

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

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"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul?"

(Mark 8:36)

Of all the questions the Bible asks, this searing question from Jesus is probably the most relevant to our age. For, it seems that most of us are indeed seeking to gain the whole world—one expensive piece at a time.

Years ago, it took many decades for the majority of American households to get true necessities, like running water, electricity and telephones. But, in our materialistic age, almost all homes (including my own) now have such luxuries as DVD players and flat screen TV's, just a decade after they were widely introduced. Even the manufacturers of these devices are astounded beyond their wildest dreams at how quickly the American market was saturated with them, how quickly these luxuries became modern necessities!

Of course, in themselves, there is nothing wrong or evil with such gadgets or labor-saving devices. These too are gifts of God, to be used for our good. But, when acquiring such things becomes the central focus of our lives, then we must ask that question: *"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul?"*

For, as we grow more and more infatuated with material things, we become less and less interested in God. How sickening it is to think that we so carefully surround ourselves with every comfort and pleasure in this temporary life, but at the same time give little thought to where we will spend eternity! All those things you struggle to gain will one day pass to someone else, or lie broken and rusted. But, your soul will spend eternity, either in heaven or in hell.

"Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

St. Augustine

As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, it's a good time for you to look hard at your priorities and put your life back on track. Cast down the idol of self-centered materialism, and put God back on the throne of your life. Go to Him in prayer. Seek His will for you in His Word. Worship the Lord in His holy house. Stop chasing after idols of silver and gold, and return to the Lord your God! He is gracious and merciful, He forgives all your sin for Jesus' sake, He welcomes you back with open arms. *"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever"*(Psalm 118:1).

Unless you put God at the center of your life, all your labors and struggles to gain the things of this life are ultimately meaningless, as Psalm 127:1 says, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."* Do not make your life a wasted pursuit after things that have no lasting value, as Jesus said to Martha, *"You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needful"*(Luke 10:41-42).

Instead of being worried and upset about acquiring earthly things, set your heart on things above. Stop trying to gain the whole world, while losing your own soul. Stop clinging to the things of this life, for they are passing away. Cling instead to your Savior and His promise of eternal bliss in the life to come.

And, oddly enough, it is at that very point you will finally find satisfaction in your life. As Jesus says, *"Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33). The irony is, it is only when you let go from trying to find fulfillment in the things of this life, that this life finally becomes fulfilling. As St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Mission Sunday & Thanksgiving Potluck November 8

We will observe Mission Sunday during our morning service on Sunday, November 8. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Larry W. Rockemann with the international mission society Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

Following the service we will celebrate Thanksgiving early with a "Thanksgiving Potluck." Everyone is asked to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dishes! At the end of the dinner Rev. Rockemann will give a presentation about the mission work of LHF.



Missionaries of the Month

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 supported by our congregation through our Synod.

November 1

*Rev. Carlos & Lidia Winterle
South Africa*

November 8

*Rev. Roger & Amy James
Sri Lanka*

November 15

*Sarah & Tamás Berta-Somogyi
Hungary*

November 22

*Rev. Leif & Nancy Hasskarl
Cayman Islands*

November 29

*Josh & Coco Lange
Hong Kong*

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*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
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Community Christmas Party & Talent Show December 6

Mark your calendars for the first activity scheduled by our new Fellowship Committee! On Sunday, December 6 at 3:00pm we will have a Community Christmas Party & Talent Show in our church basement Fellowship Hall.

Everyone—individuals, groups, families—is invited to show off your talent! All types of performances are welcome and do not have to be Christmas related, but if Christmas related do not have to be strictly religious—“Jingle Bells” and Santa are welcome! To get on the program email Pastor Vogts with the talent you will be sharing at pastorvogts@gmail.com.

The fun will also include a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long. Following the show, everyone is asked to bring your favorite Christmas treat to share on our “eat dessert first” bar—no meal, just dessert! This is also a great opportunity to invite guests, neighbors, family members, etc. And, yes, there is a Chiefs game that day—but set your recording and come enjoy the holiday fun and fellowship!

- November 1 Christopher England
- November 2 Steve Debrick
- November 4 Peyton Mitchell
- November 5 Sara Prothe
- November 8 Erin England
- November 8 Leonard Windler
- November 9 Greg Windler
- November 9 Brad Ashley
- November 11 Lana Kettler
- November 11 Chylar Jones
- November 12 Jack Alper
- November 13 Dennis Ohlmeier
- November 13 Doris Rodewald
- November 14 Elena Smithhisler
- November 15 Frances Minter
- November 15 JoAnn Vaughn
- November 16 Sacred Davis
- November 19 Elaine Bocker
- November 19 Kreston Debrick
- November 19 Kathy Peckman
- November 20 Alexis Belsanti
- November 20 Luke Elkinton
- November 20 Randy Maisch
- November 21 Jim Prothe
- November 21 Megan Tesar
- November 22 Whitney Shoemaker
- November 22 Burl Peckman
- November 22 Jason Peterson
- November 24 Lindsey Lester
- November 25 Carolyn Isenhower
- November 25 Courtney Belsanti
- November 25 Dana Hall
- November 30 Alan Hutchison
- Nov 3 Ken & Karla Debrick (29)
- Nov 18 Darrell & Barb Brandt (43)
- Nov 20 Harry & Gay Stubbs (39)
- Nov 22 Brad & Susan Ashley (10)
- Nov 23 Vernon & Donna Prothe (60)
- Nov 29 .. Webb & Virginia Oberheide (29)
- Nov 29 ... Brett & Becky Stutzman (46)



November 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.



This winter we are again having extra services of Holy Communion, on both the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, in October, November, December, January, and February. This provides an extra opportunity to receive the Sacrament for those who may not be able to attend worship on the first Sunday of the month due to inclement weather.



