

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✦ Paola, Kansas

2014



## Welcome to the Trinity Tribune

This month we restart an old tradition at Trinity Lutheran Church, the *Trinity Tribune*! We will publish this church newsletter monthly and distribute at worship. Later we may consider the possibility of mailing. *Trinity Tribune* will also be available each month on the church's web site, [www.trinitylcms.org](http://www.trinitylcms.org), under the "Newsletter" tab.

Your help is needed! Please provide Pastor Vogts with information and items for our newsletter. This includes your photographs, which our copier can nicely reproduce. Please put your items in Pastor's mail slot in the Church Office, or email to [pastorvogts@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvogts@gmail.com). If you have actual photographs they can be scanned and returned to you. To allow time for composing and printing the newsletter the deadline for submitting items is the 20th of the previous month.

We pray that this newsletter will be a blessing to our congregation and its members.



Four seminary students were visiting in London. They decided to go see the famous preacher, Dr. Charles Spurgeon. As they were waiting in front of the

church, a man approached and asked, "I see you are waiting for the service to begin. Would you like to see our church's furnace room?" They really weren't that interested, especially since it was a hot day in July. But, not wanting to offend the stranger, they agreed that they would indeed like to see the church's furnace room.

He led them down a long flight of stairs, to a door in the basement, at the back of the church. He flung open the door, and the young men were surprised to find 500 people on their knees, fervently praying for God's blessing on the service about to begin in the church above. "This," said the man, "is our furnace room, and we are very proud of it. The work done in this room is what keeps our church going. Without it, this building would be cold and lifeless." It turned out that the stranger was none other than Dr. Spurgeon himself.

This story illustrates the power and necessity of prayer by each Christian for the Church of Christ. St. Paul writes in 1Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing," and in Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, with prayers and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Sometimes we feel helpless when confronted with the problems and challenges of life, including the problems and challenges facing our church in this modern world. But there is one very important thing every Christian can do to help the church fulfill its mission: pray! We sometimes think of prayer as a last resort, but the Bible tells us that prayer is the first step the Christian takes in seeking God's help and direction.

Remember Trinity Lutheran Church and its members in your prayers everyday. This is a God-pleasing



A large group of area pastors joined in the celebration for the installation of Rev. Kevin Vogts as the pastor of Trinity at a special service on September 15, 2013.

habit and a very valuable service to Christ and his church. What are some specific things you will pray about?

✘ That God would move many members of His flock to come to His house each Sunday.

✘ That He will bless our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, giving insight into His Word and joy to both students and teachers.

✘ That the Good Shepherd would watch over all His flock, keeping them safe from all harm and danger, guiding them in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake, and giving comfort and strength to all the weak, ill and sorrowful.

✘ That God's people would be moved to give generously to His work, both at home and in mission work.

✘ That your Pastor would be faithful, strengthened by God to serve His people.

✘ That all of God's people would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

✘ That our mission and outreach may bear much fruit.

✘ That you may serve the Lord with gladness and live a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

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## Trinity Tribune

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*March, 2014*

Without your prayers our own church would be cold and lifeless. You are our spiritual "furnace room." Keep the fire burning—pray every day!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

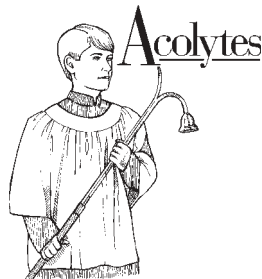


Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00pm. Lent services continue each Wednesday at 7:00pm during Lent.

For our Lent services this year we are meditating on the "Seven Last Words of Jesus" (see schedule page 3). The services will also feature reading the Passion story of Jesus' suffering and death, and beloved Lenten hymns.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be on April 17 and 18, also at 7:00pm. The Maundy Thursday service will feature Holy Communion, and on Good Friday we will have a Tenebrae service, gradually extinguishing seven candles for each of the seven last words of Jesus, interspersed with hymns, readings, and prayers.

Since ancient times Christians have observed this special season in remembrance of our Savior's suffering and death. Come and keep a faithful Lent!



