

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✦ Paola, Kansas

2015



"Have you not read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female?"
Matthew 19:4

Abraham Lincoln once asked, "If I call a tail a leg, how many legs does a calf have?" "Five" came the reply. "No," said Lincoln. "A calf still has only four legs. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it one."

That is the question regarding those who are supposedly "transgender." Do their attempts to remake themselves into the opposite sex really make them so?

In most Bibles, it is already on the very first page that Scripture clearly declares in Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Jesus reaffirms this Biblical teaching when He quotes this verse from Genesis in Matthew 19:4.

The reason for God's design of humanity as male and female is also explained on the first pages of the Bible: "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply' . . . For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 1:28, 2:24), which is also quoted and reaffirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:5.

This is a great example of how the Bible is actually 100% scientifically accurate. Because, thousands of years before the intricacies of DNA were unraveled in 1953, this process was described by both Moses and Jesus in a simple yet completely scientifically accurate way: "And the two will become

one flesh" (Matthew 19:5). The ancients had all sorts of strange notions about how babies were created. Even Martin Luther accepted the common idea of his day that mice spontaneously generated from excessive dust. Compared to such unscientific notions, the Bible states exactly what happens when half the DNA from a male sperm and half the DNA from a female egg combine to form one new life: "And the two will become one flesh."

But, God didn't just "get the ball rolling" and then sit back and "let nature take its course." For, in addition to initially designing and putting into place the amazing process by which humans are able to "be fruitful and multiply," Scripture makes clear in Psalm 139:13-16 that God still actively creates each individual person:

"For You created my inmost being,
You knit me together in
my mother's womb.
I praise You because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made,
Your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was made in the
secret place.
As I was woven together
in the dark of the womb,
Your eyes saw my unformed body."

So, the Bible is clear in both the Old and New Testaments: God's created order and will is that some humans are made by Him to be male, and some are made by Him to be female. We find this Scriptural reality clearly displayed in the physical reality of His creation.

There are extremely rare cases where a birth defect causes a child to have genitalia or other features of both male and female. Like all physical infirmities, this is a sad consequence of the Fall of all humanity into sin—which now causes God's will and design to be

thwarted in many aspects of our fallen world—an example of the "bondage to decay" that "the whole creation has been groaning" under since the Fall (Romans 8:21-22). Such unique cases should be treated with the utmost compassion, and may indeed be appropriate for corrective surgery. In most instances we are now able to determine through DNA analysis the actual correct sex of the individual, even if some outward features are defective.

However, these unusual cases are not a justification for the "transgender" perversion. For, except for these extremely rare abnormalities, chromosomes, genitalia, other external features, and hormones all fit one's birth sex, showing both God's design—and God's will for that individual.

From a medical perspective, Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, says that transgenderism is a "mental disorder" that needs treatment, that sex change is "biologically impossible," and that people who promote supposed "sexual reassignment" surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder. He explained in a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*:

"Policy makers and the media are doing no favors either to the public or the transgendered by treating their confusions as a right in need of defending, rather than as a mental disorder that deserves understanding, treatment, and prevention. . . the idea of sex misalignment is simply mistaken—it does not correspond with physical reality. . . It is a disorder similar to a 'dangerously thin' person suffering anorexia, who looks in the mirror and thinks they are 'overweight' . . . And so at Hopkins we stopped doing sex-reassignment surgery, since . . . [a] troubled patient seemed an inadequate reason for

surgically amputating normal organs. . . 'Sex change' is biologically impossible. People who undergo sex-reassignment surgery do not change from men to women, or vice versa. Rather, they become feminized men or masculinized women. Claiming that this is a civil-rights matter, and encouraging surgical intervention, is in reality to collaborate with and promote a mental disorder."

As a scientist, Dr. McHugh concludes that "'sex change' is biologically impossible" because every cell in the human body is permanently stamped with either male or female chromosomes, an indelible identity which cannot ever be altered. Rev. Franklin Graham, the son and successor of Rev. Billy Graham, recently remarked that those undergoing "sex change" operations in fact remain the same sex that they always were, both biologically and in the eyes of God: "Changing the outside doesn't change the inside."

Spiritually, such mutilation is a gross sin and rebellion against God's created order, God's design, and God's will for that individual. As 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body." Attempting to alter the sex God has chosen to designate you with is the

utterly disobedient opposite of the prayer, "Yet not my will, but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42).

Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexual offenders . . . will inherit the kingdom of God." However, the only unforgivable "eternal sin" is rejecting forgiveness through faith in Christ, wrought by the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:29). And so after this stern warning, Paul continues with the Good News that this sin too can be forgiven: "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God."

An example of such repentance is Walt Heyer, a 74-year-old man who in his 40's was pressured by a psychologist into what he describes euphemistically as "destructive surgery." He lived as a woman for some years before coming to both deeply regret and repent of his action. Having reverted to his male identity and been married to his wife for 18 years, he now campaigns against the dangers of grotesque "gender reassignment" surgery by sharing his own chilling autobiographical account.

The saddest part of all is that even some mainline religious denominations have accepted this perversion. This is a prime example of what Paul warns about in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them."

How should we respond to such insanity, in both society and even in some churches? The correct Christian attitude is expressed by Paul:

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8);

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Romans 12:2).

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Sermons Topics for June

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

- ✘ On our congregation's web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons;
- ✘ As podcasts in the iTunes store under "Rev. Kevin Vogts";
- ✘ Online from our podcast host at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com;
- ✘ For mobile devices at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile. On most phones and other mobile devices you can save this link as an app for quick access.

