

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



2014

October



"Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth." (1 Corinthians 1:26)

We are so familiar with the phrase "mainline Protestant" that we may be surprised by the actual origin and meaning of the term. Most people assume "mainline" is just a variation of "mainstream." But, really it has a completely different significance—derived from the streetcar system in Philadelphia!

As Philadelphia grew at the turn of the 20th century the streetcars serving the wealthiest sections of town were called the "Main Line." This developed into local slang for something which caters to the wealthy and elite. The expression spread, so that by the 1950's "mainline" was a popular term for anything related to the upper classes of society.

By the 1950's "mainline" was a popular term for anything catering to the upper classes of society.

It actually wasn't until 1960 that the now familiar phrase "mainline Protestant" first appeared, in an article in the New York Times. It was used to describe what in Great Britain would be called the

"established church," mainly about a half-dozen, well-established, American Protestant denominations, which tended to have higher proportions of the upper classes, and thus were deemed "mainline." Among the denominations considered "mainline" were Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Northern Baptist, and some of the Lutheran bodies that are now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The LCMS certainly represents the "mainstream" of American Protestantism, but nevertheless we are not considered "mainline."

Interestingly, although our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was and is among the largest of American Protestant denominations, you may be surprised to learn that we have never been technically considered "mainline." Likewise the Southern Baptist Convention, which is *the* largest American Protestant denomination. This points out the difference between the terms "mainline" and "mainstream." Both the LCMS and SBC certainly represent the "mainstream" of American Protestantism—even more so than many of these other denominations—but nevertheless we are not considered to be "mainline."

Historically, this distinction was due not so much to theology but sociology. The LCMS was based more in areas that were rural and agricultural, rather than urban and industrial. To some extent this distinction still persists. About two decades ago Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood did a joint study which showed a significantly higher average income and wealth for members of the ELCA versus

the LCMS. This is partly due to the demographics of whatever "old country" our forefathers came from, and who among them tended to immigrate to America.

There is an old saying that the Scandinavian Lutherans owned the factory, and the German Lutherans worked in the factory. Or, the Scandinavian Lutherans owned the mansion, and the German Lutherans were servants in the mansion. While of course not universally true—some of my own German ancestors were apparently well-to-do in the old country—generally the LCMS did not cater to the upper classes, and therefore was not counted as a "mainline" denomination.

But, perhaps we were lucky *not* to be "mainline"! Because, since that term was first used in 1960 to describe some Protestants, all those denominations have suffered two crippling blows.

Since the term "mainline" was first used in a 1960 New York Times article to describe some Protestants, all those denominations have suffered crippling blows. Perhaps we were lucky not to be "mainline"!

First came extreme deviations from Biblical Christian faith and doctrine. Perhaps the most obvious, striking example is the recent endorsement by the ELCA and most other "mainline" churches of homosexual clergy and so-called "same-sex marriage" (which is really not marriage at all). But, this perversion is just the most glaring deviation. "Mainline" churches are veering away from even the most basic aspects of the faith.

For example, the Presbyterian Church recently rejected for their new hymnal these lyrics from the popular new hymn "In Christ Alone": "And on the cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied." Those lyrics beautifully sum up the Biblical doctrine of Christ suffering and dying to pay for our sins. That's what Christianity is all about—but the committee preparing their hymnal indicated it no longer represents the teachings of their denomination!

Many of the people in the pews do not hold these deviant views being pushed on them by wicked false teachers who have taken over their denominations.

It is important to point out that many of the common people in the pews do not hold these deviant moral and theological views. It is being pushed on them by wicked false teachers who have taken over their denominations. Sadly, however, this is what is being taught, both in their seminaries and by many of their pastors, making it hard over time for Biblical Christian faith and doctrine to survive in their midst.

Trinity Tribune

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This has led to the second crippling blow faced by all "mainline" denominations: massive declines in membership, attendance, and giving. An example is the ELCA, which since formed in 1985 has lost over 1.2 million members and 1,500 congregations, or a staggering 23% of their members and 13% of their congregations. Even among those congregations remaining in the ELCA, average weekly worship attendance has plunged 26% since 2003, and giving on the national level dropped over 50%, from \$88 million in 2008 to only \$40 million in 2011.

There are similar staggering statistics for all other "mainline" denominations. One church historian has suggested that instead of "mainline" they should now be called "oldline," because these denominations are rapidly dying out. The LCMS indeed faces a demographic challenge because of our aging membership, but overall we have been able to mostly hold steady in terms of membership, attendance, and giving—certainly in comparison to the utter collapse of the "mainline" denominations.