March 2 .. Cooper Minden , Chloe Rausch  
March 5 ..... XXX  
March 9 ..... Olivia Mitchell, Luke Elkinton

March 12 ..... XXX  
March 16 .... Kurt Golubski, Johnny Prothe  
March 19 ..... XXX  
March 23 ... Karlie McMullin, Evan Kettler  
March 26 ..... XXX  
March 30 .... Olivia Mitchell, Luke Elkinton



While many churches and denominations are cutting back on their missionary work, our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has more than 740 missionaries, serving full-time or short-term. This makes the LCMS one of the largest Christian missionary agencies in the world!

Our congregation helps support these missionaries through our mission contributions. Beginning this month we will remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encouraged to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

March 2

*Rev. James & Christel Neuendorf  
Dominican Republic*

March 9

*Rev. Jacob Gaugert  
Togo*

March 16

*Rev. Michael Parris  
Macau*

March 23

*Rev. Alan Ludwig  
Russia*

March 30

*Rev. Carl and Deborah Rockrohr  
Ethiopia*



## Sunday Sermons for March

These are the Sunday sermon topics for March. Sermons themes for our Lenten services are listed at right.

March 2

*"This Is My Beloved Son"*  
Matthew 17:1-9

March 9

*"Fighting Temptation"*  
Matthew 4:1-11

March 16

*"Nick at Night"*  
John 3:1-17

March 23

*"Peace Even in Suffering"*  
Romans 5:1-8

March 30

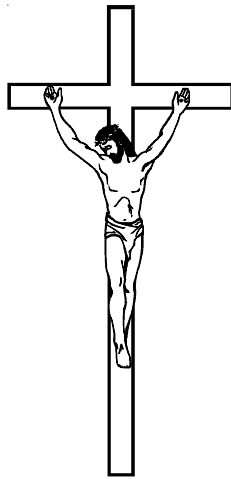
*"The Blind Beggar"*  
John 9:1-41



## Sermons on the Web

Would you like to read or hear again a sermon from our worship? Within a few days following a service at Trinity sermons by Pastor Vogts are posted on the Internet, in both printed and audio form.

Click on the "Sermons" tab on our church's web site, [www.trinitycms.org](http://www.trinitycms.org).



# Seven Last Words of Jesus

## 2014 Lent Services

Wednesday Evenings – 7:00pm  
Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5th

March 5, Ash Wednesday

*"Father, Forgive Them"*  
Luke 23:34

March 12

*"Today, You Will Be  
with Me in Paradise"*  
Luke 23:43

March 19

*"Dear Woman,  
Here is Your Son"*  
John 19:25-27

March 26

*"Why Have You Forsaken Me?"*  
Matthew 27:46

April 2

*"I Thirst"*  
John 19:28

April 9

*"Into Your Hands  
I Commit My Spirit"*  
Luke 23:46

April 17, Maundy Thursday

*"Holy Communion—  
A Feast for the Senses"*  
1 Corinthians 11:23-27

April 18, Good Friday

*"It Is Finished"*  
John 19:30

You will find a listing with the printed text of all Pastor Vogts' sermons. Click on the speaker icon after the sermon title to listen online.

If you use an Ipad you can also listen to or download Pastor Vogts' sermons, or subscribe to a sermon podcast, in iTunes. Search for "Kevin Vogts" in the iTunes store. If you subscribe to the sermon podcast in iTunes the new sermon will be automatically downloaded each week.

Another way to listen or subscribe is directly from our podcast hosting service at [www.kevinvogts.podbean.com](http://www.kevinvogts.podbean.com).



## Tenebrae Service

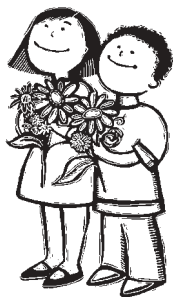
On Good Friday, April 18, at 7:00pm we will have a traditional Tenebrae Service. "Tenebrae" (TEN-uh-bray) is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." The Tenebrae Service is marked by a

gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights, symbolizing the death of our Lord, interspersed with readings, prayers, hymns, and other musical selections related to His Passion. Our Tenebrae Service will feature seven candles, gradually extinguished as we read Christ's seven last words from the cross.

Bring your family to meditate upon our Savior's sacrifice for your salvation.

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## Spring Children's Program and Potluck April 6



Building on the success of our Children's Christmas Program on Christmas Eve, our Sunday School is hosting a Spring Children's Program and Potluck Dinner on Sunday, April 6.

Everyone is invited to bring your favorite dishes to share at the Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. After the dinner the Sunday School will use our stage to present their Children's Spring Program for all to enjoy.

