NON-PROFIT ORG.

Free of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

Jamestown, NY

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MAILING LABEL

Jamestown NY 825 Forest Ave

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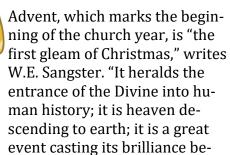


Tree of Life Church: united in worship, sharing Jesus and serving all people.

Leaves of Life—Parish Newsletter



Coming attraction



fore it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. 'Get ready,' he seems to say. 'Get ready. He is coming!"

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome to

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

825 Forest Ave, Jamestown NY 14701

(716) 488-4235 - FAX: (716) 488-2336

Contact info:

Office hours: 8am-noon—Monday thru Friday

(pastor in office: M-Th after 9:30)

Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman

<u>to set up appointment</u>: Call church 716 488-4235 <u>for pastoral emergency</u>: (716) 969-3950 (<u>call or text</u>)

Sunday School—all ages—9am Worship—10:15am

TREE OF LIFE emails:

pastor@toljamestown.com

Pastor Tara Eastman

admin@toljamestown.com

- Rosemary DiDomenico

income@toljamestown.com expense@toljamestown.com Beryl Emley

music@toljamestown.com

– Jan Coleson– Eric Hester

TOL Website: www.toljamestown.com

Tree of Life is on Facebook



Dear Tree of Life Members and Friends, November 19, 2019

To celebrate Three Kings Days (January 6), the conclusion of the Christmas Season on the day of Epiphany, our church will be collecting donations for our third annual "Three Kings Mission Gift".

This year the three recipients of this mission offering with be: (1.) Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, (2.) the Ninos de Montana Children's Project (Children of the Mountain) Jason Guity and (3.) a local family in need.

All donations can be specifically designated for one or more of these causes, or can be equally divided between all three. If you are giving cash or check, please specify how you want your donation divided: 1. Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, 2. Ninos de Montana Children's Project or to 3. A Local family in need. Please make all checks out to Tree of Life Lutheran Church and the funds will be distributed as requested.

Donations will be accepted from Sunday December 1st to Sunday December 29th for this year's "Three Kings" Mission Effort. Thank you for supporting the Three Kings Mission! Sincerely, *Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman*







SERVING TRIEF OF LIFE

If you are unable to serve on your Sunday, you are responsible for finding a replacement and calling to let the office know who is serving for you.

DECEMBER

ASSISTING MINISTER

1st: Lori Nystrom
8th: Lisa Gustafson
15th: Darcy Whitney
22nd: Sue Priester
24th: Susan Bailey
29th: Wolf-Dieter Krahn

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

1st: Dodie E, Chris R 8th: Paula H, Cindy S 15th: Sandy S, Darcy W 22nd: Dodie E, Chris R 24th: Paula H, Cindy S 29th: Sandy S, Darcy W

GREETERS

1st: George H, Paula H
8th: Cindy Swan, need 1
15th: Darcy W, Sylvia B
22nd: Carole D, Dodie E
24th: George H, Paula H
29th: Cindy S, need 1

LECTORS

1st: Kim Hagelin 8th: Cindy Joslyn 15th: Lisa Gustafson 22nd: Linda Smith 24th: Darcy Whitney 29th: Tom Priester

ACOLYTES

1st: Adam Moss 8th: Ava Hagelin 15th: Ayden Hagelin 22nd: Ella Storms 24th: Sydney Moss 29th: Allie Moss

USHERS

1st: Darcy, George, Mike, Sandy

8th: Dennis, Roberto 15th: Allen, Matt K, Sylvia B,

Matt, Jacki

22nd: Paul & Kim, Dan G, Judy D 24th: Darcy, George, Mike, Sandy

29th: Dennis, Roberto

COUNTERS TBA council

ALTAR CARE TEAM FOR December

looking ahead.

Women **ELCA**



PROJECT WORK DAY

Saturday, February 22, 2020 9:30 AM

at

Christ Chapel

Lutheran Home & Rehab. Center

715 Falconer Street Jamestown, New York 14701





Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

President: Darcy Whitney Vice-Pres: Dorie Deyo Treasurer: Deb Morlock

Secretary: tba

Council members:

Dorie Deyo Thure Fransen Matt Kubinski Debbi Morlock Sue Priester Cindy Swan Darcy Whitney

TOL CHURCH COUNCIL WILL MEET @

6:30PM December 9th

To all volunteers who give their time to help out as needed. You are truly appreciated.

