

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).

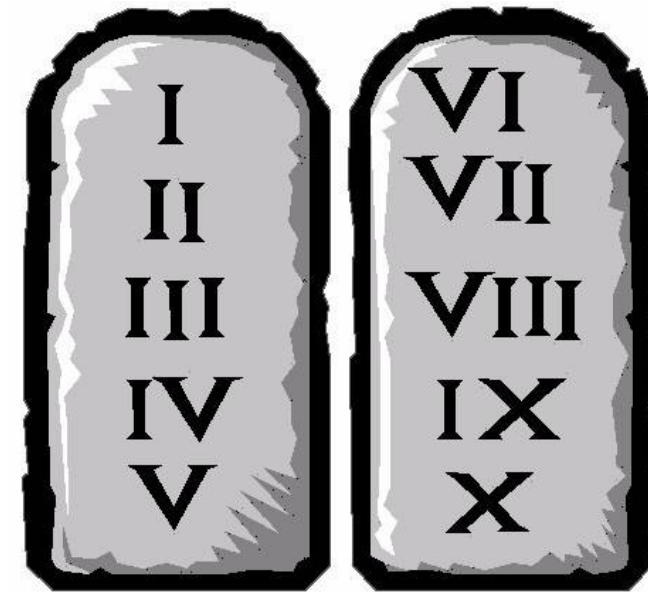
As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

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.

God's Top Ten: #1



HEALING miracle
SPIRIT doing
refresh
COMMUNITY
SEED HEARING
grace
GROWING

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

JULY 6, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

1155 Executive Circle, Cary, NC 27511

919-465-4400

www.treeoflifenc.org info@treeoflifenc.org
Pastor Mike Geiger pastormike@treeoflifenc.org

GOD'S TOP TEN: HAVE NO OTHER GODS!

Good morning! This morning we start a nine week series entitled: God's Top Ten! At the heart of this series is seeing the love of God to give direction to our behavior. Yes, this series will point out our sin, but it will also point out the perfect life of Jesus on our behalf and empower us to live the Ten Commandments as God intended us to and experience the blessing of a faithful walk with him. May God bless our worship and our series!

Opening Hymn..... “Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore You”
Christian Worship Hymn 189

Jehovah, let me now adore you,
For where is there a God such, Lord, as you?
With joyful songs I come before you;
Oh, let your Spirit teach my heart anew
To praise you in his name through whom alone
Our songs can praise you, through your blessed Son.

O Father, draw me to my Savior
That your dear Son may draw me then to you.
Your Spirit guide my whole behavior
And rule both sense and reason in me, too,
That, Lord, your peace from me may ne'er depart
But wake sweet melodies within my heart.

LORD'S PRAYER

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>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,</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|--|

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: *(sing)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “God Bless Our Native Land”
Christian Worship Hymn 619

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>God bless our native land! Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night! When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Do thou our country save By thy great might.</p> | <p>For her our prayers shall rise To God above the skies; On him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye, To thee aloud we cry, God save the state!</p> |
|--|---|

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Grant that your Spirit prompt my praises;
 Then shall my singing surely please your ear.
 Sweet are the sounds my heart then raises;
 My prayer in truth and spirit you will hear.
 Then shall your Spirit lift my heart in love
 To sing these psalms to you, my God above.

For he can plead for me with sighings
 That are not speakable by lips defiled.
 He bids me pray with earnest cryings,
 Bears witness that I am your precious child,
 Joint heir with Christ, and thus may dare to say:
 O heav'nly Father, hear me when I pray!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain..

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Hear, O people of God, the LORD your God, the LORD is one. He has given his commands to his people for them to know, understand and follow. As we look at the commandments he gave, we realize we have not been perfect as he is perfect. We recognize that he is a jealous God and has every right to punish those that break his law. With humble hearts, we confess our sins against his commands and plead for his mercy.