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How did the LCMS avoid this fate? This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Seminex "walkout," which some of you may remember at our Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Liberal professors who had gotten positions there attempted to drag the Missouri Synod into the "mainline." By the grace of God conservative pastors and laity were able to stop them, and so they walked out *en masse*, quitting their positions and leaving the Missouri Synod. They became part of the ELCA when it was formed, and thus their dream of being in a "mainline" denomination was fulfilled—but it really turned out to be a nightmare, and least for the common people in the pews.

In contrast, 40 years later by the grace of God the LCMS is theologically solid. Lutherans from around the world are coming to us for missionary leadership and theological education, such as the largest Lutheran church body in the world, in Ethiopia, which recently severed ties with the ELCA and is in fellowship talks with the LCMS. Though we face many of our own challenges, 40 years after the traumatic "walkout" in many ways the LCMS is now one of the strongest American Protestant denominations.

By the grace of God the LCMS remains theologically solid and in many ways one of the strongest American Protestant denominations.

We will celebrate the Reformation this month with a special order of worship on Reformation Sunday, October 26, featuring hymns and writings of Martin Luther. We must always remain vigilant and pray as Luther wrote:

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word,
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.*
(Lutheran Service Book, #655, vs. 1)

Pastor Kevin Vogts

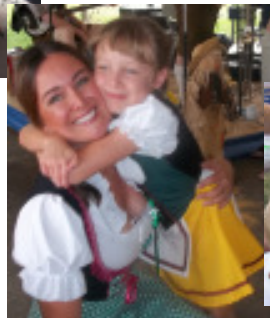
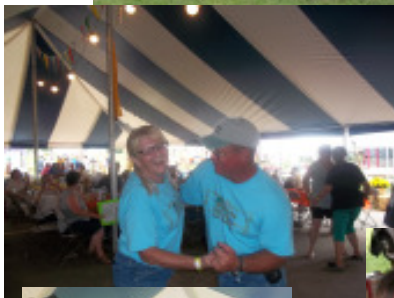
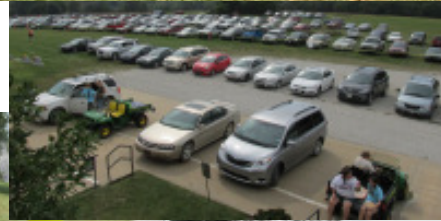
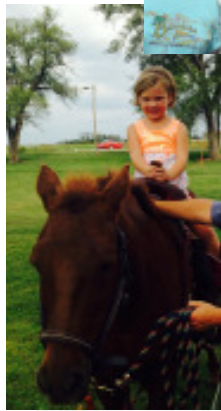


Thank you to all the members of Trinity for remembering us at the appreciation potluck on September 7 marking our first year at Trinity, for the presentation by the Sunday School children, their "goodie basket," and the gift certificate to the New Theater Restaurant. And thank you for making us feel so welcome here!

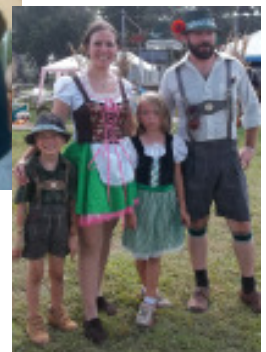
Pastor Kevin, Terese, & Anna Vogts



Our second annual Blocktoberfest on September 20 was another amazing success! Thank you to everyone who helped, especially Paul Haley for spearheading this great event. We're all looking forward to Blocktoberfest 2015!



See lots more photos under the Photo Gallery button on our web site at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



Special Gifts from Congregation

The Endowment Committee was given the task by the Voters Assembly of distributing the money from our school fire set aside for outreach beyond our congregation. One request was granted at our last Endowment Committee meeting of \$5,000 for St. John Lutheran Church in Pilger, Nebraska, to help after the devastating tornados which destroyed their church and many members' homes and farms.

The Committee would like to have a list of other suggestions from congregation members that could receive our gifts, such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Hour, LCMS Missions, individual student grants, and any other organization. Application forms are in the Church Office in the Endowment Committee mail slot and any member can make application for funds by filling out a form and returning it to the mail slot or to Endowment Committee Chairman Ken Debrick, whom you can contact if you have any questions.

God has blessed our congregation—let's glorify God with this money!



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.



