



Plantings

December 2019

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

1492 Linglestown Rd.
Harrisburg Pa. 17110
717-238-8733

Office Hours: M-Th 8:30am – 1:00pm

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On December 17, 1943, from his German prison cell, a few months before his execution, Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote a letter to his parents, It concluded-

On Christmas Eve I shall be thinking of you all very much, and I want you to believe that I too shall have a few hours of real joy and that I am not allowing my troubles to get the better of me ... It will certainly be a quiet Christmas for everybody, and the children will look back on it for long afterwards. But for the first time, perhaps, many will learn the true meaning of Christmas.

What is the true meaning of Christmas? For the ancient church, it was the proclamation that the true light of God has dawned on Planet Earth in the birth of the baby, Jesus, born of Mary. And, one could imagine, that the birth of Messiah in a stable for animals might have particular meaning to a prisoner in his cell. God comes to us in unlikely places, in the kind of places that humankind abhors. God transcends time and space.

While I hope to see you Christmas Eve, I pray that, wherever you are, you will know that God has come to you and that, wherever you are, it is a place and a time blessed by the presence of God in Christ. In Christ, light has dawned on Planet Earth. Light has dawned on you. This Christmas, I wish you-

Peace, Joy and Glad Tidings!

Pastor Richard

Our Stewardship of Time and Treasure

Date	Sat 5 PM	Sun 8:30	SCS Att	Sun 11	Offering
11/3	85	108	63	145	\$14,849
11/10	67	83	64	135	\$ 9,075
11/17	76	85	72	149	\$12,128
11/24	74	170	60	181	\$ 8,821

Thanksgiving Eve: Att: 190 Offering: 30 bags of food; \$1185 for the ELCA World Hunger Fund

Thanks To

The Hospitality Committee for preparing and serving Betty Mattson's funeral lunch!

Brenda Zimmerman, Marie Libhart and Kit Liggett for preparing breakfast for the Harrisburg Conference Rostered Leaders meeting!

Matt and Jane Seidel and our confirmation students for serving the Thanksgiving Eve Soup supper!

All contributed soup, bread and dessert for Thanksgiving Eve!

Carolind Parson making the name cards for the All Saints Vigil; Ed Hartman for making the photo montage of our saints; Gary Funk for contributing roses and Lenny Bendiksen for running the sound board!

Ellen Miller and the Arts Committee for decorating for Thanksgiving Eve, cleaning up and then decorating for Advent!

Aimee Brough for her leadership at the Annual Meeting and for her two years of leadership as president of the Congregation Council!

All who attended the Annual Meeting and all are committee chairs who prepared and offered reports!

Re-elected council members- Ali Deibert and John Shutika; new council members- Mark Wood and Eric Gregerson!

Sandy Brandt, Debbie Clark and the Social Ministry Committee for organizing the Christmas Angel Tree project and all who contributed gifts to brighten the holidays of a needy neighbor!

Dave Atkinson for recent Adult SCS teaching gigs!

Sandy Capriotti for leading Faith w/Friends while Pastor Cathy was recovering!

Ed Hartman and the Youth Group for organizing the Congregational Movie Night!

Randy McPherson for organizing extra building cleaning over the holidays and getting the carpets cleaned!

Wendy Harrison for recruiting lots of extra acolytes during the holiday season!

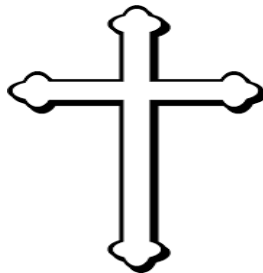
Pastoral Acts

Burial of the Dead

11/2/19 Quentin Lewis Shuller

11/4/19 Gary E. Corl

11/16/19 Betty J. Mattson



Rest Eternal, Grant Them, O Lord!

Holy Baptism

11/24/19 Samuel Alan and Nathan James Miller, twin sons of Matt and Kristen Miller



*Let Your Light So Shine Upon Others That They May See Your Good Works and
Glorify Our Father in Heaven!*

November New Members

Please welcome those who joined the congregation in November!

Susan Leonard lives at 3002 Market Street in Harrisburg. Her phone number is 717-319-9600. She is an Anesthesia Technician at Holy Spirit Hospital and enjoys doing upholstery, sewing, walking and swimming.

Joe and Robin Lindsey live at 612 Frances Drive in Harrisburg. Their phone number is 717-671-0376. Joe is a Magisterial District Judge with the commonwealth. He enjoys college football, basketball, wrestling and baseball. Joe is a Middletown Blue Raider grad! Robin is a cosmetologist. She enjoys walking, gardening, going to PSU football games and watching their son referee college wrestling.

Congratulations To

Kent and Cole Huth and the Mechanicsburg HS Marching Band for winning their division in the Tournament of Bands Championship!

Jason D'Ambrosia and the Central Dauphin HS Boy's Soccer Team for winning the District III championship!

