



Tree of Life

LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

Our mission is to invite, inspire, and include all people in Christ's love.

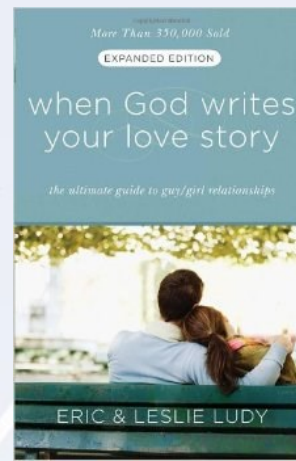
Monthly Newsletter

January 2014

Special Summer Sneak Peek



VBS
July 6-10



High School Summer
Curriculum



Special Themed
Youth Group Meetings
All Summer!



Lock In's
Detroit Motor City - HS
Pre-Camp - Elementary

Christmas Program



Upcoming Events

January

- 3 - Ice Skating 11am
- 4 - Acolyte Training 9:15am
- 4 - Safe Sanctuary Training 12pm
- 9 - Ryan at Seminary
- 10- Band Practice 9am
- 10 - Life Line Screening, all day
- 11 - Guest Sermon by Bishop Rinehart
- 11 - Contemporary Service 10:30am
- 24 - Council Retreat
- 25 - Pancake Breakfast 9:15am
- 25 - Congregational Meeting 9:15am
- 26-28 - Tri-Synodical Conference
- 31 - Ryan Returns from Seminary

February

- 1 - Guest Sermon by Melissa Minieri
- 6-7 - Human Dignity Retreat 6th-8th Grade
- 7 - Band Practice 9am
- 8 - Contemporary Service 10:30am
- 9-15 - John on Vacation
- 13 - Elementary Lock In
- 14 - Date Night Fusion Fundraiser
- 18 - Ash Wednesday
- 21 - Go Texan Parade
- 22 - Small Groups Begin
- 27-29 - Confirmation Retreat
- 28 - Winter Jam Fusion Lock In



2015

Pastor's Corner

How much do you know about the Christian faith?

How much do you know about other faith practices such as Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism?

How much do you know about Lutheran beliefs, teachings, religious practices and worship?

How much do you know about other significant denomination's beliefs, teachings, religious practices and worship?

This spring, Pastor Chris will be leading our adults on a journey to discover and learn more about these very topics. During the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:15am, the adults will explore the book, "Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith." This book is written by Robert Buckley Farlee and comes from an Evangelical Lutheran perspective. Each religion is compared to the Lutheran faith and practices.

If you are a Lutheran, you can use these sections to compare other religions to your own beliefs. If you're not Lutheran, you can use the book for the wealth of other information contained in it.

Join us this Spring in Room 1 of the Education Building for this special study. I hope to see you there!

Pastor Chris Lake



Youth Report

Last week I attended a yearly retreat for all candidates who are in seminary, or in the process of discernment for seminary. This retreat takes place from Wednesday at noon until Thursday at noon. 24 hours. This was my third retreat. During these retreats we worship, network, eat amazing food, and sometimes take part in a panel discussion. These panels are broken into three distinct phases of this candidacy journey. My first year, I took part in a panel to be entranced. Before being able to go to seminary I needed to be entranced by our candidacy committee. The other two panels are for endorsement and approval. I have not done these yet. Endorsement will take place before I embark on my internship year in the Fall of 2017. Approval will take place following internship and is one of the final steps towards being approved to become a pastor in the Lutheran church.

I share this with you because whether you know it or not, you are all on this journey with me. Whether you contribute through prayer, financially, or by your affirming words you are helping me through this phase of my life. I want you to know where I am and what is going on. This 5-year journey I am on has many unanswered questions, but I want to inform you as much as I can so that you can continue walking side by side with me.

I struggled to find motivation for this year's candidacy retreat. I did not have a panel discussion and was not sure what the point of even going would be. I would have to miss one of our Wednesday youth nights. I would have to miss Christmas caroling and delivering some treats and crafts we made for the people we would visit. I did not want to miss this to go on a retreat that would provide little to nothing for me.

Wednesday night, I had a realization. The Holy Spirit reshaped my focus and put things into a whole new perspective. I am not sure why I came into this retreat with such a selfish focus. Wednesday night as we sat around a table, there were pastors, seminarians, and a select few people who were trying to figure out if seminary is the route they were called to go.

This retreat was not about me. I am here for them. I am here to help answer whatever questions they may have. I remember my first retreat. I was buried deep in stress, fear, and had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself in. There were two current seminarians that really provided that comfort and guidance that I needed.

