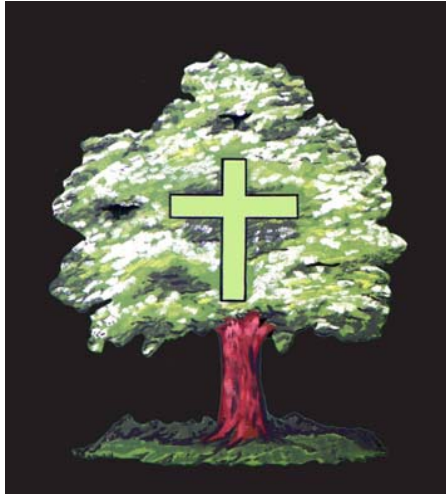


## Tree of Life Lutheran Church

1 South Broad Street,  
Middletown, DE 19709

(302) 378-3345 / treeoflifelc@verizon.net



### STAFF

Jennifer Carlson, Pastor  
Duane Dillard,  
Director of Worship & Music  
Yvette Warner, Sunday Nursery

### COUNCIL

Gerrit Salemink, President  
Kim Watson, Vice President  
Gene Zaiser, Treasurer  
George Matz, Secretary  
Mark Cilento  
Bill Glass

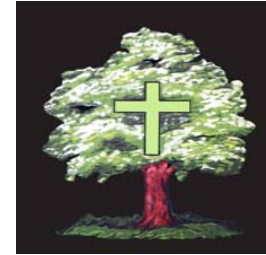
### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Children and Youth  
Grace Cilento and Cindy Koch  
Stewardship/Finance Gene Zaiser

Outreach David Watson  
Worship & Music Sylvia Schill  
Communications Kim Watson  
The Seniors Group Jim Raun  
Building Committee David Watson

### VOLUNTEERS

Kim Watson Burning Bush  
Dot Schreppler Copier  
Mary Ellen Raun Worship Folder  
Donna Parks Leaflet Editor  
Nancy Nadel  
Worship Assistant Coordinator  
Johanna Salemink  
Administration Assitant  
Sarah Frndak Fellowship



# The Leaflet

## Return to God

Pastor Jennifer

February 2007

Volume 2  
Issue 4

### Inside this Issue

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Valentine's day is coming up. That's right. It is the day when we tell those we love, that we love them with all our hearts. It meant more to me when I was child than as an adult; now it just seems like another day.

So a few years ago, I set out to make it special. I made LARGE sugar cookies. I frosted them with red, white and pink frosting and sugars. I froze them and sent a special valentine off to each of my nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters-in-law.

What was different for me that year was that I didn't buy them more stuff that they didn't know what to do with. I gave them something special that I made just for each of them.

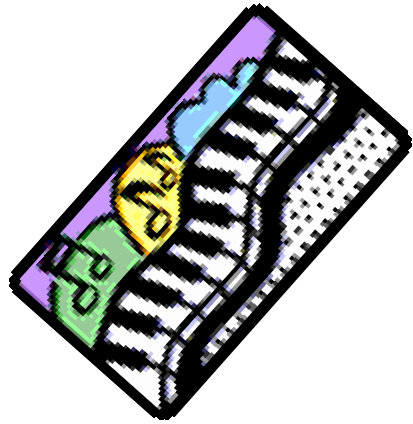
Of course, I received many wonderful crayon drawings in return. They only serve to remind me how special each and every one of those people are to me.

It just so happens that this year Ash Wednesday is one week after Valentines Day. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday has been a darker holiday. Maybe it's because of the ashes. Maybe it's because of the music written in minor keys. In any case, it offers a striking contrast to the brightness of Valentine's Day.

Some things about our liturgy will change. We won't sing Now the Feast and Celebration. We won't say Alleluias. Our lessons will ask us to look inside ourselves, at who we are.