The Central Dauphin HS Football Team for winning the District III 6A championship!

Zoe Clark, Elizabeth Peter and Chelle Huth who are all part of the ELCA National Youth Gathering Planning Team! We think this is a record for one congregation to have three members on the team!

Thanks to TLC

Thank you for your generous donation. Your donation supports our program and aids our Veterans in facing the challenges of everyday life. Our organization appreciates your support. John Salvadia, President Dog T.A.G.S. Program, Veteran Service Dog Training

Thank you for your on-going partnership in ministry. We couldn't help people resolve a crisis and stay in their homes without your partnership in our work. Thank you for being there, Steve Schwartz, Director of Development, Christian Churches United

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you. Your recent donation provides the fuel for our life-saving programs that serve the homeless and hungry people in the Harrisburg community. In gratitude, Anne E. Guenin, Director, Downtown Daily Bread

Thank you for your faithful support of ELCA global missionaries and ministries. Because of your generosity, we have been able to support more than 150 missionaries in over 40 countries who are serving alongside our Companion in Christ. In gratitude, Jessica Nipp Hacker and Jenny Ackerman, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Your donation Ensures that LWR quilts and Kits get into the hands of A person who needs it. Warm Regards, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret) President and CEO, Lutheran World Relief

A Special Thank You

“Thank you to the Pet Ministry committee for helping place our aunt and uncle’s cat Girly in a good home, on very short notice. You guys are awesome! – Linn and Diane Bell”

Financial Support for our young adults in global mission

You can read elsewhere in this month’s *Plantings* about the 5 young adults that we are supporting in their work in Senegal. Their year of service began in August of this year and will end in July of 2020. Our financial commitment for the period is \$1,000, \$500 of which is in the 2019 Church budget and the other \$500 is received through contributions from members. During November, there will be a sign-up sheet on the narthex table for you to offer contributions in \$25 amounts OR you can give online through Give+ Church. Please offer as much as you can to support the work they are doing and the growth in faith they are experiencing. Thank you!

Our Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) in Senegal

The YAGM in Senegal work in one of 2 programs in Senegal: Senegalese Lutheran Development Services or the Lutheran Church of Senegal. Each program has various sites within the country. Tree of Life's commitment to the 5 young adults listed below includes \$1,000 in financial support and OUR PRAYERS for their time in the program from August 2019 to July 2020. This is a period of definitely living outside their comfort zone, of learning possibly several new languages, and of living in a vastly different culture, but also of receiving blessed grace from their new friends and of growing in faith! We pray for each of them by name in our services each weekend, but **PLEASE** consider including them in your personal prayers as well.

Senegalese Lutheran Development Services in Yeumbeul:

Kaitlyn Ziegelmaier

Galle Nanondiral Community Center

-Department of Education: Library & Education Program

-Department of Education: Sports & Leisure Program

Complexe Scholaire Nanondiral: Preschool & Elementary School

Connor Horan

Galle Nanondiral Community Center

-Administration Department: Finance

-Department of Community Development: Woolonté Credit Union & Microfinance Program

Senegalese Lutheran Development Services in Linguère:

Collins Pritchett

- Department of Community Development: Fedannde Jolof Dairy Farm and Creamery
- Linguère Roman Catholic Elementary School: English teacher and Computer teacher

Lutheran Church of Senegal in Fatick:

Sarah Weaver

- Christian Resources Office (Music & Liturgy)
- Finance & Accounting Department
- *As needed (twice / year): Women's Advancement & Vocational Formation Center

Lutheran Church of Senegal in Foundgioune:

Charlie Williams

- Department of Community Development

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Noon: Traveler's Service with Sermon and Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelighting, with music by Seasons

4:45 PM: Children and Family Service with Children's Sermon and Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelighting, with music from our children and youth

7:15 PM: Early Evening Traditional Service with Sermon and Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelighting, with music from the Women's Ensemble and others

9:45 PM: Late Evening Traditional Service with Sermon and Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelighting, with music from the Adult Bell Choir and Adult Choir

Invite Family and Friends! Remember that overflow parking is available in the office parking lot and, in the evening, at the Hospice office lot.



Council President	Aimee Brough	aimbrough@yahoo.com	717-580-9226
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Worship	Demetrius Glass	717-829-4161	DeGlass@icloud.com
Youth	Linda Romanak	717-919-7653	jroma101@comcast.net

Mission Statement

Welcome in love to Tree of Life Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We Affirm that we are a community called and empowered by God through Word and Sacrament. We Believe that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, sends us into the world to share God's love through our words and actions. Though we are a community shaped by diverse traditions, we affirm one Lord, who is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and one Faith, that brings all peoples together. We Commit ourselves to a life of worship, service, fellowship, education and witness in this place, in the world, and to each other. To this purpose we pledge our time, talent, and treasure, and invite all persons to share in the growth of the Christian ministry of Tree of Life Lutheran Church.