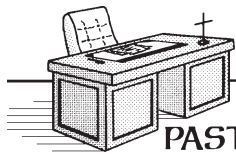


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2014



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

On July 4th, 1776, a bell in Philadelphia's Independence Hall rang out the news of our nation's Declaration of Independence. But, actually, that is not why it's called the Liberty Bell. You may not know the real reason it is called the Liberty Bell is because of a Bible verse which is inscribed upon it: *"Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"* (Leviticus 25:10).

The July 4th holiday means much more than just parades, family gatherings, barbecues and fireworks. It is a celebration of the God-given freedom and liberty that we have been blessed with in our nation. As citizens of the United States and as Christians, we have been blessed with two kinds of freedom: *political* freedom in our nation, and *spiritual* freedom through our Savior.

In the National Archives at Washington, D.C. you can view the Declaration of Independence and the two other important documents our early government adopted to insure freedom and liberty in our land, the Constitution and its first ten amendments, known as the "Bill of Rights." The first of the Constitution's amendments is very unique among the laws of the nations, and it is especially important and appropriate for us as Christians. Because, the very first right, the very first freedom you are guaranteed as an American is: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."* By the grace of God, we are blessed to live in a country where the government promises not to interfere with our spiritual beliefs, or our right, as Jesus says, to *"worship Him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24).

Many years ago a Missouri Synod missionary was stationed in a foreign country where it was unexpectedly announced one New Year's Day that beginning immediately all gatherings for Christian worship were forbidden. When the missionary heard that news on the radio, he wondered what would happen. For, that very day he was scheduled to have a New Year's Communion service in his apartment for the members of his flock. Would they still come? At the appointed time there was a hesitant knock on the door, and then another and another, as the congregation gathered. They were right in the middle of their communion service when there was a loud banging on the door and demands that it be opened. They all sat quietly and said nothing. After a few minutes the banging stopped, they heard footsteps marching away down the hall,



The Christian foundations of our nation are seen in the Biblical quotation from Leviticus 25:10 which is cast around the top of the Liberty Bell and from which this famous bell actually received its name: *"Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."*

and they continued their communion service. But, that was the last service that missionary would conduct there. For he was soon captured by the secret police and thrown out of the country.

That true story helps us appreciate the first and greatest political freedom we are blessed with in our nation, freedom of religion, freedom of worship. And, why is it that we gather together for worship? What is it we are celebrating, not only at our special service in Prairie Park on July 4th, but as we worship every week? We use the *political* freedom we have to worship to celebrate the *spiritual* freedom that is ours through our Savior.

In ancient Israel every 50 years a Year of Jubilee was observed, a very unique, year-long holiday. The Bible verse that is on the Liberty Bell originally proclaimed this special year: *"Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."* During the Year of Jubilee all debts were cancelled, all slaves were set free, and all property reverted to its original owners.

The Year of Jubilee was a living prophecy in the history of Israel, pointing forward to a future time when all spiritual debts would be cancelled, when we would be set free from slavery to sin, when we would be returned to our rightful owner, the Lord our God.

At the beginning of His ministry Jesus announced the fulfillment of that prophecy and the arrival of the never-ending, spiritual jubilee: *"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"* (Luke 4:18-19).

Scripture tells us that because of our sinfulness we have all lost our spiritual freedom and we are by nature in bondage



This panoramic photo montage shows the entire inscription which is cast around the top of the Liberty Bell. The upper line is the quotation from Leviticus 25:10 from which the Liberty Bell received its name.

to Satan, and the slaves of sin. This means every one of us, as Paul says in Galatians 3:22, *“The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin.”*

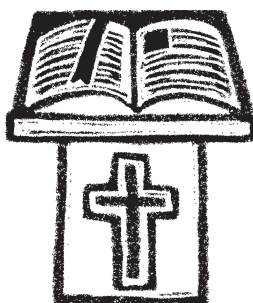
But, through the sacrifice of His life, death and resurrection, God’s Son Jesus Christ earned for the world a spiritual “Declaration of Independence” from sin, death and the Devil. As Hebrews 2:14-15 says, *“By His death He destroyed him who holds the power of death—that is, the Devil—and freed those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”* And as Paul says in Romans 6:22, *“Now you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God.”*

God has declared for the whole world a spiritual “Bill of Rights,” the right to be His children, to come to Him and call upon Him as our heavenly Father, and the right to enter eternal life. As Paul says in Galatians 4:4-5, *“God sent His Son . . . to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of*

sons.” In Romans 8:21 Paul describes our spiritual freedom in Christ as, *“The glorious freedom of the children of God.”*

“Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” So, as we worship and celebrate on July 4th, we are celebrating the two kinds of freedom with which we have been blessed: *political* freedom in our nation, and *spiritual* freedom through our Savior.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



From the Pulpit

Sermon Topics for July

July 6

“I Will Give You Rest”
Matthew 11:28

July 13

“The Parable of the Sower”
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20

“Our Present Sufferings”
Romans 8:18

July 27

Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister

Trinity Tribune

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July, 2014



Our congregation helps support these missionaries sent out by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through our mission contributions. Each month we 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.

