

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLUG INTO THE WORD!

Here are the weekly opportunities to connect with the Word and fellow Christians:

- Sundays @ ... 9:00 AM: "Priorities": Study of the Prophet Haggai (*Pastor Geiger*)
Ladies' Bible Study: "Victoriously Frazzled" (*Kathy Ahlers*)
Study for Children and Youth & Teens
- Mondays* @ 7:30 PM: Wings & the Word: Men's Group- Galatians
- Tuesdays @ ... 7:00 PM: Bible Information Class (*Pastor Geiger*)
9:00 PM: Study of Church and State Issues (*Teleclass w/ Pastor Geiger*)
- Wednesdays @ 9:30 AM: Ladies' Bible Study – Topic: Job
6:00 PM: Youth Confirmation
6:30 PM: Teen Study & Fellowship

"Nurturing the faith of all believers" is a core activity of our mission. If you are not involved in a weekly Bible Study, this week is a great time to start!

FALL CLEAN UP: Next Saturday beginning at 9AM all are invited to help give the outdoors and indoors a thorough cleaning. Washing windows, raking leaves, dusting, and much more to do the things that don't get covered on a weekly basis. If Saturday doesn't work, contact Roy Stolpa or Karleen Gross for tasks to be done on your time schedule!


THANKSGIVING WORSHIP:

Two opportunities are available for you to gather with your fellow Christians to give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings of the year:



Wednesday at 7:00 PM at Tree of Life and Thursday at 10:30 AM at Gethsemane Lutheran in Raleigh.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING:

Saturday, November 29th  beginning at 9 AM
Lights will be put up outside and decorations hung inside. Help prepare our facility for the Advent and Christmas season which begins on Sunday November 30!

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF JUBILEE!:



The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) launched a Year of Jubilee celebration in June of 2008 in response to the 2007 Synod Convention authorization of a special offering to reduce synodical debt. The Year of Jubilee will conclude at the Synod Convention in July, 2009.

This year will focus on God's love for us as shown by the Old Testament Year of Jubilee foreshadowing a Savior, Jesus, who frees us from the debt of sin. A special offering is being collected with the goal of gathering \$22.4 million to eliminate the synod's debt. Reducing or eliminating this debt would free up to \$2.7 million a year to then "proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"- the gospel- (*Luke 4:18,19*) to so many who are prisoners of darkness because they don't know God's grace.

On Sundays from November 23 – December 21 we will join this celebration with special worship services, including our children's Christmas program on December 14. Information on the special offering as well as other connected activities in 2009 will be shared as well.



Last Judgment

NOVEMBER 9, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
 1155 Executive Circle, Cary, NC 27511
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 Pastor Mike Geiger pastormike@treeoflifenc.org
 Vicar Steve Neuman vicarsteve@treeoflifenc.org

**THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO...
 MAKE US READY FOR JUDGMENT!**

Good morning!

Are you ready? There are many things in life we can prepare for... a test, a job, a newborn child, etc. However, there are some things that surprise us... an unexpected illness, an accident, etc. Then there are things that happen that we have been instructed how to be prepared so we are not surprised or caught unprepared when they happen... hurricanes, saving for car repairs, meeting Jesus on the last day. Jesus is coming back. He has told us how to be ready. Listen today as the power of the Gospel makes us ready for the Last Judgment! God bless our worship of him this morning.

Opening Song "Great God, What Do I See And Hear"
Christian Worship Hymn 208

Great God, what do I see and hear?	The dead in Christ shall first arise
The end of things created;	At that last trumpet's sounding,
The judge of mankind shall appear	Caught up to meet him in the skies,
On clouds of glory seated.	With joy their Lord surrounding.
The trumpet sounds; the graves restore	No gloomy fears their souls dismay;
The dead which they contained before:	His presence sheds eternal day
Prepare, my soul, to meet him!	On those prepared to meet him.

**NOVEMBER 9, 2008
 THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

Monday
 • 6:00 PM Outreach Call Night @ Subway
 • 7:30 PM Wings & the Word @ Rudino's: (*Galatians 2*)

Wednesday
 • 9:30 AM Ladies' Wed. AM Bible Study (*Book of Job*)
 • 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
 • 6:30 PM Teen Group Meeting

Saturday
 • 9:00 AM Fall Church Cleaning & Yard Clean-up

Next Sunday
 • 9:00 AM Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Class
 • 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion
 • 11:30 AM Ministry Fair
 • 11:45 AM Choir Rehearsal
 • 12:30 PM Leadership Team Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Eve Worship at ToL @ 7:00 PM
- Nov. 27th Thanksgiving Worship at Gethsemane @ 10:30 AM

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK:

