



THE EVANGEL

Evangel - from the Greek euangelos meaning good messenger, or good news.

Temple Lutheran Church

Spring 2024

Holy Week Services Lead Up to Easter Joy

At Temple Lutheran Church the week before Easter is marked by solemn services remembering the Last Supper and the Crucifixion of Jesus. Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper, when Jesus and his apostles, who were actually celebrating the Passover, shared a meal together — a meal which Jesus knew would be his last earthly meal. At this supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, modeling to them humility and service to others, and Temple's service incorporates this ritual of washing our fellow disciples' feet. Afterward, Jesus shares his meal — Communion — with us, and we leave feeling connected to others, yet anticipating the events to come: the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.



Dick and Karen wash Janet's and Kristy's feet on Maundy Thursday.

On Good Friday, the service begins in light and gradually dims into darkness. This is most likely the most solemn service of the year. We contemplate the gravity and greatness of what Jesus has done for us, sacrificing his own life to ensure that we can live ours in the fullness of grace. We leave the darkened church with heaviness, but hopefully also with gratitude, looking towards the coming celebration of the Resurrection.

This year Temple held three services on Easter Sunday, with a celebratory breakfast between services. A sunrise service began the day at 6:00 AM. At 8:30 an organ-led and rather subdued service was celebrated by a relatively small congregation. And at 10:00 the church was filled with mission partners and guests young, old and in between, celebrating with lively music, a children's sermon, and even a bonnet or two.

At each service, Pastor Tim preached the Good News of the Resurrection. He pointed out that even though Mark 1:1 proclaims the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, *all* of



Pastor Tim and TLC's children look to see what is in the Good News Treasure Chest on Easter Sunday.

Mark's gospel is the beginning of the good news, reinforced by the Resurrection. He assured us that unsurety in the Resurrection is ok, that it is often not a cognitive belief, but rather we may feel a *need* to believe, and in trusting in that belief we may find that we are better people. Christ is always ahead of us, showing the way and revealing the truth. And each week, even without the extra flowers, the multiple alleluias, and the bonnets, we get to renew that belief and celebrate the Resurrection again.

Join us for Worship

Café 9 a.m.

*In-Person Worship,
Live Streamed
at 10:00 a.m.*

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Easter Egg Hunt: Tradition Filled with Joy and Togetherness

By Kristy Hartley Galbraith

TLC's annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 30 at 10am, welcoming the community to join in the fun. Snacks and Easter-themed crafts kicked off the event and there was even a special visit from the Easter Bunny.



The Easter Egg hunters pose for a picture with their collected treasure.

For weeks prior to the event, TLC members took home bags of eggs to stuff with treats and goodies. Over 1,000 eggs were filled in preparation for the big day! The night before, the youth group and other helpers worked together to hide all the eggs. Seth Galbraith was one of the youth who helped. "At first, it was very easy to find hiding spots for the eggs because it was such a large space, but the more we hid, the harder it was to find hiding spots, so we just started putting a bunch together in obvious spots. It was all really fun!" Hundreds of brightly colored eggs could be seen scattered all over the church.

The morning of the hunt, between sixty to seventy kids joined in searching high and low for eggs. Parents and grandparents watched as children excitedly ran around picking up eggs and adding them to their bags. Giggles and shouts of joy filled the halls. After all the eggs were gathered, everyone returned to Fellowship Hall to open the eggs and see what types of treats they got. The collection tubs slowly began to fill back up with empty eggs ready to be filled again next year.

Not only is the egg hunt fun, it's also a great community outreach event. The week before Easter, Havertown social media groups fill up with inquiries about local egg hunts for young children and because TLC's egg hunt is inside, we didn't need the weather cooperating for it to be successful. It's wonderful to see new faces in the crowd in addition to TLC regulars.

Actually, the 2023 Egg Hunt was the first TLC event my family attended. We were met with friendly faces and joyful spirits and it was a great way for the kids to get more comfortable in their surroundings. We felt like we had found "our community" and after that we became regulars.

