

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)**

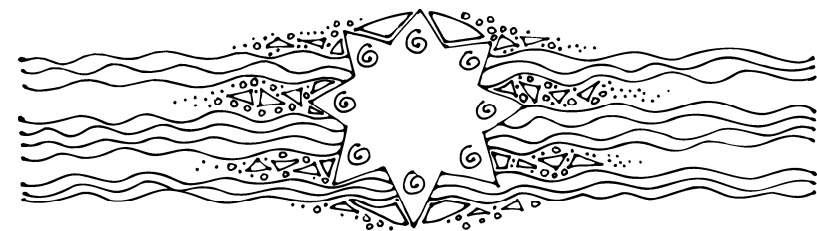
We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



YOU ARE MY
BELOVED
SON
YOU ARE
MY DELIGHT



M A R K 1 : 1 1



The Baptism Of Our Lord

JANUARY 18, 2009



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“FAMILY MATTERS! IT MATTERS WHAT THE FAMILY WAS BORN TO DO!”

Good morning!

How would you like to know what your purpose is on this earth from the time of your birth! As Isaiah speaks of the Servant, Jesus having a specific purpose for which he was anointed at his baptism, so we are reminded that we too have a specific purpose, "to bring my salvation to the end of the earth."
God bless our worship of him this morning!

Opening Song..... “Rise, Shine, You People”
Christian Worship Hymn 556

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

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

Closing Hymn “Lord Of The Living Harvest”
Christian Worship Hymn 559

Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.

As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,
Content to bear the burden Of weary days for you,
To ask no other wages When you will call us home
Than to have shared the labor That makes your kingdom come.

Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son
And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.
Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,
And fill us with your blessing Both now and evermore.

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“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.

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: *(sung)* Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

M Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God we confess ours sins:

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.

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 your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN

M: In the peace of forgiveness given to us in baptism, let us praise the Lord!

Song of Praise “Baptized In Water”
Christian Worship Hymn 297

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, Trusting his promise,
Faithfully now God's Praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising, Freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's Praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, We are his children;
Joyfully now God's Praise we sing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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.**

FIRST LESSON
ACTS 16:25-34

“Paul and Silas point to faith in answer to the question, ‘What must I do to be saved?’”

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. 27The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. 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 for ever 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Friendship Registers
Offering

**INSTALLATION OF
LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2009**

- President: Roger Larsen ('10)
- Secretary: Bob Englander ('09)
- Treasurer: Mike Tyler ('09)
- Financial Secretary: Philip Williams ('10)
- Outreach Coordinator: Kem Ahlers ('09)
- Youth Ministry Team Coordinator: Scott Strack ('10)
- Church Development Team Coordinator: Roy Stolpa ('09)

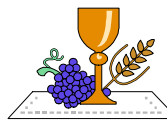
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH / LORD'S PRAYER..... "Our Father in Heaven"
Tree of Life Song Book

Our Father in heaven, we hallow your name.
 May your kingdom holy on earth be the same.
 Oh, give to us daily our portion of bread.
 It is from your bounty that all must be fed.

Forgive our transgressions and teach us to know
 That humble compassion which pardons each foe.
 Keep us from temptation, from evil and sin,
 For yours is the glory forever! Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *CW 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.

29The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.
 30He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
 31They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."
 32Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.
 33At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.
 34The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 2 *Christian Worship page 65*

Refrain: *Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
Great are the works of the Lord.

Why do the nations `conspire
 and the peoples `plot in vain?*

I will proclaim the decree `of the Lord:
 He said to me, "You are my Son;
 today I have become your `Father."*

*The kings of the earth take their stand and the
 rulers gather together a`gainst the Lord*
 and stand against his A`nointed One.*

***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

The One enthroned in `heaven laughs;
 the Lord `scoffs at them.*

Refrain

*Then he rebukes them in his anger
 and terrifies them in his wrath, `saying,*
 "I have installed my King on Zion, my `holy
 hill."*

SECOND LESSON

MARK 1:4-11

“The baptism of Jesus set him apart to do the work necessary to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

4And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Hymn “Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert”
Sung to the tune of Christian Worship Hymn 353

Christ, your footprints through the desert Led to Jordan's flowing stream. There you heard the herald crying Israel's old prophetic dream: "He is coming! He is coming! He will cleanse the earth with flame! Sinners, plunge beneath the waters! Wash away your guilt and shame!"	Son of God, the road from Jordan Led at last to Calvary's hill There upon the cross forsaken, You fulfilled the Father's will. Lamb of God, we see you dying, Sinless, yet for sinners slain. But where death rose up to triumph You began your glorious reign!
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Christ, you heard the stirring summons As by Jordan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sinless, with your people In the river's cleansing flood. High above, the heavens opened; Came the Spirit as a dove; Spoke a voice beyond all hearing: "See my Son, the one I love!"	God, in Baptism you have made us One with Christ, our risen Lord; Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven Through the water and the Word. Help us hear your urgent summons, Calling us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and daughters, With the cross upon our brow.
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BRING SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

Isaiah 49:1-6
Pastor Mike Geiger

STAND

Statement of Belief

M: As baptized children of God, let us confess our faith regarding what we believe about baptism.

C: We believe that baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

M: As baptized children of God, let us confess our faith regarding what we believe baptism does for us.

C: We believe that baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers us from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

M: As baptized children, let us confess what we believe about how water can do such great things.

C: We believe that it is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water and faith which trusts this Word used with the water. For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

M: As baptized children, let us confess what significance baptism has in our daily lives.

C: Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

BE SEATED