**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Tree of Life Lutheran Church**

**United in worship, Sharing Jesus**

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

825 Forest Avenue

Jamestown, NY 14701

**and Serving all people**

**Leaves of Life Newsletter**

**February 2024**



**Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**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 - Friday**

**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”





Happy New Year from your Church Council! Here are some things we are working on:

* We have decided to change our meetings to Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. for the winter months.
* We had a request from Pastor Gerry Morales to use our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons to hold a Christian Evangelical meeting for the Spanish-speaking community. The council voted yes to this request on a

3-month trial basis. This is the group that used to meet at Immanuel. We are happy to have Pastor Gerry back!

* The council will discuss a different topic each month on how to adjust to fit the needs of a small congregation.
* Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 immediately following worship.

I want to thank all the members of council for their hard work this past year. I also want to thank all the members of Tree of Life for your ongoing support. I appreciate all of you 😊

God Bless,

Darcy Whitney

Council President



1/01 Darcy Whitney

1/03 Kristen Bentley

1/06 Camryn Storms

1/08 Mike Mogenhan

1/12 Matthew Kubinski

1/26 Jan Coleson

1/29 Sylvia Braley

1/31 Melissa Storms

**The deadline for the February, 2024, issue** of *Leaves of Life* Newsletter is Sunday, January 21st. Please email any news to admin@toljamestown.com or drop it off in the office by that date. Thank you!

**PASTORAL ACTS**

**Funeral**

Edward Evanczik on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

**GOOD NEWS FROM PASTOR**

 Merry Christmas!

 As Jesus has been born, we get to keep celebrating that he is always with us.

 The story of Jesus jumps from his birth to Jesus beginning his work of making the kingdom of heaven happen for us. So, those who wrote about Jesus did not write a biography of Jesus but wrote about how Jesus was “good news” for us.

 During January, a cold, long, winter month, we will be told the good news of Jesus through the stories of what Jesus did at the start of his work. We will be shown who Jesus is. Sure, we heard the stories of his birth, but who is this Jesus? What does he do for us?

 That answer is given during Epiphany (meaning light shining all around). Jesus can heal people who are sick! Jesus teaches about mercy and love and forgiveness—the actions of what he calls the kingdom of God!

 That kingdom of God is not at all like places ruled by kings or areas we call countries. First, Jesus’ kingdom is not an area of land. His kingdom is anyone’s heart. Second, he does not rule by power—armies, war, prisons, police. He does not rule by threats or laws or accusations or judgment. He rules with forgiveness. Third, his throne is not in some big room in a big castle. His throne is a cross where he wrestles with death where it seems death beats him. But no! Jesus rises from death, and he has defeated death and death’s rule over us.

 Fourth, he is the Son of God, not just human, but God and human. Jesus is God come to us to bring us under his way of mercy and life. So, he is not just another moral teacher or a wise leader. He is God.

 Jesus’ kingdom is so unlike ours that when the wise men came looking for him, they thought he was a king like all other kings with an area of land and power and judgment. That is why they looked for Jesus in the capital city where the king’s home was. But they were in the wrong place. The star they had followed did not lead them to Jerusalem. They thought they knew better. But we cannot know of Jesus’ kingdom because is it new and not like anything we have experienced. We know of blame, not forgiveness. We know of death, not resurrection. We know of competition, not grace. Jesus has to show us what he and his kingdom of God are like.

 That is what the Gospel writers did. They tell us of what Jesus did to show us the kingdom of God. That is why the time in which we hear the stories of Jesus showing us his kingdom is called Epiphany.

 Come and be given the kingdom of God!

 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 2023 Church Council**

President: Darcy Whitney

Vice-President: Debbie Swan

Treasurer: Dorie Deyo

Secretary: Debra Radack

Council Members:

Dave Gibson

Dan Gustafson

Chris Radack

Debra Radack

Sandy Stewart

Cindy Swan

Debbie Swan

Darcy Whitney

**Church Council will meet on**

**\*\*Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30 pm.**

**NOVEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL PICTURE:**

***Income***: $4,409.04

***Expenses***: $7,655.58

***Monthly difference***: ($3,246.54)

**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.



Do you enjoy our Coffee Hour on the first Sunday of each month? Please consider volunteering! 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 Darcy Whitney or Sandy Stewart if you have any questions. Thank you!

**MEMORIALS**

***Memorial Fund***

**In memory of Jim Erickson:** Amy & Ron Raffa, Brooke Raffa, The Anderson family, Kelly & Jae Ryan, Joyce Atkinson.



**Our Food Cupboard** has been VERY BUSY. We are designating the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month as Food Sundays. Please drop donations off in the basket in the narthex. We are in **GREAT** need of the following:

Canned Ravioli Elbow Macaroni

Canned Spaghetti & Meatballs Egg Noodles

Canned White Chunk Chicken Breast Jelly

Fruit Juice (48 or 64 fluid oz.) Bar Soap

Peanut Butter Shampoo

Cheerios or Chex Cereal

 (store-brand OK, no sugary cereal, please!)

Spaghetti Sauce

Mac & Cheese



**Our Food Cupboard** is in need of winter hats, mittens and scarves in both kids’ and adults’ sizes. We give these to our clients in need. Please drop them off in front of the Food Cupboard door 😊



**Worship Assistants**

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Jan. 7: Darcy Whitney

 21: Sandy Stewart

**LECTORS**

Jan. 7: Janet Thom

 14: Marlene Hanson

 21: Hal Hanson

 28: Darcy Whitney

**GREETERS**

Jan. 7: Sandy Stewart

 14: Dorie Deyo

 21: Judy Johnson

 28: Sylvia Braley

**ALTAR CARE**

January: – Marlene Hanson/

 Darcy Whitney



**Please note:** the 7th Annual Meeting of Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jamestown NY will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2024, following 9:00 worship. Reports will be available to the congregation 1 week prior to meeting.



**Esther Circle** will meet at 1:30 pm Wednesday, January 3rd in the church library. The Bible study is from the November/December GATHER magazine on p. 18, Holy Places. All women welcome!



**Labor of Love** will resume quilting on Monday, January 8th at 9:00 a.m.



***In Memory of:***

*Laverne & Helen Hanson Dan & Sandy Forsberg*

*Roger Slattery Peggy Slattery*

*Florence, Henry & Betty Kofod Peggy Slattery*

*Richard Jennings, husband Rona Jennings*

*My Friends, Cindy Fransen &*

 *Dodie Erickson Darcy Whitney*

*Judy’s parents, Clifton & Sophie Thorp; Judy’s brother, Roger;*

 *Steve & Judy Johnson*

*Steve’s parents, Curt & Norma Johnson; Steve’s brother, Duey*

 *& Aunt Hilma Steve & Judy Johnson*

*Leonore, Cathy, & Vera Denny & Debbie Swan*

*My dad, LeRoy Tubbs Theresa Butts*

*Denny Voty Becky Voty*

*Loved Ones, especially Ed & Ginny Dorie Deyo &*

*Tom McConnon*

***In Honor of:***

*Our children and grandson, Owen Bob & Darcy Whitney*

*Sons Richard, Steven & Bruce Rona Jennings*

*Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren Dorie Deyo & Tom McConnon*

*Pastor Timothy Hoyer Tree of Life*



**Two Ships**

The year like a ship in the distance
comes over life’s mystical sea.
We know not what change of existence
’tis bringing to you or to me.
But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. …

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