Whether or not people come to the egg hunt to scout out a new church home or just for a great community activity, it's a wonderful event that brings generations and people together for a little Easter fun.

Kids' Sunday Wraps Up Sunday School Year

By Jeanne Daniels

Temple Lutheran Church is fortunate to enjoy multigenerational mission partners. We annually celebrate this by showcasing our youngest generation on Kids' Sunday. On May 19, 2024 Kids' Sunday, the congregation attended a service in the format of a Kids' Sunday School lesson. We were in a sermon series, "Wilderness Escape," in which we learned that God guided and provided for the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness in search of a homeland. God had His caring eye on His wandering people.

We began the Sunday School lesson by weaving a craft called a "God's Eye." As we were weaving, we enjoyed the third through sixth graders perfectly playing the chimes to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Pastor Tim read the Wilderness Escape story from the Spark Bible. The children sang three songs accompanied by Mark Wallace on drums and Florrie Marks on guitar: "God Will Guide Us," "I Will Sing unto the Lord," and "Shalom."

We thanked our Sunday School teachers Ms. Jeanne, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Dani, Ms. Michele, Ms. Emily and Ms. Lisa O.; our Youth Minister Ms. Lisa F.; and our Music Director Ms. Florrie. We blessed one another and we all agreed that the service was a fun celebration of the end of Sunday School.

In looking forward to our next Sunday School year, please consider the rewarding opportunities that exist to teach our youngest generation that they are so loved by God.



TLC's Sunday Schoolers enthusiastically sing out during the Kids' Sunday service.

Welcome, Anita!

Anita Saraïd Anderson was baptized this spring at Temple Lutheran Church. Anita's parents are Steve and Patti Anderson. Her siblings are Jay and Garren Anderson, and her sponsors are Brittany and Josh Leffert.



Let your light
so shine before others
that they may see
your good works
and glorify
your Father in heaven.

Rest in Peace, Jennifer

Jennifer Comerci passed away on May 15, 2024. A memorial service to celebrate Jennifer's life and her enduring legacy of love and perseverance will take place at 1:00pm on June 29, 2024, at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Rest in Peace, Nancy

Nancy Huxhold passed away on May 19, 2024. A memorial service was held May 29th at Toppitzer Funeral Home with Pastor Tim officiating and music by Florrie Marks.



Temple's Lenten Generosity Project Funds Additional KIVA Loans

By Colby Wantman

[This past Lent, Temple Lutheran's generosity project raised donations for the KIVA loan fund and an anonymous donor matched the funds for a total of \$4389.52!]

The KIVA team has been busy with investing and reinvesting our funds and finding new people to give to. It has been interesting seeing where the requests are coming from in the world and what things they are requesting funds for. Some of the requests that I have found interesting are ones that have to do with accessing clean water or feed for small farms.

Before each meeting, we research some requests so that when we meet, we can present some ideas to the group. I have tried looking for people asking for loans in the United States and for those asking for loans for things like funding a support animal for a Veteran or funding for solar energy.

I feel like we have been very diverse in the different things people ask us to fund. Some examples are updated plumbing or goods to sell in stores. I like that on the KIVA app we can choose the parameters such as place in the world, even down to the specific country, male or female owned business, group owners and even the actual item, such as farming or a school.

I have enjoyed working with the team and hope that my input is helpful. As we get loans repaid, we are able to help even more people. Next year I will be in college. Our group meets on zoom so I am hoping to stay on the KIVA team.



The KIVA loan team: In front, Larry, Maureen and Colby. In back, Becky, Bernie, and Ann.

TLC Participates in Delco's Pride Fest

June is Pride month, celebrating those in the LGBTQ+ community, and in recent years, events have sprung up to bring people together. One such event is the Delco Pride Festival in Upper Darby, and Temple Lutheran joyfully participated, hoping to reach out and spread God's love and acceptance to all.

Led by Pastor Tim, who spent the day there, TLC mission partners set up a table and photo booth, where any one willing could have their photo taken, complete with a halo and declaration as a saint. The youth of the church had made hearts containing wildflower seeds to be handed out, and coloring papers and crayons were available for the youngest.