"Leaves of Life " DEADLINE

FOR January NEWS Is



Sunday 16th

Work party to assemble will be 9:30am

at TOL Mon., Dec 30th

Special dates

First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019
First day of winter, December 21, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2019
Christmas Day, December 25, 2019
New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2019

Tree of Life News



ESTHER CIRCLE will meet in the church library on

Wednesday, Dec 4th —AT 1:30

••

We will use **December GATHER magazine** for the Bible Study. Any women from

Tree of Life and their friends are welcome to attend.



LABOR OF LOVE will meet the FIRST Monday of each month BEGINNING December 2nd

The Post Journal changed their policy of what they would accept for the "church News column:

the Post Journal will only be accepting the following for CHURCH NEWS:

- Sunday info
- Prayer meeting/ bible study
- Support groups such as NA/AA
- Food pantry info



The second Sunday of the month is FOOD SUNDAY..
We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item

for our Food Pantry . <u>Current need</u> <u>is assorted soups .. Anything will be accepted.</u>

Worship ATTENDANCE

Oct 27— 51 Nov3— 53 Nov 10— 48 Nov 17— 52

Mission

MISSION SUPPORT

This is the season of pledge cards and annual budgets, so a review of Mission Support seems appropriate.

Through God's grace, we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. By sharing your Godgiven time, talents, and financial resources with your church, you are participating in God's work in your community and around the world.

YOUR CONGREGATION: when you make a financial gift to your congregation, the congregation's council stewards those funds to support the work of your congregation. In your annual budget, a portion of your offering is designated to be shared with the Upstate New York Synod. This is called Mission Support. If you do not see a line item in your congregation's budget called Mission Support, ask why not.

YOUR SYNOD: All the congregations' Mission Support is stewarded by Bishop Macholz and the syn-

od leaders to support the work of the synod. Things like nurturing congregations and rostered leaders, camps, colleges, seminaries. Synods designate a percentage of the Mission Support funds to be sent to the churchwide organization, usually 40-50%.

Messag

CHURCHWIDE: Mission Support dollars are used to respond to local and worldwide ministry opportunities, like new & renewing congregations, chaplaincy, advocacy, multicultural ministries, missionaries, hunger and disaster programs.

Watch a short video to learn more. Go to Youtube search, and type in "Where does your offering go?"

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

God's Work. Our Hands. Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter Note: IF YOU WOULD LIKE NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE LET THE **CHURCH OFFICE KNOW.**

716 488-4235-Rosemary admin@toljamestown.com

ELCA LECTIONARY A

1 ADVENT-DEC 1

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

2 ADVENT-DEC 8

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

Romans 15:4-13



3 ADVENT-DEC 15

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

4 ADVENT-DEC 22

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS EVE-DEC 24

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

1 CHRISTMAS-DEC 29

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

NOTE: ALTAR FLOW-ERS AND/OR BULLETIN **SPONSORSHIP** is on the

office door (just across from the handicap ramp or you may c**ontact** the church office 716 488-4235 or email Rosemary



admin@toljamestown.com with requested date & what you would like printed in the bulletin that week. Also, we need to know if you want the flowers deliv-

ered (\$30) or picked up (\$22) and if you have

any specific request/. It is fine for flowers and bulletin sponsorship on same day, just specify which you would like. Bulletin sponsorship is \$20.



Pastor's message..

Walking Together in Advent: God is with us

Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman



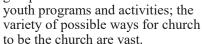
Over the past six months Tree of Life Church council has been reading and discussing the book. "Together: Community and a means of grace" by Larry Duggins. The purpose of the book is to help churches to work from the roots of their faith to reach out to their community in ways that connect to what is central in the lives of people: family and children, work and vocation, common interests that connect with others, and gathering around table that support health and wellness.

As we have read and discussed this book, we are learning to look and cultivate ways that the ministry of Tree of Life already connects or can better connect with these points of family, work, personal interests and food.

In a historical context, church community "acts as a means of grace that establishes human bonds that facilitate and encourage the flow of God's grace into people's lives." (Together) Historically, the ways church has lived into this role have been through group prayer, of God.

