

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



ELCA Has Biggest Split in American Church History

Since shortly after its formation in 1988 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been fixated on deviant sexual behavior, culminating in the endorsement of homosexual pastors in 2009, homosexual "marriage" in 2011, and the election last year of their first homosexual bishop.

Dr. James Nestingen, a highly respected scholar and retired ELCA seminary professor, recently concluded that promoting acceptance of deviant sexual behavior has actually *replaced* the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the primary mission and message of the ELCA.

Those within the ELCA demanding these radical changes asserted it is necessary for the ELCA's very survival. Supposedly, they simply must move into the 21st century on these issues, or otherwise they will be so out-of-step with modern society that it would mean the demise of their denomination.

However, the ELCA has now released some startling statistics that show the exact *opposite* has actually happened:

- When the ELCA was formed in 1988 they had 5.2 million members, but they are now down to only 4 million members—a *staggering loss of over 1.2 million members*, or 23% of their membership. They have also lost 1,500, or 13%, of their congregations, from approximately 11,000 to 9,500. Last year they "celebrated" the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, but the fact is that during that time they *lost* more members and congregations than make up many entire denominations!
- Of these losses, over 500,000 members and 1,000 congregations have left the ELCA in just the last five years, triggered by their endorsement of homosexuality beginning in 2009. This is actually the biggest denominational split in American church history, and is directly attributable to that decision.
- Another measure of the ELCA's decline is that in 1988, 2.1% of all Americans were members of the ELCA, but by 2011 that figure had fallen to 1.3%. The National Council of Churches reports that the ELCA has "the sharpest rate of membership decline" among all mainline Protestant denominations. Like Avis car rental which used to advertise "*We're Number 2—But We Try Harder!*" the LCMS has historically always been the second-largest American Lutheran church body. However, at the ELCA's current rate of losing members—nearly 6% in 2010—in just a decade the LCMS will surpass the ELCA as the largest American Lutheran church body, and a few decades after that the ELCA will cease to exist.

- Even among those congregations remaining in the ELCA, average weekly worship attendance from 2003 to 2011 dropped 26%. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has 2.3 million members and the similarly conservative Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has 300,000 members, yet even with our smaller combined membership of 2.6 million the LCMS and WELS have more people actually sitting in the pews each Sunday than the ELCA with 4 million members.
- Donations to the ELCA on the national level were \$88 million in 2008 but plunged to only \$40 million in 2011.
- Luther Seminary, the ELCA's largest seminary, located in St. Paul, Minnesota, announced in 2012 that they had a \$6 million operating deficit on a budget of \$27 million. This was due largely to a sharp decline in donations to the seminary, including a couple that for many years had given \$1 million a year to the seminary, but stopped their donations after the ELCA's endorsement of homosexuality. The seminary was forced to cancel many of its programs and lay off a third of the faculty and staff.
- Since the ELCA's endorsement of homosexuality, many other Lutheran church bodies around the world have severed their historic ties with the ELCA, and are instead seeking new relationships with the LCMS. This includes many of the largest and fastest-growing Lutheran church bodies in the world, such as the Lutherans in Ethiopia with over 6 million members—nearly as many as all American Lutheran church bodies combined. The center of world Lutheranism is shifting from Europe and America to Africa, Asia, and South America, and the LCMS is becoming the theological leader of these growing Lutheran church bodies.

While the ELCA is becoming increasingly isolated in world Lutheranism, in contrast at our national convention last year the LCMS entered into formal fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia, the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church of Togo.

The Lord warns:

“There will be false teachers among you, who will surreptitiously introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful, licentious ways.” (2 Peter 2:1-2)

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you formerly had when you lived in ignorance. Instead, just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:14-15)

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)

These passages show how misdirected and sinful it is to accommodate the church’s doctrine and practice to the world’s wicked ways. It is also foolish and futile.

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

Trinity Lutheran Church
34868 Block Road
Paola, Kansas 66071

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344
Pastor’s Study & Parsonage:
913-849-3711
Pastor’s Cell: 913-594-9865

www.trinitylcms.org
pastorvogts@gmail.com
blocktlc@midwest-connections.com
August, 2014

On the one hand, the world will *never* be satisfied—until Christians completely renounce their faith. More importantly, *the Lord will never bless such unfaithfulness to Him and His Word.*

We see from the sad example of what’s happened to the ELCA—the biggest split in American church history—that whatever churches and other Christian entities imagine they will gain by giving in to the world is dwarfed by what they will surely lose.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



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.