Pastor Tim, Gretchen, and Lisa share the mission of TLC to Welcome Unconditionally at the Delco Pride Fest.

It was a day of love, peace, smiling and sharing—a day of joy!

Temple Lutheran's Logan Hatton Achieves Eagle Scout Rank

By Chris Hatton

Temple's own Logan Hatton has been serving the Havertown community throughout his youth as a member of the local scouting groups. He and his family joined Temple when he was about six years old, roughly the same time he was starting out in Pack 462 (Chatham Park). As he's grown up here in the church, he's also progressed through Scouting. On Sunday May 5 he and two longtime friends were honored by Troop 434 at the Grange Estate with a ceremony filled with former Eagle Scouts. One of those in attendance was our very own Pastor Tim Johansen who is an Eagle Scout himself (2003, Troop #222 in Long Island, NY). He squeezed in a guest appearance to make the Invocation (opening prayer) and congratulate Logan, before hustling back to Youth Group and the Book Club's viewing of Simon Birch.



Logan Hatton and Pastor Tim celebrate Logan's rise to Eagle Scout.

Of the twenty kids who originally started as Tigers (first graders) with Logan in an unprecedented class, seven took it all the way to their eighteenth birthday. Five have already achieved Eagle, and one more just needs to complete his project. Comparatively, only three percent of all kids who join Scouts achieve the highest rank. It is a test of perseverance and commitment that builds leadership skills and independence.

When asked why he stuck with it, Logan said, "What thirteen year old wouldn't want to go camping with all their best friends?" Then when others at school questioned why he'd want to do it, he would simply say, "You don't know what you're missing." However, he is pretty shy about being seen in the uniform and didn't like all the attention that achieving Eagle is generating.

His final project was building a GaGa ball pit at the Grange park where he had once gone to summer day camp. If you don't know, GaGa is a game somewhat akin to volleyball and dodgeball that is played within a wooden octagon. You progressively knock people out of the game until you are the last person remaining. Logan learned to love the game at Scouts summer camps and felt it would be perfect for the township's day camp. Local parks and recreation department lead, Brian Barrett welcomed the idea and supported the cause. Temple Lutheran also helped by providing meals for the hardworking Scouts on build day. This achievement is always a group effort, but Logan can be proud to have led the way.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Temple Lutheran's April blood drive ran smoothly and was considered a success. The Red Cross was so thankful for TLC's part in combating critical shortages, and no doubt the recipients of the donated blood will be even more thankful. Fifty-eight generous people showed up and fifty-one units of blood were collected.

Kristy Burko and Larry Passmore continue to work tirelessly to make the blood drive successful. Many thanks to both of them!

The next drive at TLC is on Monday, November 11 (Veterans' Day) with slots available from 2:30 to 7:15. Please consider donating to this most worthy cause. It doesn't take long, it doesn't hurt, and you just may save a life!

Scan or click the QR Code to schedule an appointment!



Scan to schedule an appointment.

TLC Celebrates Earth Day by Planting Flowers in Park

About thirty to forty people from Temple Lutheran planted flowers at the park on Sagamore Road in honor of Earth Day in April. Led by Director of Discipleship Rob Mannix, they planted several flats of annuals including marigold flame flowers, geraniums, and flowering vinca. They also planted two large areas with wild flower seeds. Be sure to watch for the coming beauty!



TLC mission partners beautify the park on Sagamore Road.

TLC's Annual Spaghetti Dinner: A Delicious Success

By Mike Schneller

When Pastor Tim asked if I would head up the spaghetti dinner this year, I said, "Sure." It was an easy answer because I knew the rewards of giving myself to the church for a few hours would far outweigh the work involved. I also knew mission partners would embrace the fellowship of our annual event and would help in any way they could. All of us have our individual interests and unique set of skills. I genuinely appreciate the diversity of our congregation and love the fact that we include everyone in everything we do.

The TLC Spaghetti Dinner, a cherished annual event, brought our community together once again for a night of great food, fun, and fellowship. With Pastor Tim at the helm, this year's dinner was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of numerous volunteers including Mike, Lisa, Rob, Karen, Kristy, Amanda, Mark, Amy, Lisa, Dave, Mike G., Darcy, and many, many others.

