

Welcome to Tree of Life!

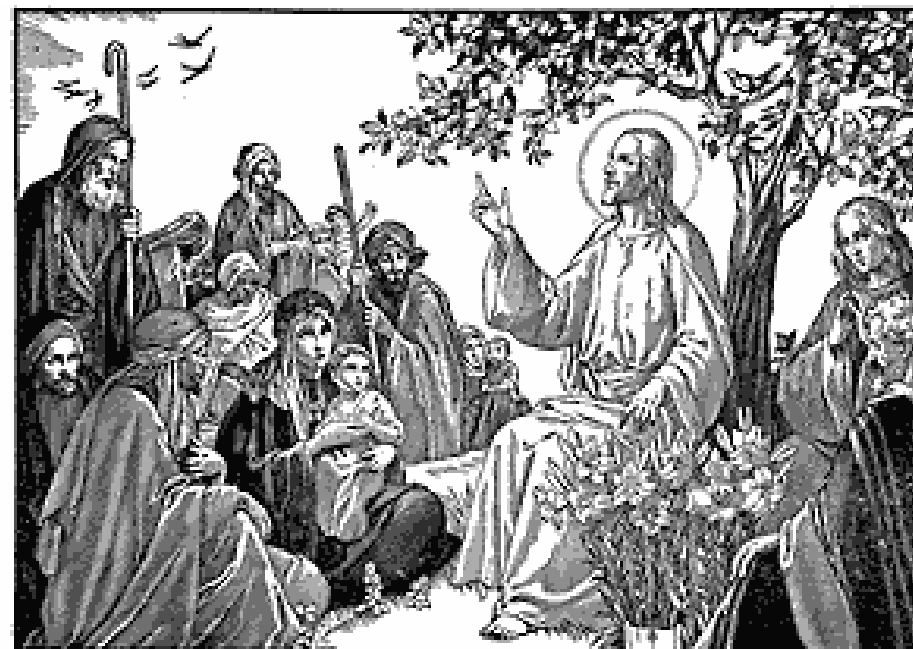
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

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.



HEAL miracle
SPIRIT doing
refresh
community

SEED HEARING
grace
GROWING

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
ABOUT... FORGIVENESS**

Good morning!

Heard a good story lately? Many of you probably appreciate a good story that grabs your interest and pulls you into the action so that you share the experience of the characters. As Jesus told stories, he did not just grab our interest and pull us into the story, but he teaches us timeless truths. Sit down at Jesus' feet and this morning let him tell you a story about forgiveness!
May God bless our time with him this morning!

**Opening Hymn..... "Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care"
*Christian Worship Hymn 232***

Lord of my life, whose tender care Has led me on till now, Here lowly, at the hour of prayer, Before your throne I bow. I bless your gracious hand and pray Forgiveness for another day.	To you my humble praise I bring For mercies day by day. Lord, teach my heart your love to sing; Lord, teach me how to pray. All that I have and e'er can do I'll use to serve and honor you.
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Oh, may I daily, hourly, strive
In heav'nly grace to grow,
To you and to your glory live,
Dead to all else below!
Tread in the path my Savior trod,
Though thorny, yet the path of God.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

O faithful love -- that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love -- that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love -- that would not let us turn from you
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.

Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

*Text and Tune: c 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. *Setting: c 1993 Mrs. James E. Engel.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sing) And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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 pages 25

M: 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 “Not Unto Us”
Christian Worship Hymn 392

This hymn was written in 1975 by Kurt J. Eggert for the 125th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to your name be praise;
Not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

Amazing grace -- that chose us e'er the worlds were made;
Amazing grace -- that sent your Son to save;
Amazing grace -- that robed us in your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.

The Common Service *Christian Worship page 15*

“The Common Service” is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. By using its spoken and sung words we connect ourselves to centuries of faithful Christians.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: (sing) Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us; Lord, have mercy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

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

Song of Praise “Glory Be To God”
Christian Worship pages 16-17

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men,
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for you great glory,*

*O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty,
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

Continued on next page

*You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer,
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.*

*For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.
C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.
Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

C: *(sing)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
GENESIS 50:15-21**

"Despite the gross sin perpetrated by Joseph's brothers, he forgave."

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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 23*

*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.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

"Song of Simeon" *Christian Worship page 24*

*Lord, now you let your servant de-part in peace
ac-cord-ing to your word.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,*

*a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.*

The Celebration of Holy Communion *CW pages 21-24*



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 unto the Lord.**

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

C: *(sing)* **It is good and right to do so.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, and join their glorious song:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" *Christian Worship page 22*

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

PSALM 103 *Christian Worship page 105*

Refrain: *I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.*

Praise the Lord, `O my soul,
all my inmost being, praise his `holy name.*

He forgives `all your sins
and heals all your dis`eases;*

he redeems your life `from the grave
and crowns you with love and com`passion.*

Refrain

The Lord is compassionate and `gracious,
slow to anger, abound`ing in love.*

He does not treat us as our `sins deserve
or repay us according to our in`iquities.*

*For as high as the heavens are a `bove the
earth,**

*so great is his love for those who `fear him;
as far as the east is `from the west,**

*so far has he removed our transgressions
`from us.*

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his `children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who
`fear him.;*

for he know how `we are formed,
he remembers that `we are dust.*

*Our days are like grass, like a flower `of the
field,*
the wind blows over it and `it is gone.*

*But the Lord's love is with those who `fear
him*
from everlasting to ever`lasting.*

***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
ROMANS 14:5-9

“Life is about living and dying in the forgiveness God gives.”

5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

M: Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia.

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord!

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Preschool: Gerard Lum
- Early Elementary (K-2nd Grades): Kim Tyler
- Mid Elementary (3rd- 4th Grades): Pam Swift
- Upper Elementary (5th- 6th Grades): John Schmitt
- Confirmation (6th- 8th Grades): Vicar Neuman
- High School (9th- 12th Grades): Scott Strack
- Ladies: Kathy Ahlers

Friendship Registers

Offering

STAND

Hymn..... “Our Father in Heaven”
Tree of Life Song Book

Our Father in heaven, we hallow your name.	Forgive our transgressions and teach us to know
May your kingdom holy on earth be the same.	That humble compassion which pardons each foe.
Oh, give to us daily our portion of bread.	Keep us from temptation, from evil and sin,
It is from your bounty that all must be fed.	For your is the glory forever! Amen.

STAND

Hymn“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me.
 Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
 take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

BE SEATED

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 18:21-35

“Jesus uses a story to teach us about forgiveness.”

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

After the reading of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Statement of Belief Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

Hymn “Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven”
Christian Worship Hymn 388

Redeemed, restored, forgiven Through Jesus' precious blood,
Heirs of his home in heaven -- Oh, praise our pard'ning God!
Praise him in tuneful measures Who gave his Son to die;
Praise him whose sev'nfold treasures Enrich and sanctify.

Once on the dreary mountain We wandered far and wide,
Far from the cleansing fountain, Far from the pierced side.
But Jesus sought and found us; Our many sins he bore.
With cords of love he bound us To him forevermore.

Dear Master, yours the glory Of each recovered soul.
Ah, who can tell the story Of love that made us whole?
Not ours, not ours the merit; To you alone the praise!
Give us a thankful spirit To serve you all our days.

Now keep us, holy Savior, In your true love and fear,
And grant us by your favor The grace to persevere
Till, in your new creation, Our earthly troubles o'er,
Heirs of your free salvation, We praise you evermore.

Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: From the Revised Church Hymnary 1927

**LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
ABOUT... FORGIVENESS**

Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Mike Geiger