



*The church that cares, our roots are strong*

# Tree of Life Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, English District

## Newsletter

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"*

*Rev. 2:7*

### Worship Services

Sunday - 10:00 am  
Communion Weekly

### Location

2991 E. Thomas Street  
Inverness, FL 34453

### Mailing Address

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

### Phone #352-419-4100

(leave a message)

### Pastor

Mark Steinke

### President

Ron Hansen

### Vice President

Bob Morris

### Treasurer

Sharon Hansen

### Secretary

Karen Huscher

### Trustees

Rich Grable  
Sue Grable

### Elders

Ron Fullerton  
Bob Morris

### Christian Education

Kim Carrol  
Kim Jackson  
Sue Grable

### Bible Class

Sunday - 9am

[www.treeoffiflc.org](http://www.treeoffiflc.org)

## Pastor's Message

Tw'as the night before Christmas, and all through the earth  
Every creature was stirring, awaiting a birth.  
The time for Messiah was certainly near,  
The prophets foretold it; the Bible was clear.  
From the book of beginnings, the very first sin,  
God's word made it clear how His grace entered in.  
Born of a virgin, He'd come as a man.  
The Creator among us, the time was at hand.  
The stars were arranged to show marvelous things,  
Setting Wise Men to journey and find the true King.  
Shepherds in Bethlehem gazed on the sky,  
Longing to see him, their Lord the Most High.  
How could they know that the very next night  
An angel of God would speak words of delight?  
How the Savior was born, it was news of great joy.  
In a cloth and a manger they'd find the dear boy.  
And a heavenly host would soon join to sing  
Of the glory of God and of wonderful things.  
He entered creation, set position aside  
To show us how deeply his love did abide.  
Sin sent us away from our almighty Lord.  
He became one of us that we might be restored.  
He's the Prince of our Peace; He's the one who makes whole.  
He is Wisdom Incarnate, the Shepherd of Souls.  
He's the Author of Life; He's the Ruler of All.  
He offers salvation, on His name we call.  
The shepherds and Wise Men would bow to adore  
Holy God among men, our greatest reward.  
All glory and honor is due to this King.  
Let all join in worship; let every tongue sing.  
Jesus is Lord, all creation proclaims.  
He's the first and last, He is always the same.  
History turned on the first Christmas day,  
When God became man in a humble display.  
As we think of the manger in which He was laid,  
Let our hearts welcome Him to the world He made!  
(Thanks to an unknown person named Angie!)

*Pastor Steinke*

## December Scripture Readings

December 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 24:27-40
December 8	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Pastor Sutterer will be leading our worship service. Thank you Pastor Sutterer				
December 15	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 146	James 5:7-11	Matthew 11:2-15
December 22	Isaiah 7:10-17	Psalms 24	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
December 29	Isaiah 63:7-14	Psalms 111	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:13-23

### **ADVENT MIDWEEK** Services 6:00 PM December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

This Advent we are going to work our way through *John 1:1–18*. And **God's** biggest promise in John's introduction to his Gospel is this—"You have my Word!" *John 1:1*, "In the beginning was the Word." *John 1:14*, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." If John's first eighteen verses are about anything, they are about the Word. **God's** Word. **God's** Word who is **Jesus Christ**. We have **God's** Word!

*John 1:1–18* provides both a summary of John's themes and is the lens through which we are to read everything John writes in his Gospel. Here is an overview of these verses: **Jesus** is the Word—**God** makes himself heard. (*John 1:1–2*) **God** is not silent! **God** speaks! **God** makes Himself known! **Jesus** is the Life—**God** makes himself real and we are able to touch Him. (*John 1:4a*)

**God** is not a vague thought or an abstract idea! **God** is tangible. **Jesus** is the Light—**God** makes himself visible. (*John 1:4b–13*) **God** is not detached or hidden in darkness! **God** is visible. **Jesus** is the Son—**God** makes himself knowable. (*John 1:14–18*) **God** is not a mystery to solve! **God** is knowable! What's it all mean? It means that because of **Jesus** we can hear, experience, see, and know **God**.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Carols, Candlelight and Communion Service 6:00 PM

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Communion Service 10:00 AM

May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy



# Kids in Care December 21<sup>st</sup> Outreach

Requesting gifts by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Contact Karen or Keith for information!

*Come join the fun*



**Kick Off Meeting** 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January  
at Tree of Life Lutheran Church  
Agenda: *Purpose, size, color, prayers*

Contact **Jeanette** with meeting day preference  
224-627-1857 [travelingcook@yahoo.com](mailto:travelingcook@yahoo.com)

*Looking forward to seeing all interested*  
*Thank you Jeanette*

**Bible Study** Join us for Sunday Bible Study at 9:00 am - Currently studying Romans!





## Friendly Reminders!

Election for Officers – December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Installation of Officers – January 5<sup>th</sup>

*Merry  
Christmas*

## EPIPHANY PARTY

Everyone is welcome to join Pastor and Laurie at their house for an Epiphany party on **January 5<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 4 pm**. We will be having light snacks and cookies. Come and join us in celebrating as did the Magi from the East over the birth of the Newborn King of all.

Snack List	Prayer Chain Requests	Elder Visits	December
12/1 Barb Thornton 12/8 Sharlee Green 12/22 Sue Fullerton 12/29 Gladys Baker 1/5/20 Ellen Lodgek 1/12 Laurie Steinke 1/19 Karen Huscher 1/26 Arlene Messer 2/2 Sue Grable 	A list of those in need of prayer can be found on table at church entryway.   <p><i>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people</i> <b>1 Timothy 2:1</b></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.   Contact: Ron Fullerton: 352-344-0905	<b>Lector</b> Karen Huscher <b>Psalm/Epistle</b>  Pastor Steinke <b>Gospel</b> 
<b>Interested in bringing snacks?</b> Contact Sue Grable 341-0074			

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