

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2015  
January

New Year  
Message  
from the  
Pastor



Currently in movie theaters is the story of Cambridge University physicist Stephen Hawking, and his battle with the debilitating illness Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as "Lou Gehrig's disease."

In his best-selling book A Brief History of Time, Hawking theorized that time has no beginning and no end; time exists from eternity, to eternity. Hawking is correct in his description, but he is describing the wrong thing. For, it is not time itself which has no beginning and no end, but the Creator of time, the eternal God.

God has no beginning and no end; God exists from eternity, to eternity. It is difficult to put this concept into words, but this is how Moses expresses the eternity of God in Psalm 90:1-2: "Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Contrary to Hawking's theory that time is infinite and eternal, the Scriptures report that the phenomenon of time was created by God: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth . . . And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day

from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years" (Genesis 1:1, 14).

So, the Bible tells us that the steady march of time had a definite beginning, and it will also have a definite end, at the end of all things. : "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. . . That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat" (2 Peter 3:10, 12).

Like a clock that is wound and slowly progresses through the hours, God has set time into motion, and He has fixed a certain point at which time will end. This is not only true in the grand scheme of the universe, but also for each of us as individuals. As Psalm 139:16 says, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to pass."

**God has allotted to each of us a precious treasure: a certain amount of time, to serve Him here on earth.**

God has set your life into motion, and He has allotted to you a certain number of days. As Psalm 31:15 says, "My times are in your hands," and Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days aright." God has fixed a time when your earthly life will end and He will take you out of the realm of time and into His eternal kingdom.

While you remain here on earth, your most precious possession is the time God has allotted you. The old song says, "If I could put time in a bottle." But, you cannot halt the unyielding march of days. Like a clock ticking away, time

progresses invariably. Like a precious treasure, your days on earth are spent, never to be returned or relived. You cannot "put time in a bottle," you cannot save up extra time for the future. And you cannot borrow or buy extra time, as Jesus says in Matthew 6:27, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

**Your Master is returning, the clock is running, your time on earth is precious. Make the most of every opportunity—use the irreplaceable treasure of your time to serve Him.**

Jesus told the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), about three men, each given a certain amount of money by their master to invest and use while the master was away on a trip. And when he returned, two of the servants had wisely used the money and gotten a good return. But, one of the servants, wicked and lazy, hid his portion away, did not use it, had not gained anything for his master.

Like the master in the parable, God has allotted to each of us a precious treasure: a certain amount of time, to serve Him here on earth. And when He comes again, He expects to see that we each have used our time wisely and well, that we each have invested our time to serve Him and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

St. Paul says in Colossians 4:5, "Make the most of every opportunity." When God calls for an accounting of the time allotted to you, will He commend you for making the most of every opportunity, for serving the Lord with gladness, for giving to Him and His service the proper portion of your life?

St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:29, "Brothers, the time is short." Another year has passed, so quickly. Over this past year good resolutions and good intentions have fallen by the way. The precious treasure of time has too often been wasted.

***The Lord will bless you in the year to come, and finally grant you everlasting time in the eternal bliss of heaven.***

Jesus says in Revelation 22:7, "Behold, I am coming quickly!" Your Master is returning, the clock is running, your time on earth is precious. Make not just good resolutions and good intentions. Make the most of every opportunity. As St. Paul says in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

In this New Year, use your most precious, irreplaceable treasure—your time—to serve the Lord with gladness. Even as the Lord has blessed you in ages past, He will bless you in the year to come, and He will finally grant you the gift of everlasting time in the eternal bliss of heaven.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

## Trinity Tribune

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Thank you to all members of Trinity for your lovely Christmas cards and very generous (and tasty!) gifts to our family throughout the holiday season.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

*Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts  
Jacob, Sarah, Anna*



## Sermons for January

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available several ways, in both printed and audio form:

✘ On our congregation's web site, [www.trinitylcms.org/sermons](http://www.trinitylcms.org/sermons);

✘ As podcasts in the iTunes store under "Rev. Kevin Vogts";

✘ Online from our podcast host at [www.kevinvogts.podbean.com](http://www.kevinvogts.podbean.com);

✘ For mobile devices at [www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile](http://www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile). On most phones and other mobile devices you can save this link as an app for quick access.

