



*The church that cares, our roots are strong*

## Tree of Life Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, English District

### 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 #352-566-7592  
(leave a message)

### Pastor

Pastor Karl Koch

### President

Ron Hansen

### Vice President

Rich Grable

### Treasurer

Sharon Hansen

### Secretary

Karen Huscher

### 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](http://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 Pastor

### Who's Naughty and Who's Nice?

It's not a Christmas Carol, It's about a fictional character who sometimes gets more attention than does Jesus. I don't know how one counter-balances with the truth -- against this popular tune. Really, you can't win an argument about this legend as it is so ingrained into the season. Maybe two simple contrasts from its own words -- Naughty and Nice will clarify things.

According to the song we can be either naughty or nice and the gifts we receive at Christmas will depend on our making the right choice. We can contrast that with our Christian faith and -- sometimes -- make a valuable point with children and adults.

- ✓ We are the naughty ones, everyone of us. We deserve nothing from **God**.
- ✓ **God's** choice was to make us (totally) nice. He did that through his Son, Jesus. Jesus makes us "nice" by his life, death and resurrection among us.
- ✓ **God the Father** chose to send Jesus to bring this greatest of all gifts to the earth.
- ✓ Now we choose to welcome Jesus with great joy for Jesus comes to set us free from all naughtiness and to make us totally and eternally nice.

"Glory to **God**, the Lord (Jesus) is born."The gift of Salvation is ours. Receive it with great joy.

*Peace to all Pastor Karl*

*Jesus is the reason for the season*

## Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made 'no sense' to go to church every Sunday. He wrote:

"I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the 'delight' of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals."

"But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today".

"Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

*Join us for more spiritual nourishment:*

**Advent Services**  
*Wednesdays 6pm*  
**On the Road to Bethlehem**  
*December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>*

**Christmas Eve Service**  
*Sunday 6pm*  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*No Christmas Day service*



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

**2017 - Sunday Services Scheduled at Inverness Women's Club**  
 December 10<sup>th</sup>

Turn in your mite boxes on the last Sunday of every month!

| Snack List   | Prayer Chain Requests   | Elder Visits  | Lectors  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>12/3 Sharlee Green<br/>                     12/10 Sue Fullerton<br/>                     12/17 Barb Thornton<br/>                     12/24 No Snacks<br/>                     12/31 Kim Jackson<br/>                     1/7 Gladys Baker</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p><b>Interested in bringing snacks?</b><br/>                     Contact Sue Grable 341-0074</p> | <p>A list of those in need of prayer can be found on table at church entryway.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Timothy 2:1</b></p> | <p>Elders are willing to visit the sick and home bound with prayer. Will also bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to either the hospital or home bound upon request.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Contact:<br/>                     Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905<br/>                     Bob Morris: 352-628-6452</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lectors</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b><br/>                     Ellen Lodgek <b>Psalm/Epistle</b><br/>                     Rich Grable <b>Gospel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b><br/>                     Peggy Kepner <b>Psalm/Epistle</b><br/>                     Ron Fullerton <b>Gospel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b><br/>                     Sue Grable <b>Psalm/Epistle</b><br/>                     Bruce Thornton <b>Gospel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b><br/>                     Karen Huscher <b>Psalm/Epistle</b><br/>                     Bob Morris <b>Gospel</b></p> |

Send requests, suggestions for the Newsletter: to [emlodge@yahoo.com](mailto:emlodge@yahoo.com) / Website: [webmaster@treeoflifec.org](mailto:webmaster@treeoflifec.org)