Two Sundays in November remain open for Coffee Hour hosts—and the entire rest of the year!

There is a sign-up sheet on the table with the snacks. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Our Generations group provides and prepares the coffee and juice each week, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Thank you to all providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

November 1

Sharon & Gladys Prothe

November 8

Mission Sunday Potluck Dinner

November 15

Susan, Allyson, & Jacob Henry

November 22 & 29

Need Volunteers



Hymn Study Concludes in November

During the first four Sundays in November we will conclude our study in Adult Bible Class on *These Are a Few of Our Favorite Hymns*. We've really enjoyed this fascinating study looking at the background and meaning of—and singing!—our beloved hymns.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow on November 1, 8, 15, and 22 to get a deeper appreciation for your favorite hymns!



Trinity Youth enjoyed a bonfire after helping with Trunk or Treat on October 24. More photos online in our Photo Gallery at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



Christmas in the Old Testament Advent Bible Study Begins November 29

The old German Christmas hymn "Behold, a Branch is Growing" says, "Isaiah hath foretold it, in words of promise sure" (*The Lutheran Hymnal*, 645). Beginning November 29 we will have an Advent Bible Study in Adult Bible Class on *The Prophets Have Foretold It: Christmas in the Old Testament*.

We are very familiar with the Christmas story from the *New Testament*. In this Bible study we will look at the many prophecies of Christ's birth that are also found in the *Old Testament*, including:

- ❖ He will be born of a woman—Genesis 3:15;
- ❖ He will be a descendant of Jacob—Numbers 24:17;
- ❖ He will be born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2;
- ❖ He will be miraculously born of a Virgin—Isaiah 7:14;

- ❖ He will be "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace"—Isaiah 9:6.

Join in Adult Bible Class beginning on Sunday, November 29 at 9:00am in the Overflow for *The Prophets Have Foretold It: Christmas in the Old Testament*.



Nursing Home Services November 22

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on November 22. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at Country Club Estates and then go to Vintage Park 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!



Advent Sermon Series Begins November 29

The theme for this year's Advent Sermon Series is *"The Three Wise Women of Christmas: Mary, Elizabeth, Anna."*

We hear a lot at Christmastime about the three wise *men*, but we can learn important faith lessons from these three wise *women*!

We will begin by looking at the Virgin Mary on the First Sunday in Advent, November 29, followed by Elizabeth on December 6, and Anna on December 13.

On December 20 our Christmas service of Holy Communion will again feature a traditional Festival of Readings and Carols, with a series of Scripture readings, and carols based upon them, related to our Savior's birth.



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).



Thanksgiving Day Service

Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving at Trinity, Thursday, November 26, 10:00am

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

O Give Thanks unto the LORD, for He is Good



Mozambique Lutheran Church Ordains First Pastors

*Paula Schlueter Ross
LCMS Communications*

Big things are happening among Lutherans in Mozambique, a Portuguese-speaking African country situated on the continent's southeast coast, above South Africa:

- A newly named church body—*Igreja Luterana da Concórdia em Moçambique* (Concordia Lutheran Church in Mozambique)—is in the



Seminary students in Mozambique laugh as they prepare for graduation and ordination after six years of study. Each received a pastoral robe and set of stoles.

process of registering with the government. The denomination currently has 10 congregations and some 1,200 baptized members.

- The church's first eight pastors graduated and were ordained August 9 after six years of theological study. They are now serving calls to their own—and surrounding—villages while continuing to work their small farms and support their families.
- An additional 20 men have begun their pastoral training, with the hope that they might be ready to start assisting the pastors in new locations in two years.

- A property with five houses has been purchased and will be used as the church body's headquarters and seminary, with classrooms, dormitories, a kitchen, and bathrooms.

A "very important step" was the recent publication of *Luther's Small Catechism* in the local Chisena language, according to LCMS missionary Rev. Carlos Winterle, who serves St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Cape Town, South Africa, and provides theological training in Mozambique.



Villagers wait in line to be baptized August 8 in Mozambique.

He urges all Lutherans to, "Pray for the eight new pastors and for the Lutheran church in Mozambique. The doors are open to the Gospel and God's kingdom is growing very fast. Praise the Lord for

Fall Sermon Series

Unlikely Heroes of the Faith

Maybe sometimes you don't feel or act like a "saint." It may surprise you to learn that many of the great saints of old often felt the same way! During October and November we will have a special sermon series looking at five *Unlikely Heroes of the Faith*.

October 11
Eve

October 18
Matthew

October 25—Reformation Sunday
Martin Luther

November 15
Peter

November 22
Paul

the many blessings He has poured upon Mozambique and for all supporters who are making it possible by their prayers and donations."

Those supporters include Lutheran Church—Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil, The Lutheran

Church—Missouri Synod, the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa, and the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany. All have assisted the Mozambique church with financial support, theological training, and Chisena and Portuguese Bibles and other study materials.

The Lutheran mission in Mozambique has grown steadily since it was started in 2006 by missionaries of the Lutheran Church—Canada. The congregations are located in the middle of the country, in the Province of Sofala, on the shores of the Zambezi River—"a strategic place to reach out to the whole country," according to Winterle.

He reports a number of people from other villages and cities—even a government representative at the recent ordination service—are asking the Lutheran church leaders to come preach the Gospel among them as well.

Even more exciting than the August 9 ordination service—with an estimated 1,000 worshipers in attendance—was a baptismal service the day before for 53 native children and young adults.



The first eight pastors of Concordia Lutheran Church in Mozambique pose with two of their missionary professors after their August 9 ordination.



Thank you to everyone who helped make our 7th annual Trunk or Treat on October 24 another big success! Lots more photos online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