Sunday, October 12, 6:00pm

Award-Winning Classic "Martin Luther" Movie
Projected on a Big Screen

Free Drinks and Popcorn Bar

*Sponsored by the Sunday School for All Ages
Alternate Children's Movie for Younger Children*

Children Bring Bean Bags and Pillows to Get Comfy!

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

October 5

*Rev. Jacob Gaugert
Togo*

October 12

*Timothy & Laurie Schlueter
Singapore*

October 19

*Deaconess Rachel Powell
Dominican Republic*

October 26

*Vicar Willie & Angélica Grills
Peru*



October 5

*"Crossing the Finish Line"
Philippians 3:12-14*

October 12

*"Come to the Wedding Banquet"
Matthew 22:1-14*

October 19

*"They Shall Soar Like Eagles"
Isaiah 40:29-31*

October 26

*"Martin Luther's Seal"
Romans 3:22-25*

Acolytes



October 5 Evan Kettler
October 12 Karlie McMullin
October 19 Luke Elkinton
October 26 Lance Elliott



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

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.

Kimala Morton, October 1
Michele Minden, October 1
Ashley Peckman, October 2
Sharon Prothe, October 2
Kyle Minden, October 4
Mark Deering, October 5
Megan Stutzman, October 8
Brian Oberheide, October 8
Kyle Garrison, October 9
LeRoy Thoden, October 10
Shelby Barrett, October 11
Kegan Warring, October 11
Vicky Boyer, October 13
Aaron Mueller, October 13
Hazel Prothe, October 13
Pam Peckman, October 15
Jay Warring, October 15
Ariel Alcorn, October 16
Erica Jones, October 16
Dylan Fanning, October 17
Tony Hubbard, October 17
Julie Kellogg, October 17
Carter Zajic, October 18
Betty Prothe, October 19
Joe Stephens, October 19
Khrystin Davis, October 20
David Minden, October 20
Brett Golubski, October 23
Kaelah McMullin, October 23
Hannah Allcorn, October 23



For Sunday School Rally Day on September 7 children in Preschool thru 8th Grade received from Trinity gifts of age-appropriate Bibles and Catechisms. More photos from the Rally Day potluck dinner and the program presented by the Sunday School are under the Photo Gallery button on our web site at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

Payton Bruce, October 24
Charlie Peckman, October 26
Dalton Russell, October 26
Garrett Russell, October 26
Kolby Fanning, October 27
Lloyd Peckman, October 27
Kayla Shappell, October 27
Chris Kettler, October 30
Rose Peckman, October 30
David Prothe, October 30
Jai Jenkins, October 30
Nina Gerken, October 31

Larry & Dana Simonson
October 1 (9 years)
Randy & Kayla Rausch
October 2 (4 years)
Stewart & Beth Marsland
October 6 (13 years)
Scott & Nancy Golubski
October 7 (25 years)
Joe & Anisha O'Barto
October 17 (16 years)
Darrel & Brigitte Rodewald
October 17 (33 years)
Kyle & Pam Minden
October 19 (23 years)

Mark & Diana Deering
October 25 (11 years)
Eric & Lindsey Lester
October 27 (2 years)
Les & Beth Prothe
October 30 (22 years)
Dale & Linda Prothe
October 31 (37 years)



Sunday School Topics for October

October 5—As our children study the Bible account “Noah and the Flood” in Sunday School today, they will consider God’s messages that He gave through the flood and the rainbow. God promises

to provide a Savior to overcome sin and take its punishment for us. Parents could ask, "How do God's promises give you comfort?"

October 12—Today our children will study "God Calls Abram" who was called by God to move his family to a land far away from his birthplace. God's promises Abram that He would make Abram's family a great nation that would bring blessing to many people. You might discuss, "How do our blessings compare to those God gave Abram?"

October 19—Today in Sunday School, our children will see how "Abram Rescues Lot." This account is an Old Testament picture of how God rescued all of us from sin's condemnation. Parents might ask, "How has God rescued you from sin?"

October 26—In Sunday School today, our children will study "God's Covenant with Abram." As He did for Abram, God keeps His promises, as He did in giving His own Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Consider discussing, "What important promises do we make as a family? How can we remind ourselves of the promises God keeps for us?"



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



A new feature of Blocktoberfest this year was an outdoor worship service held in the Blocktoberfest tent on September 21. More photos from this service are under the Photo Gallery button on our web site at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

School for all ages! Children please bring bean bags and pillows to get comfy on the floor.



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—most of 2014 remains open!

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!

