

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

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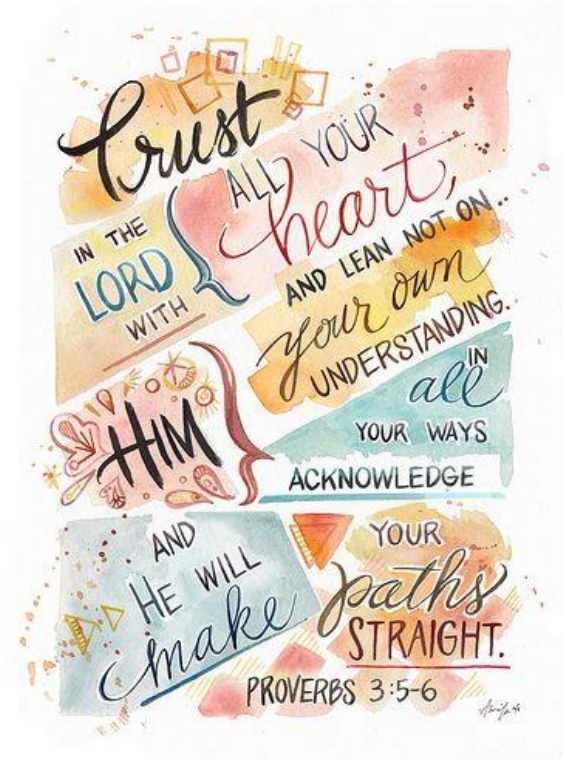
September

MAILING
LABEL

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

united in worship, sharing Jesus
and serving all people

Leaves of Life Newsletter September 2021



Coloring Page

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church
825 Forest Ave, Jamestown NY 14701
(716) 488-4235 - FAX: (716) 488-2336

Contact info:

Office hours: 9 am-1 pm—Monday - Friday

Pastor Timothy J. Hoyer,
Pastor in Transition

to set up appointment: Call church (716)488-4235
for pastoral emergency: (716) 490-7531 (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”





We celebrate with you!

9/1	Tarah Bowman	9/20	Jackie Anderson Madelyn Burnett LoriAnn Nystrom
9/2	Onolee Nollinger		Kristy Zabrodsky
9/3	Ayden Hagelin	9/22	Judy DuBois
9/4	Kane Cercone John Zabrodsky	9/23	Christine Ortolano
		9/24	Paul Hofgren
9/5	Steven Johnson	9/25	DaleAnn Krahn Nancy Shannon
9/7	Darrel Christian	9/26	Lillian Chapman
9/8	Barry Benson	9/27	Randalea Rivera
9/9	Marlene Lucas Timothy Rasmusson	9/28	Monica Kepler Chantell Moreen Sandy Moss
9/12	Wendy DeFord Elizabeth Lucas		Paul Swanson Dennis Palermo
9/13	Sylvia Oste		Linda Smith Sophia White
9/14	Mikayla Certo Jesse Milne Braelyn Peterson		
9/15	Susanne Bloom		
9/16	Margaret Rose Kimmel Greg Swan		
9/17	Allene Anderson		

GOOD NEWS FROM PASTOR HOYER

We ask a different question now. We used to ask, “Shall we go to church tomorrow?” Now we ask, “Is it safe to go to church tomorrow?” The “safe” part refers to COVID. Many had to ask if it was safe for them to get food. Some said it was not safe and had their groceries delivered to them. Churches delivered their Good News using internet tools such as ZOOM or Facebook. Churches live streamed or recorded their Good News. Churches did that, not only because they were closed just like other businesses, but also because going to church was considered not to be safe.



As COVID is still present, more-so in other areas and not so much in ours, people still are more likely to ask if going to church is safe. Which leads to the next question, “Shall churches offer only recorded and live streaming church services? Why bother with in-person church services?”

We will always have in-person church services because we are people. We are human. There is a difference between watching a pastor on Facebook and hearing a pastor talk directly to us. There is a difference between touching a computer screen that is showing our grandchild touching her side of the screen and actually hugging our grandchild. There is a difference between being told “Jesus rose from the dead” and “Jesus rose from the dead *for you.*” There is a difference, as one person who lived alone said, “When we share Christ’s peace and shake hands, that is the only time in the whole week that someone actually touches me.” To be touched is to be told “We are here together.” To be touched is to be told we are noticed. To be touched is to have another



person acknowledge we are alive, we are real, and that we matter.

That is why God uses us to give God's mercy to one another. That is why God had his Son become human, so that his mercy for us could be real. God created us as humans, and so God acts in ways that we can receive God's mercy. God always gives us God's mercy in real and concrete ways, such as in words we can hear, in water we can feel, and in bread and wine that we can eat. God's mercy does not come to us without that human "touch." God does not come to us through some voice in our head. No, God always sends God's mercy to us in a human way, as through Jesus who was human, through words we can hear, and through things we can feel or eat. Always it is through Jesus that God reveals God's mercy and his gift of eternal life to us. And Jesus is always given and told to us by another person. We get to build each other up in faith in Jesus. We get to equip one another with the gifts of peace and forgiveness. We get to love one another with the love Jesus gives to us. Faith in Jesus is not about praying each day and getting ourselves right with God. Faith in Jesus includes the building and equipping and loving of one another. That can only be done in person.

So we will always have church in person.

