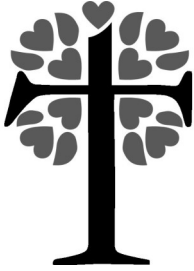


FEBRUARY 2025



# The Leaflet



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone at Tree of Life for the generous Christmas gift. Kelley, Abby and I were all deeply surprised and touched by your kindness.

Thank you again! - Pr. Robbie

### HOLY BAPTISM

Charli Evelyn Mirrione, the daughter of Alyssa and Thomas Mirrione and granddaughter of Pat and Sue Vetrano, will be baptized at Tree of Life on Sunday, February 9. Charli was born August 1, 2024, in Newark.

Thanks be to God for making Charli a new member of His family through this holy Sacrament!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING

Even though we're in the middle of winter, summer is not far away!

If you are interested in helping plan Vacation Bible School this year, you can join a meeting with folks from Tree of Life and St. Paul's UMC at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 20, at Tree of Life. We hope to finalize dates and a theme at that time, and begin further plans. If you have any questions, please talk to Pr. Robbie or Pam Nichols. Thank you!

# Council

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Our theme for 2025 is an emphasis on GENEOSITY. Well, yes, you say. We have a roof to pay for, as well as a whole world of need right outside our own doors. And it can seem overwhelming . I'm certainly feeling overwhelmed. I have family who spent a week with their cars packed and ready to evacuate their homes in Los Angeles. God is in control, that I know, but He doesn't always seem to see things the way I see them.

Yes, there is a call for generosity with our money, but perhaps there is an even greater, and harder, call for generosity with our spirits, with our

energy, and with our time, and to be generous with grace and forgiveness for ...ourselves. We fall short and we know we do. With God's love, we can still grow into the people we want to be, the people we know we can be.

All of this is a fancy way of saying that you need to volunteer to serve on one of our committees! This is where generosity truly shines through—when you give of yourself, right here, locally, doing what you can do.

Nicky Zaiser Council President

Pr. Robbie will be in the office Tuesdays & 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](http://www.treeoflifechurchde.com)

# From the Pastor

## Finding Joy in Generosity

In my pastor's report for our recent annual meeting, I mentioned my goal to make 2025 a "Year of Generosity" at Tree of Life. Just as we focused on outreach during our "Year of Mission" in 2024, we will spend time this year exploring how we can be more generous with all that God has given each of us, in order to help carry out God's mission for Tree of Life.

When we think of generosity, we usually think of money. To be sure, money is important to fund our many ministries, and as we work this year to replace our aging roof. But as I mentioned in the annual report, generosity also can involve our time, effort and devotion. Everything we do as a church depends on people following God's call to give of themselves. And whenever we volunteer for a role at church, we are being generous.

However, generosity is also more than simply *what we do*. Generosity is also *a way of life*. A life of generosity is one where we are aware of all that God has given us. It's a life where we celebrate how God has graciously invited us to be part of God's mission on earth through the Church. And it's a life where we are therefore excited and eager to use what God has given us, in service to God and our neighbor.

The Apostle Paul described this life

of generosity, when he encouraged the Christians of Corinth to help the poorer Christians of Jerusalem. "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver," he wrote. "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:7-8). God provides us with bountiful blessings, Paul is saying, and God has brought us into Christian community with one-another. Because of this, we cheerfully give to one-another and to God's mission. Our generosity is *never a requirement* – it is not "under compulsion," and we don't have to worry that God will stop loving us if we aren't generous. But precisely *because* God loves and saves us as a free gift, our hearts rejoice and we are inspired to give of ourselves.

I'll confess that "cheerful giving" can be a challenge for me. It can be hard to recognize God's abundance, especially when deadlines or bills pile up. It can be hard to find joy in mundane tasks or annoying responsibilities.

But I try to remind myself of all the blessings that God *has* given me. The Irving Berlin song "Count Your Bless-



### ATTENTION OFFERING COUNTERS

There is a new credenza in the office. In one of the openings is a white box for those who do the counting each week.

Please put the weekly envelopes and copy of deposit slip inside this box. This way I will know where to find everything when I record them during the week.

Thank you,  
Sylvia Schill, Financial Secretary

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## FEBRUARY

Jim Pileggi	Feb. 2
Kristian Cilento	Feb. 8
Viola Mann	Feb. 9
Hanno Schill	Feb. 9
Jeffrey Russell	Feb. 12
Anders Fratta	Feb. 21



*Do we have your birthday? If not, please let the office know so we are able to acknowledge and celebrate your special day.*

# Treasurer's Report

Budgeted Expenses for 2024: \$152,546.00  
 Expenses for 2024: \$154,427.60  
 Difference between budget and actual: \$1,881.60

Budgeted Income for 2024: \$114,470.00  
 Income Received in 2024: \$160,907.00  
 Difference between budget and actual: \$46,437.41

Difference between YTD Income and YTD Expenses: 6,479.40

This past year started out kind of scary for me because pledges were a lot lower than expenses. Due to everyone's generosity, our income turned out to be more than enough to fund our expenses.

