

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2014



I was invited to write the "Voices of Faith" column in the Kansas City Star on August 23. I was asked to give my answer to the question, "What does it mean that Jesus needed two tries to bring sight to the blind man at Bethsaida?" (Mark 8:22-25). This is an expanded version of my response, somewhat longer than possible in the space available in the newspaper.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

"They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When He had spit on the man's eyes and put His hands on him, Jesus asked, 'Do you see anything?' He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.' Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly."

(Mark 8:22-25)

Why is this the only two-stage miracle of Jesus recorded in the Gospels? We get a clue from Jesus first leading the man outside the village (Mark 8:23). Persons today who have their hearing restored with cochlear implants are often overwhelmed by the sudden flood

of unfamiliar sensory perception, requiring a period of adaptation, including gradually phasing in this dramatic change. We are told that Jesus "knew what was in a man" (John 2:25), so while His other healings were often instantaneous and performed before onlookers, perhaps He knew this man needed a gradual restoration of sight, in a private setting.

And, although the account of this miracle relates a real historical event, it may also have a symbolic significance. From a literary perspective, this miracle forms a hinge in the Gospel of Mark that is a turning point in the story.

A striking feature of the Gospels is how slowly Jesus' Disciples come to recognize His true nature and mission as the Messiah. Up to this juncture in the Gospel of Mark, the Disciples' understanding has been like the first half of this two-stage miracle: half-blind, with limited perception, summarized by Jesus' penetrating question to them directly preceding this miracle: "Do you still not understand?" (Mark 8:21).

However, like the second half of the healing, from this point on in the Gospel of Mark the Disciples have growing insight into Jesus' messianic mission, beginning immediately after this miracle when Jesus asks them, "Who do you say I am?" and Peter replies, "You are the Christ" (Mark 8:27-29).

The special literary function of this miracle as a hinge in the story may explain why Mark is the only Gospel to include it. This illustrates how the Gospels—and indeed the entire Bible—are not random collections of ancient fables, but carefully crafted literary and historical accounts. As Luke explains at the beginning of his Gospel:

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were

handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account" (Luke 1:1-3).

Finally, this gradual miracle reminds Jesus' followers how we often still struggle with the darkness of sin, and strive to grow in our own enlightenment. Just as the man at first remains half-blind, in this life we remain *simul justus et peccator*, the classic Latin terminology which means "at the same time justified and sinner." As The Lutheran Study Bible comments:

"Jesus heals a blind man as His disciples continue to struggle with the issue of who Jesus is and what He has come to do. Sin blinds all of us. Yet, Jesus' gracious touch opens our eyes so that, despite our weaknesses, we recognize Him as the Christ and believe in Him unto life everlasting. Lord, open our eyes to see You and Your ways. Help us to recognize and confess You clearly as our great physician. Amen."



Our thanks to Trinity member Jeff Garrison, and his company Blackmore and Glunt, of Lenexa, for the generous donation to Trinity of a nearly new copier. This top-quality Xerox machine has many additional functions and is in excellent condition. It should serve our congregation's needs wonderfully for many years.



Missionaries of the Month

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.

September 7

*Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Ghana*

September 14

*Michael and Beth Ritzman
Papua New Guinea*

September 21

*Rev. Joel and Clarion Fritsche
Dominican Republic*

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Published Monthly by

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September, 2014*

September 28
*Freeman and Susan Rohlfing
Czech Republic*



Nada Thoden

Entered Eternal Rest
August 6, 2014

Christian Burial
August 11, 2014

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



Sermon Topics for September

September 7

*"These Little Ones
Who Believe in Me"
Matthew 18:6*

September 14

*"Forgive Your Brother
From Your Heart"
Matthew 18:21-35*

September 21

*"Preserve Our Heritage"
Psalm 78:3-4, 7*

September 28
*"A Tale of Two Sons"
Matthew 21:28-32*



Rally Day September 7

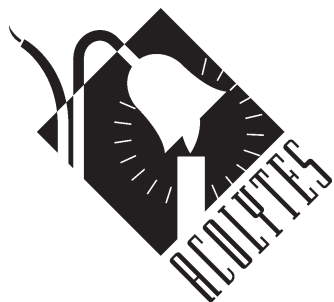
Our thanks to Michelle Haley for a great job planning and organizing Summer Sunday School, and all who helped this summer. We will begin the new year of Sunday School and Confirmation classes with our Christian Education Rally Day on Sunday, September 7.

