

June 2013



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

*And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:*

*I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds.”*

*then he adds,*

*I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”*

*Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.*

Hebrews 10:15-18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Glory be to Christ Jesus!

On May 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit onto God's people. We are now in the season of Pentecost, the long-green season. This is the time of the Church year when the readings focus on the practical application of Christian life in this world, blessed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all believers.

It was the Holy Spirit who had inspired the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:33-34) to declare of the time when the establishment of the New Covenant in Christ would call for an inner conversion rather than only outward observance of God's laws. His will for us is written on our hearts and minds. The result of this inner conversion, not included in the quote in Hebrews, is the divine promise: *“I will be their God and they will be my people.”*

The will of the Father, accomplished through the work of the Son on the cross of Calvary, is the complete and total forgiveness of sins for all mankind. Therefore, as it says in verse 18, there is no more need for the sacrifices of the Old Testament worship as there has been but one all-effective sacrifice made by Christ Jesus. This forgiveness leads to yet another blessing.

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an*



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## Texas Church Extension Fund

To: Members of Tree of Life Congregation

From: Ron Gibbs volunteer representative for TOL to Texas District Church Extension Fund whose total mission is: **To extend God's Kingdom by boldly and responsibly assisting congregations to acquire land and buildings and by linking investors with congregations.**

Two of our current members of TOL received a very pleasant surprise recently. They were saving money for their grandchildren in a bank at an interest rate of .025%. They reinvested with TXCEF at 2.0% interest rate for 5 years-which means they are receiving \$600 annually for 5 years guaranteed. They not only helped their grandchildren's future but helped this congregation also.

I was unable to attend the annual TXCEF Convention this year due to my health. But one of the first things to surface out of the meeting was information about loan rebate checks. This year was even more significant because \$375,000 went back to congregations with building loans. Ninety congregations received rebate checks ranging from \$16 to \$28,410. As usual TOL was not included among those receiving rebates. I just received a report showing our loan balance at the end of April which was \$555,804. We are within spitting distance of being able to participate in the rebates. These rebates range from 1/2 of 1% if our investments (not contributions) equal 50% of the loan balance. If we happen to have 3/4 of 1% in investments dollar we could receive 3/4 of 1% rebate. With a loan balance of \$555,804 our rebate at 1/2 of 1% would amount to approximately \$2,800.

The amount that members of TOL have invested is \$210,011. To reach the 1/2 of 1% TOL needs \$67,894 invested, not pledge contributions. TOL's loan balance will vary month to month as payments are made We don't expect any one person to produce that total but if everyone would make an effort to invest in this project results could become a reality.

This last year I have urged members to set up custodial accounts for their children and/or to move bank savings, which are ridiculously low, to TXCEF which could have the same effect as the example stated at the beginning of this memo

## Help For Those in Need

May 1, 2013

**Greetings,**

**My name is Nikki Hunt-Green from iDeal Floors DFW. We have been doing business in the Metroplex for over 23 years and have 6 area locations. Over the years, we have donated flooring to single mothers in need and it has been a great blessing not only to the families who have received the flooring, but to our company as well.**

**The owner of our company is a man of great faith and it has been laid on his heart to give, give and give some more in 2013. So we are going to give away 10 houses of flooring a month for the entire year. If your church or community knows of someone who is in dire need of flooring and cannot pay for it, please have them contact us at any of our locations or go online to complete the application.**

**We understand that is better to give than to receive. Our goal is to provide flooring for 120 families this year. With your help, we can make that happen. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.**

**Also, if you have a newsletter, please let your congregation know that they always have a 20% discount at our company. Thank you for your time.**

**Sincerely,**

**Nikki Hunt-Green**

**Email: [nikkigreen@idealfloors.com](mailto:nikkigreen@idealfloors.com)**

**(972)332-4092 voice**

## A Special Message to the Members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Dear Fellow Baptized,

In July elected delegates and visitors from across the Synod and from around the world will travel to St. Louis for the 65th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We'll gather as brothers and sisters in Christ, sinners who have been forgiven by the blood of the Lamb. We're the LCMS Together: "Baptized for This Moment!"

In preparation for that joyous gathering, I ask two things of you.

First and most importantly, your prayers. Please remember me, our District Presidents, our pastors, our congregations and schools, our missionaries and deaconesses, our partner churches and the servants of Christ's church throughout the world—sinners, snatched by Christ from hell and death, and living now through Holy Baptism a new and forgiven life. Pray particularly that we be faithful and zealous in confessing Christ. Pray that Satan's schemes be thwarted. Pray that through our Witness, Mercy, and Life Together God's name would be hallowed, His kingdom come to us and expand, and His good and gracious will be done among us.

### Thank you from Jill Estilow

I'd like to thank everyone in my church family for being with me through all my bad trials that I've had for the last 4 months (even before) for the concern, prayers and cards I've received.

I know it's my church family and Jesus Christ that helped carry me through!

