Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church

October 4, 2026 ~ 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are by the kitchen and by the Wiggle Room

Wiggle Room is available for anyone needing a brief break from worship, at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary

WiFi is available: Look for TOL-GUEST; password is OdessaTOL1

We Gather as God's People

PRELUDE

You can use this time for quiet reflection, prayer and preparation for worship.

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one-another. *Silence for reflection.*

Most merciful God: **We come before you as sinners in need of your mercy. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not lived in a manner worthy of Christ. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, not because of our deserving, but for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN **"Thy Word"** **BLACK BINDER #43**

↑ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE **"This is the Feast"** **ELW p. 169**

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
Refrain
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7
A reading from Isaiah:

1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved
had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it
with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in
it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.
3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me
and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in
it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?
5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I
will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with
briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of
Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed;
righteousness but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and planted it.
9 You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.
10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

[11] You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.
[12] **Why have you broken down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
[13] The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
[14] **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**
[15] **behold and tend this vine;**
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians:

[Paul writes:] [4b] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

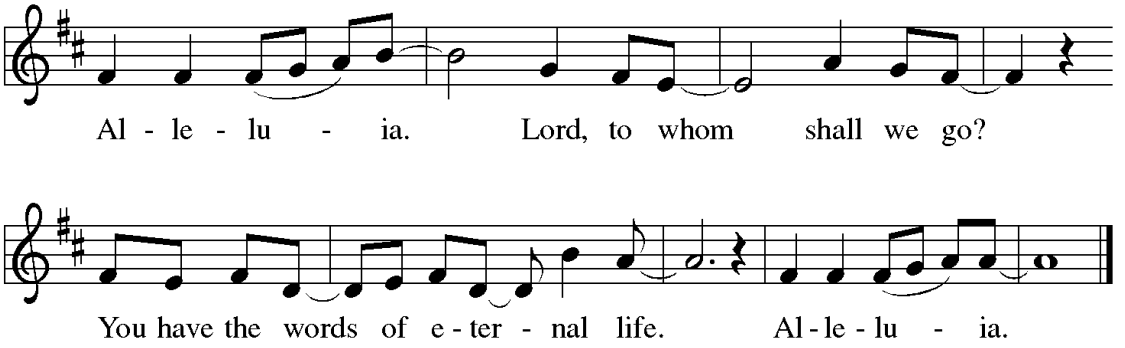
[7] Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. [8] More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. [10] I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, [11] if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

[12] Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. [13] Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg. 171



↑ GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way.

37 "Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

↑ HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" RED HYMNAL #803

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
and descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

↑ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assured of God's grace and love, we pray for the Church, the world and all people:

Almighty Father, you give us the surpassing value of knowing your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Lead your Church in all times and places to set aside anything that would distract us from the greatest treasure of being your people. Give courage to your servants around the world who risk their lives for the sake of your Kingdom. Hear us, O God… **Your mercy is great.**

You provide vineyards and fruit trees, fields and farms. Bring sunshine to lands saturated by storm, rainfall to lands parched by drought, and abundant life to all that you have made. Help us to see your glory in creation, following in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi, whom the Church commemorates today. Hear us, O God…
Your mercy is great.

You expect justice and righteousness for all people. Bless our nation and those who guide it, so that liberty, fairness and peace might flourish. Help us overcome all human divisions by making us ever mindful that we are your children first and foremost. Hear us, O God… **Your mercy is great.**

You give us comfort and strength in our sufferings. Be with the poor, the lonely, the fearful and the forgotten. Grant healing and relief to all who are cry out with needs of body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for Annalise, Beth, Bill, Bob, Cindy, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Darryl, Dee, Ed, Edwin, Elizabeth, Erika, Jeff, Jerry, Jim, John, Patrick, Quentin, Sarah, Sherry, Yvonne, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts… *(Time for personal petitions)* Hear us, O God… **Your mercy is great.**

You entrust us with the holy vineyard called Tree of Life Lutheran Church. Make us worthy disciples of Jesus and faithful servants of your Kingdom. Make this congregation a field where new faith may blossom and grow. Bless our bishops, Yehiel and William; our pastor, Robbie; Bethel Lutheran Church in North East, Md., and its pastor, Zach; and Unity Church in Wilmington and its pastors, Melissa and Brian. Hear us, O God… **Your mercy is great.**

You give us the assurance of our heavenly goal in Christ Jesus our Lord. Accept our thanksgiving for all whose earthly race is run and who have already received their eternal prize. Sustain us in hope until we are all reunited in your perfect vineyard forevermore. Hear us, O God… **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, O Lord, as well as what we have forgotten to ask and whatever else you see that we need; all through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

↑ PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always*.*
And also with you.