June 7

"The Blame Game"
Genesis 3:1-15

June 14

"The Mustard Seed"
Mark 4:30-32

June 21 (Father's Day)

*"Five Fatherhood Examples
from the Father of Us All"*
Malachi 2:10

June 28

"St. Paul Had a Problem"
2 Corinthians 12:7

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June, 2015*



Laura Trickett & Shawn Troyer

United in Marriage at Trinity
May 30, 2015

David Koelsch & Crystal Clinton

United in Marriage at Trinity
June 6, 2015

“A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one.”
Matthew 19:5-6



New Bible Class “These Are a Few of Our Favorite Hymns”

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *These Are a Few of Our Favorite Hymns*, looking at the background and meaning of—and singing!—beloved hymns. Some of the hymns we’ve looked at so far include “How Great Thou Art,” “Amazing Grace,” “Onward Christian Soldiers,” and “Heaven Is My Home.”

There’s lots more great hymns to come this summer! Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to get a deeper appreciation for your favorite hymns!



June Acolytes

June 7 Lance Elliott
June 14 Olivia Mitchell
June 21 Karlie McMullin
June 28 Luke Elkinton



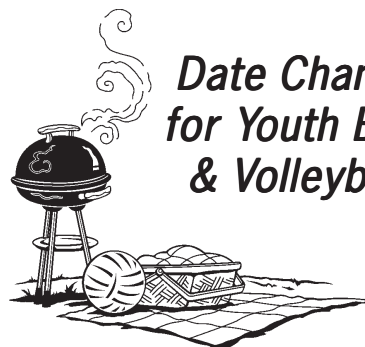
Masonry work on the new Trinity Lutheran Shelter House on the site of the former school building is nearly complete. The colors were selected by the committee to complement the brick and stone on the church building. A beautiful feature of the new Shelter House is this cross, overlooking the cemetery. The rafters are on site and should be going up soon!



All youth are invited to join in each week our Youth Bible Study, led by our Youth Director, Janette Reinke, during the Sunday School hour from 9:00am-10:00am in the Youth Room (upstairs behind the Choir Loft).



H2O! God Keeps His Promise is the theme for our Summer Sunday School during June, July, and August. In addition to Bible stories and singing the children will enjoy making fun crafts. Bring your children this summer on Sundays at 9:00am for *H2O! God Keeps His Promise*.



Date Change for Youth BBQ & Volleyball

To accommodate summer schedules, the barbeque for Sr. & Jr. High Youth has been moved to Sunday, July 5 at 6:00pm at the church. All youth come and enjoy burgers, volleyball, and more!



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. There is a sign-up sheet 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!

June 7
Linda Prothe

June 14
Schlegels

June 21
Gladys & Sharon Prothe

June 28
Jan Minden



The Youth Group enjoyed movie night at the Mid-Way Drive-In Theatre on June 5.



The national convention of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 2013 set a goal of *doubling* the number of our Synod's missionaries before the next LCMS convention in 2016. Often such resolutions are passed with good intentions but never actually fulfilled. This time, the Synod has already nearly reached the goal—with a year to spare!

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.

June 7
Rev. Gustavo & Rosana Lavia
Spain

June 14
Caitlin Worden
Peru

June 21
Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett
Ethiopia

June 28
Josh & Coco Lange
Hong Kong

June

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our records of birthdays and anniversaries 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.

- June 1 Kelsey Davis
- June 1 Jessica Thoden
- June 1 Sara Oberheide
- June 1 Michele Prothe
- June 2 David Koelsch
- June 4 Arlin Prothe
- June 4 Jamey Kaiser
- June 5 Samantha Ferrell
- June 5 Keith Kreisel
- June 5 Linda Prothe
- June 5 Lois Rausch
- June 5 Lance Stewart
- June 6 Rhonda Kerr
- June 7 Kendra Fuller
- June 9 Kendra Hall
- June 10 Madison Wood
- June 13 Ed Reyelts
- June 14 Chris Carstens
- June 14 Ethan Debrick
- June 14 Leland Prothe
- June 15 Kathy Hall
- June 15 Cary Prothe
- June 15 Kevin Prothe

- June 16 Michelle Jones
- June 17 Bailey Kaiser
- June 18 Theresa Kettler
- June 19 Richard Honn
- June 20 Paul Brack
- June 20 Judy Minden
- June 21 Kim House
- June 21 Jon Wendte
- June 22 Greg Brandt
- June 22 Beth Curry
- June 22 Vernon Prothe
- June 22 Jacob Vogts
- June 24 Tina Edwards
- June 25 Beth Herra
- June 25 Rich Wood
- June 26 Kyia Fuller
- June 26 Donna Prothe
- June 26 Allison Wood
- June 27 George Holtz
- June 29 Devin Bruce
- June 29 Betty Cline
- June 30 Garry Block
- June 30 Raymond Kettler
- June 30 Vivian Wilson

- June 3 Emerson & Wilda Bunch (59)
- June 4 James & Rhonda Prothe (10)
- June 9 Jeff & Jamie Ennett (13)
- June 9 Glenn & Michele Minden (14)
- June 9 Dave & Phyllis Trickett (48)
- June 10 Chris & Lana Kettler (37)
- June 10 Rolland & Betty Prothe (43)
- June 11 Bruce & Gale Nowasell (27)
- June 13 Rick & Connie Holte (17)
- June 14 Jim & Sharon Prothe (35)
- June 18 ... David & Lorranda Baldrige (10)
- June 21 ... David & Samantha Minden (7)
- June 21 ... Darrell & Kathy Peckman (41)
- June 22 Clint & Michelle Haley (13)
- June 24 Clinton & Roberta Peckman (26)
- June 25 George & Nancy Honn (27)
- June 28 Loren & Barbara Herra (46)