

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).

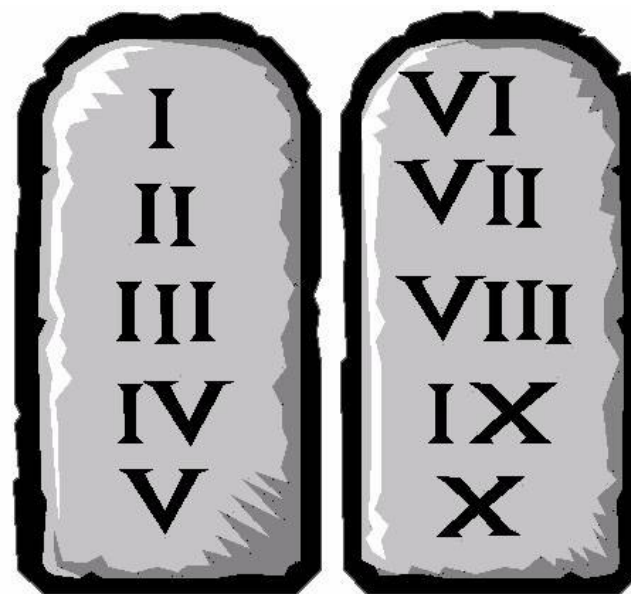
As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

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: #7



fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

AUGUST 17, 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:

PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY!

Good morning! How easy it is to take a pencil, a set of answers, a copyrighted song and make it our own. In an age of materialism, we need God's strength to overcome the temptation to steal from another or even steal from what is rightfully his. May God empower us this morning to give Him glory as we keep the Seventh Commandment!

Opening Hymn..... "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"
Christian Worship Hymn 484

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best --
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

Closing Hymn "I Offer My Life"
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse 1

All that I am all that I have
I lay them down before You, O Lord;
All my regrets, all my acclaim,
The joy and the pain,
I'm making them Yours.

Chorus

Lord, I offer my life to You,
Ev'rything I've been through,
use it for Your glory;
Lord, I offer my days to You,
lifting my praise to You
as a pleasing sacrifice,
Lord I offer You my life.

Chorus

Lord, I offer my life to You,
Ev'rything I've been through,
use it for Your glory;
Lord, I offer my days to You,
lifting my praise to You
as a pleasing sacrifice,
Lord I offer You my life.

BRIDGE

What can we give
that You have not given;
And what do we have
that is not already Yours?
All we possess are
these lives we're living,
and that's what
we give to You Lord.

Verse 2

Things in the past, things yet unseen,
wishes and dreams
that are yet to come true;
All of my hopes, all of my plans,
my heart and my hands
are lifted to You.

Chorus

Lord, I offer my life to You,
Ev'rything I've been through,
use it for Your glory;
Lord, I offer my days to You,
lifting my praise to You
as a pleasing sacrifice,
Lord I offer You my life.

© 1994 Juniper Landing Music /Word Music, LLC/Integrity's Hosanna! Music
Claire Cloninger / Don Moen CCLI License #1483936

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

“Thank The Lord” *Christian Worship page 36*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice
and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth
in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

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: *(sing)* Amen.

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 37

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.

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 helped our neighbors or our employers to improve and protect what is theirs. At times we have been dishonest in our dealings, taking what’s not ours and stealing from our employers by not working our hardest and being faithful in our tasks. 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 8, 11 & 12 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

“You shall not steal or take away

What others worked for night and day,

But open wide a gen’rous hand

And help the poor in the land.” 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!

Continued on next page

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.

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, the earth is yours and all it contains. Empower us to look to you for all good things and then manage the blessings you give to your glory. Keep our eyes from tempting us to steal and our minds from taking action. Allow us to find contentment in whatever you have given. Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

BE SEATED

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.

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Christian Worship page 34*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

You are my God, and I will ex-alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-va-tion.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

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 and saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

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, when ever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* Amen.

“O Christ, Lamb Of God” *Christian Worship page 35*

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A-men.

Friendship Registers

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *Christian Worship* pages 33-36



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.**

FIRST LESSON
1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

"When possessions take too high a priority, we loose much more than wealth."

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 119b *Christian Worship* page 110

Refrain: *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

*Teach me, O Lord, to follow `your decrees;**
then I will keep them `to the end.

*Turn my eyes away from `worthless things:**
preserve my life according `to your Word.

Give me understanding, and I will `keep your
*law**
and obey it with `all my heart.

*Fulfill your promise to your `servant,**
so that you `may be feared.

*Direct me in the path of `your commands,**
for there I `find delight.

*How I long for your `precepts!**
Preserve my life in your `righteousness.

Refrain

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

SECOND LESSON
LUKE 19:1-10

“The presence of Jesus brought repentance and the fruits of repentance to Zacchaeus.”

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Hymn “Take The World, But Give Me Jesus”
Christian Worship Hymn 355

| | |
|--|---|
| Take the world, but give me Jesus! All its joys are but a name. But his love abides forever, Through eternal years the same. Oh, the height and depth of mercy; Oh, the length and breadth of love! Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above! | Take the world, but give me Jesus, Sweetest comfort of my soul. With the Savior watching o'er me, I can sing, though thunders roll. Oh, the height and depth of mercy; Oh, the length and breadth of love! Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above! |
|--|---|

Take the world, but give me Jesus!
 In his cross my trust shall be
 Till with clearer, brighter vision
 Face to face my Lord I see.
 Oh, the height and depth of mercy;
 Oh, the length and breadth of love!
 Oh, the fullness of redemption,
 Pledge of endless life above!

7TH COMMANDMENT:
“GLORIFY THE LORD WITH YOUR POSSESSIONS!”

Joshua 7:1-26

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

C: You shall not steal.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor’s money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

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