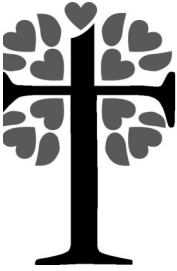


MARCH 2026



The Leaflet

What's Happening

Lent at Tree of Life 2026

Midweek Soup & Study: "Making Change"

Noon Thursdays at Tree of Life

Mar. 5 + Mar. 12 + Mar. 19 + Mar. 26

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. March 29

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

7 p.m. April 2

Hosted by St. Paul's United Methodist Church; 406 Main St., Odessa

Good Friday Noon Worship and Prayer

Noon April 3 (Stations for individual prayer starting at 1 p.m.)

Hosted by Immanuel United Methodist Church; 209 Main St, Townsend

Good Friday Evening Worship

7 p.m. April 3

Hosted by Tree of Life

Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. April 4

St. Paul's United Methodist Church; 406 Main St., Odessa

Festive Easter Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. April 5

Tree of Life

Council

o Hello Fellow Tree of Lifers,
 r At TOL's annual congregational
 n meeting on Feb. 1st, we welcomed
 e two new members to Council. Pat
 r Vetrano (who has been attending
 meetings for a few months already)
 and Jean Schulze. During the Council's
 first meeting we elected officers for the
 2026-27 year. Donna Parks was elected
 as President, Jean Schulze, Vice President;
 Sylvia Schill continues as Secretary and
 Denise Lindquist as Treasurer. Although
 Denise remains on Council for this year,
 she will be resigning as Treasurer as of
 June. The position of Treasurer does not
 automatically make you a Council member.
 If you are interested in this position please
 see me or Denise. The remaining Council
 members are Pastor Robbie, Carla Fiske,
 Dirk Schulze and Nicky Zaiser. We all
 want to thank Nicky for serving as
 President for the past two years. The
 installation of the Council will be held
 during the service on March 8th.

In February several Council members met with representatives from Thrivent Financial regarding the bequest from Dallas Dean. Although some of these funds (which were left

for capital improvements) were used for the new roof, the majority of funds was put into a short term CD this past fall. Thrivent gave us fiduciary prudent advice and during the February Council meeting, the Council discussed and voted to invest the funds in a low risk mutual fund account with Thrivent. The CD matures the beginning of March and, at that time, the monies will be moved to the Thrivent investment fund.

It had been brought to the Council's attention that the beautiful new paraments that Denise Lindquist made don't always show up well against the white walls of the altar area. The Interior Review Committee met and chose a color they felt goes well with the paraments as well as the woodwork in the altar area. The Council voted to go with the IRC's suggestion and Facilities Manager, Dirck Schulze, is obtaining an estimate to have the painting done. Hopefully the painting will be completed soon.

Its only March and much is happening at TOL. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions.

Peace,
 Donna Parks



Pr. Robbie will be in the office Wednesdays & Fridays 10 AM - 1 PM
 Sec. Maria will be in the office Mondays and Fridays, 1- 4 PM

All Sunday worship services are live streamed at 10:30 AM and thereafter can be found on YouTube to view at any time. Find the link on our website www.treeoflifechurchde.com

From the Pastor

Changing Times, Unchanging Faith

“How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb?” quips an old joke. “None, we never change! After all, my grandmother donated that lightbulb in 1997. How dare you think about changing it!”

Joking aside, change is often hard – not just for Lutherans, but for everyone. Our everyday lives are based on familiarity and trust. We’re used to the traffic on our daily commute; we know the most comfortable cushion on the couch; we can recite the menu of our favorite restaurant by heart. Even people who claim to embrace change might get stressed if an unknown company takes over the bank they’ve always used, or if they suddenly have to change all their computer passwords! Change is challenging in bigger contexts, as well. When our nation claimed independence 250 years ago, our Founders recognized that it was a rare and risky change. “Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed,” said the Declaration of Independence. Whenever possible, we avoid change.

And yet, avoiding change is not always possible. We face illness or injury, and so we must change our lifestyle. Our investments decline or we are laid off, and so we must change our finances. Natural disasters or politi-

cal turmoil mean that we must change how we live or how we understand the world. Cultural trends affect church attendance, and so we must change how we reach a world where many people don’t know the Good News of Jesus. For that matter, even that lightbulb that Grandma donated finally burns out, and so we must change it!

Then there are times when we choose to change. While noting how we’re naturally disinclined to change, the Declaration of Independence stated why America’s change to a free nation was right. If we find ourselves working for an unethical boss or living in an abusive relationship, the stress of changing work or home is better than remaining in an unhealthy place. If we’re offered a big promotion or new job, the anxiety of changed responsibilities is accepted in order to grow professionally. If we fall in love, a changed lifestyle is part of becoming married. Even changes for the better bring uncertainty and anxiety – but we change, because we know it is ultimately for the best.

