

December Newsletter

Tree of Life Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod - English District

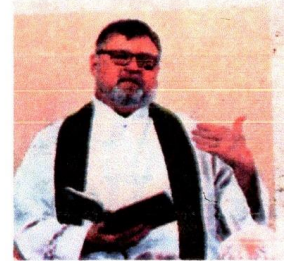


2991 E. Thomas Street
Inverness, FL 34453
352-419-4100
www.treeoflifelc.org

The church that cares, our roots are strong

Worship Services:
Sunday 10:00 AM
Weekly Communion
Sunday Bible Study: 9:00 AM

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



Pastors Message

Isaiah 40:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.



In our text, Isaiah is relaying God's words to the nation of Israel and King Hezekiah (yes, he is really exited). God directed Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah that all of the kings fortune, his sons, even his country was going to be exiled into Babylon.

Shortly afterward, King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel and captured the wealth and the people, God's people, of Israel. Nothing was spared. They were held captive for 70 long years. God's chosen people were going to become slaves and servants in a foreign land.

Immediately after this prophecy before the actual captivity, Isaiah turns and speaks the words of our text...the words God inspired him to speak. Notice that these are words referring to an event that occurs after the captivity. And yet, they are words that are spoken in the present tense. These are words for the here and now; not some later time after all been fulfilled.

The Hebrew word translated "comfort" is not about making a person feel good. It's not about feelings. It is about making a person strong and confident, giving a person solid footing by pointing him or her to shelter and protection. The proclamation of the Gospel is the ultimate word of comfort.

God speaks! His word is strong and everlasting. It is a living Word. It is effective: it accomplishes what it says. "The divine Word will become flesh and blood in Jesus Christ, and so the promises of a double comfort will be fulfilled". The warfare IS ended; her (our) iniquity IS forgiving (and forgotten); she (we) HAVE already received double for all that she (we) forfeited because of her (our) current inequities!!

(continued on next page)

We do not know the details of the future. God does, We see the present and fear the worst: We are in the present and have ALREADY received the best future gift:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to God's church,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

We have already received a DOUBLE comfort fulfilled 2000 years ago through the Lamb of God lying in a manger, with angels, shepherds, magi and us worshipping the Lord of our Salvation.

Father in heaven,

When we look around us we tend to be fearful when we should be confident. Speak softly to us. Even though the future has not happened, we trust in You to keep us securely in Your double comfort which passes all understanding. Grant us always a faith which keeps our eye toward You. You alone are our double comfort Amen.

Pastor Steinke

Church News

This coming Sunday, December 6th, there will be a church meeting. Election of new officers and budget for the coming year to be discussed. Hope you all can attend.



Church Council

Ron Hansen	President
Bob Morris	Vice President
Karen Husker	Secretary
(Sue Fullerton subbing for Karen)	
Sharon Hansen	Treasurer
Ron Fullerton	Head Elder
Rich Grable	Head Trustee



- Debby Ryan - Input church bulletin (Wednesday is cutoff date for bulletin)

Elders Report:

Elders, upon request will bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to either your home or the hospital. If you wish a visit, please contact Ron Fullerton.

Out Reach Programs:



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Good news. I believe we have 3 more shawls that may be presented to be blessed in one of our upcoming church services.

I would like to thank Sharlee, Barb and Sue F. for all their time in making these shawls I can't thank them enough for all their help. Even though we are a small group, we get it done!

Jeanette

Kids in Care

Due to Covid 19 all activities are suspended until further notice

Please contact Karen or Keith for further information



Snack List for December:

6th: Laurie Steinke 13th: The Grables 20th: Sharlee Green 27th: Gladys Baker

Dates to remember in December



2nd
Advent
Service

7th
Peral Harbor

9th
Advent
Service

***16th**
Advent
Service

24th
Christmas
Eve

25th
Christmas
Day

31st
News Year
Day

* The Grables invited everyone to their home, after Advent services on the 16th, for a social gathering.

Prayer chain request: A list of those in need of prayer can be found on the table in the church entry.



United CUB (Citrus Basket)

Any non-perishable donations are appreciated. Suggestions: cereal, peanut butter, Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, soup, can spaghetti, etc. Also any non-food items: toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, etc. Use BOGO whenever possible. Buy one for you the other free for CUB. Please give what you can, when you can.

Please put your items in the bin in the Narthex. You don't have to give every month, just give what you can. Thank you..



December Scripture Readings

DATE	PSALM	FIRST READING	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
6th	85	Is. 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1: 1-8
13th	126	Is. 61:1-4, 8-11	1 Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8. 19-28
20th	89: 1-5 (19-29)	2-Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Rom. 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
24th - Eve	110:1-4	Is. 7:10-14	1 John 4:7-16	Matt. 1:18-25
25th - Midnight	96	Is. 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
25th - Dawn	98	Is. 62: 10-12	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2: (1-14) 15-20
25th - Day	2	Is. 52:7-10	Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12)	John 1:1-14 (15-18)
27th First Sunday after Christmas	111	Is. 61:10---62:3	Gal. 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
or St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	11	Rev. 1:1-6	1 John 1:1-2;2	John 21:20-25
31st	90:1-12	Is.30:(8-14) 15-17	Rom. 8:31b-39	Luke 12:35-40

Lector: Bruce Thornton

Gospel: Pastor Steinke

December Birthdays

None to Report

December Anniversaries

Barb & Bruce Thornton 26th
CONGRATULATIONS!

61 years