Sometimes it's not about how this benefits me. Sometimes our calling goes deeper than that. Sometimes our God wants to use us in ways we cannot yet see. Sometime our calling is serve our neighbor without even realizing it.

Wednesday night was a beautiful reminder of this message. We are called as brothers and sisters in Christ to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We are also to love our neighbors as our self. Even if we think there's nothing in it for us. There is more then our eyes allow us to see.

God's Peace,
Ryan Dockery

From the Council President

As I write this for January 2015, Christmas 2014 is less than a week away, I wish all a joyous and peaceful Christmas with loved ones close by. Please pray for those who are not at peace, those who do not have loved ones close, and those who do not know the joy of the good news of this Christmas season.

Let's give thanks for the many blessings we have received in 2014, both individually and as a church body at Tree of Life. Reminds me of the old song: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise me you what the Lord has done."

2015 will start a busy year with lots of activities. Please pray that these will work together toward our mission. We will start 2015 with a busy schedule.

In January, we are scheduled to hold our annual congressional meeting. This year, we are planning a new venue, enjoying a pancake breakfast during the meeting. Our council will hold a planning meeting looking at 2015 and beyond for Tree of Life. I anticipate that we will have funds in our Seeds for Growth to begin renovation on the fellowship hall bathrooms in February.

Let us continue to pray, giving thanks to God for our many blessings and to ask his guidance as we live lives of stewardship.

Thank you,
Dennis McConnell
President - Church Council
Tree of Life Lutheran Church

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry," James 1:19b



Synod Announcements

Let's set aside a day during Lent to ponder the mark of the cross on our lives and what influence it bears on the world. Join us on February 28 at Messiah in Cypress for LEAD's **Influence**. The creators of The Work of the People, a unique website that will stir your imagination about how God is moving in our lives, will present some of their videos, discuss social media, and ponder how we can lead and serve in ways that challenge the dominant thinking about leadership. Register today.
\$20 per person if registered before February 1
\$15 per person if registered as part of a group and before February 1



College Bound Workshop

The Center for Servant Leadership at TLU is offering a College Bound Workshop on March 22 from 2-4 pm at Kinsmen Lutheran. Workshop topics include:

- How do I search for the school that is right for me?
- How do I fill out a strong college application?
- How does Financial Aid work and what is the FAFSA?
- Can you give me some tips on the Do's and Don'ts of this process?

The workshop will include Tim Oliver as presenter. He is an "insider" to the college admissions process having spent 25 years in admissions work for several schools. The workshop is offered free of charge. Reserve your spot by calling 830.372.8160.



You are invited to share in a day of challenge and opportunity.

"Make us Your Living Voice" is a conference on faith-based organizing, which will be held on February 6 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm at TLU in Seguin. Registration deadline is January 20.

Guest speakers include:

Pastor Alexia Salvatierra - an ELCA pastor and co-author of Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service of the World.

Dr. Ray Pickett - a professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our hands.

In Our Community

SAVE THE DATE

TUES **JANUARY**
27

FROM
2-7PM

JOB FAIR *A new year.
A new you.
A new career!*

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9055 AIRPORT RD. | CONROE 77303

For more information call
936.756.6644 

Road Rally

Montgomery County Historical Commission's History Road Rally - Explore Life in the Past Lane

Date: January 24, 2015, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM CST
montgomerycountyhistoricalcommission.com

Check In (rain or shine): Noon - 1:00pm
Road Rally Start: 1:30pm - Teams Begin To Return: 3:30pm
Free Meals & Team Recognition: 4:30pm

Teams of 2-5 participants per vehicle
Pre-registration fee of \$30/vehicle - Day of fee of \$40/vehicle

Trophies and prizes to winning teams!

Call 936-525-7311 to register or for more information

Sponsored by Gullo Ford of Conroe, Gullo Mazda of Conroe & Gullo Toyota of Conroe

The Crighton Theatre

2015 Schedule

Stage Right Productions

Singing in the Rain, February 13 - March 1

The Trip to Bountiful, April 17 - May 3

Shrek the Musical, July 10-26

Montgomery County Performing Arts Society

Young Texas Artists Competition, March 14

Montgomery's Got Talent, April 3

American English, May 30

Sharity Productions with John Wiesner Automotive

Mickey Gilley in Concert, April 4

CYT - Christian Youth Theater

The Sound of Music, May 22-24

The OWEN Theatre

2015 Schedule

The Players Theatre Company

Almost Maine, January 30 - February 15

A Streetcar Named Desire, March 20 - April 5

Oklahoma, May 8 - May 30

Stepping Out, July 10 - July 26,

Have a special event you would like to share? Give Bunny a call at 936-539-9530 during business hours, or email her at media@treechurch.net.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting

What's better than a congregational meeting? A congregational meeting with pancakes, of course!