Joel 2:12 uses words that are powerful. *"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts*



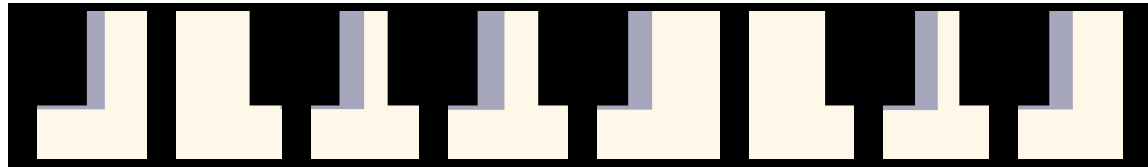


### Keyboard Dedication

Do you remember when we all so generously bought a key or two and raised the funds for a new portable keyboard?

Well as you know, we did a great job and the new keyboard is on its way.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 4th**, for the dedication of our new keyboard. And, once again, thank you to everyone for their prompt and generous gifts.



### What is the Purpose of Life?

This is an absolutely incredible short interview with Rick Warren, *Purpose Driven Life* author and pastor of Saddleback Church in California.

In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said: People ask me, "What is the purpose of life"? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in

Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body - but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal.

God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense.

Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one

now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ's likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with

### Getting to Know You presents . . .

### The Baker Family— Renee, Bob & Nichole

**1. What are your occupations?** Bob is a Foreman with Amtrak. Renee is a Customer Service Representative with DuPont.

**2. Do you have any children /grandchildren - tell us about your family?** Our daughter, Nichole, is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Redding Middle School



**3. What are your hobbies/unique talents/pets?** We have a 19 1/2 year old cat named Scooter and 5 fish. Bob enjoys golfing in his free time. Nicky has been taking piano lessons for several years. She also loves to play softball, golf sometimes and really enjoys all types of arts and crafts. Renee loves to read and do some light sewing.

**4. How long have you been at Tree of Life - what things are you involved in at church?** We started attending TOL at Easter in 2006. We became official members in October. Renee and Nichole help with Children's Church once a month. Nichole has also enjoyed several of the "Kids Club" activities.



Dear Tree of Life family,

I want to thank you for your generous Christmas gift given to me on Christmas Eve. I really enjoy

our ministry here together, and I am so grateful that each of you is a part of that ministry. Thank you for making this a great first call.

*Pastor Jennifer*

## NURTURE



### Newsletter Assembly

Interested in helping assemble the newsletter? We meet at TOL on the last Tuesday of each month from **10 a.m. to Noon.**

### Ministry Center Clean Up

We are postponing the reorganization and clean-up of the Ministry Center until after the finalization of the sale of the building. Watch for a new date and time to help us spruce up the place and create a whole new look to the space.

### Senior's Group

On January 18, ten members of the Senior's Group toured the Delaware Art Museum. An interesting and uplifting interlude was experienced by all.

Dates for the February and March meetings have been set. The two programs will concern Martin Luther and getting to know and better understand the roots of our faith. The February meeting will be Thursday, February 15 at 10:00 am at the Ministry Center. The second showing will be March 15, same time and place. Lunch will follow each event.

There are two Luther films, the February film was made some twenty years ago. The March film was produced a few years ago. Both films have a common theme concerning Luther's life, but offer different insights of his life that so dramatically reshaped Christianity throughout the world.

It will be an interesting, educational and informative series. Please join us.

For more information, contact Jim Raun.

## February 2007 Lutheran Office on Public Policy

The ELCA Washington office has asked for our assistance to secure an increase in billions of dollars to fight AIDS and extreme poverty in the world. This funding that directly affects thousands of the worlds most vulnerable people is in jeopardy.

Last year Congress failed to complete work on appropriate legislation that determines government spending. Now Congress is likely to pass a yearlong Congressional Resolution that will fund U. S. efforts against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria at 2006 levels, less than \$1 billion dollars approved by the Senate Committee for 2007.

The \$1 billion difference will be measured in lives lost. According to the Office of Global AIDS Coordinator, at least 350,000 people expecting life saving treatment in 2007 would not receive it. Anywhere from 100,000 to 175,000 of the people will die. The hardest hit will be women, orphans, and vulnerable children.