July 6

Rev. Charles & Cheryl Ferry
Indonesia

July 13

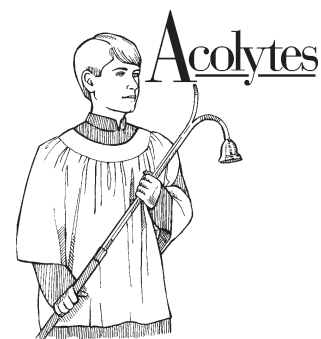
Sarah Cunningham
Kenya

July 20

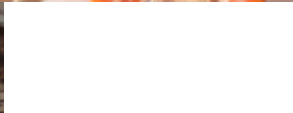
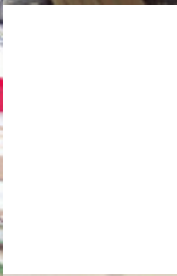
Rev. Leif & Nancy Hasskarl
Cayman Islands

July 27

Zach Eshelman
Taiwan



July 6 Olivia Mitchell
July 13 Luke Elkinton
July 20 Evan Kettler
July 27 Karlie McMullin

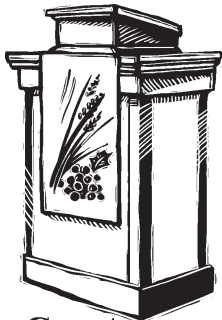


Growing with God is the theme for Summer Sunday School thru the end of August. In addition to Bible stories and singing the children enjoy making fun crafts. Bring your children on Sundays at 9:00am this summer for *Growing with God*!



Quarterly Meetings of Church Council and Voters Assembly

The quarterly meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00pm. The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be the following Sunday, July 13, after the worship service.



Guest Preacher

Guest Minister July 27

The Vogts will be visiting their daughter Sarah at the Chautauqua Music Festival in Chautauqua, New York from July 22 thru August 1. Rev. Roger Schepmann will be our guest minister on Sunday, July 27.

You may also contact Rev. Schepmann (913-764-4859) for pastoral needs while Pastor Vogts is away, or you may call Pastor Vogts on his cell phone (913-594-9865) or at the parsonage (913-849-3711), which will be forwarded to his cell phone, and he will arrange for pastoral care.



We list birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our records may not 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 blocktlc@midwest-connections.com.

- Emily Prothe.....July 1
- Brandy Allen.....July 3
- Molly Hermann.....July 3
- Karen Windler.....July 3
- Joshua Bunch.....July 5
- Samantha Prothe.....July 5
- Ryan Morton.....July 6
- Regan Boyer.....July 7
- Shelly D'Amato.....July 7
- Kennedy McMullin.....July 7
- Tamara Mitchell.....July 7
- Wanda Stagg.....July 10
- Ken Debrick.....July 11
- Darlene Heater.....July 11
- Dennis Prothe.....July 11
- Joshua Sombke.....July 12
- Steve Warner.....July 12
- Steve Grother.....July 13
- Duane Prothe.....July 13
- Don Warring.....July 13
- Sheryl Holtz.....July 14
- Rayden Berry.....July 14
- Karen Kaiser.....July 15
- David Johns.....July 16
- Debbie Oberheide.....July 16
- Brittannie Ritch.....July 16
- Ann Davis.....July 17
- Keith Prothe.....July 18
- Madison Snider.....July 18
- Clint Kettler.....July 19
- Cathy Tesar.....July 19
- Mallory Tharp.....July 20

- Norma Peckman.....July 20
- Dan Hieber.....July 21
- Chance Mueller.....July 21
- Lillian Kettler.....July 23
- Taryn Jones.....July 23
- Zachary Davis.....July 24
- Darrell Peckman.....July 24
- Margo Rodewald.....July 24
- Marcie Reyelts.....July 24
- Shannon Fanning.....July 25
- Stephanie Bivins.....July 26
- Matthew Barnett.....July 27
- Denna Jones.....July 27
- Curtis Kettler.....July 27
- Marla Prothe.....July 27
- Lonnie England.....July 29
- Barbara Herrs.....July 29
- Cody Weaver.....July 29
- Barbie Dillenbeck.....July 31
- Colleen Richardson.....July 31
- July 1.....Dannie and Elaine Stewart
(42 years)
- July 7.....Andrew and Brianna
Chapman
(2 year)
- July 8.....Earl and Darleen Medlin
(39 years)
- July 9.....Louie and Guylene Klein
(26 years)
- July 15.....Adam and Lorri Jenson
(19 years)
- July 15.....Leslie and Nada Thoden
(47 years)
- July 17.....Vernon and Lois Rausch
(21 years)
- July 18.....Paul and Karen Brack
(33 years)
- July 18.....Jim and Joyce Johns
(33 years)
- July 22.....Charles and Kathy Hall
(36 years)
- July 26.....John and Kathy Gerken
(45 years)
- July 26.....David and Carol Wray
(34 years)
- July 27.....Phillip and Morgan Richards
(12 years)
- July 29.....Chris and Sherri Webb
(25 years)