The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am. We will discuss the agenda of the next year, vote in new members to council, and vote on the budget. It's going to be exciting to see the plan of action with the New Seeds for Growth campaign!

To receive the annual report electronically, please sign up at TreeChurch.net and click on "Annual Report Request".

During the meeting, our high school youth group, Fusion, will serve a pancake breakfast. All freewill donations from the breakfast will go towards the annual high school summer mission trip.

Welcome New Members!

We would officially like to welcome new members to Tree of Life!

Robert, Melissa, Alaina, & Jackson Minieri

Nels Wickander

Philip, Mary, & Rachel Anderson



Name Tags

If you would like a name tag, please make the request on the back of your attendance slip. The cost of the tags are \$10. To pay for the name tags, simply drop it in an offering envelope, with "name tags" in the memo.

Why name tags? God called Moses by name, and we would like to call you by name. It helps visitors to figure out who is who and lessens pressure on them. Finally, it puts a stop to those embarrassing moments where you can't remember the name of the person you're standing next to.

Order yours today in the lobby!

Time and Talent

Please be sure to return your Time & Talent sheet!

They can be found in the church lobby welcome center, or head to the website and click on "Time and Talent" from the front page.

Thanks!

Prayer Requests

Cancer

Ron-cancer
Eddie Red-cancer of the throat
Colby White-cancer
Linda Lawson-pancreatic cancer
Kali-cancer
Jacob Richardson-bone cancer
Lindsay-thyroid cancer
Katrina-liver & colon cancer
Al Knudson-cancer
Nancy Isacks-cancer & heart attack
Tommy Timmins-kidney cancer
Josh Hendrix-cancer
Dale Dossey-cancer
Barbara Keithley-cancer
Ellen Lukert-cancer
Mike Quam-prostate cancer
Bob Koehler-prostate cancer
Eugene Ford Fisher-cancer
Jane Cashner-cancer
Marvin Peyton-cancer
David-cancer
Susan Vajdak-breast cancer
Sarah Malone-stage IV cancer
David Young-lymphoma
Shara Ault- cancer
Moosie Westmoreland-liver cancer

Hospital

Karen Stubblefield-healing

Recovery

Barbara Nelson-healing
Butch Nye-received bone marrow transplant
Bob Myers-healing
Dennis Cartwright-healing
Kerry DeVore-healing
Bob Dinklage-healing
Gretchen Griffin's parents-healing
Joe Donahue-healing
Pamela Donahue-healing
Donna Donahue-healing
Sherri Moore-healing
Pat Cheshire-healing
Robert Sauls-healing

Celebrations

Brittney Ault-becoming an RN
Megan- safe delivery & healthy baby

Struggles

Gay Lynn Pierce- family struggles
Karla Hoover's family-passing of her mom
Carrie Ford's family-passing of her mom

Our Armed Services Overseas

Bruce Edmond-Air Force Japan
Andrew Suggs-in the Marines, serving in Iraq, friend of Kyla Nelson
Jacob Herring-Serving in Afghanistan (student of Chris Douglas)
Jana & Howard Bennette- stationed in Germany, Jan & Lawrence Zuehlke's son-in-law
Taylor Cameron-Navy, stationed in Japan. Niece of Pastor & Katherine Lake
Chris King-overseas in Bahrain

Serving in the U.S.

Ryan Cole-in Hawaii, Army
John Morio-Army Reserves, will be deployed overseas, friend of Alta Goodnight
Brant Berlehner-stateside, Nancy Berlehner's son
Jonathon Dilbeck-stateside, friend of Mary Pressley
Chad Duby-Army-stateside.
Dan McKaughan-Navy in Monterey.
Corey Williams-Navy Sarasota Springs, N.Y.
Leland Muehr-U.S. National Guard, Debra Pieniazk's nephew
Justin Gilbreath-stationed at camp Pendleton, CA
Coltton Erickson-US Army stationed in Georgia.
Kyle Obrosky-US Army stationed in Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Troy Reed-marine stationed in Arizona
Taylor Camron-Navy graduating from boot camp
Jason Pady-Marines in North Carolina
Conner Moeller-entering the Navy
Dylan Mora-New recruit San Antonio

Add your prayer requests in the weekly attendance slip found in the bulletin during worship, or email your requests to prayers@treechurch.net.