We Share God's Holy Meal

OFFERING

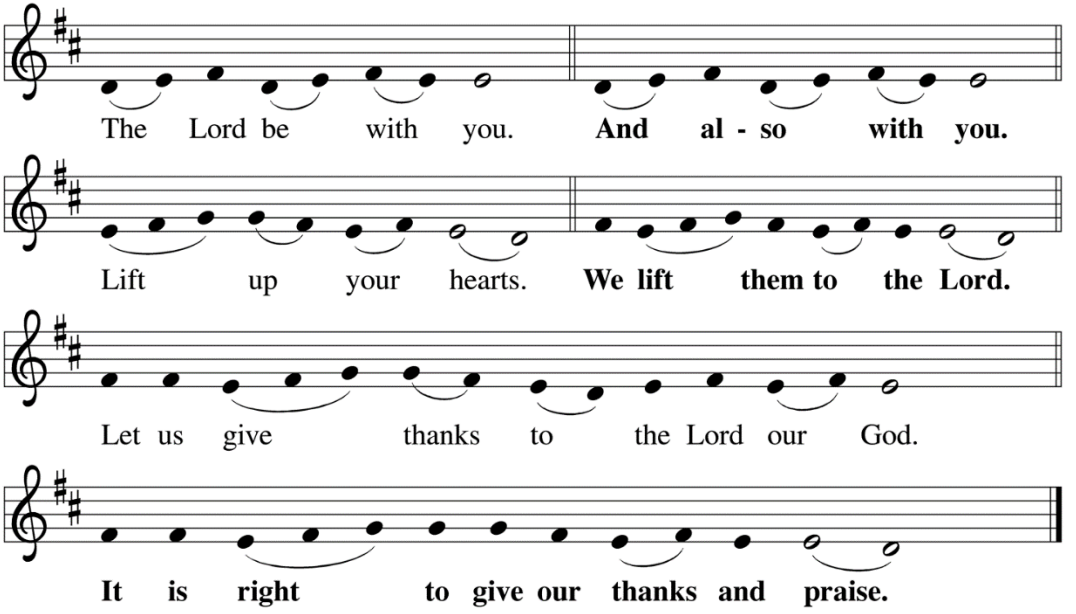
↑ OFFERTORY **RED HYMNAL #884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

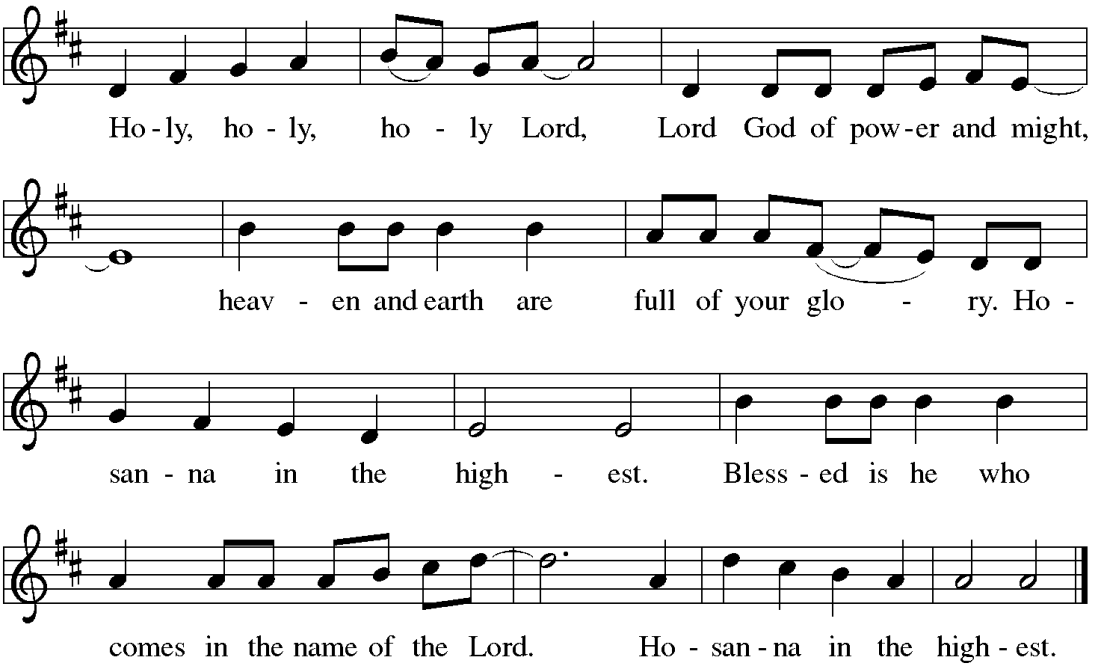
Let us pray together: **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, and use our offerings for your mission, so that all may know your care. Prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING



