,585	\$559
1/14/2024	NA	52	\$2,999	\$300
1/21/2024	NA	91	\$6,311	\$631
1/28/2024	NA	78	\$3,602	\$360
TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER			\$18,497	\$1,850

- PLANNED FOR IN JANUARY: \$26,286

GENERAL OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024	PLANNED OFFERING TOTAL FOR 2024
\$18,497	\$26,286

Chili Cook-off

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25TH

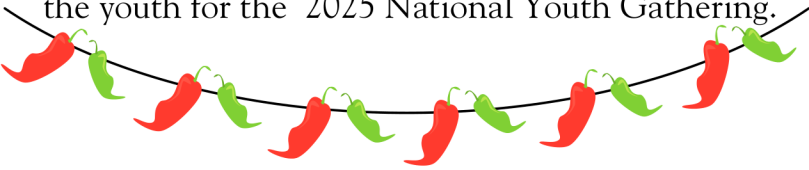
Sign-up to compete in our Chili Cook-off!

If you would like to be a part of the competition, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. We ask that you bring 2-3 crockpots of chili to share with our judges and other patrons.

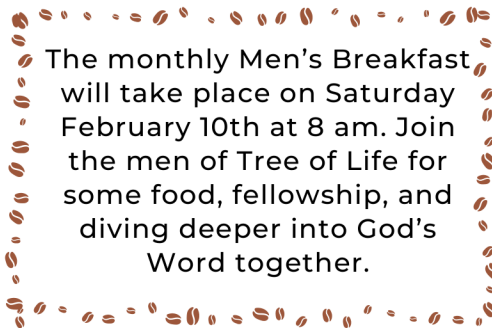
Our judges will be the Garland firefighters! There will be a 1st & 2nd place winner for BEEF chili, and a 1st & 2nd place winner for CHICKEN chili.

All of the other “fixings” including cornbread & crackers will be provided. Desserts will be provided as well!

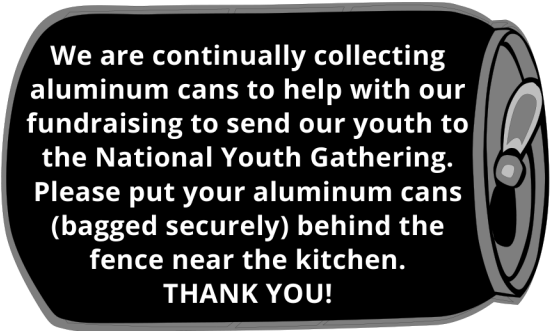
A freewill offering will be taken. The funds will go to the youth for the 2025 National Youth Gathering.



LWML will have their monthly meeting at 10 am on Wednesday, February 14th. If you are interested in joining, please contact Noreene Hurst.



The monthly Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday February 10th at 8 am. Join the men of Tree of Life for some food, fellowship, and diving deeper into God's Word together.



We are continually collecting aluminum cans to help with our fundraising to send our youth to the National Youth Gathering. Please put your aluminum cans (bagged securely) behind the fence near the kitchen. THANK YOU!



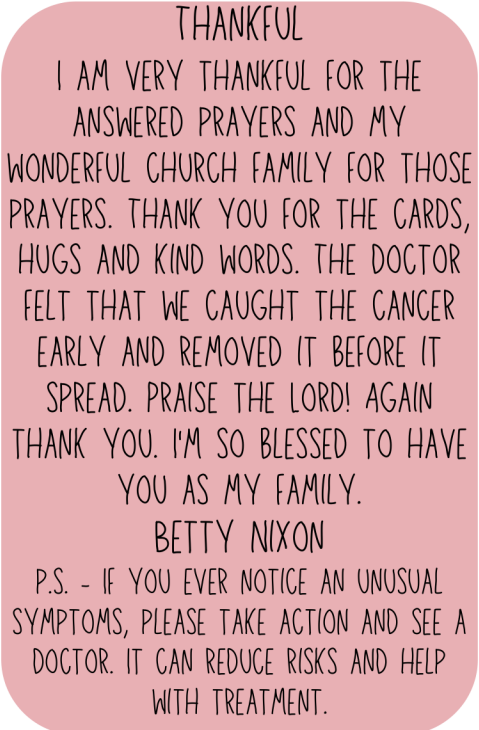
Our kits to help spread God's love to the homeless are available on the table in the fellowship hall. Please take one to distribute!

SOUPER BOWL SOUP DRIVE

The stewardship committee is collecting cans of soup to donate to the Good Samaritans of Garland Food Pantry. The last day to donate your soup cans will be Sunday February 11th. Please leave cans on the end zone table in the fellowship hall. Thank you all for your efforts in this campaign!

~ The Stewardship Committee

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms” – 1 Peter 4:10



THANKFUL

I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE ANSWERED PRAYERS AND MY WONDERFUL CHURCH FAMILY FOR THOSE PRAYERS. THANK YOU FOR THE CARDS, HUGS AND KIND WORDS. THE DOCTOR FELT THAT WE CAUGHT THE CANCER EARLY AND REMOVED IT BEFORE IT SPREAD. PRAISE THE LORD! AGAIN THANK YOU. I'M SO BLESSED TO HAVE YOU AS MY FAMILY.

BETTY NIXON

P.S. - IF YOU EVER NOTICE AN UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS, PLEASE TAKE ACTION AND SEE A DOCTOR. IT CAN REDUCE RISKS AND HELP WITH TREATMENT.

We want to say a big thank you to Margaret Ball for her leadership on the Board of Fellowship the last 2 years! She will be stepping down from this role at the end of February. We are currently looking for a new person to chair the Board of Fellowship. Ask the Lord if this may be a way for you to use your God-given gifts! If you feel like you may be led to step into this role or have questions about what it entails, please contact Pastor or head elder, Ken Nixon.

Gift Cards Order Day

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

Gift card order day is February 4th.

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



Join the youth in the rescheduled ice skating party after service on March 3rd! We will be sharing in a lunch at church before heading to the Galleria for some fun ice skating.

The cost for ice skating will be covered by the board of youth.

All youth, young adults, and parents are welcome to come skate!

Please contact Amanda Maddox with any questions or to RSVP



Quilters corner will meeting for their monthly quilting on Thursday, February 15th at noon. Join us for a potluck followed by quilting together. No sewing skills required to participate! All are welcome!

Grulke Bible Translators

Ngwaga O Mosha! Happy New Year!

We're diving right into 2024! We loved having MaryJane home from high school over Christmas. She is loving her new school and living with her Aunt and Uncle, but she's missing home in Botswana, too. January is a busy month, especially as we plan our projects for the year.

Carl is spending lots of time with the Shekgalagari Advisory Committee, as they plan the March 9th launch of the entire New Testament, in print and audio. Pray for the plans and funding to come together! We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work.

Kelsey and Carl were able to take a few days away to relax and connect with each other and start organizing our family's plan for the year, including a few months back in the United States.

Our school year follows the calendar year, so January brings the beginning of a new year! Audrey began her first year in the secondary school, Judah began grade 6, and Gideon and Isaac began grade 3. We are so thankful for Matshwane International School!

We will be in America this summer! Please contact us if your church, small group, Sunday School, or family would like to hear more about our ministry, Botswana, or our lives. We'd love to catch up!

Prayer Requests:

- For the finished audio of the Shekgalagari New Testament to be available in time
- For the printed New Testaments to arrive smoothly and with no shipping delays
- For safe travels
- For the new school year at Matshwane International School
- For God's guidance on the next steps for our Botswana projects
- That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.



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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