Jesus’ disciples faced a great deal of change. They had been going about their everyday lives as fishermen or laborers, when they suddenly changed into followers of Jesus. They thought they knew what to expect in the Messiah, but Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion changed everything they believed.



Pancake Supper

Although attendance was down a bit between some regulars being under the weather and the fact that two other churches were hosting pancake suppers, TOL still had a pretty good showing and a staff of volunteers that made it run like clockwork. We were even able to make up and drop off some takeout container of pancakes, sausage, butter

and syrup. \$195 in free will offerings was collected and will be donated to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Thank you to all volunteers and those who came out to enjoy this annual event.

Pictured, front row Carla Fiske and Sylvia Schill. Back row Gail Russell, Abby Radcliff, Jean Schulze, Jeff Russell, Hanno Schil and Donna Parks. Not pictured - Grace Cilento (I know I saw her up to elbows in dishwater.)

ABBY RADCLIFFE IS NEW WEBMASTER



After years of devoted service keeping Tree of Life's website up to date, Paul Schuler has decided to retire from this role. Abby Radcliffe has graciously agreed to take over updating the website by making sure that the weekly bulletin, *Burning Bush*, YouTube livestream link and monthly *Leaflet* are all posted.

Thank you to Paul for doing so much to make our website a valuable ministry of outreach and support, and thank you to Abby for offering to serve in this ministry!

Treasurer's Report

Expenses for January 2026: \$12,013.15

Donations for January 2026: \$12,847.00 general fund, benevolence, facilities

We are off to a good start this year. Giving was more than expenses even with one less Sunday due to the snow that just will not leave. Let's hope that we have some warmer weather soon.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to Tree of Life.
Denise Lindquist



Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Bible Study

The next Women of the ELCA Bible Study gathering will be 10 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026 at Tree of Life. We will be studying prayer. We will have coffee, tea and refreshments. Questions? Talk to Janet Adams



OWLS

(Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

The OWLS are changing it up a little for March. The date is Sunday, March 8th, and its dinner and a show or just a show or just dinner. You choose. The OWLS will be going to The Everett Theater for Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," followed by dinner at Sully's. The show runs 2:00—4:30 pm. OWLS must purchase their own show tickets (www.theeverett.org). Afterwards we will walk (or drive) across the street to Sully's for dinner. You may do both activities, just the show or just dinner. If you are planning on going to dinner, please let Dee or George Matz know by Thursday, March 5th. Need to carpool, please let that be known also.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH 2026
March 1 Gloria Brewer
March 5 Edwin Kruah
March 9 Anastasia Fratta
March 14 Earl "Mike" Michaels
March 19 Aleksandra Fratta
March 23 Susan Vetrano
March 29 Linda Klein



, please let the office know so we are able to acknowledge and celebrate your special day.

Knot Quilters Continue Mission

Knot Quilters Needed! Tying knots for Lutheran World Relief

The Knot Quilters meet at **TOL** on the second Wednesday morning of each month from 10 to 12 to assemble and knot quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

We take our inspiration from

Matt. 25:40 "...in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We have plenty materials for our quilts and are committed to this mission. Helpers are always needed . Please consider joining us for a few hours once a month! We will welcome you warmly!!

Questions? See me. Nicky Zaiser, Tier of Knots

PROJECT LINUS back up and running.

With cold temps, it's a great time to make a fleece blanket for the area's children. Want to learn more about where these blankets go and how easy it is to make them (no sewing required and all materials supplied), talk to Janet Adams



2026

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 2PM MeadowCrest service	2	3	4 2PM Choir Practice 4PM Our Daily Bread	5 10 AM WELCA @ TOL 12PM Soup & Study	6	7 DST- Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour before Bed
8 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 12 PM Choir Practice 2 PM OWLS	9	10 12:30 Council Mtg	11 10 AM Knot Quilters	12 12 PM Soup & Study	13	14
15 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 12 PM Kingdom Kids	16	17	18 2PM Choir Practice	19 10 AM Worship & Music Mtg. 12PM Soup & Study	20 Spring Arrives	21
22 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 12 PM Choir Practice Pastor Robbie Away	23	24	25	26 Soup and Study Noon @ TOL	27	28
29 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service PALM SUNDAY	30	31				



VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
March 1	J. Schulze	J. Pileggi	S. Vetrano	C. Fiske	M. Campbell
March 8	M. Brill	E. Kruah	M. Campbell	J. Schulze	E. Kruah
March 15	P. Vetrano	G. Zaiser	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	Joe Schulze
March 22	N. Zaiser	J. Adams	G. Zaiser	B. Bullock	M. Campbell
March 29	J. Schulze	G. Zaiser	J. Campbell	C. Fiske	G. Zaiser

Thanks to all volunteers. You directly enhance the worship experience of all who attend worship at Tree of Life. Thank you for your stewardship.

Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~

KINGDOM KIDS

Our Kingdom Kids and Confirmation Class meet on the following dates.

March 15
April 12 and 26
May 17

The Kids are still working on collecting pill bottles and sending them to Matthew 25: Ministries.

Reminder: All bottles must be completely cleaned and washed – no sticky residue or paper. When any unacceptable bottles are donated, we recycle them. We suggest that you not even bother to get the label off of the sold white bottles. Impossible! They're great for recycling, however.

Thank you for your efforts and donations to this important cause.



Choir Practice

Choir practice is held the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2 PM and
The 2nd and 4th Sunday following worship service.



Cont'd from page 3

They thought death meant death, but Jesus' resurrection changed all humanity. And when Jesus commissioned them to be his apostles, their entire future changed, and they became witnesses to a faith that changed the world. Talk about a lot of change!

So what sustained the disciples, throughout all this change? And how can their message speak to us, when we face times of change? **We're exploring these questions in our annual Lenten Soup & Study, with the theme "Making Change." Each Thursday at noon this month, you are invited to join folks from Tree of Life and our partner churches in the MOT Ministerium for a simple soup lunch and Bible Study.** The lunch and study will be at Tree of Life, with

different pastors hosting and churches providing lunch each week.

Change is a reality that is often challenging. But even in a changing world, the most important thing in life never changes: God's love and grace, poured out through Christ Jesus. The Bible assures us all that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). With Christ as our unchanging foundation, we can find the strength to withstand changes beyond our control, and to discern when change is wise. I invite you to join as we explore this more!

May you have a blessed and holy Lent,

Pr. Robbie+

Pastor Robbie will be away Sunday March 22,
Pastor Rusty May will again preside over the TOL worship service.



The position of Chair of the Altar Guild is a critical one. The Chair maintains the supplies for the altar and, along with other Guild members, keeps our altar area prepared for worship from having communion elements, to candles ready to light, to proper paraments for the many regular and holiday services and much much more.

TOL wants to thank Maxine Campbell for her many years as Chair and her hard work and dedication in working with the Worship & Music Committee and keeping our altar

perfect for worship.

Also a Big Thank You to Sue Vetrano who has volunteered to take over as Chair of the Altar Guild. Maxine has passed on her notebook and file for the workings of the Altar Guild.

If you would like to learn how to help with setting up the altar for worship, please see Sue or Gene Zaiser, volunteer coordinator, to join Altar Guild



Tree of Life is a small but mighty church. Our mission is to spread God's love as well as His word. In doing so, we can always use more help. How about serving as a worship assistant? Not comfortable reading in front of a group? Well how about being an usher or setting up the altar for worship? Like to fix things? The facilities committee could always use a helping hand. There are lots of committees that are fun as well as productive. Think

about where you could help by giving an hour or two a month to keep Tree of Life and its mission moving forward. Not sure how to do something? No worries, someone can always show you how. Speak to a committee chair (listed on the back of the this newsletter) or Gene Zaiser, volunteer coordinator.

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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facebook.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch/
Instagram - www.instagram.com/TreeOfLifeMOT



This is Christ's church. - There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

STAFF

Rev. Robbie Ketcham
Duane Dillard, Music Director
Maria Gue, Office Manager

COUNCIL

Donna Parks, President
Jean Schulze Vice President
Sylvia Schill, Secretary
Denise Lindquist, Treasurer
Carla Fiske
Dirk Schulze
Pat Vetrano
Nicky Zaiser

COUNCIL / COMMITTEE LIAISON

Altar Guild—Sylvia Schill
Christian Ed— Pr. Ketcham
Outreach—Denise Lindquist
Property— Dirk Schulze
Stewardship—

Worship & Music— Sylvia Schill

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild—Pat Vetrano
Christian Education— Pam Nichols
Facilities— Dirk Schulze
Fellowship - Carla Fiske
Interior Review—Janet Parks
Kitchen—Carla Fiske
Outreach—Pr. Ketcham
Stewardship—Gene Zaiser
Worship & Music—Sylvia Schill

VOLUNTEER CHAIRS

Burning Bush—Pam Nichols
Financial Secretary— Sylvia Schill
Leaflet Editor—Donna Parks
OWLS—Janet Parks, Dee & George Matz
Quilting Circle—Nicky Zaiser
Volunteer Coordinator—Gene Zaiser
Webmaster— Abby Radcliff
Worship Folder—Gail Russell