During the education hour that morning we will return to our regular Sunday School curriculum and children will advance to their new classes. During the worship service the Sunday School teachers will be recognized and all children entering preschool thru 8th grade will receive from the congregation gifts of age appropriate Bibles, Bible storybooks, and Catechisms.

Following the service everyone is invited to a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall in appreciation of Pastor Kevin and Terry Vogts for their first year of service to Trinity.

After the potluck, the Sunday School children will put on a brief program about their fun Summer Sunday School adventure in which they "traveled" each week to a different city in the Holy Land, and they will have on display the wonderful relief maps of the Holy Land which they created.

This is also a great way to celebrate Grandparents Day which falls that Sunday. Don't miss the fun and fellowship!



September 7 Olivia Mitchell
 September 14 Karlie McMullin
 September 21 Evan Kettler
 September 28 Luke Elkinton



The first Confirmation class for students entering 7th & 8th grades will be Sunday, September 7 from 8:00am-9:00am. Parents please come with your children for the first few minutes class and we can discuss whether it is convenient to keep that schedule again this year, or if you prefer classes at a different time. Please contact Pastor Vogts with any questions.

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

We list birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our

Trinity's Second Annual



Blocktoberfest

Saturday, September 20, Noon–6:00pm

On the School Grounds

Fun Activities for the Whole Family!

German Band and Dancing! — Delicious Food and Beverages!

See Pictures from Last Year on Photo Gallery at www.trinitylcms.org



Sunday Outdoor Worship in the Blocktoberfest Tent

September 21, 10:00am (Held In Sanctuary in Case of Bad Weather)

Open to the Community!

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

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.

- Noel Wendte, September 1
- Mary Ann Green, September 2
- Gladys Prothe, September 2
- Shane Honn, September 3
- Rebecca Hurst, September 3
- Ron Raines, September 4
- Lance Belsanti, September 4
- Mary Ann Maisch, September 5
- Joan Mueller, September 5
- Dennis Peckman, September 5
- Steve Windler, September 5
- Dena Kaiser, September 5
- Emerson Bunch, September 6
- David Gatlin, September 6
- Les Jones, September 6

- Gay Stubbs, September 6
- Cindy Belsanti, September 7
- Teri Wimp, September 7
- Bob Prothe, September 7
- Tore Smithhisler, September 8
- Lloyd Ohlmeier, September 8
- John Henry, September 10
- Evan Kettler, September 10
- Nickolas Davis, September 10
- Connie Barnett, September 11
- Gary Peckman, September 11
- Kristie Weaver, September 11
- Carol Wray, September 11
- Casey Maisch, September 12
- Pam Thompson, September 12
- Donald Smithhisler, September 13
- Liam Simonson, September 13
- Sally Wood, September 13
- Aaron Prothe, September 15
- Conni Holte, September 16
- Grant Haley, September 18

Anna Peckman, September 18
 Skyler Prothe, September 18
 Liam Simonson, September 18
 Josslyn Fuller, September 18
 Rolland Prothe, September 18
 Katie Lindsey, September 21
 Sarah Reyelts, September 22
 Jackson Lester, September 22
 Karen Brack, September 23
 Weston Davis, September 23
 Lindsey Rausch, September 23
 Amanda West, September 23
 Dawson Bruce, September 24
 Kevin Debrick, September 24
 Jennifer Boydston, September 25
 Olivia Mitchell, September 25
 Clinton Peckman, September 25
 Ginny Peckman, September 25
 Scott Golubski, September 27
 Geraldine Holtz, September 27
 Ryan Holloman, September 27
 Leslie Thoden, September 27
 Kaiden Armstrong, September 28
 Margie Monthey, September 28
 Kathy Korsten, September 29
 Mary Shay, September 29
 Gale Nowasell, September 30

