

Welcome to Tree of Life!

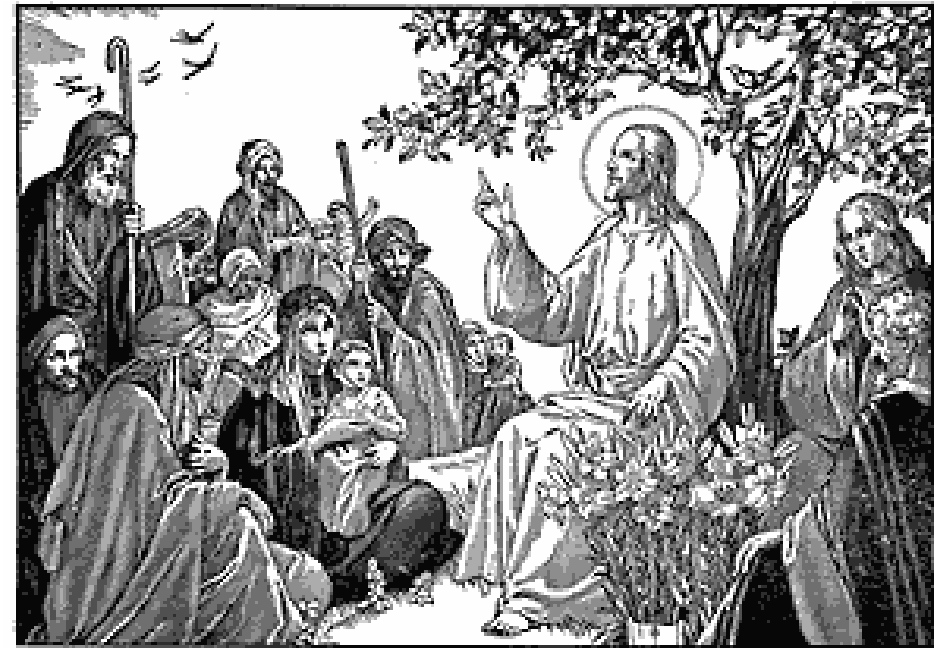
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

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

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 28, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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**LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
ABOUT... REJECTION**

Good morning!

Any leasor who rents out a piece of property has a legal right to come and collect the rent that is due. It would be unthinkable to harm the agents of the leasor sent to collect, let alone harm his own son. Yet in the story Jesus tells, his words are convicting to those that have been given a spot in the kingdom, but reject their gracious God who gave it to them. May we never find ourselves in this position! God bless your worship today!

Opening Song “Shout to the Lord”
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse
My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like You,
all of my days
I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love;
My comfort, my Shelter
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath,
all that I am,
never cease to worship You

Chorus
Shout to the Lord,
all the earth let us sing
power and majesty,
praise to the King;
Mountains bow down
and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy
at the work of Your hands,
forever I'll love You,
forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.

Repeat Verse & Chorus

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BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, since we exist as a Christian congregation to serve the Triune God by joyfully proclaiming the truth of the Word and Christ's gift of salvation for all people, let us go from this place to work together to

- nurture the faith of all believers
- encourage personal growth in the Word
- equip members to share the Gospel with all people.

As we carry out the mission of our church, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

Closing Hymn "Christ Be My Leader"
Christian Worship Hymn 367

Christ be my leader by night as by day,
Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand.
Doubt cannot daunt me -- in Jesus I stand!

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation -- with Jesus I reign!

Note: Please leave the Blue Inserts on your pew at the end of the service so we might reuse them at a later date.

Song "Rock of My Salvation"
Blue Insert

Chorus

You are the Rock of my salvation,
You are the strength of my life.
You are my hope and my inspiration,
Lord, unto You will I cry. *(Repeat)*

Tag

You are the Rock of my salvation,
You are the strength of my life.
You are the Rock of my salvation,
You are the strength of my life.

Verse

I believe in You, believe in You,
for Your faithful love to me.
You have been my help in time of
need;
Lord, unto You will I cleave.

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Repeat Chorus & Verse

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

C: Amen.

M: Since we are assembled to hear God's Word and to call upon Him in prayer, let us consider our unworthiness to stand in His presence, confess our sins before God, and call upon Him change our heart of sin and selfishness to one which longs for forgiveness and desires to do his will.

C: "Change My Heart O God" *Tree of Life Song Book*

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

**You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

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 Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Pause for silent personal confession)

M: The Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We look to God as our help and our strength as we live lives of service to him. May he continue to change our heart to be more like his.

C: "Change My Heart O God" *Tree of Life Song Book*

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

**You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

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.

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” *Blue Insert*
Sung by the Praise Band during the offering. Congregation may join in as comfortable.

Verse 1

Make me a channel of your peace.
While there is hatred, let me bring you love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Verse 2

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, Only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Verse 3

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Verse 4

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Sharing of Prayer Requests

LORD'S PRAYER

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” *Blue Insert*
Verse 1: Congregation & Praise Band

**TREASURE WHAT GOD HAS
GIVEN TO YOU!**

Matthew 21:33-43
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

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.

Offering *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” sung by the Praise Band during the offering*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready with cheerful hearts to do whatever pleases you; 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 5:1-7**

“The Lord will judge those that despise him and his Gospel message.”

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ²He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” ⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

PSALM OF THE DAY

“As The Deer” *Tree of Life Song Book*

Verse 1
As the deer panteth for the water,
so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship Thee.

Verse 2
You're my friend and You are my
brother
even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Chorus
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus
Verse 3
I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.

Chorus

SECOND LESSON
PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

“Press on toward the goal!”

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven.

And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Hymn “Living Stones”
Tree of Life Song Book

Verse 1
Jesus Christ is our Cornerstone.
He's the Rock
He's the Solid Foundation
We are building on Jesus alone
Building up as the people of God

Verse 3
Jesus You are our Cornerstone
You're the Rock
You're the Solid Foundation
We are building on Your love alone
Build us up as the people of God

Verse 2
Each of us is a living stone
Precious stones in the building of Jesus
In this house we don't stand all alone
We are one we're the people of God

Verse 4
Each of us is a living stone
We're alive in the love of Jesus
We are trusting in Jesus alone
We are His
We're the people of God

Chorus
Living stones, we are living, living
stones.
Built on Christ, living stones,
holy people of God,
building on the firm foundation.
Living stones, we are living, living
stones.
Built on Christ, living stones,
holy people of God,
building on the firm foundation of
Christ.

Chorus