In light of the challenges and changes in the lives of many people. what are the ways that the church can aid in developing community?

From coffee shops, small group gatherings, food trucks, support groups and various



If we consider the gospel text of Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.", how might that impact our perspective on community space that functions to the mission of the church?

Briefly said, church (ideally) is a relationship building environment between people and God and God and people. So how can the church and our church live out it's call AND connect with families, work, interest and food?

In this season of Advent, we focus each week in preparation for Christmas, waiting for the birth of the Christ child. We look through the lenses of hope, joy, peace and love to help us frame this time of waiting and anticipation for Emmanuel – God with us.

For the church, we long to be healthy, vibrant and whole as we are supported by the Holy Spirit in our call to be "church". As a church we are called to come and worship AND go and serve. As a church we are called to preach the gospel AND be recipients of the good news of Jesus. There is a both - and tension in the experience and existence of the church. We are to receive as ritual, singing, teaching and worship well as give. We are to be a group but retain an atmosphere of openness that makes it seamless for people to become a part of the group – who then welcome people to the group – who then...

pastor con't..

The church in Advent is a time of waiting and living into the hope, joy, peace and love of the coming Christ. The church in Advent is called to a space of openness, imagination and possibility that closes the gap and helps all people to know and be part of this community redeemed and used by God. So how might we live into this call of engaged opportunity? How might we prepare the spaces that feel so familiar to us – for those who aren't there yet? Where might we step out and meet with people who might need encouragement to even consider crossing the church building threshold?

Advent is a time of active waiting, hoping, joy bearing, peacemaking and love giving – and as church we are called together to live out this call.

It may help us to remember how church became a community space for each of us so that we can help to make it so for others.

What groups/ experiences or "works of mercy" in church community have helped your faith grow the most?

What faith growing space is needed by your friends and family who have not yet found church community?

As we actively wait this Advent, may God show us the ways to better connect with people in authentic ways that express the hope, joy, peace and love of Jesus. May the Holy Spirit show us the roads to travel to the people that long to hear this good news of a people, place and God who loves them more than can be imagined. In true connection with this season, love – true love, is

the greatest gift we could ever receive or give.

Prayer: "God help us to honor the heart of what matters. God help us to live your compassion and mercy deeper than the sweaters we wear. God help us have courage in fearful days. God help us to love you and others all our precious days."

PTE 2019

October happenings and Advent opportunities



On October 31, 2019, Tree of Life hosted its 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. We had about 175 adults and children attend the event in marvelous costumes. The guests received Halloween candy, enjoyed festive spooky music and were given a roomful of children's books to choose from and take home to keep. We distributed over 200 children's books over the two-hour event. Thank you to all the volunteers and donations for this youth and family event.



HOSPITALIZATIONS

The church office no longer receives calls from the hospital when a member is hospitalized. It would be appreciated if someone from the family would call the church office when a hospitalization occurs. In addition to calls no longer being made to the office by hospital volunteers, the computer used by the clergy at the hospital to locate hospitalized members has been removed. Thank you for your assistance. In case of hospital emergency, please contact Pastor Eastman at 716 969-3950.

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 Sept—mid-May

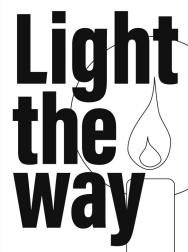


FINANCIAL PICTURE

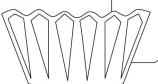
OCTOBER 2019:

Income: \$8,850.70 *Expenses*: \$13,866.31

Monthly difference: \$-5,015.61 *Cummulative diff*: \$-61,956.76



Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

- 1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
- 2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
- 3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
- 4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



TREE OF LIFE (December)

12/2 Steve Sandberg,12/3 Barbara Boone

12/4 David Shagla,12/5 Eleanor Ahlstrom

12/8 Joanne Burling, Mark Nystrom

12/10 Glenn Wigren, Lee Bennett

12/14 Emily Whitney

12/15 Joey Lombardo12/17 Rick Bowman,

Ann Mogenhan

12/18 Tyler Maloney, Karen Melquist, Richard Saullo Jr.