Your Sister in Christ  
Jill Estilow

Second, the giving of your gifts to support the work that we've been tasked with as a Synod. In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul rejoiced that the members of that congregation had entered into partnership with him in the spread of the Gospel. He described their gifts as "a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God" (Phil. 4:18). That's what your gifts are too, a pleasing offering. God loves it when His people give to spread the Good News. By God's grace with your gifts the Church spreads and grows. Christians have known the joy that comes from such giving—to relieve human misery and to spread the saving Word. Won't you enter that joy and partnership in the Gospel with us?

Please give today to our National Offering, "Together as Synod: Baptized for This Moment!" Your gifts will be used in support of our Synod's work of spreading the confession Christ crucified and risen, calling all people to the waters of Baptism. May God bless this special effort and may it redound to His glory and for the blessing of many!

With you under the saving blood,  
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



## Member PICTURES

**Stop and take a look at our  
updated picture board!  
Thank you to the Keitches and the  
Warrens for taking on this project!**



Stacey Becker	6-2	Pat Scherer	6-11
Chris Gibbs	6-2	Lisa Theriot	6-13
Phil Hill	6-2	Steven Hurst	6-14
Cecil Moore	6-5	James Jander	6-14
Lee Kloostra	6-6	LouAnn Hall Spigener	6-17
Luke Hunter	6-7	Chris Dalrymple	6-18
Crystal Karlin	6-9	Rick Woolery	6-18
Austin Karlin	6-11	Jerry Matzek	6-23
		Julie Altom	6-25
		Debora Livingston	6-25
		Daniel Hackler	6-29
		Christy Kloostra	6-30
		Jack Matzek	6-30



KC & Sherry Caekaert	6-1-84
Allen & Stacey Becker	6-7-91
Dale & Erica Jander	6-12-99
Phil Linda Hill	6-20-81
Ted & Jan Keitch	6-21-59
Christian & Kathryn Holzer	6-23-07



**We Need You!**

## Young at Heart

On May 14th a few of your "younger and more active members" of this church met at the pond for a hotdog lunch. I wish you could have been there to see the number of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes proceeding down the sidewalk. (Actually, it was even more interesting to see those same wheelchairs, walkers and canes get back up the hill) We had a wonderful time and the breeze was great. Wish more of you would take advantage of our picnic area.

Thanks to Art, we have something very special planned for our meeting in June. Please, please mark your calendar for JUNE 11th and plan to come to Christian Care Center for a "free" lunch and some wonderful fellowship. I know many would like to take a tour of the Center, however, for those of you who cannot get around or don't wish to go, you may wait in the lobby area, in beautiful surroundings and just wait for the rest of us.

Anyone in the church is welcome to attend. We will have a "sign up sheet" on the bulletin board for you to register to go with us. For further information, please talk to Art Silbernagel or Jan Keitch.

Summer is almost here and we are looking for loving members of TOL who would volunteer to teach a week of Summer Sunday School so our teachers could have a most appreciated "break". It begins on June 2nd and goes thru August 18th. There is a table set up in the Fellowship Hall / Narthex with Sign-Up Sheets including the dates and lessons for each Sunday. We have chosen lessons that take little preparation time which focus on well-loved Bible stories including games, activities, crafts, etc. to make learning fun and simple. **Please prayerfully consider teaching a class.**

## Offerings and Attendance for May

DATE	8:45	11:15	SS	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
5/5/13	59	37	NA	\$7,126*	\$200	\$713
5/12/13	50	42	43	\$3,165*	\$100	\$317
5/19/13	34	57	25	\$3,743*	\$900	\$374
5/26/13	44	32	25	\$2,102*	\$100	\$210
<b>Total for May</b>				<b>\$16,136*</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$1,614</b>

\*Needed per week—\$4,738; Needed for May—\$18,952

# Tell It on the Mountain

Where Jesus Christ Is Lord

Vacation Bible School  
June 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 8pm.

Light meals from 5:30 to 6 Monday - Thursday.

Hotdog Cook out on Friday

Online Registration at [www.treeoflifelcms.org](http://www.treeoflifelcms.org)

Please pray for VBS volunteers and to bring families to teach about Jesus Christ.

*Things to donate for decorations:*

Pine Cones

Trees (Christmas or other fake trees)

Fake birds / nests to put in the trees

Climbing rope

Old pop-up tents that someone was going to pitch out.

Hiking packs (for décor only)

Binoculars

Plastic milk crates (to decorate for seats)

Bottled water

If someone could donate a climbing wall rental for Friday Night... that would be amazing for the kids!

Donation list coming soon.