Mark your calendar for the Spring Children's Program and Potluck Dinner on Sunday, April 6!



A letter in *The Kansas City Star* last month claimed, "If you study the four Gospels horizontally, you will find that all is inconsistency."

Is that true? Do these basic documents of our faith really contradict each other?

Our Lenten Bible Study in Adult Bible Class is *The Week that Changed the World*. In this fascinating study we are exploring the events of Holy Week, which are so central to our faith, using a booklet that shows side-by-side the accounts of these events from the four Gospels.

You are invited to join in on Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to grow in your faith and your understanding of *The Week That Changed the World*.



## Sunday School Topics for March

Are your children missing out on Sunday School? All children are invited to join in on Sundays at 9:00am! "*Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord*" (Ephesians 6:4).

March 2—Today's Sunday School lesson is about the Transfiguration of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 17:1-9. At the transfiguration, Jesus' glory was unveiled before the disciples. Today, His glory is unveiled for us in the Word preached by the pastor, in the water of Baptism, and in the bread and wine of His Holy Supper. In heaven, we shall see Him in all His glory!

*Talk with your children about how we are like the disciples, who trembled at the sound of God's voice, because we, too, are sinful and unworthy to see Him face-to-face. Emphasize that through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus makes us clean and worthy to stand face-to-face with God, our Father.*

March 9—Today in Sunday School, the children will study the temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). Like us, Jesus was tempted by Satan to sin. Yet, for us,

He overcame all temptation because we cannot.

*In your family discussions, consider how we are tempted to rely on ourselves and to trust in our powers. Provide examples. Assure your children that God lovingly provides all that we need for this life and eternity, doing all things for us and ordering our days and life in His peace.*

March 16—Today in Sunday School, we learn about Jesus teaching the Pharisee Nicodemus under the cover of night (John 3:1-21). Since the fall into sin, all are born spiritually blind, sinful, and unclean. We are like Nicodemus and cannot see our sin or understand who Jesus truly is for us. As children of God, born of water and the Spirit, we can see our sinfulness and the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ.

*Talk to your children about their Baptism and discuss what Baptism does for us.*

March 23—Today's Sunday School lesson is the account of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42). In this lesson we learn that Jesus gives the Spirit, who cleanses us from sin and unrighteousness in the living water of Holy Baptism. Talk with your children about how sin causes us to have guilt and shame before God. Emphasize that through the Water and Word of Holy Baptism all guilt and shame are removed.

*Talk about Jesus coming for all people, no matter what race or color they are. Point out that ordinary water leaves us thirsting for more, but the living water of Jesus, which flows from His Word and the font of Baptism, quenches our spiritual thirst forever.*

March 30—Today in Sunday School the children learned about Jesus healing a blind man (John 9). Jesus came into this world to forgive us and grant us faith—spiritual sight. He gives sight to our souls by forgiving our sins. In your family faith discussions discuss how sin blinds us in our life of faith.

*What ways does sin do that? How do the Word and Sacraments give us "eyes of faith" so that we can believe?*



## Acolyte Training March 30

All children in 5th thru 8th grades are invited to acolyte training following worship on Sunday, March 30.

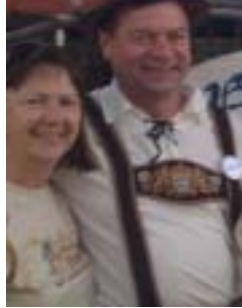
We'll begin with a pizza lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Then we will have a brief training session, to explain not only how acolytes serve at Trinity, but also the meaning and symbolism behind their service. We'll close with some practice sessions in the Sanctuary.

Those who will be confirmed this year are still urged to attend, so that they may better understand the service they have rendered to our congregation.



Our thanks to the following for serving as officers and board members for Trinity in 2014, and for all those who served in 2013.

Chairman ..... Greg Windler  
 Secretary ..... Rolland Prothe  
 Senior Elder ..... Mike Oberheide  
 Elder ..... Jim Prothe  
 Elder ..... Bill Koelsch  
 Head Trustee ..... Kelly Kaiser  
 Trustee ..... Keith Prothe



Our first Blocktoberfest at Trinity was an amazing success! Thank you to everyone who helped, especially Paul Haley for spearheading this great event. Watch for information about Blocktoberfest 2014!