C: *(sing)* “The Ten Commandments Are The Law”
Verse 1 Christian Worship Hymn 285

The Ten Commandments are the law
 Which Israel heard in holy awe.
 In smoke and fire from Sinai
 The voice of God shook the sky. Have mercy, Lord!

C: Dear LORD, our God, we confess that we have not always feared, loved, or trusted in you above all things. We have made idols of our money, of our possessions and of our loved ones, at times loving them more than you. We have not loved you with all our hearts, souls and minds. For these, and for all our sins we do not deserve to be called your children. But trusting in Jesus, who kept your commands perfectly in our place, we pray: Have mercy, Lord!

C: (sing) "The Ten Commandments Are The Law"
Verses 2, 11 & 12 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

"I am your Lord and God alone!
No other god but me enthroned!
Put your whole confidence in me;
Give me your heart totally." Have mercy, Lord!

God gave these laws to show therein,
O child of man, your life of sin,
And help you rightly to perceive
How unto God you should live. Have mercy, Lord!

Our works cannot salvation gain;
They merit only endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we fly,
Our mediator on high. Have mercy, Lord!

M: Not only does the Lord threaten to punish those that disobey his commands, he also promises to show love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and mercy. For the sake of Jesus, who obeyed every law of God perfectly in our place, God forgives our sins and does not count our sin against us. As Moses had the privilege of proclaiming God's mercy to Israel, I proclaim, as God's servant, that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) AMEN.

Prayer of the Church THE NATION—RESPONSIVE
Christian Worship page 130

M: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

M: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

M: Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

M: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

M: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**1ST COMMANDMENT:
LOVE GOD ALWAYS!**

As we begin our series on the 10 Commandments, we will hear the words of Dr. Martin Luther as he wrote on the First Commandment in his *Large Catechism*. This confessional writing of our Lutheran church serves as timely insight into what it means to “have no other gods.” Although some of the specific applications of the commandment are dated to Luther’s time, the principles can be easily understood and challenge us to apply them to our lives today. Enjoy this timeless “sermon from the past!”

Statement of Belief... THE FIRST COMMANDMENT w/“What does this mean?”

C: You shall have no other gods.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

M: What does God say about all these commandments?

C: He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations who love me and keep my commandments.”

M: What does this mean?

C: God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust him and gladly obey what he commands.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

STAND

M: In the peace of this full and free forgiveness, let us praise the LORD!

Song of Praise “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”
Verses 6 & 7 *Christian Worship Hymn 304*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oh, how blest is it to know, | Jesus sinners does receive. |
| Were as scarlet my transgression, | Even I have been forgiven. |
| It shall be as white as snow | And when I this earth must leave, |
| By your blood and bitter passion, | I shall find an open heaven. |
| For these words I do believe | Dying, still to him I cleave |
| Jesus sinners does receive. | Jesus sinners does receive. |

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord of All, you have commanded us to worship you and none other. Forgive us for the times we have allowed other things or priorities to become idols in our lives. Empower us to always keep our focus on you in every activity of life. For you are one God, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever,

C: (sing) AMEN.

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
1 JOHN 4:7-12**

“Our ability to love God above all comes from his love for us.”

7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 111 *Christian Worship* page 106

Refrain: *Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in
them.*

He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever.*

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
wisdom;*
all who follow his precepts have good
understanding.*

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is Gracious and compassionate.*

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen***

Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just,
all his precepts are trustworthy..*

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 1:20-2:3

*"When challenged as to which was the greatest law, Jesus replied,
'Love the LORD...and love your neighbor.'*"

34Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

35One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

36"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37Jesus replied: "

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Hymn "Lord, You I Love With All My Heart"
Christian Worship Hymn 434

Verse 1

Lord, you I love with all my heart;
I pray you ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share;
Heaven itself were void and bare
If you, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought;
Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my
God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Verse 3

Lord, let at last your angels come;
To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my
prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Verse 2

Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify your lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my crosses willingly.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my
God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.