

Welcome to Tree of Life!

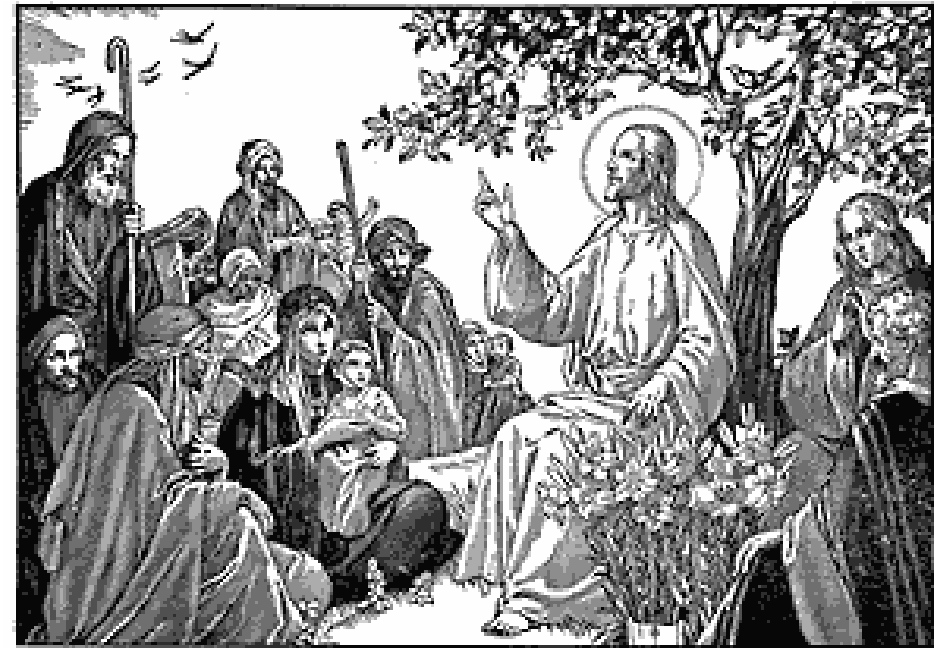
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

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.



HEALING miracle
SPIRIT doing
community refresh
SEED HEARING
grace
GROWING

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 14, 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
Vicar Steve Neuman vicarsteve@treeoflifenc.org

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT... FAIRNESS

Good morning! Have you ever felt like you didn't get what you thought you deserved? Especially when someone seemed to get more than they deserved? At times like these, we can feel slighted, or worse, angry that we weren't compensated at a level we felt appropriate. Jesus turns the emphasis and reminds us of his generosity to give his grace no matter how long we have been part of his kingdom or how hard we have worked for him.
May God bless our time with him this morning!

Opening Song..... “Rock Of Ages, Cleft For Me”
Christian Worship Hymn 389

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly -- Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES: “Let Me Tell You a Story about...”
Lessons from the Parables of Jesus
Sept. 21 Let Me Tell You a Story about Obedience! (*Matthew 21:28-32*)
Sept. 28 Let Me Tell You a Story about Rejection! (*Matthew 21:33-43*)
Oct. 5 Let Me Tell You a Story about Feasting! (*Matthew 22:1-14*)

RELIGION AND POLITICS: These seemingly “untouchable” topics are sources of conversation that come up at all times. What is my role and responsibility as a Christian who is also a citizen of the United States? As an election approaches and candidates seek to gain the votes of individuals, what is your role? What is our role as a congregation? Do we have one? What does “separation of church and state” really mean? Are they separate? Are they to intermingle? We continue our 8 week study (6 Lessons) of issues that we face and members of God’s Church and the American State. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM to engage in the discussion of your role and relation to both kingdoms.
Lesson 3 – What do I do when asked to disobey God?
Lesson 4 – The Business of the Church is not the Business of the State
Lesson 5 – The Business of the State is not the Business of the Church
Lesson 6 – The Opportunity and Challenge of Christian Citizenship.
If you would like to purchase the book, *Civil Government: God's Other Kingdom* by Daniel Deutschlander, to read along with this study you, can order it for \$16.00 through Northwestern Publishing House (www.nph.net)

TELECLASS OPTION:
Those that are not able to make the Sunday morning Bible Study on the Church and State are invited to join in a Tuesday evening teleclass study beginning **September 23rd**. This forum for study allows you to participate from your own home or wherever you have access to a phone and the ability to call long distance. Please contact Pastor if you desire to participate so you can be included on future communication regarding the class and the method of participating in it. If you have questions, please email or call! **Please RSVP by September 21** so materials and process can be communicated in a timely manner.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE:
A copy of the notes from last week’s congregational meeting is posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Take a look!