October 5
Prothe-Golubski

October 14
Vogts

October 21
Need Volunteer

October 26
Chicken Noodle & Chili Dinner

QUARTERLY MEETING

The quarterly Voters Assembly meeting will be Sunday, October 5 at 7:00pm. The agenda includes officer and committee reports, election of officers for 2015, review master landscape plan, and look forward to the 150th anniversary of our congregation.



Circuit Reformation Service October 26

Everyone is invited to celebrate our Lutheran heritage at our Circuit Reformation Service on Sunday, October 26 at 2:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5601 West 62nd Street (Nall and Shawnee Mission Parkway) in Mission.

Trinity's Pastor Emeritus Lee Hovel will be the preacher. The service will feature a combined choir from area congregations as well as the Lutheran High School of Kansas City Concert Choir. Holy Communion will be celebrated and a light reception will follow.



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*.



Portals of Prayer

The new issue of *Portals of Prayer* for October thru December is available in the small literature rack (on the end table) in back of the church.

To make reading easier, in addition to the standard "pocket" size we now have copies available in a medium "digest" size (same size as *Reader's Digest*), and a large-print size.

You will be blessed by the brief daily devotions and short daily Bible readings prayers. There are also suggested longer readings for each day, and in the back of each issue a wonderful collection of prayers for each day of the week and special needs and occasions. A great way to keep close to the Lord!



Trinity's Annual

Chicken Noodle & Chili Dinner and Bazaar

Sunday, October 26, 11:00am

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

Come Enjoy the Fun, Food, and Fellowship!



Nursing Home Services October 19

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medicalodge on October 19. 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 your help too!

Our final nursing home service schedule for 2014 will be at Country Club Estates & Vintage Park on November 23.



In our Church Library in the Overflow we have recently added a large number of new Bible reference works, including handbooks, concordances, and dictionaries, and are continually acquiring more as used or new copies of helpful volumes become available for a good price.

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.

MISSION NEWS

At 64 years old, James Nango came to faith in Christ. James lives in Kenya, where the name James was considered a Christian name in a colonial system where, for conformance, residents identified with Christian denominations. In fact, James' parents gave him his name because most schools were run by churches. Only children with Christian names received admission into those schools.

His parents held to an African traditional faith, a form of ancestor worship. James, however, considered himself a "Mkosa Dini", a Swahili term meaning a person with no religion.

Because of his Christian name people assumed James was a Christian—but James had never stepped inside a church. In fact, James was uncomfortable around churches, and negative behavior among some Christians made him even less interested.



James Nango is received into Lutheran Church membership in Nairobi, Kenya.

But, James had a problem with his eyes. He could not see things that were close and needed glasses but could not afford them due to other family needs.

Then James heard about a medical eye clinic held at the Lutheran Church in the infamous Kibera slum area of Nairobi, considered one of the largest slums in the world. The clinic was a joint effort between the local Evangelical Lutheran

Trinity's 6th Annual



Saturday, October 25, 4:00pm-6:00pm in Church Parking Lot

Food 🍎 Games 🎮 Pumpkin Decorating 🎃 Bounce House

*Everyone Is Invited to Offer Trunk or Treat
from Your Car, Truck, or Other Vehicle!*
(Please Have Your Setup Completed by 3:30pm)

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

Church in Kenya (ELCK), a Missouri Synod team from Texas, and the Lutheran Hour Ministries center in Kenya.

Despite his discomfort about churches, James attended the clinic. As participants awaited medical services, one Christian shared his faith. Christians also chatted one-on-one with attendees about the Savior.

James determined to participate as passively as possible. He was simply seeking help with his eyes. But, as he listened to one Christian speaking of his faith—James can't pinpoint exactly what it was about the young man's message—it captured his attention.

Growing up, James' parents and other adults in his life had described God according to traditional tribal religion as a disconnected, mysterious, fearsome entity. But, this young man instead spoke of God the way one describes a friend.

For the first time in James' life, it became clear that God cared about him as an individual. He learned Christ has cleared the way for God to have a relationship with mankind—including James. And that restored relationship is based not on religious merit or denomination, but on Christ's death and resurrection.

James found himself asking questions, and suddenly, the faith-related portion of the clinic experience became even more important than the eyeglasses he had sought. He realized his main issue had never been his physical sight, but his spiritual blindness.

Through his experience that day the Holy Spirit brought James to faith. He was one of five individuals who joined the ELCK congregations as a result of the eye clinic. Now James now attends worship and classes to learn more, and is seeking to bring his entire family to Christ.