Clyde L. Prothe

Entered Eternal Rest
June 14, 2014

Christian Burial
June 24, 2014

*"Come unto Me, all you who
are weary and heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*



CHURCH LIBRARY News

We have recently added many new Bible reference books to our church library, including Bible dictionaries, concordances, various Bible versions, and several commentaries.

One commentary set on the whole Bible is *Popular Commentary* by P.E. Kretzmann. This excellent commentary is written from a conservative Lutheran perspective. It is also available online at www.kretzmannproject.org.

To check out a book from the Church Library just note your name and the book title and date borrowed on the check-out sheet on the clipboard which is on the library shelves.



Trinity's Second Annual

Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by the Sunday School for the Entire Congregation

Sunday, August 3, 6:00pm — On the Church Grounds

You are welcome to bring desserts and your favorite recipe homemade ice cream. But if you can't bring anything please still come—we'll have plenty!

Please Bring Lawn Chairs

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the food and fun!



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship this year? There is a sign-up sheet for the rest of the year on the table with the snacks. Our Generations group has generously agreed to provide and prepare the coffee and juice each week! So those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Thank you to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

July 6

Michelle & Emma Haley

July 13

Vogts

Page 5

July 20

Ray & Janet England

July 27

Gayle Plummer & Jan Cook

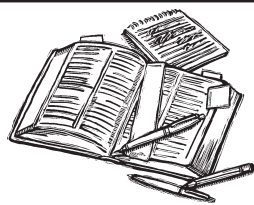


Aliyah June Lester

Daughter of Lindsey & Eric Lester
Born May 29, 2014
Baptized July 4, 2014

*"Let the little children come to Me,
and do not hinder them, for the
kingdom of God belongs
to such as these."*

Mark 10:14



Summer Bible Study

During the summer we are continuing our study in Adult Bible Class on *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 real significance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection and *The Week That Changed the World*.



Nursing Home Services July 13

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medicalodge on July 13. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medicalodge for the 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!



Members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Pilger, Nebraska held services in a tent on June 22 on the site of their former church building, which was destroyed in a rare dual tornado on June 16. The only thing left standing was the bell tower.

Our nursing home service schedule for the remainder of 2014 is:

August 10—Country Club Estates & Vintage Park

September 7—Country Club Estates & Vintage Park

October 19—North Point & Medicalodge

November 23—Country Club Estates & Vintage Park

Tornadoes Hit LCMS Churches in Nebraska and South Dakota

Excerpted from the LCMS Reporter

The week of June 16 was devastating for LCMS churches and members in Nebraska and South Dakota. On the afternoon of June 16, rare EF-4 twin twisters obliterated about 75 percent of Pilger, Nebraska. The houses of 22 members St. John's Lutheran Church were destroyed. Members of Christ and Our Savior, Norfolk; St. Paul, Wisner; Faith, Stanton; and Immanuel, Laurel were also affected, with damage to homes, livestock, sheds, outbuildings and farmland.

"The church building is not there," said St. John's Pastor, Rev. Terry Makelin. "It was built on a slab. It blew it completely out into the field next door. The only

thing standing was the bell tower. In the parsonage itself there were two closets that stood, otherwise all the walls came down." A car rested on its hood in what remained of Makelin's hallway, who was away at the time of the storm. A St. John's church bulletin was found 60 miles northeast of the town in Sioux City, Iowa.

St. John's held Sunday services on June 22 in a tent where the church once stood. They are now holding services in a neighboring LCMS congregation's sanctuary as they plan rebuilding.

On June 18, two days after the Nebraska storm, an EF2 tornado tore through Wessington Springs, South Dakota, damaging Zion Lutheran Church, the church's unoccupied parsonage, and the homes of several member. All the windows of the church were broken and a 12-foot-long piece of wood punctured the roof.

"We're just real blessed here," said Zion's Vacancy Pastor, Rev. L. Scott Spiehs. "The sirens went off 20 minutes before the tornado hit. Everybody took shelter. Only one person had minor injuries. We are totally giving glory to God because everybody's safe."

LCMS Disaster Response has committed grants of \$100,000 to the Nebraska District and \$30,000 to the South Dakota District to help pastors, congregations and their communities meet emergency needs. Concordia Publishing House has offered to replace Rev. Makelin's library and St. John's hymnals.