FUNNY FAITH FOLLIES:
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.
“If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’”
Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan , you be Jesus!”



SEPTEMBER 14, 2008
THE WEEK AHEAD

Today! **WELCOME! THANK YOU** for joining us this morning!
We pray that you were blessed by your time with us!

- 11:45 PM Choir Practice
- 2:00 PM Dead Sea Scrolls Tour
- 6:30 PM Praise Night & Ice Cream Social

Monday

- 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Wednesday

- 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
- 6:30 PM Teen Group Meeting

Saturday

- 9:00 AM Outdoor Work Day

Next Sunday

- 9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Class
- 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion
- 11:45 PM Choir Practice

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 4th Outdoor Work Day
- Oct.11th "Remember Katrina": New Orleans Benefit Concert
 featuring Singer/Songwriter Chris Driesbach
- Nov. 2nd Joint Reformation Worship at ToL @ 5 pm

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING
 THIS WEEK:**

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Lisa Lucht

REFRESHMENTS Stolpa Family & Strack Family

KID'S CHURCH Families Together

CHURCH CLEANING
 Side A Moore Family
 Side B J. Raabe & J. Schmitt

GREETERS
 Door Greeter Kem Ahlers
 Worship Greeter

USHERS
 Head Usher John Schmitt
 Assistant Usher: Rex Mauthe & Phil Williams
 Acolyte Liz Mauthe & Chris Swift

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:
 SEPTEMBER 21ST**

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Sarah Neuman

REFRESHMENTS Simon Family & ____ Family

KID'S CHURCH Families Together

CHURCH CLEANING
 Side A Randall Family
 Side B Sevier Family

GREETERS
 Door Greeter
 Worship Greeter Heather Ogonowski

USHERS
 Head Usher Jack May
 Assistant Usher: Mike Malone & Bob Englander
 Acolyte Cori May & Michael May

Service of the Word *Christian Worship page 38*

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

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

Song of Praise "Oh Taste And See"

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
 it stands firm in the heav-ens.
 Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.
Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
ISAIAH 55:6-9**

“God's plan of mercy to save sinners is too great for us to fully comprehend.”

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 27 *Christian Worship page 75*

Refrain: *The Lord is my light and my salvation-
of whom shall I be afraid, of whom shall I be afraid?.*

*Hear my voice when I `call, O Lord;**
be merciful to me and `answer me.

*Do not hide your `face from me,**
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my `helper.

*Do not reject me or for`sake me,**
O God my `Savior.

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: *(sung)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “Sent Forth By God's Blessing”
Christian Worship Hymn 318

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God
from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended;
Oh, be now extended
The fruits of this service
in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action
for God and for all.
His grace did invite us;
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom
and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving,
To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday
life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing his children
of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us;
With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one
in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and
his name that we bear.

STAND

Prayer of the Church *Christian Worship* Page 42

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Refrain

Though my father and mother for` sake me,
the Lord will re`ceive me.*

I am still confi`dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the `living.*

Wait `for the Lord;
be strong and take heart and wait `for the Lord.;*

***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 PHILIPPIANS 1:18b-27

"Live or die, it doesn't matter. I have Christ!"

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

Hymn “Salvation Unto Us Has Come”
Christian Worship Hymn 390

Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is the one Redeemer.

Yet as the law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

What God does in his law demand
And none to him can render,
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the law requires,
And lost is our condition.

Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead;
Your death is now my life indeed,
For you have paid my ransom.

It is a false, misleading dream
That God his law has given
That sinners can themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace
All glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

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

Matthew 20:1-16
Pastor Mike Geiger

STAND

Statement of Belief Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering