



The church that cares, our roots are strong

Tree of Life Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, English District

Newsletter

Worship Services

Sunday - 10:00 am
Communion Weekly

Location

Whispering Pines Park Recreation
Center
1700 Forest Drive
Inverness, FL 34453

Mailing Address

2659 E Gulf-to-Lake Hwy #410
Inverness, FL 34450

Phone #352-419-7359
(leave a message)

Guest Pastors

Pastor David Raetz
Pastor Paul Sutterer

President

Ron Hansen

Vice President

Rich Grable

Treasurer

Sharon Hansen

Trustees

Rich Grable
Matthew Manchester

Elders

Bob Morris
Ron Fullerton

Christian Education

Kim Carrol
Kim Jackson
Sue Grable

Bible Class

Sunday - 9am
Whispering Pines

www.treeoflifelc.org

*"You have ears; then listen to what the spirit says to the churches.
Be victorious, and I will let you eat from the Tree of Life that
stands in God's Paradise." Rev. 2:7*

Message from the President

The past few months have been filled with important events for *Tree of Life*. The Christmas holiday season, our Charter service and entrance into the English District and finally, Holy Week ending with Easter have kept us involved and very busy. Now that we have a lull in the church year, it is no time to slack off on pursuing our vision for our church.

On April 3rd we will begin our next phase of development for *Tree of Life*. At the first meeting, we will discuss the overall plan for beginning Sunday School classes, Confirmation classes, VBS, advertising, fund raising, building committee, Stewardship and Evangelism. Our outreach is an important step, if we are to grow.

At our May Voters' Assembly meeting, we will finalize those plans and allocate the necessary funding.

Everyone's participation is encouraged.

This is an exciting time for us and we must continue our momentum.

Yours in Christ Ron Hansen

Holy Week Celebration



Message from Sue Grable

What a pleasure it is to see you each Sunday, coming to worship the Lord and grow in His word while we are hopefully strengthening each other by sharing our weekly walk with Him. Everyone comes together as unique individuals, bringing their God given gifts, wants and needs. My thoughts are that it would be good to share those wants, needs, dreams so that we can continue to grow while serving Him and through each other. Do me a favor, please...write down some of these, especially what you see your church becoming and bring them with you on Sunday. I am thinking it would be nice to first put them in a box and take them to the altar and pray over them asking God to bless them and to bless our church. Then Peggy and I will take them home and continue to pray about them each week. We may even be able to turn this into a ministry.

The most important thing to remember is that God's love is so powerful that even though we think we are giving to Him, He is always showering us with His love, especially through each other. And that is what I love about coming together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Again, I am suggesting that you put your "visions" of what you want your church to become on paper. I can actually see the "popcorn" popping! As you share the kernels (thoughts and dreams) we put them in the cooker (prayers at the altar) we will see God turning them into popcorn (delicious realities)! (man-oh-man, Suzie's getting excited already!) yahoo...thanks be to God.

Please email, text, message, call or come over and talk...if you would like. Most of you know my information, if not...here it comes:

Sue Grable (of the Rich and Sue Grable)
515 Whispering Pines Blvd, Inverness 34453
352-341-0004 home, 352-603-4436 cell & text
Face Book - Sue Grable
grables@embarqmail.com, sue.grable3@gamil.com

It is with great Love through Christ that I am sending you this greeting. *Sue G.*

A Southern Prayer

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his elder deacons to lead in the opening prayer.

The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, *“Lord, I hate buttermilk.”*

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going.

The deacon continued, *“Lord, I hate lard.”*

Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, *“Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour, but after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits.”*



“Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits.”

Amen.”

"What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?"

Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has many functions, roles, and activities. First, He does a work in the hearts of all people everywhere. Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Spirit into the world to “convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment” ([John 16:7-11](#)). Everyone has a “God consciousness,” whether or not they admit it. The Spirit applies the truths of God to minds of men to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings men to salvation.

Once we are saved and belong to God, the Spirit takes up residence in our hearts forever, sealing us with the confirming, certifying, and assuring pledge of our eternal state as His children. Jesus said He would send the Spirit to us to be our Helper, Comforter, and Guide. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever” ([John 14:16](#)). The Greek word translated here “Counselor” means “one who is called alongside” and has the idea of someone who encourages and exhorts. The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the hearts of believers ([Romans 8:9](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [12:13](#)). Jesus gave the Spirit as a “compensation” for His absence, to perform the functions toward us which He would have done if He had remained personally with us.

Among those functions is that of revealer of truth. The Spirit's presence within us enables us to understand and interpret God's Word. Jesus told His disciples that “when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth” ([John 16:13](#)). He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide, going before, leading the way, removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things. Without such a guide, we would be apt to fall into error. A crucial part of the truth He reveals is that Jesus is who He said He is ([John 15:26](#); [1 Corinthians 12:3](#)). The Spirit convinces us of Christ's deity and incarnation, His being the Messiah, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His exaltation at the right hand of God, and His role as the judge of all. He gives glory to Christ in all things ([John 16:14](#)).

Another one of the Holy Spirit's roles is that of gift-giver. [First Corinthians 12](#) describes the spiritual gifts given to believers in order that we may function as the body of Christ on earth. All these gifts, both great and small, are given by the Spirit so that we may be His ambassadors to the world, showing forth His grace and glorifying Him.

The Spirit also functions as fruit-producer in our lives. When He indwells us, He begins the work of harvesting His fruit in our lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). These are not works of our flesh, which is incapable of producing such fruit, but they are products of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

The knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residence in our lives, that He performs all these miraculous functions, that He dwells with us forever, and that He will never leave or forsake us is cause for great joy and comfort. Thank God for this precious gift—the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives!

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-today.html>

Prayer Chain Requests – a list of those in need of prayer can be found on table at church entryway.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanks-givings be made for all people

1 Timothy 2:1



Monthly Snack List	
Date	Name
4/3	Bev Morris
4/10	Sue Grable
4/17	Ellen Lodgek
4/24	Karen Huscher
5/1	Sharlee Green
Interested in bringing snacks? Contact Rose at 201-0924	



Elders are willing to visit the sick and homebound with prayer. Will also bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to either the hospital or homebound upon request.



Contact:
 Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905
 Bob Morris: 325-628-6452

Send requests, suggestions for the **Newsletter**: to newsflash@treeoflifec.org / **Website**: [webmaster@treeoflifec.org](http://www.treeoflifec.org)