We are planning ahead and have started a new roof campaign. We already have a nice start towards this much needed replacement.

Please keep Tree of Life in your prayers and give as you are able. Thank you to everyone for their continued generosity to Tree of Life.

Denise Lindquist, Treasurer



## OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

It is again that time for the OWLS to plan activities for the upcoming months.

Think about what you liked doing in the past and what activities you would like to add to the mix for this year.

Please mark your calendars for a Bag Lunch meeting in the Fellowship Room at TOL on Thursday, February 13th, at Noon.

Hope to see everyone there with their comments, ideas.



## Wishing you God's love from LCM!

At Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, we're stepping into 2025 with hope and energy, eager to see what God has in store for the ministry and for our gifted and inspiring students. We're grateful to all of you for your generous support via prayers, financial contributions, and in-kind gifts. During this month of St. Valentine's celebrations, we wish you extra measures of God's tender and

unconditional love!

We're hoping to convene a property team this spring to conduct a full-scale audit of the ministry's buildings and grounds. If that's something for which you have interest and gifts, please contact me. Other spring plans include weekly Tuesday dinners and worship gatherings, coffee and conversation outings, Bible study, volunteering with FISH (*Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*), a special Easter dinner, and an overnight spring retreat in Ocean City, New Jersey. If you'd like to visit us at the chapel on a Tuesday evening, please do. We love to talk with members of local congregations and our LCM supporters. If you're interested in teaming up with friends to bring a home-cooked meal for students, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are very grateful for home-cooked treats!

We especially invite your prayers this spring for our seniors, David, Gretchen, Karen, and Regan, as they complete their undergraduate studies and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for life and work beyond college. Please pray for clear discernment, for God's peace to sustain them, for Jesus' accompaniment at each step, and for abundant hope and joy along the way, as new possibilities open up before them.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers! ☐

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister  
of Word and Service †  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*

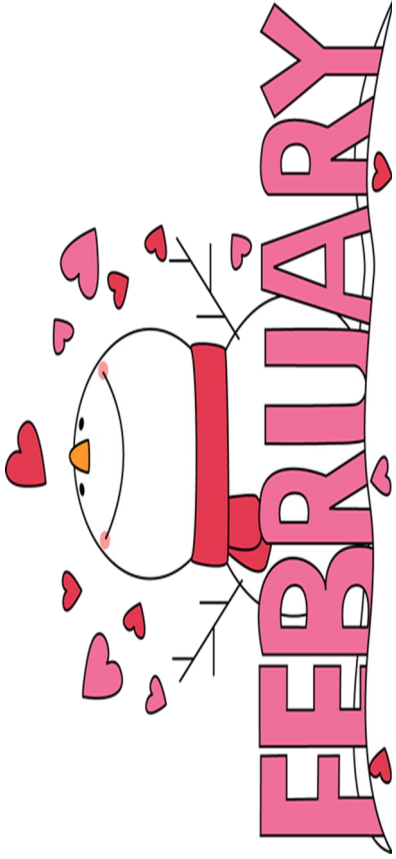


*Please join us for a  
Tuesday dinner sometime!*

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12 PM Kingdom Kids	<b>3</b>  Learning 3in Kingdom Kids	<b>4</b> 4 PM ODB	<b>5</b> 10	<b>6</b> 10 AM WELCA @ Panera	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9AM Bible Sturdy 10:30 Worship Baptism	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6PM Council Mtg.	<b>12</b> 10 AM Knot Quilters	<b>13</b> 10AM Worship & Music Mtg. 12 PM OWLS Planning bag lunch	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12 PM Kingdom Kids	<b>17</b>  PRESIDENTS DAY	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11 AM VBS Planning Mtg.@ TOL	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	





# VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
Feb. 2	G. Matz	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	M. Campbell
Feb. 9	M. Campbell	E. Kruah	S. Vetrano	C. Fiske	E. Kruah
Feb. 16	B. Lindquist	G. Zaiser	M. Campbell	J. Schulze	Joe Schulze
Feb. 23	M. Campbell	J. Adams	N. Zaiser	B. Bullock	G. Zaiser

*Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~*



Pastor—Continued from pg 3

ings” is a wonderful reminder of this: we love being part of God’s Church, and we know that our work will help new people experience Jesus’ love.

And I then remind myself how even mundane tasks are vital. As many of you know, one of my hobbies is model railroading. Often, the joy is not just in running model trains, but in building them. I find joy in designing a scene, building a kit or figuring out electronics. Of course, all of this can sometimes be annoying, especially when I mess up! But even when I’m annoyed by a certain task, I still find joy because I love the hobby, and I know that the annoying task will yield a good result. In the same way, we can be cheerful and generous in our Christian life even when helping with seemingly mundane or annoying jobs, because

So as we enter into this Year of Generosity, I invite you to join me in reflecting on the ways God has blessed you. Not only has God given you many earthly joys, but God has also made you His daughter or son and adopted you into His family at Tree of Life. Then, I invite you to join me in exploring how you can generously share your time, energy and possessions, so that God’s mission at Tree of Life can advance. Let’s grow in a life of generosity together, and together find new joy in service!