### TAKE ACTION

A bipartisan group of legislators led by Senator Durbin (D-IL) Senator Brownback (R-KS) along with

Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Christopher Shay (R-CT) has joined with the White House in urging that vital global health funding be set at fiscal 2007 levels reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Please contact Representative Castle and Senators Biden and Carper to join them in this effort.

As people of faith, we are urged to give our attention to this vital issue of U.S. leadership in the world. Together we have the opportunity to bring hope and opportunity to places where our nation's efforts will mean the difference between life and death for hundreds and thousands of people.

While the United States has been generous in providing humanitarian aid, our nation dramatically trails the rest of the industrial world in providing development assistance relative to our wealth. This would affirm that "our responsibility to contribute a portion of our wealth in poor nations through effective economic assistance. The purpose of that assistance should be to reduce hunger and poverty in sustainable and environmentally sound ways." *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, ELCA Social Statement

Peace be with you,  
*Shirley Seibert+*



**LCS Served More in 2006 Than Ever Before**

2006 proved to be a record-breaking year for LCS. We exceeded projections and increased the number of people served from 57,173 in 2005 to a grand total of about 63,500 people in 2006 – an increase of more than 10%. The LIFE Program – Lutherans Involved in Food Emergencies – continued to be the largest program in terms of people served. There are now 7 separate locations for LIFE’s church-based food pantries, mobile pantries, grocery clubs and produce distributions. In 2006, approximately 53,300 low income people received food through these pro-

grams. In 2006, the LCS Housing Programs made 186 loans and grants (2 more than the year before) to help keep 513 people housed. To these numbers, add 2,146 Medical Rides, 5,382 people helped with Smoking Cessation, 1,754 people helped with free clothing, 200 members of the Retired Men’s Luncheon Club, and 138 senior and disabled citizens we helped with home repairs.

None of this could be done without our fantastic corps of volunteers which is currently over 350 strong. To honor our volunteers, we are having our second annual **Volunteer Appreciation Tea at Grace Church on Sunday, February 25**, at 2:00 p.m.

**Big Dates Chosen**

It’s official; we got our permit from the State Parks Department to use Rockford Park in Wilmington for the **2007 Hunger Walk Run on Saturday, September 22, 2007**. The second annual Delaware High School Hunger Cross Country Classic will be the same time, day, and place. LCS has also picked the time and place for its third annual **Room at the Table Free Fundraising Breakfast – Wednesday May 2**, at the Dupont Country Club. A great deal of our budgetary support comes from these two big events. If you are interested in helping support LCS and the people we serve, please put these dates on your calendar. If you have questions, or if you want to come or volunteer to help out, call us at **302 654 8886**.

**DISCIPLESHIP**

**Membership Classes beginning!**

Interested in becoming a member at Tree of Life Lutheran? Talk to Pastor Jennifer to join our group.

**Looking for a Small Group Bible Study?**

Looking to strengthen your faith while connect

ing with other people? **PoWeR SuRGe**  
Join a small group! What is it?

**What’s a small group?** P Pray daily  
A group of 6–8 people O  
who commit to one another to meet weekly, W Worship Weekly  
E  
study the bible and pray R Read the Bible  
for one another.

Join our new group S Serving Others  
meeting Monday nights, 7 U  
p.m. at the Salemink’s. R Relating to your church  
G Give  
E

**Youth Group**

(for those in 7th grade through 12 grade)

**Game Night** Continues. Join us!

Friday, February 9, 2007

7 p.m. At TOL

This month: Board Games

**Bowling**

We can’t spare even you! Come and bowl with us.

**Saturday, February 24, 2007**

**Mid-County Lanes**

**Middletown**

Bring \$12 for bowling plus snacks.

Sign up with Sylvia Schill, Pastor Jennifer or on the clipboards.

