



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

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

*"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

Where do we go from here?

This is a frequent question when I try to navigate to a member's home, or some other location in Florida. This may be more true of this county than others. But it sure is true around here. I have not yet thrown away a set of directions I've been given. I have also adopted a rule when driving in this county -- always plan on more time to get somewhere. Ah well, at least the scenery is nice.

Tree of Life has a similar situation. Going from here to our eternal home may involved some twists and turns along the way. But we have the best set of instructions available for everyone's use, **God's** Word. We also have the best company for the trip: the **Triune God**. Each person of the Trinity comes to us with special and necessary gifts. The Father gave us our original life. The Son gives us new life. The Holy Spirit gives us the faith and encouragement to live this life -- for the future life we have been promised.

Have you noticed that I did not refer to individuals in *Tree of Life*. I referred to the Church of that name and to the communion of saints it is. **God the Father** created us for human community, especially in families. **God the Son** made new life for our community of faith, especially as we gather in fellowship in the gospel. **God the Holy Spirit** brought us into a faith that guarantees that all of **God's** gifts will come to and bless us.

Where do we go from here? Wherever **God's** gifts will reveal and inspire us to go. Have a nice trip!

Peace to all Pastor Karl

Church at the Top of the Mountain

by Rev. Tom Eggebrecht, Pastor

Over Memorial Day weekend I had the chance to go to EPCOT at Walt Disney World. I discovered something I had been missing. If you're ever there, be sure to go see the film in the French pavilion. It's a stunning overview of the country, its landscape, its architecture, and its cities.

The film shows a few small towns that are more than a few centuries old. The most striking ones are built on hills. The thing that struck me about those picturesque places is that the church is always built at the very top. I don't know the historic reason for this, but I bet I can guess why they did this:

- All week as you go about your business you see the church there at the top of the hill.
- Anyone approaching such a town would know what is most important in that place.
- When you go to church on Sunday mornings you have to literally climb the hill.
- The top of the hill is the place of highest respect and reverence.

Our churches may not be at the top of a literal hill, but let me encourage you to think that way:

- As you go about your business each week lift up your eyes on occasion to see the Lord's church there at the top of your personal hill. It is there calling you to come and receive the Lord's grace and favor, no matter the physical, emotional, or spiritual challenge you face.
- Live your life in such a way that as people approach you they will know what is most important to you. As Jesus said, "*Let your light shine*".
- As church workers, much of our week is a protracted climb to the top of the hill. Our aim all week is to find ourselves presenting our best when we make it to church at the top of the week's hill. Church work is sometimes a struggle, but the view from the top of the hill is a beauty that is unsurpassed. We present the most precious message ever spoken.
- As you enter church on Sunday morning you come to the place of highest respect and reverence. It is there that not only do parishioners receive forgiveness, grace, and mercy; but we church workers receive those gifts, as well. What was won for us at the top of Mt. Calvary is delivered to us all in Word and Sacrament given and received in church.



In the church at the "top of the hill" Jesus grants you forgiveness and strength to climb the hill yet another week.

The NEEDS of a Mission Start

by Karl Koch

The NEEDS of a Mission Start

You are a mission start; a person or group that exists in a specific location in the hopes of planting a permanent Lutheran congregation in that community.

The Need for Direction: Sundays June 18 through July 16

These five Sundays have messages on “*How to do it*”. They provide explanations, expectations, and directions on what God expects us to do, Goals, behaviors, and attitudes are among the things stated in the lessons.

The Need for Support: Sundays July 23 through August 20

The final five Sundays speak to “*Our need for support*”. These five Sundays describe how **God** acts in mission with us, supports us, and equips us. They describe an active fellowship in mission; that between us and **God** and within us.

Strengthening our Congregation will occur as we carefully review the instructions we have from **God** and His promises to be with us and supporting us.

Members will be provided study materials for during the sermons and at home for family or for personal reflection. We will use these messages to build the congregation in its faith and in its numbers. We seek to record the messages for absentee use.

I would like to have congregational meetings after the completion of each sequence. These will be informal in order to encourage discussion and participation.



Robin Paris, with the Lutheran Church Foundation, presented Tree of Life Lutheran Church with a gift from *Audrey Roglitz*, who passed into eternal rest earlier this year. Audrey was a school teacher at a Lutheran elementary school in Pinellas County. She "retired" and was called by **God** to enter into His service as a missionary to the people of Guinea. She went and lived and served the people there and in many other foreign lands to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A small reception was held at Rich and Sue Grable's home following Sunday Service.

Martin Luther's Advice on the Ten Commandments

Martin Luther wrote a little book on prayer for his barber, Peter. In it, he lays out his simple method of praying texts. It's brilliant. I call it "I.T.C.P": Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, Prayer by *Matthew C. Harrison*

The method anchors prayer in the texts of Scripture or the catechism but allows the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts via the Word, which may be chased more freely by the mind at prayer. . . .

Luther explains his method, using the Ten Commandments:

I think of each commandment as, first, instruction, which is really what it is intended to be, and consider what the **Lord God** demands of me so earnestly. Second, I turn it into a *thanksgiving*; third, a *confession*; and fourth, a *prayer*. I do so in thoughts or words such as these: "I am the Lord your **God**, etc. You shall have no other gods before me," etc. Here I earnestly consider that **God** expects and teaches me to trust him sincerely in all things and that it is his most earnest purpose to be my **God**. . . .

Second, I give thanks for his infinite compassion by which he has come to me in such a fatherly way and, unasked, unbidden, and unmerited, has offered to be my **God**, to care for me, and to be my comfort, guardian, help, and strength in every time of need. We poor mortals have sought so many gods and would have to seek them still if he did not enable us to hear him openly tell us in our own language that he intends to be our **God**. How could we ever—in all eternity—thank him enough!

Third, I confess and acknowledge my great sin and ingratitude for having so shamefully despised such sublime teachings and such a precious gift throughout my whole life, and for having fearfully provoked his wrath by countless acts of idolatry. I repent of these and ask for his grace.

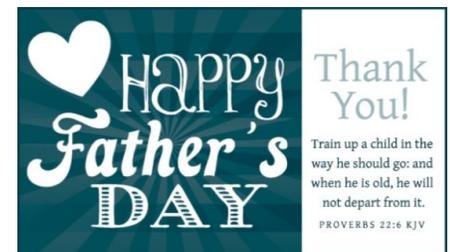
Fourth, I pray and say: "O my **God** and Lord, help me by thy grace to learn and understand thy commandments more fully every day and to live by them in sincere confidence. Preserve my heart so that I shall never again become forgetful and ungrateful, that I may never seek after other gods or other consolation on earth or in any creature, but cling truly and solely to thee, my only **God**. Amen, dear Lord **God** and Father. Amen" (*Luther's Works* 43:200).

Luther's advice to his barber, Peter, is brilliant. You can pray texts of the Bible, hymns, creed, catechism, etc. Start with the Ten Commandments!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

2017 - Sunday Services Scheduled at Inverness Women's Club
July 16th, August 13th, November 12th, December 10th

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



June Snack List	Prayer Chain Requests	Elder Visits	Lectors
<p>6/4 Bev Morris 6/11 Ellen Lodgek 6/18 Karen Huscher 6/25 Arlene Messer 7/2 Kim Carroll</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>Interested in bringing snacks? 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;">1 Timothy 2:1</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: Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905 Bob Morris: 352-628-6452</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lectors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June Sue Grable Psalm/Epistle Bruce Thornton / Ron Fullerton Gospel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July Karen Huscher Psalm/Epistle Bob Morris Gospel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August Kim Jackson Psalm/Epistle Rich Grable Gospel</p>