January 1

*"The Twelve Blessings  
of Christmas: Gentleness  
and Self-Control"  
Matthew 1:18-25*

January 4

*"The Twelve Blessings  
of Christmas: Peace"  
Isaiah 2:1-5*

January 11

*"What Must I Do to Be Saved?"  
Acts 16:25-34*

January 18

*"A Letter from Christ"  
2 Corinthians 3:3*

January 25

*"In the World But Not of the World"  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31*



## Annual Church ELECTION

### Officers and Board Members for 2015

Our thanks to all those who served Trinity as officers and board members in 2014, and those who have agreed to serve in 2015.

Chairman

Greg Windler

Elders

Jim Prothe, Bill Koelsch,  
Lloyd Peckman

Trustees

Keith Prothe, Dave Prothe,  
Kevin Prothe

Treasurer

Paul Brack

Mission Treasurer

Jeff Garrison

Finance  
John Schlegel,  
Brad Hendrickson, Jamey Kaiser

School Board  
Darrel Rodewald, Ken Debrick,  
Kyle Minden

Ushers  
Mike England, Vernon Rausch

Sunday School Superintendent  
Clint Haley

Assistant Sunday School  
Superintendent  
Kristina Jenkins

Sunday School Secretary  
Michelle Haley

Church Secretary  
Stacey Elkinton

Voters Secretary  
Rolland Prothe



# 2014 Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas; to Paul Haley for constructing new displays for poinsettias and lilies, which were used for this first time this Christmas; to Barb Dillenbeck for arranging the plants; and to the youth and all who helped decorate. There were many comments from visitors about how beautifully our church was decorated!

Given By

In Memory or Honor Of

Ken Debrick .....	Lorene Debrick
Kevin Debrick (2) .....	Lorene Debrick, Billee Lee
Paul & Kathy Haley (2)	
Tamara Mitchell .....	Frances Gerken
Gayle Plummer .....	Leland Gerken
Bob & Gladys Prothe & Family (3) .....	Nada Thoden, Myrtle & Elmer Thoden Elva & Art Prothe
Janet Schneider (4) .....	Lloyd Schneider, Helen Leonard Danny Schneider, William Leonard
Phyllis Trickett	
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2) .....	Leroy & Ruth Vogts & Grandparents
Vivian Wilson & Venita, Arlin, & Aaron Prothe .....	LaVern Wilson



## Voters Assembly January 11

The first quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly for 2015 will be on Sunday, January 11, following the worship service. An item of special consideration will be proposed revisions to the congregation's Constitution and Bylaws.

The Church Council will meet in advance of the Voters Assembly, on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00pm.



Thank you to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour during December and throughout all of 2014! Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2015? Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

There is a sign-up sheet for the New 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.

Thank you to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

January 4  
*Linda Prothe*  
January 11  
*Vogts*  
January 18  
*Jim & Sharon Prothe*  
January 25  
*Need Volunteers*



## Extra Communion Sundays

In response to requests from members, the Board of Elders and Church Council have decided to offer Holy Communion twice during the months of November thru February, due to the potential for severe weather during the winter months which may prevent some from attending on some Sundays. During those months we will have Holy Communion on both the 1st and 3rd Sundays.



## 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*.



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.

January 4

*Rev. Tom & Brenda Chryst  
Singapore*

January 11

*Ruth Pollex  
Dominican Republic*

January 18

*Rev. David & Julie Faulkner  
Uruguay*

January 25

*Chara Sype  
South Africa*



## Former Muslims Baptized at LCMS Partner Congregation

*From the LCMS Reporter*

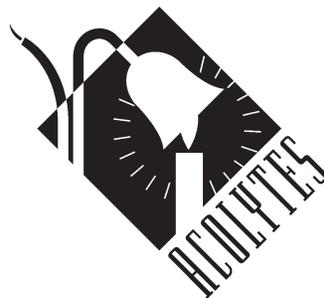
On August 4, 2014, a newspaper in Leipzig, Germany ran an article with the headline, "*Leipzig's Most Dangerous Baptisms: Here Muslims Become Christians.*"

The article was referring to the baptisms of four former Muslims on July 27 at St. Trinitatisgemeinde (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church) in Leipzig, a congregation of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), which is separate from the state church and in partnership with the LCMS.

On that Sunday, Rev. Hugo Gevers, SELK missionary to the migrant population of Leipzig, baptized a husband and wife along with two other men. A special feature of these Baptisms was that during the time when the candidate denounces the devil and his works, these former Muslims also denounced their former faith. In a pointed reversal of the traditional Islamic profession of faith, they boldly proclaimed, "I renounce Islam, and confess that neither is the Koran God's revelation, nor is Mohammed God's prophet."