Blessings to you all,  
*Pr. Robbie+*



**God loves You!  
You can always trust Him.**

God Loves YOU! You can always trust Him. Those are the themes of the Old Testament lessons Kingdom Kids have learned about since last fall. These included Creation, Jonah and the Big Fish, Noah’s Ark, Daniel and the Lions Den. Each lesson contains at least one activity and a craft to reinforce the names and the story. In December we concentrated on the birth of Jesus, the role of the angels and then in February we will begin learning more about Jesus, his life, his miracles, his message. In March and April we’ll concentrate on the events of Holy Week. You can find samples of the crafts they completed on the Kingdom Kids Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Room. The Kingdom Kids are Logan Yetsko and Levi Pileggi (both age 5) and Anastasia Fratta and Sasha Yetsko (3<sup>rd</sup> grade). Frequently Abby Ketcham joins us, also a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. And Anastasia has begun bringing a



## Knot Quilters Continue Mission

Tying knots for Lutheran World Relief.

*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."*

The Knot Quilters ("KQs) meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at TOL.

The KQs make quilts that are sent to people in need in all corners of the world, including here in the United States. Some volunteers sew the squares together and then we meet to know the quilts together. Once we have several completed quilts they are taken to Lutheran World Relief Warehouses in Baltimore where they are packed and shipped out.

If you can tie a know, you can help. Come out and enjoy a couple hours of knotting and fellowship for a very good cause.

Want to know more about quilts? Talk with Nicky Zaiser.



## Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Bible Study

Women of the ELCA Bible study meets 10 am Thursday, February 6, 2025 at the Panera restaurant in Middletown. Everyone is welcome to come join us. We explore the story of God's love using the Gather magazine (extras available), and our own stories. See Janet Adams for more information.

Mark your  
calendars for  
Tuesday,  
March 4th, 5 PM  
for TOL's Annual  
Fat Tuesday  
Pancake Supper.

Happy  
Fat Tuesday!





## Project Linus at Tree of Life



What is Project Linus? Project Linus is a nation-wide effort of individuals and local chapters that create blankets. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. There are 2 chapters in Delaware. TOL gave 9 no-sew single fleece blankets to the New Castle chapter in 2024. Thank you to Pam Baker, Vi, Gloria, Marie Logethic for helping in 2024.

You don't need a sewing machine. No sew fleece blankets require cutting and tying. We currently take material home and create blankets individually.

If you want a nice warm hobby during the winter---we have fleece to give you, instructions and pattern along with a hands on demo if you want. You don't have to attend Knot Quilting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday to make a blanket for a child.

Two important requirements - blankets need to be smoke and pet dander free. If you would prefer to knit, crochet, or sew a blanket, we can help you find suggested patterns on <https://www.projectlinus.org/#>.

More info? Contact Janet Adams

(Kingdom Kids cont'd from page 9)

friend! Helping out are Michelle Brill and Sandra Yetsko. Without their help, keeping the class together would be more difficult than it already is. It has proven difficult to keep the youngsters from both age groups engaged. We really need a second teacher to take the five year-olds. There is a lot of online curriculum, crafts, and activities online that is free. If this is tugging at your heart, please see Pam Nichols or contact her at

[pamela.nichols65@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.nichols65@gmail.com).

The dates for the rest of this season are February 2 and 16, March 9 and 23, April 6 (Palm Sunday is April 13 and Easter is April 20 when we encourage the families to come to the Worship Services), and May 11 and 25. We meet

from noon to 1:30pm and a quick lunch is included (with the Confirmation Class). We must thank Carla Fiske and her daughter Abby for helping us with beverages and setting up for lunch. After lunch, we often then begin with an activity together, such as sorting, counting and packing up pill bottles for the Matthew 25 ministries; tending the vegetable garden out back; and putting together Stockings For Soldier packets at Christmastime.

Near the end of this spring session, Pastor, the families and Pam Nichols will assess if this time and frequency is something they think is worth continuing. With today's busy families, we will continue to make sure that the faith formation of our youth is accessible and relevant.

# Tree of Life Lutheran Church

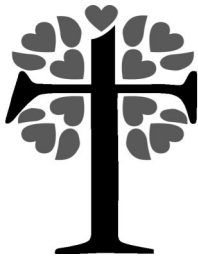
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book.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch/



**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**

Nicky Zaiser, President

Donna Parks, Vice President

Sylvia Schill, Secretary

Denise Lindquist, Treasurer

Carla Fiske

Dirk Schulze

## **COUNCIL / COMMITTEE LIAISON**

Altar Guild—Sylvia Schill

Christian Ed— Pr. Ketcham

Outreach—Denise Lindquist

Facilities — Dirk Schulze

Stewardship—

Worship & Music— Sylvia Schill

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Altar Guild—Maxine Campbell

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— Paul Schuler

Worship Folder—Gail Russell