

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).

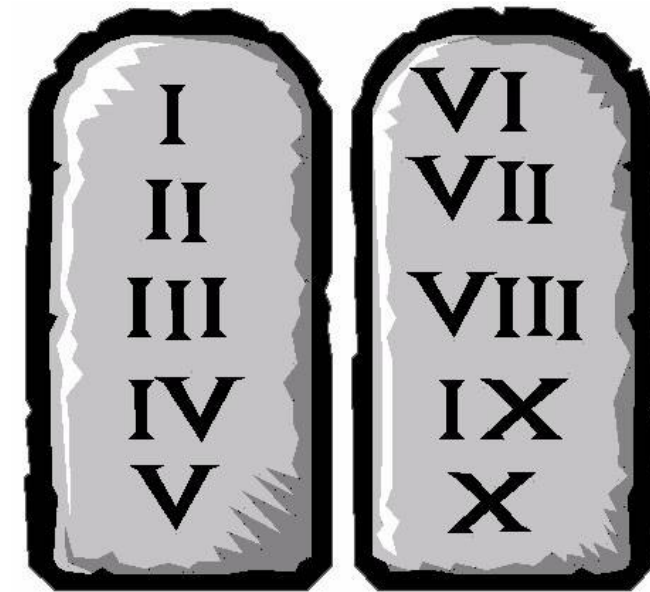
As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

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: #3



Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

JULY 20, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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**GOD'S TOP TEN:
GET YOUR SPIRITUAL REST!**

Good morning!

Are you awake? Are you ready for a nap?

Physically we enjoy rest on a regular basis and at times find ourselves desiring more than we are able to get. Are we getting enough rest for our souls? Are our souls "sleep deprived" by not being connected regularly to God's Word and his Sacrament? "Rest" deeply today as we take in his encouragement to remember the day of rest!

Opening Song "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
Tree of Life Song Book

Chorus

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You,
I want to see You. (*sing twice*)

Repeat Chorus and Verse

Verse

To see You high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your pow'r and love
as we sing "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Ending

Holy, Holy, Holy.
Holy, Holy, Holy.
Holy, Holy, Holy.
I want to see You. (*sing 3 times*)

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

BLESSING

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 Song "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse 1

Go, My children, with My blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
you are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing,
You are My own.

Verse 3

Go, My children, fed and nourished,
closer to Me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

Verse 2

Go, My children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story.
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Verse 4.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you
and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior,
Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My Children; I will keep you
and give you peace.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

C: Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.

Verse 4

This is my blood... I shed for you;
For your forgiveness, making you new.

M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.

C: Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.

Poured out for me, poured out for you; The life blood of Jesus poured out for you.

M: Come for all things are ready.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Song "Give Thanks"
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. **Repeat**

Chorus

And now let the weak say "I am strong", let the poor say "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us."

And now let the weak say "I am strong", let the poor say "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us."

Ending

Give thanks.

Song "Step By Step"
Tree of Life Song Book

O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your
ways,
and step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

Ending

And I will follow you all of my days,
and I will follow you all of my days,
and step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

Repeat

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 regarded your Word as holy, nor have we gladly heard and learned it with eager and willing hearts. By our neglect we have despised your Word and the preaching of it. 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 4, 11 & 12 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

<p>"Respect the Sabbath of the Lord! Do not despise my holy Word, But hold it sacred, precious, true, And hear that truth preached to you." Have mercy, Lord!</p>	<p>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!</p>	<p>Our works cannot show salvation gain; They merit only endless pain. Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we fly, Our mediator on high. Have mercy, Lord!</p>
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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.**

M: In the peace of this full and free forgiveness, let us praise the LORD!
Song of Praise “I Was Glad”
Blue Insert

<p>Refrain I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”</p>	<p>Verse 1 Called from ev’ry nation, called from ev’ry race, gathered here for worship in this holy place; God is here among us, lift your hearts and sing, make the walls and rafters ring. Refrain</p>
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THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord’s Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to “recognize the body and blood of the Lord,” “examine ourselves,” and join together as “one body,” we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord’s Table.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sing)* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sing)* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak..

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

“Broken For Me” *Blue Insert*

Refrain

Broken for me, broken for you;
 The body of Jesus broken for you.

Verse 1

He offered his body, he poured out his soul;
 Jesus was broken that we might be whole.

Refrain

Verse 2

Come to my table and with me dine;
 Eat of my bread... and drink of my wine.

Refrain

Verse 3

This is my body given for you;
 Eat it, rememb’ring I died for you.

**3RD COMMANDMENT:
"TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE"**

1 Kings 8:27-30

Statement of Belief: THE THIRD COMMANDMENT w/“What does this mean?”

C: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

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

Offering

Friendship Registers

Thank you for joining us this morning! Please take a moment to make a record of your time with us! Please check any boxes that apply.

Gathering of Prayer Requests

The congregation is invited to submit their prayer requests on the index cards that are handed out by the ushers. Once you have printed your request, please hand them to an usher.

Sharing of Prayer Requests

LORD'S PRAYER

Verse 2

Words that must be spoken,
grace that must be heard,
mercy and forgiveness
from God's holy word,
here will be repeated;
peace to all proclaimed,
shouted out in Jesus' name. **Refrain**

Verse 3

Here the poor are welcomed,
here the lost are claimed.
Broken lives are mended,
deepest fears are named.
Here the wise are children
and the weak are strong.
Here, in Christ, we all belong. **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord of the Sabbath, from the beginning you established a day of rest on which your people will stop their earthly labors to find spiritual rest in you. In our hectic lives, cause us to stop and spend time with you in your Word and gathering to receive your holy Sacrament. Let us never despise preaching and the Word for through them you keep our faith strong and our convictions focused. In Jesus' name we pray,

C: (spoken) AMEN.

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
HEBREWS 10:19-25**

“We need encouragement to continue to gather around the Means of Grace.”

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 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 Day approaching.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Ancient Words Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo

Verse 1

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
O let the ancient words impart
Words of life words of hope
Give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home

Verse 2

Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
O let the ancient words impart

Chorus

Ancient words ever true
Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

Chorus *(sing twice)*

TAG

We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart
O let the ancient words impart

SECOND LESSON

MATTHEW 4:1-11

"Jesus overcame the temptation to despise the word and worship."

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Hymn "Baptized and Set Free"
Blue Insert

Verse 1

We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a Fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

Verse 3

We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious River, ever flowing,
now carry us home.

Verse 2

We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns
and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless Ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.

Added Verse

We join at the table,
hearts that believe,
by the body and blood,
forgiveness received.
Though all hope was lost,
He paid the cost.
We are righteous, we are holy,
through his death on the cross.

Verse 4

Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!