Jerry & Reita Woodall
September 5 (60 years)

Jason & Sacred Davis
September 7 (18 years)

Jamey & Dena Kaiser
September 8 (7 years)

Bob & Gladys Prothe
September 9 (58 years)

James & Shannon Fanning
September 11 (15 years)

Dennis & Norma Peckman
September 12 (60 years)

Johnny & Sharon Grother
September 13 (50 years)

Kerry & Carole Br&t
September 17 (31 years)

Paul & Kathy Haley
September 18 (38 years)

Randy & Helen Maisch
September 19 (17 years)

Ryan & Tamara Mitchell
September 21 (18 years)

Kelly & Valerie Gerken
September 25 (38 years)

Gary & Rose Peckman
September 28 (29 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!

September 7
Potluck Dinner

September 14
*Gladys & Sharon Prothe
Bob's 80th Birthday*

September 21
Blocktoberfest Committee

September 28
Need Volunteers



In 1939 Lutheran pastor, theologian, and seminary professor Dietrich Bonhoeffer left a prestigious, safe teaching position in New York City to return to his native Germany before the

outbreak of World War II. He felt it his duty as a German patriot to struggle against the evils of Hitler and Nazism—from the inside.

Six years later this decision would cost him his life. Because of his involvement in the famous “Valkyrie” plot to assassinate Hitler, he was imprisoned in a concentration camp and became one of the last victims of the Third Reich, executed just hours before the camp was liberated by soldiers from his adopted second homeland of America.

New to our Church Library (in the history section) is the thrilling story of this hero, the recent New York Times bestseller *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas.

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.



Don't miss 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!



Trinity's Second Annual



August 3, 2014

Thank you to the Sunday School for sponsoring our Second Annual Ice Cream Social on August 3. The home made ice cream and treats were delicious, and it was great to have so many guests from the community join us!



More photos from this and other events at Trinity are under the Photo Gallery button on our web site at www.trinitylcms.org.





Reformation Movie Night October 12

Mark your calendars for a fun "Reformation Movie Night" on Sunday, October 12 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will commemorate the Reformation by enjoying the award-winning classic "Martin Luther" movie, projected on a big screen. We'll also have a "popcorn bar" featuring delicious treats to mix in with your popcorn. Sponsored by the Sunday School for all ages! Children please bring bean bags and pillows to get comfy on the floor.



Adult Bible Study

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*.



LCMS President Matthew Harrison (center) is pictured in the chapel of the LCMS International Center in St. Louis with 35 new LCMS missionaries and their spouses and their children following the "sending service" on June 27 when they were sent out to the international mission field. They will serve in 15 countries, including Kenya, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Uruguay, the Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.



Sunday School Topics for September

September 7—We begin the fall with God's account of the beginning of all things in "God Creates the World." During the week, point out to your children some of the wonderful things in our world God made and praise Him for these creations. Consider asking, "How did God create the world? What is your favorite part of God's creation?"

September 14—Today in Sunday school students will hear how "God Creates Adam and Eve." including providing them with perfect physical attributes and a lush garden in which to live. God created the world's many natural resources so it would be a wonderful place for His most treasured creation, human beings, to live. Parents might ask, "How were Adam and Eve different from the rest of God's creation?"

September 21—Today in Sunday School we will study the Scripture's account, "Sin Enters the World" as the

devil tempted Adam and Eve to sin. With the fall into sin came God's punishment of death . . . but also His promise of a Savior. You might discuss, "How does sin affect us as a family? How does God's promise of a Savior give us comfort?"

September 28—Do your kids get jealous? Today in Sunday School, our children will study the story of "Cain and Abel" which tells about the first case murder caused by jealousy. Consider discussing, "How does jealousy affect relationships in a family? Why is it important to forgive each other in our family?"



Our thanks to Kathy Peckman for serving again this year as our choir director, and to all our faithful choir members! Wouldn't *you* enjoy being part of Trinity's excellent choir? Rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the church balcony. We usually sing on the every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month. Come and join the fun and fellowship!