

Mother of Amish schoolhouse shooter to be discussed at Lifetree Café

An exclusive filmed interview with Terri Roberts, mother of Amish schoolhouse shooter Charles Roberts, will be screened at Lifetree Café this coming Wednesday (May 1).

Roberts backed his truck up to the entrance of the West Nickel Mines School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Oct. 2, 2006. He barricaded himself inside and shot 10 young Amish girls. Five died. Roberts killed himself before police could enter the one-room schoolhouse.

Roberts' mother, who was working nearby at the time of the shootings, was embraced by the Amish community. Amish members stunned observers when they openly forgave the killer and his family. The Roberts family is not Amish.

Participants at this program, entitled Amazing Grace, will experience never-before-seen footage and hear from Mrs. Roberts, who still lives among the families of the girls her son murdered.

"The trauma, pain, and shame endured by this mother turned into an incredible picture of forgiveness and grace," said Lifetree's Thom Schultz, who conducted the exclusive interview with Mrs. Roberts.

Lifetree Café is held at St. James' Church at 6025 Old Church Rd. in Caledon East. The program starts at 7 p.m., and admission to this one-hour event is free. Snacks and beverages are available.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to Bruce Neville at 416-579-9977 or Desiree Neville at 416-579-6748.