## Offerings and Attendance for April

DATE	8:45	11:15	SS	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
4/7/13	53	48	43	\$5,165*	\$550	\$517
4/14/13	52	40	39	\$2,765*	\$400	\$277
4/21/13	51	68	44	\$5,825*	\$400	\$583
4/28/13	39	53	31	\$2,396*	\$200	\$240
<b>Total for April</b>				<b>\$16,151*</b>	<b>\$1,550</b>	<b>\$1,617</b>

\*Needed per week—\$4,738; Needed for April—\$18,952



**HONOR OUR GRADUATES**

**Meagan DeLawder**

**Bryan Jander**

**Logan Nixon**

**Please join us in honoring our high school graduates on Sunday, June 2nd.**

**There will be a cake and punch reception following the Living Praise Service.**

## Thank You

Many thanks to those who helped prepare for and make Easter season worship so meaningful: Laura Cantu for Good Friday; Janet Schutz, Kathy Woolery, Kara Jander, Katie Jander, Debora Livingston, Betty Nixon, Desiree' Melton, Jan Keitch, Jill Estilow and Pastor Herbert for Easter day; Shirley Kuske, Kara Jander, Keith Melton, Sandra Melton and Haley Melton for removing and storing Easter decorations; Kara Jander for setting up for Pentecost; and Sandra and Keith Melton for hanging the Tongues of Fire. Your time and efforts so are so very much appreciated.

Joy and Peace,  
Lee Wilson

## White Rock Center of Hope

The Center does certainly appreciate all of the help we have received from so many of you here, especially the donations we received from the Youth garage sale. The Center is really in need of volunteers; you can do just one day a month to just get your feet wet. The place does grow on you. I have worked in several areas there and this week I worked in the Pantry; giving out food to the clients as they come in. I was appalled to see how little we actually have on the Pantry shelves. We are able to buy canned goods from the North Texas Food Bank and this week we did have some potatoes and carrots and tomatoes. They get one dozen eggs and one frozen meat product and very little else. We need pasta, mac & cheese, soups, canned meat and even a box of jello will make many children happy.

We also need soap, shampoo and all toiletry items and I know most of that we give to Good Samaritan.

The need is so great all over the country and for a very small congregation, I think we do a tremendous job. If you would like to see first hand: **SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER**, either at White Rock or Good Samaritan. You will feel so blessed from a day of work. Think about it!!!!



Come celebrate Father's Day on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> at Tree of Life. There will be a nacho dinner for \$3.00 starting at 5:00 p.m. After dinner the movie, "Here Comes the Boom", will be shown free of charge.

This is a great opportunity to show your husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, son, brother, or friend how much you appreciate everything they do for those around them. And as an extra bonus you get to enjoy the fun and fellowship with your brothers and sisters at Tree of Life.

For more information and to give us an idea on how many to expect, contact Shannon Murphy (972-977-9809) or Sandra Melton (469-865-0246) for more details.

Hope to see you there!!!!

## From the Rasch Family

Dear Friends at Tree of Life,

Thank you so much for your generous support of God's work in West Africa. We are continually humbled when we see the hand of God provide for us through people like you so that we continue to follow His call.

Right now Ivan is traveling to Nigeria so that he can finish getting paperwork finished so that our truck can be driven to Ghana with the rest of our boxes of belongings. Please pray for his safety in travel as well as for the processes that he needs to work on there.

Recently Ivan led a teacher workshop for teachers at St. Paul's Lutheran School to introduce the idea of integrating faith and the curriculum. The workshop was well received and the teachers are asking for more input so that they can better implement the ideas in their classrooms.

Jennifer is also hoping to work with a small group of students needing help with their English skills, offering an ESL program for a short time. After that, hopefully she can teach other teachers how to use those same skills in their classrooms so that more students can benefit.

Thank you for your prayers as we seek to follow Christ.

In Christ's Service,

Ivan and Jennifer Rasch

## Tree of Life Lutheran Church

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The loving family of Tree of Life, rooted in God's Word, exists to share the joy, love, and peace of Jesus Christ with you!



## Pastor's Page, continued from pg. 1

*evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

### Hebrews 10: 19-25

The sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, as the final priest, has given all believers in Christ access to the heavenly sanctuary. We can enter there through prayer, with all boldness and confidence, expecting and receiving a listening compassionate Lord to hear and answer our prayers. We are to approach our God first and foremost through worship during our earthly lives; worship with sincerity of heart and with the full confidence that in Christ our sins are fully and completely forgiven. The waters of our Baptism remind us that our hearts and minds have been washed clean by the shed blood of Jesus.

Therefore we are urged to remain faithful to the One who always remains faithful to us. We are called to be concerned for each other as love and good works are the expected fruit of true faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Finally, and this is especially apropos during the long, hot months of summer in Texas, we are encour-

aged to continue in the practice of coming together with our brothers and sisters in Christ for worship and fellowship over the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The unity manifested and displayed in the assembly of believers around the altar of God is the Church's greatest weapon against Satan. St. Ignatius of Antioch comments in chapter 13 of his *Epistle to the Ephesians*: "For when ye assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith." It is in this assembly of God's people in worship around the Word and Sacraments where the bond of Christian love and concern is maintained, exercised and strengthened. It is there where the prayers of all Christians in all times and places unite and are made powerful by the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst and through us to the world. It is there where the hope in the promise of everlasting life with God is kept strong and it is there where we receive the knowledge of truth, with which we go out into the world, bringing that love and forgiveness to all.

As we now go forward into the summer of 2013, and all of its time of vacations and outdoor activities, let us be ever diligent in attending to the feeding of our spirits in worshipping together around the Word and Sacraments of God. God bless and keep us all.

In Christ's Service  
Pastor Scott