

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.



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Vicar Steve Neuman vicarsteve@treeoflifenc.org



"Grow in the *grace* and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18



fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Offered during the 11:00 AM Worship Service from the Sermon to the end of the Service:
Kid's Church- for children 3 years to 2nd grade
Staffed Nursery- for babies who can sit on their own to toddlers 3 years old and under

JUNE 28, 2009
PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSINGS!

Good Morning!

Today as Pastor Geiger concludes his service as Pastor at Tree of Life, we are reminded of the blessings that God has given to this church the past 12 years, and look forward to the ways that God will continue to bless Tree of Life.

Opening Songs "Better Is One Day"
Matt Redman; | © 1995 Thankyou Music

Verse 1
How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O Lord almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied,
within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus 1 (*sing twice*)
Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere.

Verse 2
One thing I ask and I would seek,
to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek,
to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Chorus 1 (*sing twice*)
Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere.

Bridge
My heart and flesh cry out for You,
the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen.
Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You,
I will draw near to You, to You.

Chorus 2 (*sing twice*)
Better is one day, better is one day,
better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

Chorus 1 (*sing twice*)
Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere.

June 28, 2009

To our dear Tree of Life family,

What a true pleasure it has been to serve the LORD with you and many others through the ministry of Tree of Life over the past 12 years. God truly has blessed this congregation's efforts to share Jesus from its beginnings in 1997 to today in 2009. Christy, Mikylie, Mikenna and I have been privileged to be part of this work. Words from St. Paul capture our sentiment, "I thank God for you every time I remember you in my prayers for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5) We thank you for your love and support, your hard work and encouragement. As we part ways on this earth, my earnest desire is that God would preserve us in his grace until we enjoy a reunion in heaven. Keep the Word always in front of yourselves and all that are touched by the ministry of Tree of Life.

As you welcome Pastor Schroeder, welcome him and his family as servants sent from God. He has been called by God's Spirit through the Church to be your shepherd. Love, respect and work with him to make his ministry a joy and not a burden. Do not let a change in leadership deter you from offering your gifts and talents in service to the Lord as you have done in the past. Know that your labor in the Lord will not be in vain.

Dream big with your plans to reach people with the saving Gospel. Don't let pessimism and skepticism cover the true optimism we can have as we work for our powerful God who can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. Do everything with excellence, doing the best you can with the time and resources you have. Take all things to the Lord in prayer. Maintain a unity of faith and purpose as you work together as the body of Christ. We look forward to seeing how God who has begun a good work here will carry it to completion on the day of Christ's return. God be with you as you all as you continue to "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

In Christian love and service,
Pastor Mike, Christy, Mikylie & Mikenna Geiger

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

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.

Sharing of Prayer Requests

BLESSING

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: *(sing)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “May You Know God’s Grace”
Choir

“Shout to the Lord” *Tree of Life Song Book*
Darlene Zschech | © 1993 Hillsong Publishing

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 ev’ry 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.

Verse

Chorus

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We begin our worship this morning in the name of our Triune God, from whom all blessings flow: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

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 thus we deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins and ask him to forgive us.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

I have taken for granted the blessings you give me.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord

“Create in me a Clean Heart” *Tree of Life Song Book*
Mary Rice Hopkins | © 1989 Big Steps 4 U | Maranatha! Music

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might serve you;
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might be renewed.
So fill me and heal me,
And bring me back to you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
That I might serve you.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all.
For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his
marvelous light.

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: With hearts cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, let us respond with joyful
praise!

Song of Praise: “Lord Most High”
Don Harris and Gary Sadler | © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Note: Pastor sings the phrase initially, and the congregation (and band) sings the echo.

Verse

From the ends of the earth (*echo*)
From the depths of the sea (*echo*)
From the heights of the heavens (*echo*)
Your name be praised.
From the hearts of the weak (*echo*)
From the shouts of the strong (*echo*)
From the lips of all people (*echo*)
This song we raise, Lord.

Chorus

Throughout the endless ages,
You will be crowned with praises,
Lord Most High.
Exalted in every nation,
Sovereign of all creation,
Lord Most High, be magnified.

Verse

Chorus (*sing twice*)

Statement of Belief: Apostle’s Creed (*spoken*)
with “Glorify Thy Name” (*sung*) *Tree of Life Song Book*

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

♪ *Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the 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.

♪ *Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.*

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.

♪ *Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.*

KID'S CHURCH

Families Together

**PRAISE THE LORD
FOR HIS BLESSINGS!**

Psalm 115
Pastor Mike Geiger

“Not Unto Us” *Christian Worship Hymn 392*
with “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*Christian Worship Hymn 334*

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 4

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.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

**FIRST LESSON
JONAH 3:1-10**

“The Ninevites repented upon hearing the word of the Lord.”

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."
³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."
⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.
⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:
"By the decree of the king and his nobles:
Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."
¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

PSALM OF THE DAY

“Ancient Words” Lynn DeShazo
© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Verse 1

Holy Words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God’s own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope
Give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where e’re we roam
Ancient words will guide us home

Verse 2

Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God’s own heart.
O let the ancient words impart.

Chorus

Ancient words, ever true
Changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

Chorus *(sing twice)*

**SECOND LESSON
COLOSSIANS 1:3-8**

“Paul thanks God for the faith of the Colossian Christians.”

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Quartet: “Growing in the Son” Chris Gebert, member of Holy Word, Austin, TX
Commissioned for the Fifth Anniversary of Tree of Life

**GOSPEL LESSON
MARK 4:26-34**

“Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God through two parables.”

²⁶He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

³⁰Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” Robert L. Edwards
with “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly” *Christian Worship Hymn 484*

Verse 1

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store:
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,
Costly cross, grave’s shattered door.
Gifted by you, we turn to you,
Offring up our selves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious Donor of our days.

Verse 3

Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, Your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness He won.
Bless and save us;
Help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav’n we rest rejoicing,
Praising You forever more

Verse 2

By His mercy, by His bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness
He has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to Him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that His love protects us,
That His wisdom all controls.