August 3

Rev. P.A Richard-Wokoma
Nigeria

August 10

Alissa Asmus
Macau

August 17

Rev. Alan Ludwig
Russia

August 24

Caitlin Worden
Peru

August 31

Rev. Jeffrey & Lora Horn
Papua New Guinea



From the Pulpit

Sermon Topics for August

August 3

“The Feeding of the 5,000”
Matthew 14:13-21

August 10

Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister

August 17

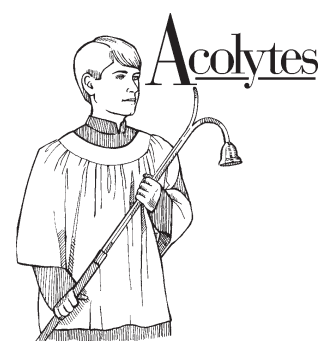
“A Living Parable of Persistent Prayer”
Matthew 15:21-28

August 24

“On This Rock I Will Build My Church”
Matthew 16:18

August 31

“Living Sacrifices”
Romans 12:1



August 3 Olivia Mitchell
August 10 Luke Elkinton
August 17 Evan Kettler
August 24 Karlie McMullin
August 31 Evan Kettler



Norlan Thoden

Entered Eternal Rest
July 31, 2014

Christian Burial
August 7, 2014

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us."
Romans 8:18



**Guest Minister
August 10**

Pastor Vogts will be flying to New York the second weekend of August to attend the final concert of the Vogts' daughter Sarah at the Chautauqua Music Festival in Chautauqua, New York, and then to help her drive home. Rev. Roger Schepmann will be our guest minister on Sunday, August 10.

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.



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!



We list 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 blocktlc@midwest-connections.com.

Linda Giager.....1
Nancy Golubski.....1

Shirley Hubbard.....1
Justin Shay.....1
Zack Hutchison.....2
Russell Prothe.....2
Ilda Koopman.....3
Jeron Hermann.....3
Kelly Kaiser.....5
Halle Schlegel.....5
Jeremiah Ordonez.....6
Jeff Garrison.....8
Melissa Mondry.....8
Trevor Fleming.....8
Kurt Golubski.....8
Chris Tesar.....9
Hailey Jones.....10
Tabytha Ritch.....10
Angela Parks.....11
Janet Schneider.....12
Jeremiah Brandt.....14
Gerald Woodall.....14
Alicia Brandt15
Joan Fehling.....15
Derek Johns.....15
Shaun Ferrell.....16
Shaylan Gibson.....16

Mike Oberheide.....16
 Ellie Reyelts.....16
 Jace Allen.....16
 Ray Staggs.....17
 Tony Thompson.....17
 Bailey Vaughn.....17
 Kaley Debrick.....18
 Cathy Warring.....18
 Angela Carwile.....20
 Enora Coppenbarger.....20
 Vernon Rausch.....20
 Gayle Plummer22
 Ryan Boyer.....23
 Kelly Gerken.....24
 Derik Vaughn.....25
 Brooke Prothe.....26
 Cale Elkinton.....27
 Don Prothe.....27
 Beth Prothe.....28
 Courtney McHenry.....28
 Barb Brandt.....30
 Hailey Raines.....30
 Jamie Ennett.....31
 Quentin Garrison.....31

August 5.....Jeff and Karen Garrison
 (8 years)
 August 8.....Dennis and Sara Prothe
 (16 years)
 August 9.....Tyler & Danielle Allen
 (6 years)
 August 16.....Doug and Judy Parks
 (34 years)
 August 17.....Curtis and Lucy Kettler
 (29 years)
 August 18.....Greg and Karen Windler
 (41 years)



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!

August 3
 Schlegel

In Honor of Halle's Birthday

August 10
 Henry

August 17
 Kettler

August 24
 Vogts

August 31
 Jan Cook & Gayle Plummer



The constitution of Trinity specifies that our doctrine is that which is found in the Bible, as summarized in the Book of Concord. Published in 1580, this book contains the confessional statements of the Lutheran Church, such as the Augsburg Confession and Formula of Concord.

Our church library contains a new "Readers Edition" of the Book of Concord, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, which features a fresh English translation and includes helpful introductions and explanations of these important documents. The basic text of the Book of Concord is also available online at www.bookofconcord.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.



Mark your calendars for the second annual Blocktoberfest, on the grounds at Trinity on Saturday, September 20, from Noon to 6:00pm. Last year's first Blocktoberfest was an extraordinary success! Check out photos from last year under the Photo Gallery button on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org.

This year's Blocktoberfest will again include fun activities and delicious food. A new feature will be an outdoor worship service in the Blocktoberfest tent, the following Sunday morning, September 21, at the regular time of 10:00am. (In case of bad weather the service will be held in the Sanctuary.)

We look forward to another great year celebrating our German heritage—and having fun!



Summer Bible Study

During August 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*.