

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).

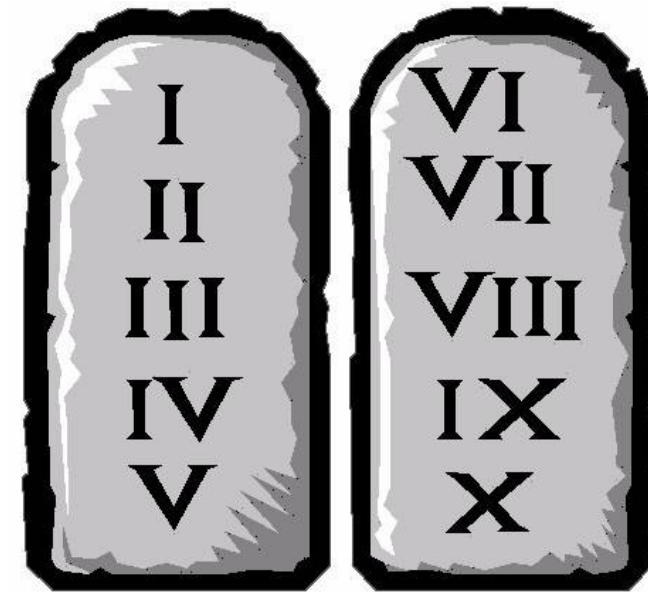
As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

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: #4



Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

JULY 27, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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GOD'S TOP TEN: HONOR AUTHORITY !

Good morning!

All around us are individuals God has placed in authority over us. Parents and pastors, police and government officials. What is our responsibility to these individuals? Does it matter if we agree with them or not? God help us to understand how to honor those you have graciously placed in authority over us. May God bless us as we yield willingly to his authority, today and always!

Opening Hymn..... “Before The Lord We Bow”
Christian Worship Hymn 618

Before the Lord we bow, The God who reigns above
And rules the world below In boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise To heav'n's high King.

The nation you have blessed May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.
For this fair land, For this bright day
Our thanks we pay -- Gifts of your hand.

May ev'ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in your Word's pure light And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue Be tuned to praise
And join to raise A grateful song!

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own.
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship him alone.
Cast down your pride! Your sin deplore
And bow before The Crucified!

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: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray”
Christian Worship Hymn 500

For Christian homes, O Lord, we pray,
That you might dwell with us each
day.
Make ours a place where you are Lord,
Where all is governed by your Word.
We are the children of your grace;
Our homes are now your dwelling-
place.
In you we trust and daily live;
Teach us to serve and to forgive.
United in a bond of love,
We lift our eyes to you above.

From you we gain the strength to live,
The wish to share, the joy to give.
Protect us and our loved ones dear
From pain and sorrow, want and fear;
Yet when we must our burdens bear,
"Your will be done" shall be our
prayer.
And when you call us all to rest,
Then will we have a home more
blest,
See all our care and sorrow cease,
And find with Christ eternal peace.

**4TH COMMANDMENT:
A COMMAND WITH A PROMISE!**

1 Samuel 2 & 3 (Selected Verses)

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

C: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

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

Prayer of the Church

And when in pow'r he comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, And, joyful, sing
To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Hymn..... “Come & See”
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse 1

Come and see the glory of the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and see the mercy of the King,
Bowing down before Him.

Verse 2

Come and give thanks unto the Lord,
Come, behold the Lamb.
Come and sing praises of the King,
Bowing down before Him.

Chorus

For He is the Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Chorus

For He is the Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth.
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.
Alleluia, alleluia. Lord.

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 honored, served, and obeyed our parents, our government, and others in authority. We have not always given them the love and respect due them as your representatives. We have dishonored them, and by it, have dishonored you. 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 5, 11 & 12 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

“Give to your parents honor due,
Be dutiful and loving, too,
And help them when their pow'rs are few;
So shall it go well with you." 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.

saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Hymn “Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit”
Christian Worship Hymn 545

Send, O Lord, your Holy Spirit
On your servants now, we pray;
Let them all be faithful shepherds
That no lamb is led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim,
To adore your holy name,
And to feed your lambs, dear Savior,
Make their aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, yourself have called them
For your precious lambs to care;
But to prosper in their calling,
They the Spirit's gifts must share.
Grant them wisdom from above;
Fill their hearts with holy love.
In their weakness, Lord, be near them;
In their prayers, Good Shepherd, hear them.

Help, Lord Jesus, help them nourish
Our dear children with your Word,
That in constant love they serve you
Till in heav'n their song is heard.
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow
On your servants' work below
Till by grace to them is given
Their reward, the crown of heaven.

Text and Tune: public domain. *Setting: c 1993 Alfred Bloedel.

9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 25 *Christian Worship* page 74

Refrain: *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul;
in you I trust, my God.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul,
in you I trust, O my God.*

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.*

*Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and
love,*
for they are from of old.*

Look upon my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.*

*Remember not the sins of my youth and my
rebellious ways,*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O Lord.*

Guard my life and rescue me,
for I take refuge in you.*

**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

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

LUKE 2:41-52

“Jesus honored his parents perfectly in our place.”

41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. 43 After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents

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,
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe
Jesus sinners does receive.

Jesus sinners does receive.
Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave
Jesus sinners does receive.

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BE SEATED

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM



Meredith Jeanne Johnson

Born: January 31, 1980

Baptized: July 27, 2008

M: **Meredith Jeanne Johnson**, by the power of the Word, the Holy Spirit has lead you to believe that this new life in Christ is yours. Now in Holy Baptism the Lord Jesus assures you of your salvation. That you may give public testimony of your faith, I therefore ask you:

Do you believe that you were born into sin and therefore eternally lost?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe in the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe that this Triune God planned and carried out your salvation?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe that God grants you the forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism?

A: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you desire to be baptized?

A: Yes, I do.

M: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Meredith Jeanne Johnson, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven.

May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

BE SEATED

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Meredith may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

M: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of Baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptisms as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our lives. Look with special favor on Meredith and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn “Baptized In Water”
Christian Worship Hymn 297

Verse 1

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation,
Trusting his promise,
Faithfully now God's
Praise we sing.

Verse 2

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising,
Freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's
Praise we sing.

Verse 3

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father,
We are his children;
Joyfully now God's
Praise we sing.

FIRST LESSON
EPHESIANS 6:1-9

“Honor those God has placed in authority over you.”

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Continued on next page