

MAY 2025



The Leaflet



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING

Anyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to St. Paul's at 10:30 a.m. May 1 to continue planning our VBS this summer. VBS will be June 20-22, and will be held at St. Paul's this year. Questions? Talk to Pam Nichols or Pr. Robbie.

WEAR YOUR SHIRT AT MAYFEST!

The Odessa "Mayfest," sponsored by the Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library in Odessa, is 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. May 3. While Tree of Life will not have a table at Mayfair this year, please consider wearing a Tree of Life shirt if you plan to go. It's a simple but noticeable way to spread the word about the ministry we do!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2025 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly will run from 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 30, to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31. Tree of Life can send up to two lay voting members and has the option to send a third person who is under 30. If you are interested, please let someone on Church Council know ASAP! The "early-bird" registration deadline is April 30, but online registration is open through May 16. Synod Assembly is the annual governing body for the Delaware-Maryland Synod, where voting members debate and approve the budget and other resolutions, and hear about the work of our wider church.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

We continue trying to keep our prayer list up to date. So while member names will remain on the list until a request to remove them, non-member names will be removed after a month or so. If you notice a name is missing and would like it included, please contact the church office. If you would like to remove a name, please do the same. Thank you!

Council

VOLUNTEER!

Are you busy? Too busy? Not busy enough? Personally, my answer would have to be yes, yes, and yes.

We have just ended Lent, supposed to be a time of reflection and repentance but in reality, a remarkably busy time in the church year. It turns out reflecting and repenting aren't passive activities; they require real work. We may need help with this so we have weekly Lenten soup and study sessions to add to our other commitments, along with a heightened sense of need for volunteer work at **OUR DAILY BREAD.**

And then Lent ends in the rush of Holy Week and Easter. The church calendar takes us into Normal time and as a church we are much less busy **BUT** we really aren't. Every single ministry we support needs more people, every committee needs more members.

KNOT **QUILTERS** is a fine example. This ministry is outreach far beyond our warm nest here at Tree of Life. It is materially well supplied and well funded. It just needs more people looking for a way to serve. Could that be you? You can bring a friend. One of our most faithful Knotters is a Catholic! Another possibility is **WELCA**, Women of the Evangelical Church in America. It meets once a month at Panera Bread for coffee, food, and conversation on a topic featured in **GATHER**, the magazine for Lutheran women. There are currently 3 or 4 attending, but more would be wonderful because more and different insights would be great!

These are only two of the wonderful things we have going on at Tree of Life. There are **FELLOWSHIP, FACILITIES**, and more, and they would all welcome more help.

So think about it. Pray about it. There is truly a place for you here.

Nicky Zaiser
Church Council President

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

An Updated Bible Translation

As Lutherans, we hold the Bible in high regard. But how do we know what exactly the Bible says? At first glance, there might seem an obvious answer: “Just open it and find out!” To be sure, we should always be eager to open our Bible! But if you look through the religion shelf at any bookstore or library, you’ll notice lots of different Bibles. And while the core message of God’s grace is the same in them all, some specifics can be different.

This is pertinent for us at Tree of Life right now, due to a required change from a Bible publisher.

For many years, Tree of Life has used the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation of the Bible for worship and Bible study. Published in 1989 by a team of Bible scholars from many denominations, the NRSV has been the main translation used by most Lutherans and other mainline Protestants. The NRSV itself was a full revision of the Revised Standard Version (RSV), which was published in 1952.

Beginning in the late 2010s, the National Council of Churches – which owns the copyright to the NRSV – began an “update” to this translation. The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) was published in 2021. The National Council of Churches has announced that, as of June 30,

the original NRSV may no longer be sold in bookstores or published online. This means that all the resources Tree of Life uses when planning worship will only provide the NRSVue after that date.

What does this mean for Tree of Life? Mostly, it means that the Bible text we hear on Sunday morning might sometimes sound different. We will still have NRSV Bibles on our bookshelves, and I’ll likely still use the NRSV when leading Bible studies. If a change in translation is important to a message on Sunday, I will mention it during my sermon, just like I mention if the Bible’s original languages (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic) differ from the NRSV.