A prayer of thanksgiving for the season is offered. The congregation responds:

↑ SANCTUS **ELW p. 173**



↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The prayer continues, giving thanks for all God's acts of grace. Thanksgiving is especially offered for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The prayer asks the Holy Spirit to bless the Meal and all who share it. It concludes:

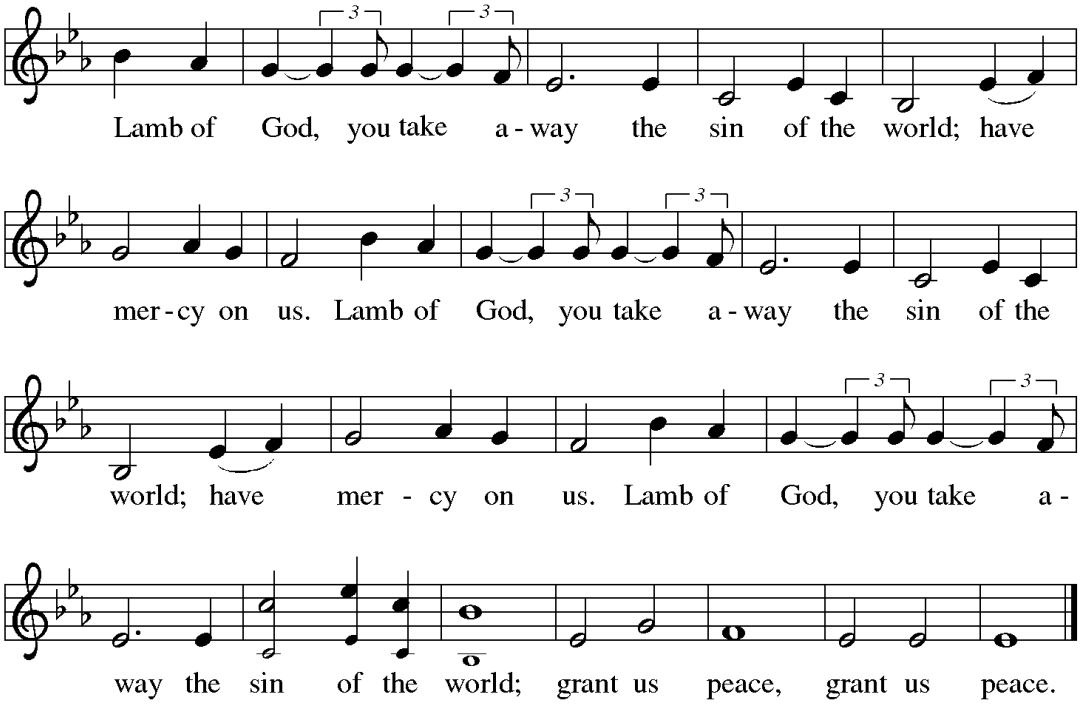
Remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray…

↑ LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the banquet, and receive the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION **ELW p. 174**



HYMNS **"Come, Let Us Eat"** **RED HYMNAL #491**
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" **BLACK BINDER #41**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together: **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ BENEDICTION
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN **"Thine the Amen"** **RED HYMNAL #826**

↑ MISSION STATEMENT
What is our Mission? **To be faithful children of God, called by grace through Christ, and sharing this gift with Middletown, Odessa, Townsend and the World.**

↑ DISMISSAL
Go in peace; serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE
We depart to do God's work.

Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship room after the service.

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Thank you for joining in worship today! We hope you feel comfortable being your full self here. May you find compassion and forgiveness, joy and community, and faithfulness and love among us.

Holy Communion is open to *all* baptized Christians. Bread and gluten-free wafers are available, as well as both wine and grape juice. Please let the usher know if you need Communion brought to you.

If you are a visitor, please sign in to let us know who you are. We'd love to accompany you along your faith journey.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Robbie Ketcham
Assisting Minister	Gene Zaiser
Music Minister	Chris Ponce
Usher	Joe Schulze
Altar Preparer	Maxine Campbell
Fellowship Provider	Nicky Zaiser
Offering Counter	Gene Zaiser

Interested in helping? Contact Gene Zaiser at 67zaiser@gmail.com

Serving our Community

Knot Quilters and Project Linus Blankets: 10am to noon, normally on second Wednesdays. *Questions?* See Nicky Zaiser and Janet Adams, respectively.

Our Daily Bread: Pick up a list of food products at the Donation Station; and/or volunteer to serve a meal the first Wednesday of the month. *Questions?* See Sylvia Schill.

