

February 2014



# Breeze Thru the Leaves

Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## Love – God’s Style

February – ah it’s almost Valentine’s day. Hearts and flowers and boxes of candy for those we love. And don’t forget a Hallmark card for “when you care enough to send the very best.” And don’t forget to include a note about how much you love that person because how they make you feel so good. But is that really what love is all about????

Permit me to share one of the most awesome passages of the Bible. ***“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless (not when we had our act together), Christ died for the ungodly (but I thought he died for the good guys!). Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

Romans 5:6-8

While we were still sinners??? Not after we had joined the church. Not after we made our tithe. Not after we got confirmed. Not after we became a Lutheran. No, God showed His love for us in this that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!!! Amazing!

You see God’s love is so different that the love our world champions in movies and TV shows. Love in our world is based on the attraction of the other person and what that means to us in terms of feelings and emotions and glands. “You make me feel so good.”

But God’s love is not based on our attractiveness. The Bible tells us **God is love**. His love is totally outward in direction. It has nothing to do with what God needs but what we need. He loves us, sinners that we are. And He demonstrated that love by sending Jesus who died for us in our sinfulness. (He truly cared enough to send the very best!)

So God’s love is an accepting, unconditional, unlimited love. We can do nothing to make God love us more and we can do nothing to make God love us less.

*Continued on pg. 8*

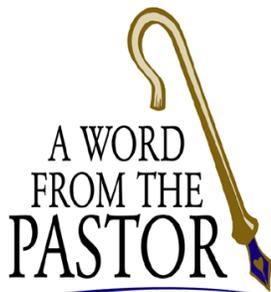


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## Thank you!

*Dear Tree of Life Family,*

*Words cannot express how grateful we are for each and every one of you. Your phone calls, cards, love, thoughts and prayers for our family has helped ease the pain and sorrow we have felt since Dan's unexpected passing.*

*Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.*

*Love in Christ,*

*Cheryl Rodrigues, Ryan Williamson*

*& Betty Woods*

Jody Cody would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during her husband's surgery. He had a successful hip surgery and is doing well.

## White Rock Center of Hope

White Rock Center of Hope managed to weather through some changes this year and it made it a little more difficult to carry out our mission. However, we did a pretty good job and served over 800 children. Mind you, we do not receive bicycles or fancy electronics to give these children, they have to be happy to receive a basketball (but we ran out this year) or a Barbie doll and we make sure they have crafts to do and books to read! Can you imagine how excited some of these kids really are??? Some are not so pleased or even appreciative, but for the most part we feel good about what we can do. Several ladies from our churches knit or crochet hats all year long and we gave away 845 hats.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to White Rock this year and especially to our Youth who helped us set up the toys and also donated food. You are appreciated and loved.

## Thursday Morning Bible Class Switches to Wednesday

The Wednesday morning Bible Class, led by Pastor Berg, continues its study of "The Odyssey Of St. Paul" by Dr. Paul Maier. Filmed entirely on location in Israel, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy, this tour covers the life of the Apostle Paul from his birth in Tarsus to his schooling in Jerusalem and conversion on the road to Damascus. All the stations on his mission journeys follow, as well as his arrest in Jerusalem, imprisonment, and shipwreck voyage to Rome. A running commentary by Dr. Paul Maier makes this both a visual delight and an extremely vivid learning experience.

## Keep Collecting

Please save Campbell's Soup labels for Young at Heart. In addition to Campbell's Soup, we also collect the following labels: BIC products, Dannon Danimals, Glad storage bags, Pepperidge Farms, Post cereals, Prego, Pop Secret, SpaghettiOs, Swanson broth, V8 beverages. The complete list of products is posted in the information center. You may place your labels in the box beside our church mailboxes.

Also, bring your soft drink can tabs. Jill Estilow collects them to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. You may put them in her mailbox or there is a small container behind the coffee pot.