So what is the NRSVue? The publisher says it is not a major revision, like when the NRSV revised the RSV. Rather, a team of Bible scholars reviewed the NRSV in light of newly discovered ancient manuscripts and changes to everyday English. The NRSVue makes 20,000 total changes to the NRSV, of which 12,000 are deemed “substantive edits.” The publisher calls the NRSVue “the world’s most meticulously researched, rigorously reviewed, and faithfully accurate English-language Bible translation.” According to the publisher, it “reflects discoveries of ancient texts

The **Good Friday Cross Walk** - pausing 12 times with readings, prayers and song between TOL and St. Paul's was well attended and very rewarding. If you didn't get a chance to participate, try to do so next year.



Here and on next page are a few pictures of the group stopping with people taking turns carrying the cross and doing the readings.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses for March 2025: \$ 36,721.69

Year to Date Expenses: \$60,669.22

Giving for February 2025: \$12,453.00 general fund, benevolence, facilities
\$11,177.08 roof fund

Year to Date Giving: \$34,667.00 general fund, benevolence, facilities
\$29,949.08 roof fund (total raised to date
\$41,499.08)

Our financial situation is looking good. Offerings are keeping up with expenses and the roof fundraiser is going strong.

You will notice that expenses were high in March. This is because we paid a \$25,000 deposit to get the roof replacement started. If the weather cooperates, we may have a new roof by the time the May leaflet goes out! What a blessing to be able to get a new watertight roof on our building. We are very thankful for everyone's generosity to get this project completed.

We now have an on-line giving option. If you are interested, visit our website to find the link. It has been tested and is working great.

Thank you for your continued support of Tree of Life.

Denise Lindquist



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY 2025

Jerry Campbell	May 1
Delores Bille'	May 2
Elizabeth Kruah	May 2
EJ Kruah	May 4
Sasha Yetsko	May 7
Donna Michael	May 9
Karen McCord	May 13
Kaitlyn Yetsko	May 20
Paul Schuler	May 23
Chris Collett	May 27



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






OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

In May the OWLS will have lunch at Vita Nova, (17 W. Maine Street, Newark, DE) the restaurant run by the hospitality students at the University of Delaware. Lunch is at noon. Please note the date is Thursday, May 15th. Please let Dee or George Matz know if you will be attending by Sunday, May 11th. Remember the parking garage next door has you enter your license plate number when paying. If you don't know it, please save yourself some extra steps and frustration and take a picture of your plate before leaving your car.

OWLS at
Pithari in
Middletown
in April





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			April 30 10 AM WELCA Bible Study	1 10:30 VBS meeting @ St. Paul's	2	3 Odessa Mayfest
4 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	5	6	7 2PM Choir Practice 4PM ODB	8	9	10
11 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship Noon Kingdom Kids Mother's Day 	12	13 6 PM Council Mtg	14 10 AM Knot Quilters 2PM Choir Practice	15 Noon OWLS Outing 6PM Worship & Music	16	17 
18 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship	19	20	21 2PM Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 9 AM Bible Study 10:30 Worship Noon Kingdom Kids	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30 Synod	31 Assembly



Date	Usher	Worship Assistant	Altar	Fellowship	Offering Counter
May 4	G. Matz	J. Pileggi	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	M. Campbell
May 11	B. Lindquist	E. Kruah	S. Vetrano	C. Fiske	E. Kruah
May 18	M. Campbell	G. Zaiser	N. Zaiser	J. Schulze	Joe Schulze
May 25	G. Matz	J. Adams	M. Campbell	B. Bullock	G. Zaiser

Want to volunteer ? Contact ~Gene Zaiser, Coordinator~

Pastor—Cont'd from pg 3

and new insights made in the thirty years since the NRSV was last revised. The newly updated translation offers clearer, more direct, and inclusive language, and increased cultural sensitivity absent of the unintended biases of prior versions.”

Some changes in the NRSVue are rather minor, such as fixing punctuation and capitalizing words like “Sabbath.” Others are more notable. Here are some examples:

Genesis 1:1-2 NRSV: *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*

Genesis 1:1-2 NRSVue: *When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*

Luke 2:6-7 NRSV: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was *no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:6-7 NRSVue: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a man-

ger, because there was *no place in the guest room.*

Matthew 2:1 NRSV: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, *wise men* from the East came to Jerusalem...

Matthew 2:1 NRSVue: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, *magi* from the east came to Jerusalem...

Mark 1:40 NRSV: A *leper* came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you *choose*, you can make me clean.”

Mark 1:40 NRSVue: A *man with a skin disease* came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you *are willing*, you can make me clean.”

What leads to different translations like this? In a nutshell, translating the Bible requires some hard decisions. Some ancient Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic words don’t exactly match up with modern English words. Plus, translators rely on ancient texts of biblical books, which sometimes differ. Everyday English also changes (for instance, “gay” is rarely used for “happy” nowadays), so translators must decide what English word is best. Finally, some translations try to exactly match the original language even if it means awkward English, while others try to put the Bible in words we can understand even if it means losing some word-for-word accuracy.



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."

FREE LABOR URGENTLY NEEDED!

No, we don't pay anything, but the perks and benefits are GREAT!

All we need is that free labor!

The Knot Quilters meet at Tree of Life every second Wednesday morning of the month from 10 until 12 to create beautiful knotted quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief.

Come join us for fellowship, and possibly coffee, all for a good cause. No donuts because the last time we had donuts, I ate them all.

Nicky Zaiser

We have several gorgeous quilt tops as well as batting and backing to com-

Knot Tier



Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Bible Study

PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 30TH

Come out and join in a Bible study using the *Gather* magazine as a guide. Enjoy fellowship at Panera Bread along with a cup of coffee (or your beverage of choice) and a bagel as we discuss the Bible verses chosen for this month.

Also check out the most recent *Gather* magazine as it has a great article on Lutheran Disaster Response to Hurricane Helen. The work of the LDR includes "Bridging together." LDR and Mennonite Disaster Service are working together to replace private bridges that were destroyed by the flood. There's no state funding to replace them because they are on private property. There are an estimate 5,000 bridges out in North Carolina.

For more information about the magazine as well as the WELCA group, talk with Janet Adams.

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets



We are anticipating a break on working on fleece blankets as the weather gets warmer.

However, if you want to work on a crochet blanket or maybe make a quilted baby blanket for Project Linus, contact Janet Adams. Janet will help you locate the information to continue.

And, of course, if you want to keep working with fleece, we are always happy to have another fleece blanket.

Pastor cont'd from page 9

I'll confess that, at the moment, I'm not a huge fan of the NRSVue. While some changes are good ("magi" seems much more accurate than "wise men," for instance), others seem unnecessary or problematic. But I also understand the decisions that the translators made. And other theologians and pastors, both traditionalist and progressive, have given the NRSVue positive reviews. So while I wish we could still use the NRSV, I think it is best right now to follow the publisher-required change to the NRSVue.

Most important, the core message of the Bible remains clear no matter what translation is used: The Scriptures show us God's Law that reveals our sin, and the Gospel that God came to us as Jesus Christ to die for our sin and rise for our salvation. And because of this, no matter what translation you prefer, I encourage you to *read the Bible*, and discover anew the story of God's love for you!

Blessings,
Pr. Robbie+



Thanks so much to you and Tree of Life Lutheran Church team for all your help. We are always appreciative of your regular help and support. Your support is crucial to the success of our important mission. We are blessed to have such wonderful and reliable friends and partners who help carry the load. Many thanks! On 04/02/2025, your team served 156 meals to your neighbors in need. Please share our gratitude

with your entire team.

Thank you for supporting Our Daily Bread (ODB) and our efforts to end food insecurity in our community. Your gift of can goods and lunch and gallon storage bags on 04/01/2025 makes a difference in the lives of your neighbors who might otherwise go hungry. We are very blessed to receive help from so many generous people supporting our work.

Tree of Life's next date to serve is Wednesday, May 7th, at 4 PM. Sign up for one of the jobs to join this monthly mission. Or bring donations to TOL's Donation Station and they will be delivered to Our Daily Bread.

Questions? See Sylvia Schill.

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

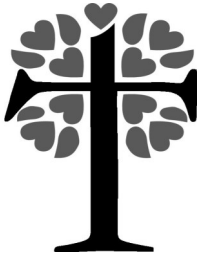
P. O. Box 64 / 505 Osbourne Street

Odessa, DE 19730-0064

(302) 378-3345 / treeoflifelc@verizon.net

www.treeoflifechurchde.com

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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.

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