We may need to do church over Facebook and other ways with the internet because of COVID and because people are homebound. But we will do the recording and live streaming of people in church in person because God uses us and our human ways to give us God's gifts of mercy and eternal life which Jesus obtained for us by his death and resurrection.

Peace,
Pastor Hoyer



Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for the October 2021 issue of *Leaves of Life* Newsletter is Sunday, September 12th. Please email any news to admin@toljamestown.com by that date. Thank you!

If you would like to be a part of the newsletter assembly team, please call Darcy at 488-4235. Thanks so much!

WELCA Conference Cancelled

The Women of the ELCA Joint Conference Retreat, scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, has been cancelled due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. The Planning Committee is very disappointed to have to make this announcement, but feels it is in the best health safety of everyone to make this decision now.

We are very excited about the retreat and still plan to hold it at another time. So, watch for more information in the future as it becomes available.

Thank you so much for your understanding. Please stay well and safe in these uncertain times.



Your Church Council

President: Darcy Whitney
Vice-President : Cindy Swan
Treasurer: Dorie Deyo
Secretary: Sandra Stewart

Council Members:

Dorie Deyo
Matt Kubinski
Chris Radack
Sandy Stewart
Cindy Swan
Darcy Whitney

Church Council will meet on Monday,

September 13th at 6:30 pm. 😊

Pastor in Transition

Pastor Hoyer is available to visit you in your home, in his office at Tree of Life on Monday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30, or by making an appointment for some other time.

**Did you know that Pastor Hoyer records a sermon for each Sunday and posts it on our Facebook page? Just search "@TOLChurchJTN – Religious Organization" and you can find us very easily! Please "like" the page when you get there 😊

Join Us for Worship

We meet at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays for worship, and we would love to see you there! Our Covid-19 guidelines have changed:

1. Mask policy: With covid numbers on the rise in Chautauqua County, we are requiring that EVERYONE please wear a mask during worship, both vaccinated and unvaccinated. We are not sure how long this will last, but we want to keep everyone safe.
2. There is a hand sanitizing station upon entering the sanctuary; there will be hand sanitizer in the pews
3. We sit six feet apart in every other pew (though people living in the same house can sit together)
4. We may sing softly along with the hymns.
5. We respond and pray softly.
6. We will have Holy Communion the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. We will go up by sides, staying 6 feet apart. We receive the wafer from the pastor, who will wear gloves, and we will take our individual cup of wine, drink and throw the cup away.
7. **We ask that you don't congregate in the narthex for a long period of time.** We can, however, chat together outside (weather permitting) or inside for a minute, while remaining socially distanced.
8. As always, **PLEASE STAY HOME IF YOU FEEL SICK AT ALL.**

We hope you will join us as we worship together as a family in Christ.



AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL PICTURE:

Income: \$5,299.89

Expenses: \$6,803.89

Monthly difference: \$(1,504.00)

Cumulative difference: (\$12,110.57)



Sunday, September 12th is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

We are collecting school supplies for local schools, i.e.: notebooks, pencils, pens, pencil cases, notebook paper, erasers, highlighters, rulers, hand sanitizer, face masks, etc. Please bring them to church with you on or before that day, or drop them off in the basket in the narthex 😊



September

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

September 5: Darcy Whitney

September 19: Janet Thom

LECTORS

September 5: Hal Hanson

September 12: Linda Smith

September 19: Cindy Swan

September 26: Sandy Stewart

GREETERS

September 5: Marlene Hanson

September 12: Darcy Whitney

September 19: Sylvia Braley

September 26: Cindy Swan

ALTAR CARE

September Darcy Whitney

Prayer Chain



TOL email Prayer Chain.... Prayer requests can be made through Darcy at the church office (716) 488-4236; 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.

Memorials Received

Pastor Chuck Gustafson: Sandy & Don Stewart.

Sally Beckstrom: Sandy & Don Stewart.



Did you know that we have a church library? Visit any time during the week, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm. Come in to borrow a book or bring your own and have a quiet place to read or work.

Call 488-4235 with any questions you may have.

Synod Mission Message – FROM ASHES TO NEW LIFE

Again, the Western states of the US are on fire. The smoke from them can be seen from satellites it is so dense. Entire towns have been wiped off the face of the earth. Whole hillsides of trees have burned, leaving them vulnerable to mudslides. Complicating the situation, of course, is the continuing pandemic. How can people safely rebuild their lives, go to work, and attend school when all their possessions have been lost?




Lutheran Disaster Response is always at the ready to determine the best ways to respond, from immediate needs like food and shelter, to long term emotional and spiritual support. LDR also has helped the fire departments by purchasing generators for volunteers who have lost their homes, and by starting a tool lending program. Children have been helped through the trauma by attending summer camp sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Your generous gifts of mission support to the Synod, and direct gifts to LDR, have shown people impacted by these disasters that you care for them, whether through long-term recovery projects or something as simple as a generator. **Thank you!**

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

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Open M – F, 9:00 – 1:00			10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	No TOPS	10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	
Pentecost 15 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion	Office Closed 		10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	8:30 TOPS	10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	 Patriot Day
Pentecost 16 God's Work, Our Hands 10:15 Worship	6:30 Church Council		10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	8:30 TOPS	10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	
Pentecost 17 Newsletter Deadline 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion			10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	8:30 TOPS	10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	
Pentecost 18 10:15 Worship			10:00-2:00 Food Cupboard Open	8:30 TOPS		