12/21 Alice Carlson, Nichole Ridgway

12/22 Letha Adelman

12/25 Bonnie Magers

12/29 Collin Bentley

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW if this needs update



Thank

A sincere thank you to all who prayed for me, sent cards, flowers, and visited me following my recent knee surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Tara, who visited and prayed with us before the surgery. I so appreciated the care and support.

Sincerely, Sue Priester

PEWER PRAYER

TOL has an email Prayer

Chain- Prayer requests can be made through the pastor 969-3950; the church office 488-4235; or direct to Dodie 665-5062 her email

is dodie2417@gmail.com. If you would like to be a part of this important mission please send your email address to Dodie.

pastor con't..



Congratulations to Mark and Julie Dempski who were married at Yodeler Lodge on November 16, 2019.



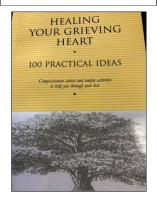


Advent Devotional 2019: Advent in <u>full color</u>

Our 2019 Advent in Full Color Devotional will be available for pick up any time now in the narthex. This year's devotion features a 4-week booklet with scripture, devotions poetry and illustrations to accompany your Advent journey. For more information on this devotional, contact Pastor Eastman

First Communion Classes to be scheduled in 2020: If you or your children are interested in attending First Communion Classes in preparation for First Communion, please contact Pastor Eastman as classes are being planned for early in 2020.

<u>Wisdom</u> <u>Wednesday</u> Small Group



Noon on Wednesdays' a small group will be meeting to discuss 1 of the workbook pages in the book, "Healing your grieving heart". No prereading or purchase of book is required. Contact Pastor Eastman for more information.



To the family of HELEN BAGNALL. Helen, 102 & longtime member of Immanuel passed away at Lutheran on Saturday, Nov 16, 2019.



A Note from the Financial Manager for donations

I'd like to remind you that all contributions for 2019 must be in the church office by December 31st or mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31 or before. Any contributions received after December 31st will be counted as 2020 contributions.

You may contribute money in December toward 2019's pledge in order to get the additional deduction on your 2019 taxes. <u>Just be</u> sure to mark it clearly that the contribution is being pre-paid for 2020 and have it in the church office by December 31st.

May God surround you with joy and peace this holiday season. And may you be abundantly blessed in your faith journey in the

year ahead!

-Beryl Emley

p.s.

A special thanks to all who have sent in their pledge cards for the upcoming year.



... there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7, KJV

ave the date

Please join Miss Hilary Kurtz and Dr. Randy Elf for their wedding at **3 p.m. Saturday**, **Dec. 28**, **in First Lutheran Church**. Although the reception is by personal invitation, the wedding is a worship service, which is a public event. Anyone may attend the wedding. No invitation is necessary. The service includes the handbell choir, Christmas music, and Holy Communion. Miss Kurtz and Dr. Elf would be honored to have you attend. Further information is at:

https://www.zola.com/wedding/kurtzelfwedding.

Online Book Club

"Online Book Club Group using Zoom Technology"

Pastor Lori Kochanski, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation, will moderate the online conversation about the book. Make note of some of the points in the book that you find to be interesting or challenging and be prepared to share them with the group. This study is open to anyone (both lay folks and those who are rostered leaders) willing to read the book and talk about it with others. You can even invite your family and friends who do not live in New York. The zoom link will be published in the Upstate Update and the synod Facebook page.

Upcoming book conversations:

<u>December 18</u> 1:00 and 7:00 The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe by Richard Rohr

<u>January 15</u> 1:00 and 7:00 Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine

February 19 1:00 and 7:00 One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins by Emmy Kegler

March 25 1:00 and 7:00 Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution by Katey Zeh

<u>April 29</u> 1:00 and 7:00 *The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister

JAYSON DAVID MENA GUITY



MISSIONARY FROM HONDURAS

SPEAKING TOPICS:

Ninos de Montana Children's project

Personal testimony

Life in Honduras - why people leave

SPEAKING TOUR SCHEDULE:

 Dec 1
 9:30
 Lincoln Falls Wesleyan Church, Forksville, PA

 Dec 1
 11:00
 Millview Wesleyan Church, Forksville, PA

 Dec 1
 12:15
 Luncheon Slide Show, Millview Wesleyan Church

 Dec 6
 6:00
 Welcome, Jayson! Informal open house pot luck dinner

304 Howard Ave., Jamestown. Everyone is invited!!

Dec 8 10:15 Tree of Life Lutheran Church, 825 Forest Ave, Jamestown, NY

Dec 8 11:30 Luncheon Slide Show, Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Jamestown