## From the Board of Education

The Board of Education has set tentative dates for 2014 activities:

- Easter Celebration/Egg Hunt set for Saturday, April 12th from 10am-12pm
- End of Sunday School year celebration dated May 18th
- Mary Mobley has the Summer Sunday school materials to be used for this summer. There will be a sign up table for volunteers for summer Sunday school which begins on May 25th
- VBS is planned for July 7th through the 11th. The theme is Gangway to Galilee.
- Rally Day: Aug 24th
- Fall Festival: Oct 25th
- Christmas Celebration: Dec 14th

Bible Studies:

Senior Youth: Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers by Alles, Brad (has 13 chapters). Should last until the end of April maybe even end of school year. Depends on how much to cover each week. The book was purchased through CPH.

## Correspondence from our "Adopted" Seminary Students

As many of you know we have for some time been supporting seminary students Mark Harris and Timothy Anas with a portion of our Mission Tithe. There are letters from them posted on the Information Center in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop by to read them and see what these fine gentlemen are doing and learning.

## Bible Class "Come & See" Continues On The Gospel Of John

Interest and excitement remain high for the Bible class each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Come and See! Come and sit and listen. Come and learn. Come and enjoy meeting Jesus through the words of John. The course booklet was written by Pastor Don and designed with you in mind.

- February 2 The Third Sign & Affirmation of Jesus' Sonship, John 5:1-47
- February 9 Fourth & Fifth Signs, First I Am-- Bread of Life, John 6:1-71
- February 16 Feast of Booths, I am Light of the World, Sixth Sign, Healing of Blind Man John 7:1-9:41
- February 23 I am Good Shepherd & Door, Seventh Sign, Raising of Lazarus, Plot to Kill Jesus, Triumphal Entry, John 10-12
- March 2 **Part Two: Glory Revealed To Disciples** Foot Washing, Glorification, I Am Way, Truth & Life, Promise of The Counselor, John 13-14
- March 9 I Am True Vine, Jesus' Love & World's Hatred, Coming Hour, High Priestly Prayer, John 15-17
- March 16 The Arrest & Trial, Crucifixion, Burial, John 18-19
- March 23 Resurrection & **The Epilogue**, John 20 and 21



Karry Hill	2-6
Jan Keitch	2-7
Mary Ellen Matzek	2-7
Kenneth Brown	2-8
Sam Grant	2-8
Betty Nixon	2-13
Katie Jander	2-14
Sidi Daboh	2-18
Paul Denton	2-22
Jill Estilow	2-24
Kathy Logan	2-25
Haley Melton	2-26
Shannon Murphy	2-26
Matthew Dalrymple	2-28



Steven & Merita Hurst	2-5-72
Mike & Linda Angelbeck	2-14-96
Lynn & Pam Hinkel	2-14-69
Paul & Kimberly Denton	2-16-11

## Board of Outreach

The Board of Outreach met on January 19, 2014 to discuss plans for the year.

First off...a banner has been ordered for the framework in front, which will display Sunday School and Service times. This banner will be on display when there are no special events taking place and to encourage passerby's to "come on in" and hear the Word of God and fellowship with the members of Tree of Life.

We are looking at the first week in April...that would be April 6, 2014 to host our Auction/Baked Potato Lunch. Discussion was made to have the proceeds go to one of our member families who might need financial assistance.

Also up for discussion was the continuation of Dinner and a Movie or other events for the sole purpose of fellowship with one another...to be continued!

## Thank you!

Those who helped prepare the sanctuary for Christmas and put decorations away for next year are certainly appreciated: Kara, David, Katie and Bryan Jander; Pastor and Judy Berg; Jerry Matzek; Ken and Betty Nixon; Ted and Jan Keitch; Dale Hunter. Many thanks for your time and muscle.

Lee Wilson

P.S. Our apologies if we have left anyone off of this list. We appreciate your help too!