Pill Bottle Ministry: Place your clean, empty pill bottles in the box at the Donation Station. Bottles are sorted, counted and packed up for mailing to Matthew 25 Ministries by our Kingdom Kids.

Seamens Center: Donations of toiletries, snacks, socks, etc. at the Donation Station between the Narthex and the kitchen. *Questions?* See Gene Zaiser.

Supper for University of Delaware students

On Tuesday, October 6, students at the University of Delaware's Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) will enjoy a delicious potato-bar meal created by our own Jean Schulze and served by members of Tree of Life's Outreach Committee. Churches in New Castle County volunteer to prepare a meal for LCM students every Tuesday during the academic year.

Lutheran Campus Ministry annual fundraiser

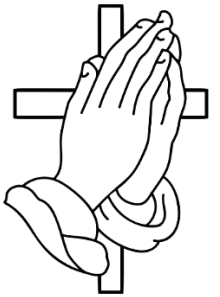
Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware will hold its annual fundraising auction on October 17 at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 5320 Limestone Rd., Wilmington. There will be food, raffles, speakers, and both a silent and live auction of gift baskets prepared by people throughout the area. The live auction will be led by Bp. Bill Gohl. Save the date!

Halloween in Odessa

Tree of Life will again participate in "Halloween in Odessa" (formerly "Halloween in the Park") on October 24. This year will be a bit different: The event will be on High Street in front of the library, and will also include a 5K walk/run. We will be handing out candy beginning at 10 a.m.

Grief Group at St. Paul's

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Odessa will be offering "Encountering Grief," a program that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. This seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people processing grief, followed by discussion of what was viewed and the thoughts and feelings on your mind that day. "Encountering Grief" will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sundays beginning October 11 and ending November 22. To register, call the church office (302-378-2420). For more information, call Bob Collins (302-670-6863), Rev. Danese Collins (302-745-6336), or Rev. Linda Ray (540-207-1787).



Let Us Pray For…

Annalise Fratta, Beth Pugh, Bill Glass, Bob McCord, Cynthia Hamlin, Clara and Dale Newcomb, Danielle Fangman, Darryl Dillard, Dee Matz, Ed Bullock, Edwin Kruah, Elizabeth Schreppler, Elizabeth Zaiser, Erika Zaiser, Jeff Mann, Jerry Campbell, Jim Pileggi, John Bock, John DeVechio Jr., Patrick Pileggi, Quentin Roach, and Sarah Schreppler

Let us also pray for those who serve and have served in our military; disaster victims and victims of violence and injustice everywhere; the health of our members and the world; our volunteers and church leaders; the people of Ukraine and the Middle East; and everyone grieving.

To add or remove someone on the prayer list, please leave a message at 302-378-3345 or email your request to *treeoflifelc@verizon.net*. Please give the full name of the person as well as your own name. It is also important to notify the church office when this person can be taken off the list.

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Web: TreeOfLifeChurchDE.com
Socials: Facebook.com/TreeofLifeLutheranChurch ~ Instagram.com/TreeOfLifeMOT

Rev. Robbie Ketcham, *pastor, Pastor@TreeOfLifeMOT.org*
Donna Parks, *congregation president, dep308@gmail.com*
Maria Gue, *secretary, treeoflifelc@verizon.net*
Chris Ponce, *musician* Pam Nichols, *choir director*

Upcoming Happenings

Sunday, Oct. 4
9 a.m. – Adult Study
10:30 a.m. – Worship
Noon – Kingdom Kids
2 p.m. – Meadowcrest worship

Monday, Oct. 5
1-4pm – Maria Gue in office

Tuesday, Oct. 6
5:30 p.m. – Campus Ministry dinner

Wednesday, Oct. 7
10am-1pm – Pr. Robbie in office
1 p.m. – First Communion class
2 p.m. – Choir rehearsal
4 p.m. – Our Daily Bread

Thursday, Oct. 8
Noon – OWLS at Derby's-Middletown

Friday, Oct. 9
10am-1pm – Pr. Robbie in office
1-4pm – Maria Gue in office

Sunday, Oct. 11
9 a.m. – Adult Study
10:30 a.m. – Worship

Monday, Oct. 12
Columbus Day (Indigenous Peoples Day)
1-4pm – Maria Gue in office

Tuesday, Oct. 13
12:30 p.m. – Church Council

Wednesday, Oct. 14
10am-1pm – Pr. Robbie in office
10:30 a.m. – Worship & Music Committee

Friday, Oct. 16
10am-1pm – Pr. Robbie in office
1-4pm – Maria Gue in office

Saturday, Oct. 17
2 p.m. – Campus Ministry Fundraiser
at St. Philip's-Wilmington