The menu featured homemade sausage & meatballs, primavera, and pasta sauce, prepared with love and expertise by our talented culinary team. The aroma of the delicious Italian dishes filled the air, creating an inviting atmosphere that drew in a large crowd eager to enjoy "a taste of Italy."

Raffles added an extra layer of excitement to the evening, with fantastic prizes that kept everyone engaged and entertained. The enthusiasm of our guests and the generosity of our donors helped us meet our fundraising goals, ensuring that we can continue to support our important mission work. A special thanks goes out to Roy and Nancy Hollowell for putting together the Thrivent Action Team gift card.



Mike Schneller stirs a very big pot of spaghetti sauce.



Servers smile for the camera before the big rush on the night of the spaghetti dinner, held annually in memory of Wendy Long, who kept the dinner running smoothly for many years.

Beyond the delicious food and successful fundraising, the TLC Spaghetti Dinner was a celebration of community and fellowship. It was a joy to see so many people come together, share a meal, and enjoy each other's company. Events like these remind us of the strength and unity of our congregation and the warmth of our shared bonds.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated, from those who prepped and cooked the food to those who set up, served, and cleaned up. Your efforts made this event a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together.

Thank you to everyone for making the Wendy Long Memorial Spaghetti Dinner a night to remember!

TLC Kids Compete in Pinewood Derby



Colin with his winning car.

Colin, Leo, and Gus all designed their own cars for the Scout's Pinewood Derby. Mission Partner Bob Quillen invited kids from Cub Pack 462 to his home woodshop to help the kids' ideas come to life. Thanks, Bob, for living generously with your time and talents!

The Pinewood Derby took place in Temple's Fellowship Hall. Colin's car came in 4th overall in their pack (out of 41 racers - despite aiming for most creative). It then went on to finish 12th at districts. Leo's won 2nd place in Most Creative. Gus' got 6th overall and Best Lion (Kindergartner). Great job, guys!



Bob teaches the kids about his woodcutting machinery.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Tuesday July 9 6 PM** LIFE Center Meal
Contact: Ingrid Burd
- July 15-20** ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Saturday July 27** TLC Food Pantry Service Day
Servants Welcome!
- Sunday July 28 10 AM** Christmas in July
Carols, cookies and Christmas joy



- Monday August 5 7:30 PM** TLC Book Club
See announcement below.
- Mon.-Thur. August 5-9 9 AM-12 PM** Camp Firelight VBS Week
Adult volunteers needed.
- Sunday August 11 10 AM** VBS Sunday
Come see what we learned!
- Saturday August 24 1-3 PM** Food Pantry Service Day
Servants Welcome!



- Tuesday September 10 6 PM** LIFE Center Meal
See announcement below.
- Sunday September 15 9 AM** Rally Day Carnival

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TLC Book Club

TLC Book Club will be breaking for the summer. If you are interested in participating please reach out to Rob Mannix or Lisa Schneller.

Summer Adult Education at Café

Café, TLC's Sunday school for adults, continues throughout the summer months. Please join us at 9 AM each Sunday on the lower level of the church for bible study, discussion, coffee, tea and treats.

Sunday School for Children

A reminder that Sunday School and Children's Music are now on summer break. We will resume in September with our Rally Day Carnival!

Food Pantry

TLC Food Pantry is open for in-person shopping every 4th Saturday of the month from 1-2:30 PM. Needs: Peanut butter, jelly, tomato products, cereal, snacks, toilet paper, and paper towels. (Please, no glass or expired items.) Reach out to Bridget McCormack if interested in being part of this ministry.

Music Ministries

Do you like to sing, play handbells, play instruments? We would love you to share your talents with Temple Lutheran Church! We especially would like to feature soloists/duets/etc. During the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Please contact our Director of Music Ministries, Florrie Marks, at music@templelutheran.org.



Contact Us

If you have any questions, or if you have suggestions or submissions for the upcoming Evangel:

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