



# Tree of Life Lutheran Church

## Missouri Synod, English District

*The church that cares, our roots are strong*

## Newsletter

### Worship Services

Sunday - 10:00 am  
Communion  
Weekly

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

Mailing Address  
2659 E. Gulf-to-Lake Hwy.  
Box 410  
Inverness, FL 34450

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

### Guest Pastors

Paul Sutterer  
David Raetz

### President

Bob Morris

### Vice President

Rich Grable

### Trustees/Elders

Bob Morris  
Ron Fullerton

### Bible Class

Sunday - 9am  
Whispering Pines

Tuesday - 7am  
Deco Cafe

[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 President

Blessed New Year's greetings to the body of believers at Tree of Life Lutheran Church.

I pray that the New Year holds continues to hold blessings for Tree of Life. In the past year we have persevered through much and have grown in faith, dedication, and determination. I will issue this challenge for 2016: We need to move to some other place that we can call "our own", some place we can hold our worship without scheduling difficulties, hold fellowship events, and meetings. Our present facility has been a blessing, but hinders growth and presents many problems, not the least of which is the proximity to a sister congregation. Additionally, calling a full-time pastor must be a priority. Pastors Paul and Raetz have been blessings, but this situation won't last forever. These men have dedicated their lives to serving their Lord, and retired.....for a reason. I thank God for every Sunday that they serve us, but know that this is merely a temporary "fix". I know that we are nowhere near being able to do these things financially, so we sorely need to increase our membership and stewardship.

On Sunday, January 3rd, we will celebrate our FIRST installation of officers and board members, the result of our FIRST elections....I expect to see all of you there. On Sunday, January 31st, we will celebrate the chartering of Tree of Life into the English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The district president, Bishop Jamison Hardy will be present and deliver the sermon, and health permitting, both Pastor Raetz and Pastor Paul will officiate. We will issue an invitation to our sister congregations and I would be thrilled to see the rec building filled to overflowing! A reception luncheon at the Skyview will follow the service, **AND ALL ARE WELCOME**, but it is imperative that you let your intention to attend be known. The cost of the luncheon will **NOT** be a budgeted item, but be borne by donations.....contact Ron Hansen for donation information if you are so moved. **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DONATE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATION, WE JUST WANT YOU THERE.**

On Tuesday, January 5, at 7:00 PM the Citrus Community Concert Choir will resume rehearsals for its Spring concert series. The program will include the Mozart Requiem, a choral classic. New singers are always welcome, but should arrive by 6:30 PM for voice placement. The ability to read music, while not necessary, is extremely helpful. There are some costs involved: music and annual dues (\$20).

*Yours in Christ Bob*



*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

*Matthew 2:9-11 NIV*

## **2016 - Offices and Board Members**

President: Ron Hansen  
Vice-President: Rich Grable  
Secretary: Karen Huscher  
Treasurer: Sharon Hansen  
Financial Secretary: Peggy Kepner  
Assistant Treasurer: Ellen Lodgek  
Board of Elders: Ron Fullerton, Bob Morris  
Board of Trustees: Rich Grable, Matthew Manchester  
Board of Christian Education: Kim Carrol, Kim Jackson, Sue Grable

## **Choir Message**

Due to a prior commitment on January 6<sup>th</sup> the Choir will break until January 13<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the last three Wednesdays of January at 6:30 for Choir Practice!

*Keith*

## **Benefit Dinner**

There will be a Benefit Dinner to raise money to help with Pat Child's grandchild's medical bills. The dinner will be held on January 15, 2016 at Whispering Pines Recreation Center at 6:00. There will be a flyer to follow with more information! *Sue*

## **News**

If you have a topic (i.e. story, poem, etc.) you would like to share, why not place it the Tree of Life Lutheran Church Newsletter - send it to [newsflash@treeoflifelc.org](mailto:newsflash@treeoflifelc.org). *Ellen*

## **Why do we have Holy Communion every Sunday?**

It's part of the Lord's gracious way: He gathers His people on His Day to eat His Supper. Since the start of the Church's life, Christians have heeded our Lord's bidding, "Do this in remembrance of me," and received the Supper when they gathered (*Acts 2:42ff*).

This practice of weekly Communion continued throughout the Middle-Ages and well into the first several centuries of the Lutheran church. In America, Lutherans went to a more infrequent practice for several reasons, including the lack of pastors in frontier contexts. Recently, they have returned to the practice of Scripture and the standard set down in our founding confession of faith: "among us masses (i.e., Communion) are performed every Lord's Day and on the other festivals" (*Apologia XXIV.1*).