January Celebrations

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan Blough
- 1 - Ed Johnson
- 1 - Michelle Johnson
- 6 - Mary Pressley
- 8 - Debra Pieniazek
- 11 - Keith Funderburk
- 11 - Brianna Spoerle
- 14 - Andrew Knauf
- 17 - Annika Johnson
- 18 - Austin Funderburk
- 18 - Benjamin Lake
- 20 - Vickie Funderburk
- 24 - Wayne Pflugger
- 27 - Brent Kovar
- 31 - Corinne Myers

Birthdays

- 2 - Karen Proctor
- 3 - Matthew Knauf
- 9 - Jacob Kovar
- 9 - Tina Pahnke
- 11 - Melissa Minieri
- 13 - Charles Johnson
- 14 - Jakob Hancock
- 15 - Amy Spoerle
- 19 - Camille Converse
- 22 - Viola Delpesce
- 22 - Kirsten Goodwin
- 23 - Brenna Chaffee
- 25 - Larry Crochet
- 27 - Dennis Andrews
- 29 - Christian Hart
- 30 - Doris Hoff
- 31 - John Adams

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 - Bob & Janet Jones
- 10 - Keith & Vickie Funderburk
- 22 - Shaun & Beth Gary
- 27 - Robert & Melissa Minieri

January Serving Schedule

	Jan 4		Jan 11		Jan 18		Jan 25	
	8:00	10:30	8:00	Contemporary Service 10:30	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Assisting Minister	Ryan Dockery	Sue Moehring	Peggy Little	Jerahmy Lavender	Sue Moehring	Dennis McConnell	Ryan Dockery	Christian Hart
Acolyte		Shantell Brown Bethany Hillebrandt		Lairacy Griffin Jakob Hancock	Jillian Heiberg Drew Knaut			Drew Heiberg Matt Knaut
Altar Guild	Shirley Carr Cyndi Obrosky	Jessika Graves Ida Craig	Judy Scriver Maria Liebel	Michelle Johnson Anika Johnson	Gretchen Griffin Peggy Little	Flo Stiverson Corinne Myers	Shirley Carr Cyndi Obrosky	Mary Nye Butch Nye
Fellowship		Daphne and Dave Cox		Daphne and Dave Cox		Daphne and Dave Cox		Daphne and Dave Cox
Communion Assistants	Shirley Carr Cyndi Obrosky	Cindy Robinson Alyssa Spoerle Flo Stiverson Sue Rust	Judy Scriver Maria Liebel	Shirley Smith Larry Smith Lauren Douglas Jessika Graves	Gretchen Griffin Peggy Little	Russ Zeiner Jan Zuehike Terry Brietzke Ted Dinklage	Shirley Carr Cyndi Obrosky	Angela Brown Jeremie Brown Shirley Finke Larry Finke
Counters	Shelly and Wayne Pfluger		Shelly and Wayne Pfluger		Shelly and Wayne Pfluger		Shelly and Wayne Pfluger	
Greeters	Shirley Carr	Treva Allen Carolynne Campagna	Rosemary Cartwright	Larry Crochet Marilyn Fellers	Peggy Little	Jeanne Anderson Larry Anderson	Ed Little	Daphne Cox Dave Cox
Lector	Peg Little	Butch Nye	Ryan Dockery	Debra Pieniasek	Sue Moehring	John Nye	Mary Pressley	Karen Proctor
Visual	Ed Little	Mike Turek	Linda Bliese	Sue Rinehart	Russ Bliese	Terry Brietzke	Ed Little	Jennifer Griffin
Sound		Terry Brietzke		Matt Hannes		Brent Kovar		John Nye
Ushers	Mary Pressley	Dave Cox Larry Crochet	Dennis Cartwright	Terry Brietzke Larry Finke	Ed Little	Jessika Graves Richard Griffin	Ron Bliese	Christian Hart Gary Macha

Please remember that it is your responsibility to find a replacement as soon as possible if you cannot serve on your assigned date and notify Jim Voelz at (936-443-5866 or jimvoelz@consolidated.net) who will be taking your place. If you are unable to find a replacement, please notify Jim of that as well.

Announcements

New Seeds for Growth Updates!

So far, \$419,500 out of \$440,000 has been pledged. If you would like to raise your pledge amount to help us reach our goal, please contact Linda Bliese at FS@TreeChurch.net. We look forward to great things in the upcoming years due to the hard work and financial contributions. Amazing things are happening!