It was a poignant moment, Gevers pointed out, because many of these new Christians actually had Christian ancestors, who centuries ago had been forced by threats of death to renounce Christianity and covert to Islam. Now, their descendants have returned to the faith—not out of fear, but in sincere faith and with great joy.

However, this joyous moment was also for them a fearful turning point in



## January Acolytes

January 4 ..... Evan Kettler  
January 11 ..... Lance Elliott  
January 18 ..... Olivia Mitchell  
January 25 ..... Karlie McMullin

their lives. For, as they confessed the one true faith in the Apostles' Creed, and then Rev. Gevers spoke the Baptismal formula and poured water on their heads in the Name of the Triune God, they were not only are marked as children of God, sharers in Christ's death and resurrection, and members of God's family. At that moment they were also marked for death—the punishment prescribed in the Koran for leaving Islam, and still often carried out against those who convert to Christianity, even in Western countries such as Germany.

Despite such threats, 49-year-old Eizadi Shahriyar says of his Baptism, "This was very beautiful for me. It was as if I knocked on a door, and it opened, and everything was wonderful. . . I have hope now. Everything is different in my life. My outlook on the future is also very different. . . To me the peace that I have in faith is most important, and therefore I do not think of the fear anymore."



**Rev. Hugo Gevers administers Holy Baptism to former Muslim Eizadi Shahriyar at St. Trinitatisgemeinde (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church) in Leipzig, Germany.**



## Mission Sunday February 1

We will observe Mission Sunday on February 1, with a mission-themed morning worship service, followed by a potluck dinner and presentation.

For the service, Pastor Vogts' mission message will be "Spread the News!" based on Mark 1:40-45. After the service, everyone is invited to bring your favorite dishes and stay for a potluck dinner.

We will then enjoy a presentation by Trinity's own Chloe Rausch, about a trip she recently took to Mexico with support from Trinity's Endowment Fund.

In case of bad weather the backup date for our Mission Sunday activities is the following Sunday, February 8.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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 blocktcl@midwest-connections.com.

- January 1 ..... Bryce Peckman
- January 2 ..... Jan Cook
- January 2 ..... Anisha O'Barto
- January 2 ..... Tara Smith
- January 4 ..... Cathy Hieber
- January 4 ..... Jessica Parks
- January 4 ..... Stan Plummer
- January 4 ..... Dustin Prothe
- January 5 ..... Levi Alcorn
- January 6 ..... Matthew Richardson
- January 7 ..... Caylin Garrison
- January 7 ..... Sunnye Oswalt
- January 8 ..... Mike England
- January 8 ..... Cormick Ferrell
- January 8 ..... Linda Ferrell
- January 8 ..... Michael Kriesel

- January 9 ..... Jobie Debrick
- January 10 ..... Don Minden
- January 11 ..... Phyllis Trickett
- January 12 ..... Devon Smithhisler
- January 13 ..... Bill Dillenbeck
- January 13 ..... Lorri Jenson
- January 14 ..... Paul Deering
- January 14 ..... Bruce Nowasell
- January 15 ..... Chancie Minden
- January 15 ..... Cooper Minden
- January 17 ..... Lindsey Hall
- January 20 ..... Zachary Donahue
- January 21 ..... Jody Burnett
- January 22 ..... Rick Holte
- January 24 ..... Trent Fleming
- January 25 ..... Mike Koelsch
- January 25 ..... Webb Oberheide
- January 25 ..... Aubry Peckman
- January 25 ..... Joel Plummer
- January 25 ..... Mike Thompson
- January 26 ..... Gregg Hall
- January 26 ..... Michael Thoden
- January 26 ..... Philip Oberheide
- January 27 ..... Suzie Prothe
- January 28 ..... Jimmy Massey
- January 29 ..... Lindsey Holtz
- January 30 ..... Elbert Jones
- January 30 ..... Mason Kunard
- January 30 ..... Mitch Plummer
- January 31 ..... Morgan Richards
- January 11 ..... Jeron & Kendra Fuller  
(12 Years)
- January 26 .. Damon & Betty Oberheide  
(64 Years)

2014  
Christmas  
Eve  
Children's  
Program



The children of Trinity Sunday School did a wonderful job sharing the Christmas story at the Christmas Eve Children's Program and Candlelight Service.



The beautiful service closed with the children singing the first verse of "Silent Night" in German and the congregation joining in to sing the rest by candlelight.



Thank you to Stacey Elkinton for these photos. Check the Photo Gallery on our church website for more photos at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos).



Thank you to the Sunday School Teachers for their wonderful work with Trinity's Sunday School Children to present a really meaningful Christmas Program.