**Confirmation (Grades 7 and 8)**

Check our February schedule...

February 11 Baptismal Promises: Hear the Word (How to..

25 Baptismal Promises: Pray (How to Pray)

March 11 Baptismal Promises: Share the Sacraments

## **Why Doesn't Tree of Life Have a Permanent Place of Worship?**

Increasingly this question has come up among members of our congregation. Our lack of a permanent place of worship is probably the number one frustration for many of us.

Although I share in this frustration, I would like to share my newly acquired perspective as the Treasurer of Tree of Life.

Almost one year ago members of the Building and Finance Committees met with representatives from Wilmington Trust to investigate the possibility of acquiring a loan for the purpose of buying about 10 acres of land in the area. The results of the meeting boiled down to the fact that the bank was not interested in loaning money for undeveloped land. The committee determined that in order for us to buy and develop an appropriate parcel of land would require about \$250,000. A report was made to the congregation and these facts have not changed.

I was most pleased with the results of our 2007 Stewardship Campaign in which Tree of Life demonstrated its commitment to God's work by increasing its pledges by over 16%. Coupled with our growth in membership, I am convinced that our dream of a permanent worship location is within our grasp.

Now comes the warning, or dose of reality. We are still a young church. Our year-end 2006 expenses were better than \$14,000 over budget. As good as our 2007 Stewardship Campaign was, our budget is in excess of \$20,000 greater than our projected income. And that projection includes a \$30,000 Synod Grant.

Those are the facts. However, all things are possible through God. Our financial picture will improve as our congregation grows. Having moved our worship to Brick Mill has given us the opportunity for that growth. Additionally, the Building Committee continues to investigate all possibilities including a lease/purchase agreement with a developer.

This has been my feeble attempt at explaining a complex and emotional situation. However, I am confident that through our combined, faithful efforts we will find a solution that is spiritually and fiscally sound.

Faithfully submitted,  
*Gene H. Zaiser*  
Treasurer

## **Hilltop... Where do I Start?!**

We at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center start 2007 with so much to be thankful for, look forward to, and talk about.

First of all, we have the results of the Thanksgiving Basket drive from what seems like ages ago, but was just this past November. Over 300 families were served this Thanksgiving thanks to your generosity. Christmas was the same story of giving and thanksgiving as we distributed 200 gifts to needy kids in the Hilltop area of Wilmington. Thanks to all of you who contributed to make Thanksgiving and Christmas joyous occasions for some special families.

Secondly, we received word late in the year of a \$19,000 grant from the City of Wilmington to extend the center hours of operation on Friday and Saturday nights to 11 p.m. To staff the center during the extended hours, we will hire four part-time people Hilltop Center Executive Director, Jea Street, in a letter to Wilmington City Council, thanked them for the grant saying it will allow "our children to participate in positive endeavors as we collaborate to keep our children off the street and out of trouble."

Thirdly, in late November we learned that the Center was successful in its attempt to acquire a 6<sup>th</sup> Street property adjacent to the center which had been unoccupied and both a health and safety hazard for some time. Once all of the contract "i"s have been dotted and "t"s crossed, the center will determine if it will raze the building or renovate it.

Finally (I told you there was lots to talk about!), mark your calendars now for our annual Hilltop Super Stars competition on Saturday, March 3 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Wilmington YMCA. Form your teams now, collect your team fee, and submit it to the center by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Team sign up posters will be made available shortly. Consult with your church's Hilltop board representative for more information.

*The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center  
Board of Directors*

## PRAYER LIST

To include a person on the prayer list, please fill out a prayer card and give it to Pastor Jennifer. We will only publish the names of people for whom we have permission.