The total collected for the campaign so far is \$63,311. There are many ways to give, including stock, one time gifts, online giving, which you can set up for auto pay on a schedule convenient to you, or use the blue envelopes located in each pew.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at Tree of Life.



Chili Feed Success!

The Chili Feed led by Jim and Michelle Johnson for Fusion high school youth was a great success! The youth worked hard setting up tables, serving, cleaning, and during service at the event. The youth collected \$650 in donations for the event. All of the funds collected for this event will be used for the annual mission trip. This year, high school youth will gather in Detroit with 40,000 students, ready to serve, worship, and grow in Christ.

We were meant to be together, and we are a church that believes God is calling us into the world together.

Thank you for being a part of the success of our youth program!

Thank You Creative Hands!

The ladies of Creative Hands worked hard all year making wonderful items to be sold at the Holiday Marketplace this year, plus put together a hospitality center full of hot drinks (including the infamous spiced tea!) homemade cookies, and brownies, and more!

The youth at Tree of Life are grateful for their hard work during and before the Marketplace. In combined effort with the vendors and the quilt raffle, the Holiday Marketplace brought in almost \$6,000 to go towards summer camp and the mission trip!

THANK YOU!



Elementary & Junior High

Upcoming Events

Elementary & Junior High School

Weekly Events

Sunday at 10:30am - Children's Church

January

3 - Ice Skating 11-1, Woodlands Ice Rink

4 - Worship Training 9:15am

4 - Safe Sanctuary Training 12pm

February

6-7 Human Dignity Retreat at ToL, 6-8 Grade

13 - Valentines Day Lock-in - K-5 Grade

18 - Ash Wednesday

21 - Go Texan Parade - All Youth

22 - First Communion

27-28 - Confirmation Retreat - 6-8 Grade

March

9-13 MISD & Willis Spring Break

16-20 CISD Spring Break

28 - Day of Service

Sunday School Offering

Each Sunday, we ask all youth to bring their offering to benefit Water to Thrive. We are almost 1/2 way to our goal of \$5,000, which is enough to provide a well to an entire village. Give the gift of clean water!

Save the Date!

Garage Sale

May 2



Youth Worship Training Day

All youth are invited to join us during Sunday school on January 4 to be trained in a wide variety of worship leading opportunities. We will train youth how to serve as worship leaders as an acolyte, usher, greeter, and altar guild assistant.

Safe Sanctuary Training

All leaders working with youth are encouraged and required to take a one-hour safe sanctuary training course. If you've taken this class before, odds are your two-year certification is coming to an end. I invite you to join us following worship on January 4 to renew your certification in order to continue working with youth. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by December 28.

Family Ice Skating Day!

January 3rd

Woodlands Ice Rink
(Behind the Mall)

11-1pm

Info: Youth@TreeChurch.net



ice skating

Fusion

Weekly High School Events

Sunday School 9:15am
W.A.T.T. - Wednesdays at 6pm

January

3 - Ice Skating 11-1pm
4 - Youth Worship Training 9:15am
4 - Safe Sanctuary Training 12pm
18 - Pancake Breakfast 9:15am

February

14 - Date Night Fundraiser
18 - Ash Wednesday
21 - Go Texan Parade
22 - First Communion
28 - Winter Jam + Lock In

March

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Save the Date!

Detroit Motor City Lock In!



June 19!

Ice Skating

All youth and parents are invited to go ice skating on January 3 from 11-1pm. We will meet at the Woodlands skate ring next to the mall at 11am and skate until 1pm. All Junior & Senior High are invited to go to the mall following skating.

Reminder to Fusion, the National Youth Gathering fundraisers are coming up quickly!

The pancake breakfast is on January 15th!



February 28

Artists

Sillet	Newsong
Jeremy Camp	For King & Country
Francesca Battistelli	Blanca
Building 429	About a Mile
Family Force 5	Veridia

Speaker - Tony Nolan

The Details: 10 Bucks. 10 Bands. Lock In at Tree of Life after the concert. High school only. Be there.

Fusion 'fyooZHən/ *noun* - the process or result of joining two or more things together to form a single entity.



TreeChurch.net



TreeChurch



TreeChurch



TreeChurchNet

Tree of Life Staff

Chris Lake, Senior Pastor
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Talenna & Debra Blaker, Nursery Staff
ChildCare@treechurch.net

Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:30 pm
Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 1pm Friday

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936-539-9530

