

May 2014



Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

May Baskets

Does anyone still deliver May baskets? When I was a young boy we would make construction paper baskets, fill them with candy and some hand-picked flowers, and leave them on the porch of a neighbor. It was fun to ring the doorbell and run off as the neighbor discovered her surprise.

Maybe no one makes May Baskets these days, but God still does! Weren't the bluebonnets beautiful this year in spite of the drought? And now all the other flowers are blooming away in our gardens and across vacant fields. God sure knows how to color creation with His beautiful touches.

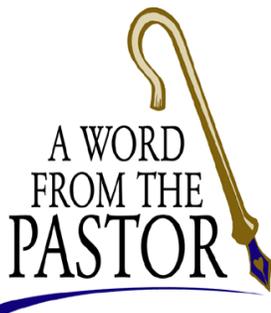
I was recently sitting with a group when we (myself included) started to share some fears and worries about the future. It is so easy to worry about the world, the society, the church. You don't have to look very far to find reasons to fret and worry.

Jesus addressed that issue in the Sermon on the Mount. He said, "Consider the flowers of the field. If God is able to grow them in all their splendor, how much more will He care for you, O you of little faith." (my paraphrase) And, of course, Jesus was right! Why get caught up in fretting and worrying about negative things. God is ultimately in control and He will take care of you!



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I once read about how large is the percentage of things we worry about which never happen, and things which are beyond our control, and how small is the percentage of things which really affect us and we can do something about. Jesus said, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and all these things will be given to you!"

I am really bullish on Tree of Life... or rather I am bullish on God extending His hand of blessing upon the people of Tree of

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About Our New Pastor - Clint Thorson

Mr. Clint Thorson is 29 years of age, is married, and is from Vona, CO. His parents live in Vona, CO. Clint is a lifelong LCMS Lutheran. His wife is Amber, nee Schwartz, is 26 years of age. Her parents live in Kersey, CO. Amber is also a lifelong LCMS Lutheran. This is the first marriage for both Clint and Amber. They have been married for three years and have one child, Aliyah (1). Clint enjoys basketball and martial arts. Amber enjoys sewing and writing.

Clint received a B.A. in Theology from Concordia University, Seward, NE, in 2009. He received an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, in 2013, and is currently pursuing an S.T.M. through Concordia Seminary. Amber received a B.S. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in English from Concordia University, Seward, NE, in 2010. Clint has worked as a grocer and part-time as a student worker in security and in the kitchen while at seminary. Amber has worked as a logistics coordinator and part-time as a sales representative and as a tutor. She currently works as a child care supervisor at a Lutheran school.



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Life. And it is having an effect. You are turning outward from yourself (and your worries and concerns) and moving outward into the community and neighborhood around you (that's where the flowers are growing!). I am sure that God has good things in store for His people here at Tree of Life!

Last week your baskets (not really May baskets) were delivered to Toler Elementary School to be included in their spring auction. I was told the faces in the school office lit up and the people were so happy and thankful for the gifts. What a beautiful act of grace! Kinda like God and His grace toward us on the cross and through the open tomb and even in the flowers of the field.

Pastor Don



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent members, select our congregation the first time you direct Choice Dollars® between April 1 and May 31, 2014, and our church will receive an extra \$20 grant from Thrivent Financial! Through the "Direct Now . . . and add \$20!" campaign, Thrivent will give an extra \$20 for each member who chooses to direct Choice Dollars to our congregation first.

Please see Lisa Theriot if you need more information.



BIRTHDAYS this month

Kathy Troxell 5-6
Joshua Wendt 5-8
Kelly Keitch 5-9

Ed Mollenkamp 5-11
Lyle Livingston 5-13
Dusten Robins 5-13
Joe Green 5-17
Doreen Becker-Watson 5-22
Eugene Standifer 5-25
Dorothy Moore 5-26
Andy Nixon 5-27
Bryan Jander 5-29
LaWanda Hunter 5-31
Merita Hurst 5-31



Eugene & Brenda Standifer 5-15
Chris & Amanda Maddox 5-18
Stan & Lynn Lewis 5-22
Albert & Caren Pankonien 5-22
Mike & Barbara Morgan 5-23
David & Kara Jander 5-29

Offerings and Attendance for March

DATE	SS	Worship	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
3/2/14	36	88	\$4,621*	\$600	\$462
3/9/14	28	74	\$4,710*	\$200	\$471
3/16/14	35	80	\$3,283*	\$400	\$328
3/23/14	42	93	\$3,481*	\$400	\$348
3/30/14	43	84	\$3,016*	\$400	\$302
Total for March			\$19,111*	\$2,000	\$1,911

*Planned for each week—\$4,738; Planned for in March—\$23,690



Confirmation

On Sunday May 18th we will witness the Confirmation of two young members of our congregation: Luke Hunter and Dusten Hurt-Klein. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.

Offerings and Attendance for April

DATE	SS	11:00	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
4/6/14	45	88	\$6,636*	\$400	\$664
4/13/14	51	97	\$4,960*	\$400	\$496
4/20/14	NA	148	\$4,921*	\$400	\$492
4/27/14	27	60	\$2,710*	\$100	\$271
Total for April			\$19,227*	\$1,300	\$1,923

*Planned for each week—\$4,738; Planned for in April—\$18,952

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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Garland, Texas 75043

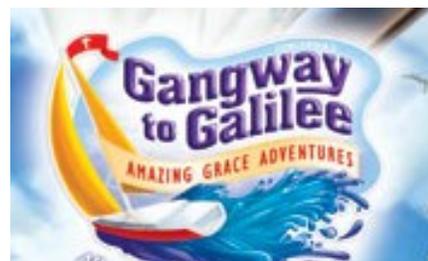
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The loving family of Tree of Life, rooted in God's Word, exists to share the joy, love, and peace of Jesus Christ with you!



HONOR OUR GRADUATES

We will be honoring our graduates on **Sunday, June 1st** with a cake and punch reception after the worship service. Our college graduate is Jeanette Green who is graduating from Oklahoma State University. Our high school graduates are Devin Becker (Rockwall) and Ariel Maddox (Lakeview Centennial). Congratulations to all of you on your years of hard work and accomplishments!



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

July 7 - 11

6:00 - 8:00 pm with supper at 5:30 pm

Please plan to serve in this ministry if you are able. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

We want to spread the GOOD NEWS of JESUS to everyone we can!

More details coming soon!