

Welcome to Tree of Life!

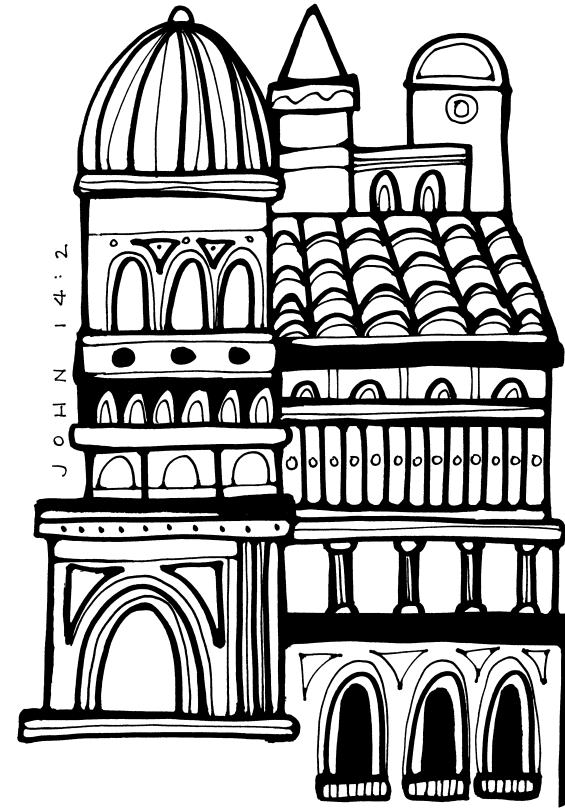
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

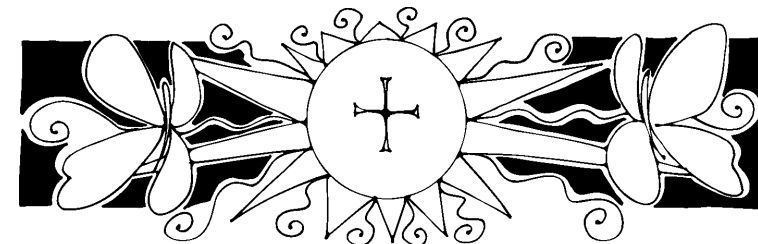
We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



*In my Father's house there
are many dwelling
places.*



Fifth Sunday Of Easter

APRIL 20, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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THE WORD WORKS!

Good morning!

How powerful is the Word of God to communicate the saving truth of Jesus, bring faith to a soul and build the Church of God. We pray that the Word of truth will encourage and strengthen you in your faith today!

Opening Song..... “Father, We Praise You”
Christian Worship Hymn 581

Father, we praise you, now the night is over.
Active and watchful, standing now before you,
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
Thus we adore you.
Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending.
Bring us to heaven, where your saints united
Joy without ending.
All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
Yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Closing Hymn “At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing”
Christian Worship Hymn 141

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his piercé side. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight;
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 44

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Service of the Word *Christian Worship page 38*

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise "Oh Taste And See"

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
it stands firm in the heav-ens.
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
1 PETER 2:4-10**

"The Church of God is built on the Living Stone of Jesus."

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

STAND

Prayer of the Church EASTER
Christian Worship Page 126

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

STAND

Statement of Belief Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

PSALM OF THE DAY

“Living Stones” *Tree of Life Song Book*

Verse 1 Jesus Christ is our Cornerstone.
He's the Rock;
He's the Solid Foundation.
We are building on Jesus alone,
Building up as the people of God.

Chorus Living stones, we are living, living stones.
Built on Christ, living stones,
holy people of God,
Building on the firm foundation of Christ.

Verse 2 Each of us is a living stone,
Precious stones in the building of Jesus.
In this house we don't stand all alone;
We are one. We're the people of God. **Chorus**

Verse 3 Jesus, You are our Cornerstone.
You're the Rock;
You're the Solid Foundation.
We are building on Your love alone.
Build us up as the people of God. **Chorus**

Verse 4 Each of us is a living stone.
We're alive in the love of Jesus.
We are trusting in Jesus alone;
We are His. We're the people of God. **Chorus**

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 14:1-12

“Jesus is the only way to heaven.”

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going."
 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."
 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Hymn "Like The Golden Sun Ascending"
Christian Worship Hymn 147

Like the golden sun ascending,
 Breaking through the gloom of night,
 On the earth its glory spending
 So that darkness takes to flight,
 Thus my Jesus from the grave
 And death's dismal, dreadful cave
 Rose triumphant Easter morning
 At the early purple dawning.

Thanks to you, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to you, O Lord of Life!
 Death has now no power o'er us,
 You have conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because you did arise
 And have opened paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.

You have died for my transgression;
 All my sins on you were laid.
 You have won for me salvation;
 On the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise
 And shall meet you in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory;
 I shall lift my head in glory.

Grant me grace, O blessed Savior,
 And your Holy Spirit send
 That my life and my behavior
 May be pleasing to the end,
 That I may not fall again
 Into death's grim pit and pain,
 Whence by grace you have retrieved me
 And from which you have relieved me.

For the joy your advent gave me,
 For your gospel's great reward,
 For your baptism which has saved me,
 For your supper and your Word;
 For your death, the bitter scorn,
 For your resurrection morn:
 Lord, I thank you and extol you,
 And in heav'n I shall behold you.

KID'S CHURCH

Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

**"GROW IN THE WORD TO
 GO WITH THE WORD"**

Acts 17:1-12