

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

United in worship, Sharing Jesus
and Serving all people

Leaves of Life Newsletter
June 2024



Spring is in full bloom!

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church
825 Forest Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14701



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825 Forest Ave, Jamestown NY 14701
(716) 488-4235 - FAX: (716) 488-2336

Worship Services each Sunday at 9 am

Contact info:

**Office hours: 9 am-1 pm—
Monday & Wednesday**

Timothy J. Hoyer, Pastor

to set up appointment: Call church (716)488-4235
for pastoral emergency: (716) 490-5731 (call or text)

TREE OF LIFE emails:

pastorthoyer@gmail.com – Pastor Timothy Hoyer
admin@toljamestown.com – Darcy Whitney
finance@toljamestown.com – Jan Coleson

Our website:
www.toljamestown.com

Tree of Life is on Facebook –
search “@TOLChurchJTN”



Church Council met on May 14th. Here are some highlights:

- We discussed the condition of our parking lot again. Some different ideas were discussed that we are looking into.
- Pastor called it to our attention that there are birds' nests with babies in the eaves of the roof behind the sanctuary. We will get that taken care of after the babies fly off.
- The date of our Annual Congregational Picnic is Wednesday, July 31st at 5:00 pm. Mark your calendars now!

As always, please see a member of council if you have any ideas, concerns or thoughts.

Yours in Christ,

Darcy Whitney, Council President



**Wishing you
happiest of birthdays!**

the

6/1 George Hitchcock
6/4 Virginia Johnson
Chris Radack
Bob Whitney
6/5 Jack Anderson
6/6 Nathan Gibson
6/11 Evelyn Lee
6/15 Judy Cowles
Michael Lucas
6/26 Pastor Timothy Hoyer
Debbi Morlock

The deadline for the July issue of *Leaves of Life* Newsletter is Sunday, June 16th. Please email any news to admin@toljamestown.com or drop it off in the office by that date. Thank you!

GOOD NEWS FROM PASTOR



“Watch your language!”

That warning can bring back all kinds of memories and feelings of when we were a child and an adult scolded us for our choice of impolite words. As adults, the use of impolite words is not as limited as it used to be to when or where we say them. But if such words are said in a church, well, we are told, “Watch your language. You’re in church!”

There are other words that twinge the conscience a lot more than impolite words can. “You have to try harder.” “You need to have more faith.” “You need to be a better person.”

Those are words said every day and everywhere to every person. Such words always demand more of us. We say them to demand more of others. Sure, we can improve what we do, but to demand it of others every day is to inflict them with a tiring burden. To say that there is always room for improvement is the same as telling others that they are never good enough.

Any rule or law says that. So, God’s laws say that. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength” is going to make us worry that we haven’t used all of our heart or all our strength.

Jesus brings us a new vocabulary. He gives us something new to say. Jesus gives us words such as, “My peace be with you.” When he says that, notice that he is giving us his peace. Notice that he is not demanding we do something. He is not telling us to do more or try harder. He is doing the giving of his peace. And it is his peace that tells us Jesus has done everything for us. We don’t have to try harder or do more. It is already done. Jesus did it. See his death and rising. It’s done!

As it is June, as summer is here and the sun shines and the days are warm or even hot, we will often be told, "It's nice out. You should be outside. You should enjoy the nice weather because winter will be here before you know it. How can you waste such a nice day indoors?" We will say such things without even thinking. Yet by those words we put pressure on people. We demand they behave better. We need to watch our language.



Instead of making demands, we can offer people good things. We can say, "Look, I give you a wonderful, summer day. It's for you. Please, it is for you to enjoy." We make the summer day a gift instead of something for which they have to do more or do better. Or we offer to join them. "Come with me outside and let's take a walk. I want to spend time with you and it's really nice out."

Jesus has risen for us. He offers to be with us. He says that it is a merciful day today. He says it is a graceful day today. Such days do not depend upon the weather and are good whether it's summer or winter, sunny or rainy. Days full of mercy are a gift. Every day Jesus gives us his mercy. May that be your hope and strength.

Peace,

Pastor Hoyer

Bible Study meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 10:30 am in the Church Library. This study is led by Pastor Hoyer. Please join us!!



