

# The Burning Bush

News and information about growing God's children at  
*Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church*

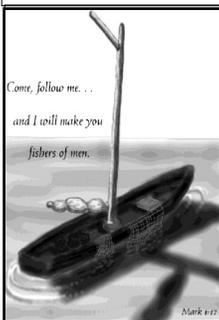
Today's  
Hymns  
720  
817  
487 491  
674

Odessa, Delaware

January 21, 2018

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We share a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person -- questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



## We all have a calling in God's world

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

- [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com)



Today's flowers are donated by Jim Pileggi  
in celebration of the birthday of his wife Pam Nichols



## It is easy to donate altar flowers

Just sign up for a Sunday of your choice at the desk near Fellowship Hall, put \$25 in one of the envelopes there (Make your check payable to Tree of Life LC.) with your name and date of the Sunday you are paying for, and place it in the offering plate. **After service, the flowers are yours to take and enjoy.**

**Please leave the silver container and the vase - which belongs to the church - on the kitchen counter.** Please also leave the vase, which belongs to the florist. You can take your flowers home in a church vase located in the lower cabinet to the left of the stove.

**Let us pray for ...** Deborah Atkinson, Jim Mowery, Craig Bailey, Paul Schuler, Susan Merkel, Ronald Rollerson, Frank Houghton, Dallas Dean, Gary Eberhard, Patrick Pileggi, Danny Matz, Danielle Fangman, Elizabeth Schreppler, Elizabeth Zaiser, Vernon Foraker, Bernadette Paine, for those who serve and have served in our military; disaster victims and victims of violence everywhere; and for discernment and the Spirit's guidance as we search for a new pastor.

## Annual Meeting following service today

Along with committee reports, we will adopt our Constitution and Bylaws, review and adopt the budget for 2018, nominate and vote on a new Council member, as well as hear any update from the Call Committee and Council on pastoral care going forward in 2018.

**Please stay and attend this important meeting.**



## Next Sunday is Pastor Merkel's final Sunday with us

We know you will want to be here next week to give Pastor Merkel your personal thank-you for his two years of faithful service as our interim pastor. We thank him for his leadership and service. We have accomplished a lot under his caring guidance. We consider him an important member of the Tree of Life Family, and hope that he will visit us from time to time.

We will have a special fellowship time following the service to honor Pastor and wish him and Susan God's blessing on his retirement.

## Weekly financial update: *How are we doing with our weekly offerings?*

Our offering last Sunday totaled \$2,943.00. The average weekly offering for the month of December was \$3,150.00. To be able to call a full-time pastor, we need to average \$3,000/week, an amount we do not yet reach consistently.

If you would like to reconsider your pledge amount for 2018, pledge forms are on the Ushers Table, or see Gene Zaiser, our treasurer.



## Mark your calendar

**\*\* Troop 505 Faith Formation** meets Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7:30pm.

All families, including parents/guardians, with youth from Pre-K to grade 5 are welcome!

**\*\* The Immigration Study Group** will soon resume discussions. Stay tuned.

**\*\* Our Grocery Club food bank is in need of pasta and peanut butter.** Please leave your donations on the kitchen counter. Thank you! **Questions?** See Jean Mullen.

**\*\* Financial Secretary Johanna Salemin is dispersing year-end financial statements.** Please contact her if there are any questions or discrepancies.

## Mark your calendar, volunteer, participate!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAN. 21 10:30am Worship Service * <b>Annual Meeting</b>	JAN. 22	JAN. 23	JAN. 24 6pm – 7:30pm Troop 505	JAN. 25	JAN. 26	JAN. 27
JAN. 28 10:30am Worship Service * <b>New Member Welcome</b> * <b>Pastor Merkel's final Sunday with us</b>	JAN. 29	JAN. 30	JAN. 31 6pm – 7:30pm Troop 505	FEB. 1	FEB. 2	FEB. 3

### **Serving today....**

**Presiding and preaching:** Michael Merkel

**Today's Musician:** Anne Fabian

**Usher:** Carolyn Lewis

**Acolyte:** Sam Lintz

**Worship Assistant:** Paul Schuler

**Communion Assistant:** Maxine Campbell

**Altar Guild:** Gene Zaiser

**Offering Counter:** Maxine Campbell

**Nursery:** Volunteer

**Fellowship:** Donna Lintz



**Dust Busters:** Schill & Young families

**Altar Flowers:** Dot Schreppler

**Office Manager:** Jean Mullen

**Worship Folder:** Gail Russell

**Burning Bush:** Pam Nichols

**The Leaflet:** Donna Parks

**Webmaster:** Jeff Russell

**Facebook:** Scott Soucy and Jean Mullen

**Troop 505 - Faith Formation:**

Pam Nichols, Joanne Letwinch and parents



### Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Michael G. Merkel, Interim Pastor ~ (203)804-5003 ~ [michael.merkel@gmail.com](mailto:michael.merkel@gmail.com)