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Sarah Neuman
REFRESHMENTS Neyhart Family & May Family
KID'S CHURCH Families Together
CHURCH CLEANING
 Side A Malone Family
 Side B Lum Family
GREETERS
 Door Greeter Kem Ahlers
 Worship Greeter
USHERS
 Head Usher John Schmitt
 Assistant Usher: Rex Mauthe & Phil Williams
 Acolyte Liz Mauthe & Chris Swijt

SERVING NEXT WEEK: NOVEMBER 16TH

KEYBOARDIST / MUSIC Wendy Malone
REFRESHMENTS J & S Ranft Family & M & K Ranft Family
KID'S CHURCH Families Together
CHURCH CLEANING
 Side A May Family
 Side B Mauthe Family
GREETERS
 Door Greeter Kem Ahlers
 Worship Greeter
USHERS
 Head Usher Jack May
 Assistant Usher: Mike Malone & Bob Englander
 Acolyte Cori May & Michael May

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.

But sinners filled with guilty fears
Behold his wrath prevailing,
For they shall rise and find their tears
And sighs are unavailing;
The day of grace is past and gone;
They trembling stand before his throne,
All unprepared to meet him.

O Christ, you died, and yet you live;
To me account your merit,
My pardon seal, my sins forgive,
And cleanse me by your Spirit.
Beneath your cross I view the day
When heav'n and earth shall pass away,
And thus prepare to meet you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

M: As we gather this morning to hear the Gospel message, we first pause to confess our sins. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16) As we hear these words, we must confess that we at times have been ashamed of the Gospel's power and lived as if it has no influence in our lives.

C: **Almighty, merciful God, we confess to you that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, words and actions. Our thoughts have justified our sin and convinced us that we aren't as bad as we really are. Forgive us. Our words haven't always given clear testimony to our faith in you. Forgive us. Our actions have often indicated that we are more interested in serving self rather than serving our Savior. Forgive us.**

Silence for personal confession

M: The heart of the Gospel is the reality that "God so loved the world so that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The reality of the Gospel is that "God is faithful and just" and as we confess our sins, "he will forgive us from all our unrighteousness." Unashamedly, as a called servant of Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the powerful name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

M: We rejoice in the reality of God's forgiveness.

Song of Praise “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”
Verses 5 & 6 *Christian Worship Hymn 207*
(Sung to the tune of Hymn 173)

My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten; Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me; There is no condemnation!	O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation; We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation. Your saints are waiting patiently; Come soon, Redeemer; make us free From ev'ry evil. Amen.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,
C: *(spoken)* **AMEN.** *BE SEATED*

FIRST LESSON
DANIEL 7:9-10

“The dramatic courtroom scene gives us a glimpse of the final judgment.”

9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

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.
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BLESSING

M: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.
(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

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 “Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See”
Christian Worship Hymn 219

Lord, when your glory I shall see
And taste your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought,
To stand in joy beside you.

Text: public domain. *Tune and Setting: c 1993 Kurt J. Eggert.

Prayer of the Church END TIME OR LAST JUDGMENT—RESPONSIVE

M: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.

C: Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

M: Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment.

C: If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

M: We confess with joy that your unfailing love has redeemed us.

C: Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.

M: Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.

C: Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.

M: Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.

C: Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.

M: Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.

C: Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. Amen.

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PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 90 *Christian Worship* page 99

Refrain: *In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

Lord, you have been our `dwelling place
throughout all gener`ations.*

*The length of our days is seventy years-
or eighty, if we `have the strength;*
yet their span is but trouble and `sorrow.*

*Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth `and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting `you are God.*

Teach us to number our `days aright,
that we may gain a heart of `wisdom.*

*For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has `just gone by,*
or like a watch `in the night.*

Refrain

*Satisfy us in the morning with your un`failing
love,*
that we may sing for joy and be glad `all our
days.*

Refrain

You have set our iniquities be`fore you,
our secret sins in the light of your `presence.*

**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**

You turn mortals `back to dust.
You sweep them away in the `sleep of death.*

Refrain

**SECOND LESSON
MATTHEW 25:31-46**

"The fruits of love for Christ or the absence of them will be evidence of saving faith in one's heart."

31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Continued on next page

37"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

41"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Hymn "Day Of Wrath, Oh Day Of Mourning"
Christian Worship Hymn 209

Day of wrath, oh, day of mourning!
See fulfilled the prophets' warning:
Heav'n and earth in ashes burning.

King of majesty tremendous,
Who does free salvation send us,
Fount of pity, then befriend us.

Death is struck and nature quaking;
All creation is awaking,
To its judge an answer making.

Think, good Jesus -- my salvation
Caused your wondrous incarnation,
Made you suffer my damnation!

See, the book, exactly worded,
Wherein all has been recorded --
Thus shall judgment be awarded.

On the cross your dying spared me;
Just and righteous you declared me;
I await the joy prepared me.

What shall I in awe be pleading,
Who for me be interceding
When your mercy I am needing?

**THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO...
MAKE US READY FOR JUDGMENT!**

Matthew 20:17-19

Pastor Gerald 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