Your 2024 Church Council

President: Darcy Whitney
Vice-President: Debbie Swan
Treasurer: Dan Gustafson
Secretary: Sandy Stewart

Council Members:

Dave Gibson
Dan Gustafson
Debra Radack
Sandy Stewart
Cindy Swan
Debbie Swan
Darcy Whitney

Church Council will meet on

****Tuesday, 11 at 1:30 pm.**

APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL PICTURE:

Income: \$6,171.90

Expenses: \$12,759.18 (quarterly payments due)

Monthly difference: (\$6,587.28)



Even though we go to church with each other & sit by each other, we don't always know one another! Every month we will spotlight one member of Tree of Life so we can all get to know them better! This month we will get to know *Dan Gustafson*.

Dan was born and grew up in Jamestown, NY. He has one brother, Tom.

Dan was a Technical Service Representative for Rexnord, Inc., in Warren, PA. It was an industrial office. The facility closed in 2016, at which time Dan decided it was okay to retire anyway!

His favorite color is blue, and his hobbies are golf, reading, and doing volunteer work. Dan volunteers at our food cupboard and is Treasurer of our Church Council. He also volunteers as Treasurer for the ILS Veteran's Club.

Dan was baptized into the Body of Christ at Immanuel Lutheran Church. He likes to come to church to live out his faith along with the other members. He also likes to serve the church by volunteering. Dan is a faithful member of our church, and one of the things he likes about Tree of Life is the continuous spirit of fellowship that we have. When asked if he has a faith story, Dan said "My faith story is more of a continuous occurrence rather than a specific story." That sounds wonderful, Dan!

Esther Circle will meet at 1:30 Wednesday, June 5 at the home of Dorie Deyo. The Bible study is from the March/April GATHER magazine.



Our Food Cupboard has been VERY BUSY. We are designating the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month as Food Sundays, but you can donate at any time. Please drop donations off in the basket in the narthex. We are in need of the following:

Canned Ravioli
Canned Spaghetti & Meatballs
Canned White Chunk Chicken Breast
Fruit Juice (48 or 64 fluid oz.)
Peanut Butter
Spaghetti Sauce
Mac & Cheese
Tuna Fish
Pinto Beans

Elbow Macaroni
Egg Noodles
Jelly
Bar Soap
Shampoo

A BIG thank you to all who have been supporting the Food Cupboard with donations. We really appreciate you!!



"I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness. The generosity for the use of the church, along with the use of items from the loan closet will always be remembered and appreciated.

Thank you so much!"

Laurel Siperek & the Family of Shirley N. Carlson

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral

Marian L. Leathers on May 10, 2024.

TOL email Prayer Chain: Prayer requests can be made through Darcy at the church office (716) 488-4235; to Darcy's office email at admin@toljamestown.com, or to Darcy's personal email at whitneyr49@yahoo.com. If you would like to be a part of this important mission, please send your email address to Darcy.



Worship Assistants

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

June 2: Janet Thom
16: Sandy Stewart

LECTORS

June 2: Sandy Stewart
9: Hal Hanson
16: Judy DuBois
23: Janet Thom
30: Marlene Hanson

GREETERS

June 2: Judy Johnson
9: Sylvia Braley
16: Hal & Marlene Hanson
23: Sandy Stewart
30: Dorie Deyo

ALTAR CARE

June: – Sandy Stewart



Pastor Timothy Hoyer is celebrating forty years of ordained ministry on June 8, 2024. We give thanks for Pastor Hoyer's ministry among us here at Tree of Life Lutheran. Congratulations, Pastor Hoyer! We celebrate with you!



We have Coffee Hour on the first Sunday of each month 😊 We need 2 volunteers each month to host (help get ready & help serve) and 2 to bring treats (about 2 dozen each). Please

sign up in the narthex. Please see Sandy Stewart or Darcy Whitney if you have any questions. Thank you!



Our Annual Church Picnic will be held Wednesday, July 31st, at 5:00 p.m., in the Tree of Life church yard. Please save the date and plan on coming! More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Don't be root-bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riegenbach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

“If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots,” Riegenbach wrote in her gardening column. “If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden.”

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!