Trustee ..... Dave Prothe  
 Treasurer ..... Paul Brack  
 Mission Treasurer ..... Jeff Garrison  
 Senior Finance ..... Arlin Prothe  
 Finance ..... John Schlegel  
 Finance ..... Brad Hendrickson  
 Senior School Board ..... Kyle Minden  
 School Board ..... Darrel Rodewald  
 School Board ..... Ken Debrick  
 Head Usher ..... Nathan Peckman  
 Usher ..... Mike England  
 Sunday School Supt ..... Clint Haley  
 Asst Sunday School Supt ..... Jan Cook  
 Sunday School Sec ..... Michelle Haley

# MISSION REPORT

## *Lutheran Church in Mongolia Emerging From Communist Rule*

LCMS missionary Rev. Matthew Heise says sometimes it's like driving across the moon. And sometimes it's like driving through a camel farm. Either way he describes it, the Gobi Desert in Mongolia is a fascinating place.

During a recent theological training visit to the country, Heise traveled through the Gobi from the capital, Ulaanbaatar, to Light of the Gobi Lutheran Church in Mandalgov, where he taught about the book of Galatians. "I can honestly say it has been some of the most enjoyable teaching I have ever done in my missionary service," he says of his teaching experiences in Mongolia. "The Mongolian Lutherans are earnest in their faith and their desire to learn more about Christianity."

The Mongol Empire, just north of China and south of Russia, was founded by Genghis Khan in 1206. Khan, famous for his military campaigns and brutality, was surprisingly tolerant when it came to the religious practices of the Mongol people.

Historically, the Mongols adhered to Buddhism, but there is evidence of Christianity in the area reaching as far back as the seventh century. With the collapse of the empire in the 14th century, many in the area converted to Islam. Then, throughout the 60-plus years reign of communism in the 1900s, religious tolerance disappeared.

Protestant guests were not allowed into the region until 1990. That same year, the newly-formed Mongolian democracy counted only four Christians in the entire country! Today, the number stands closer to 60,000, including a growing number of Lutherans. One of these new Lutherans, Nerguisaikh Myadagmaa "Sainaa," is an encouraging example of how God has worked in the region.



**Pastor "Sainaa" serves Communion at Sain Medee (Good News) Lutheran Church in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

Sainaa first heard the Gospel in 1997 from his wife, who served as a caretaker for the children of Finnish Lutheran missionaries. After a few years Sainaa and his wife started church services near their home in the capital of Ulaanbaatar. At the first Sunday service, only one person in attendance had been baptized. In the four months that followed, the first members of Sain Medee (Good News) Lutheran Church were taught about Christ and baptized. A new Lutheran church was born!

Starting with about six members, Sain Medee Lutheran Church gradually grew and attracted more members. Sainaa was chosen as the leader for this new church and began to study theology, attending Lutheran seminaries sponsored

by the LCMS in Russia and Kazakhstan, and was ordained as a pastor in 2004.



**LCMS missionary Rev. Matthew Heise travels through the Gobi Desert in Mongolia on a camel.**

Heise worked with Sainaa, holding a training session at Sain Medee Lutheran Church on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. Then he travelled in a jeep through the Gobi Desert to hold a seminar over three evenings at Light of the Gobi Lutheran Church in Mandalgov. Driving through the Gobi requires a four-wheel drive vehicle and some creativity. "For 90 percent of the way, there was no paved road," Heise said. "You just stay between these tires that are placed at regular intervals so you know you're going in the right direction!"

Despite the emerging status of the Mongolian Lutheran church, Heise reports about Light of the Gobi Lutheran, "I have rarely seen a congregation this alive. We had up to 75 members on any of the three nights—ranging from senior citizens to high schoolers." During Matt's presentation about Galatians, most took copious notes and sang Mongolian hymns. A Lutheran theologian named Puje—one of the first Christians in the country after the fall of communism and a former music teacher—composed many of the hymns sung by the members. Today, Puje serves as the director of the nation's only Bible school and is an inspiration to many Mongolian Christians.

Promising reports of growth and fervent interest coming from the region are an inspiration to Christians around the world. Despite a rocky history in the area, the Word of God has been scattered in fertile soil where it can take root and grow.



## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper March 5

Twin Valley 4H invites everyone to an Ash Wednesday Soup Supper in Trinity's Fellowship Hall on March 5 before the Ash Wednesday worship service. The menu will feature soups and stews, veggies, and desserts.

Any other groups, persons, or families who serve a Lenten supper before any of our Lenten services please notify Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton as soon as possible ([blocktlc@midwest-connections.com](mailto:blocktlc@midwest-connections.com)).



## Confirmation Sunday

### Confirmation April 27

Confirmation for 2014 has been set for Sunday, April 27. The confirmands will receive their First Communion the following Sunday, May 4.

The entire congregation is also invited to the examination of the confirmands on Friday, April 25, at 7:00pm.

This year's confirmation class is Kurt Golubski, Chancie Minden, Cooper Minden, Chole Rausch, and Garrett Rausch.



## Trunk or Treat



A big crowd turned out for our annual Trunk or Treat. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped with this outreach event!





Our thanks to the Sunday School for providing snacks on February 16 for our first Coffee Hour in the Overflow following worship.

Could you serve snacks sometime after worship? There is a sign-up sheet for the rest of the year on the bulletin board. We will have Coffee Hour after worship on any Sunday for which someone signs up—individual, family, or group.

Consider signing up for some special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. You are asked to provide some treat, coffee, and juice for the children.

When we have Coffee Hour everyone is invited to stay and enjoy the food and fellowship!



## **Nursing Home Services March 2 & 30**

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents on March 2 and 30. On March 2 we will be at North Point and Medicalodge, and on March 30 at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park.

The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point or Country Club Estates, and then go to Medicalodge or Vintage Park for that day's second service.

The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a faithful few members who help but we could use you too!



## *Anniversaries and Birthdays*

We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our records may not be complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at [blockt1c@midwest-connections.com](mailto:blockt1c@midwest-connections.com).

Devan Boydston, March 1  
 Vera Kaiser, March 1  
 Guylene Klein, March 1  
 Johnny Prothe, March 1  
 Dave Trickett, March 1  
 Lance Elliott, March 2  
 Justin Hieber, March 3  
 Lorranda Baldrige, March 5  
 Billy Green, March 5  
 Joshua Pemberton, March 5  
 Aaron Maisch, March 5  
 Gary Prothe, March 6  
 Sandra Schultz, March 6  
 Andrew Thompson, March 7  
 Jackie Thompson, March 7  
 Megan Prothe, March 8  
 Faith Ordonez, March 9

Jim Mueller, March 10  
 Betty Oberheide, March 10  
 Diana Deering, March 11  
 Dylan Shoemaker, March 12  
 Althea Reekie, March 12  
 Karen Garrison, March 13  
 Darrel Rodewald, March 14  
 Allyssa Henry, March 15  
 Jacob Henry, March 15  
 Kyle Kettler, March 15  
 Judy Parks, March 15  
 Randy Rausch, March 15  
 Steve Cook, March 17  
 Breanna Prothe, March 17  
 Marcia Raines, March 17  
 Roger Smith, March 17  
 Robyn Weatherbie, March 17  
 Emersyn Chapman, March 17  
 Johnny Grother, March 18  
 Jennifer Rethman, March 18  
 Chris Smith, March 18  
 Jordan Harper, March 19  
 Paul Haley, March 20  
 Rusty Morton, March 21  
 Harry Stubbs, March 21  
 Becky Stutzman, March 21  
 Arnold Debrick, March 23  
 Karla Debrick, March 23  
 Elizabeth Kettler, March 23  
 John Schlegel Jr., March 23  
 Laura Prothe, March 25  
 Loren Windler, March 26  
 Joyce Brown, March 28  
 Zach Holtz, March 28  
 Justine Prothe, March 28  
 Tyler Tesar, March 28  
 Wilda Bunch, March 29  
 Lauren Wood, March 29  
 Alvin Thoden, March 31  
 Steve and Bobbi Debrick  
 15 years, March 6  
 Dave and Suzie Prothe  
 22 years, March 7  
 Rich and Sally Wood  
 23 years, March 9  
 Jim and Shelisa Mueller  
 35 years, March 10  
 Mike and Linda Gager  
 28 years, March 20  
 Sean and Robyn Weatherbie  
 16 years, March 21  
 Tom and Nancy Green  
 35 years, March 28  
 Arlin and Venita Prothe  
 49 years, March 28