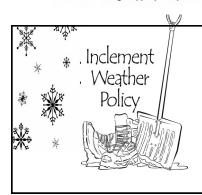
Dec 15 9:30 St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 3748 Rt 430, Bemus Point, NY

Dec 15 10:45 Luncheon Slide Show, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Bemus Pt, NY

Dec 18 5:30 Dinner Church, Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Jamestown, NY

Dec 20 8:30-1:45 Sports Symposium, Frewsburg High School

Jan 2 6:00 Going away party for Jayson at TOL Church. Everyone is invited!



NOTE:

If local schools are closed, be sure to call office prior to make sure we are open. Also will be on local TV stations cancellations & closing & local radio stations as Tree of Life.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Please note: the 3rd <u>Annual Meeting</u> of <u>Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church</u>, Jamestown NY will take place on Sunday, <u>Jan. 26, 2020</u> following 10:15 Worship.

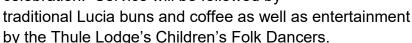
Please <u>email all reports</u> to Rosemary at admin@toljamestown.com by Friday, <u>January 10, 2020</u>. <u>Reports</u> will be available to the congregation 1 week prior to meeting.

NEEDED for 2019: (please look through these and send whichever your are responsible for—thank you!!)

Member changes, previous yr. minutes, Any congregation meeting minutes, Pastor's report (including Pastoral Acts), Director of Music (including choir), Administrative Assistant Report, TOL council president report, Report of Bishop, Financial managers Reports, Treasurer's Report, Fund Activity, WELCA, Food Cupboard, Labor of Love, Esther Circle, Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Finance, Mutual Ministry, Property, Prayer Chain, God's Work our Hands, Care Team (Home Communion), TOL Hospitality, Proposed/Approved Budget 2020, Auditor Report, any Resolutions.

LUCIA FEST .. SUNDAY, December 15th 2pm at Tree of Life

ASHF and the Thule Lodge invite you to join them in a traditional Swedish Lucia celebration. Service will be followed by



December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1st Sun. of Advent SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Guest organist TBA Lucia Practice	2 LABOR OF LOVE, 9AM	3 MINISTERIUM, 10-3 Choir, 6:30pm	FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Wisdom Wednesday, noon Esther Circle 1:30, lib.	5 TOPS, 8-11:15AM	6 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	7
8 2nd Sun. of Advent FOOD SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Missionary from Honduras Potluck following Lucia Practice	9 LABOR OF LOVE, 9AM Council, 6:30pm	10	FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Wisdom Wednesday, noon Blue Christmas, 6pm Choir, 7	12 TOPS, 8-11:15AM	13 (plant delivery to church) FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	14
15 3rd Sun. of Advent SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Jan N/L DEADLINE Lucia Festival, 2pm	16 Blackstone drop off food	17 MHA—Pastor, Gateway Chapel , 2pm	FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Wisdom Wednesday, noon Dinner church, 5:30 Choir, 7	19 TOPS, 8-11:15AM	FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Jmst Community Barn Dance, hall 7pm-9:30	21
22 4th Sun. of Advent SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Christmas Medley by choir	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CLOSED Worship: 4pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	26 TOPS, 8-11:15AM	27 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	28 Wedding of Randy Elf & Hilary Kurtz at First Lutheran, 3pm
29 1 Christmas NO Sunday School Lessons & Carols WORSHIP 10:15	30 NEWSLETTER MLG, 9:30	31 NY Eve CLOSED Happy New Year!	Activities at E 2nd St—for this month: *Healthy Bones: M-W-F, 9am SR Center Bingo: M, 11:30am Tai Chi: M (11am) T & Th, (10am) Peer Support: 1st M, 7pm SR Center exercise T & TH 10am; Tureen: 4th T, noon Fit Women Group: (716 708-6543) M-F Hrs: 7:30am-12:30 & 2:30—6pm.; Sat: 8:30am-11 Sept-May); Zumba class, 5:30-6:30 pm T & Th			January 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31