### Prayer Concerns

Elizabeth: mental health issues  
 Charles E.: metastatic colon cancer  
 Arlene: cancer  
 Gloria: cancer  
 Bob: lymphoma  
 John: cancer  
 Phyllis: knee replacement  
 Nick: cancer  
 Tom:  
 Skip: melanoma  
 Mary Ann: cancer  
 Amanda: gastric bypass  
 Shelly: recovering from an accident  
 Elizabeth: Brain Cancer  
 Brian: terminal cancer  
 John - recovering from a broken hip

### Prayer Celebrations

Brian: cancer treatments are complete and the prognosis is good.  
 Lauren: negative biopsy

# FEBRUARY SCHEDULES

## Acolyte

Feb. 4. Sabina Schill  
 Feb. 11 Tommy Young  
 Feb. 18 Michael Matheny  
 Feb. 25 Justin Koch



## Reader

Feb. 4. Nancy Nadel  
 Feb. 11 Deb Trovinger  
 Feb. 18 Jim Pileggi  
 Feb. 25 Dallas Dean



## Ushers

Feb. 4. Bruce Blair / George Matz  
 Feb. 11 Bill Glass / Bob Trovinger  
 Feb. 18 Mark Cilento / Gerrit Salemink  
 Feb. 25 Fred Jahn / Werner Scheidt



## Fellowship

Feb. 4. Cindy Koch  
 Feb. 11 Janet Parks  
 Feb. 18 Dave Watson  
 Feb. 25 Mary Jane Scheidt



## Children's Church

Feb. 4. Renee Baker  
 Feb. 11 Donna Lintz  
 Feb. 18 Johanna Salemink  
 Feb. 25 Johanna Salemink



# February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - BME 10:30 a.m. Worship - BME Noon Choir - TOL Noon Outreach Team - TOL	5 7p.m. - Bible Study - Salemink's	6 5 p.m. Kid's Club Campus Ministry Dinner	7 7 p.m. Worship and Music & Stewardship Meeting - TOL	8 10a.m Senior Group's Movie Viewing - TOL	9 7 p.m. Youth Group - Game Night - TOL	10
11 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - BME 10:30 a.m. Worship - BME Noon Choir - TOL 6:30 p.m. Confirmation - TOL	12 7p.m. - Bible Study - Salemink's	13	14 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at Forest Presbyterian Church	15 10a.m Senior Group's Movie Viewing - TOL	16	17
18 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - BME 10:30 a.m. Worship - BME Noon Choir - TOL Noon Church Council - TOL	19 7p.m. - Bible Study - Salemink's	20 5 p.m. Kid's Club Campus Ministry Dinner	21	22	23	24 Youth Group: Bowling with the Kencrest Residents
19:15 a.m. Sunday School - BME 10:30 a.m. Worship - BME Noon Children & Youth Comm. - TOL 6:30 p.m. Confirmation - TOL	26 7p.m. - Bible Study - Salemink's	27 10am - Newsletter Assembly	28 7 p.m. Worship and Music - TOL			

## Tree of Life Lutheran Church Prayer Card

Please pray for...

Their Name \_\_\_\_\_

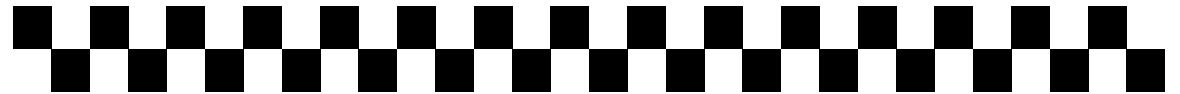
Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Concern \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a public request? (Check one... )

- ◇ Please keep this request confidential
- ◇ Please read this name in the prayers of the church and publish with the prayer list.



A **BIG** thank you to all who have contributed to Lutheran Community Services and the Souper Bowl this month. The following food donations were made this month.

- |                       |                  |                         |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 containers oatmeal  | 5 cans soup      | 1 can tuna              |
| 1 can beans           | 2 boxes pasta    | 1 bag rice              |
| 1 box cereal          | 1 bottle syrup   | 1 box hamburger helper  |
| 1 box cheesy potatoes | 2 bags morsels   | 1 bottle salad dressing |
| 2 bottles sprinkles   | 2 packages jello |                         |