## Offerings and Attendance for January

DATE	SS	Worship	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
1/5/14	36	69	\$5,308*	\$580	\$531
1/12/14	46	88	\$8,647*	\$400	\$865
1/19/14	49	79	\$2,921*	\$300	\$292
1/26/14	44	80	*\$8,132	\$500	\$813
<b>Total for January</b>			<b>\$25,008*</b>	<b>\$1,780</b>	<b>\$2,501</b>

\*Planned for each week—\$4,738; Planned for in January—\$18,952

## Sermon Series Continues

### THIS IS THE CHURCH ?

Feb 2-Fools For Christ	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Feb 9-Empowered Weaklings	1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Feb 16-Baby Christians	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Feb 23-Divine Dwellings	1 Corinthians 3:1-23
March 2-Perfect Pastors	1 Corinthians 4:1-5

**Sweets For Your Sweetie**

The Senior Youth will be selling sweet treats for Valentine's Day. We will have a booth set up for pre-sale February 2nd or you may buy your sweets for your sweetie on our delivery day: Sunday, February 9th. Proceeds go to the pavilion repair.

## Offerings and Attendance for December

DATE	SS	11:00	General Offering	Growing To the Future	Mission Tithe
12/1/13	39	83	\$5,854*	\$1,250	\$585
12/8/13	28	52	\$2,985*	\$200	\$299
12/15/13	47	98	\$4,678*	\$800	\$468
12/22/13	22	71	\$3,654*	\$300	\$365
12/29/13	24	61	\$5,205	\$400	\$521
<b>Total for December</b>			<b>\$22,376*</b>	<b>\$2,950</b>	<b>\$2,238</b>

\*Planned for each week—\$4,738; Planned for in December—\$23,690

## Young at Heart News

Young at Heart would really like to thank the members of this congregation for their generous giving to our "Angel Tree" project. As always, our first commitment is to our college students and they will be receiving their \$10.00 gift card when they return to classes. Christy was able to deliver 54 cards (\$540.00) to Good Samaritan this past week. What a blessing you gave to many people and it is greatly appreciated by everyone involved.

If you missed our meeting last week; boy did you miss a good one!!! Just sayin'!!!! However, here is your chance to "mark your calendars" for some very important upcoming events.



Remember our 'Undie Sundays'??? Now you have the opportunity for the whole month of February to gather in the laundry and bring us many pairs of socks and underwear for children and adults. There is also a great need for men's t-shirts. This is for Good Samaritans of Garland.

A very special date is February 11th and we will be eating out at JJ's Diner at Northwest Dr. and Easton/Ferndale Rd. at 11:30 A.M. We have reservations and want you to invite as many guests as you can PAY for. (just kidding) Just make sure they can pay for their own.

Also be sure to mark MARCH 11th for a very special outing with Young at Heart. We have been invited to return to Christian Care Center for a wonderful luncheon. If you were lucky enough to go last year, you know what a treat this was. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board and please plan to attend again.

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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!**



## Results of January 19th Voters Meeting

On January 19th the Voters Assembly met to discuss the possibility of calling a new Seminary Graduate as our pastor. Phil Hill, chairman for the Call Committee, explained the process to us via a letter sent by Ken Hennings, President of the Texas District LCMS. After some discussion, a vote was held and we are proceeding with the next steps of calling a Seminary Student with the understanding that we are not obligated to call a Seminary Student if we later feel that this is not the right path for us. The Call Committee has much to do to prepare for this process and the interviews that follow. Please keep the Call Committee and the Call Process in your prayers.

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

You are loved by God! Does that mean you can abuse God's love or take advantage of God's love? Unfortunately we can and do. As sinful people we continually respond in sinful ways to His love. However God's Spirit continues to work on us through Word and Sacraments to put more of God's love into us and slowly bring more of God's love out of us. With God's help we begin to be more like Jesus every day. We start to love the unlovable. We begin to think more of the needs of others than of our needs. We are more interested in serving than being served.

And what better time to show that than at Valentine's Day to those nearest and dearest to us. But don't stop there. Look for others to love as well.

Pastor Don