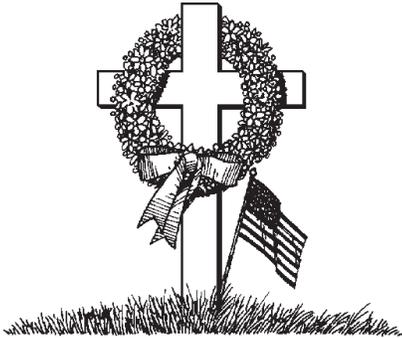


# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2016  
may



## *The Meaning of Memorial Day*

*Adapted from an article written over a century ago by the founding president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Dr. C.F.W. Walther.*

We came from everywhere. Our people were the poor, the dispossessed, the rejected of every nation on earth. We share no common background. We are of every culture, every ethnicity. Whatever we have become as a nation has nothing to do with our genesis as a people, for we are the sons and daughters of those cast upon the shores of a new place with nowhere left to go.

Our land is beautiful, but it is not rightly the source of our patriotism—even our homes do not give us sufficient reason to fight for our nation. After all, other places on this earth are also beautiful, and other people are as proud of their land as we are of this good place.

To say that we are Americans, to serve as Americans, to even die in the fight to preserve this nation as those we honor on Memorial Day have, is not to identify ourselves as a peculiar people. And we aren't Americans because we would dare to fight for this land—though our home it is—for we should not regard the soil as somehow holier than other soil.

To be an American, and to live as an American is to stand for the idea that is America at heart. We have become a people founded not on common blood, nor in an ancient homeland, but upon the idea of liberty for all.

The greatness of America lies not in things our eyes might see, but in an idea—the freedom we have to live under a law which dignifies our aspirations and regards us not as subjects but as citizens. We are a nation by contract—an agreement between the governed and the government which serves to guarantee the rightful liberty of each person.

You know well that this does not always work out in practice, we have problems and trials, and our society has in some cases failed. But we still have the idea of liberty which binds us together as a nation.

***Foremost among the liberties written into our Constitution is freedom of religion. What other people have been so blessed!***

Foremost among those liberties which we have written into our Constitution—the contract by which we live—is the principle freedom of expression of religion. What other people have been so blessed as to live in a country where the cornerstone for the construction of a nation has elevated the freedom of religion and conscience to a basic national principal? As this nation has guaranteed us earthly freedom for religion, so may true religion bring it heavenly blessings.

It is for such rights, such liberty, that the citizen soldiers we honor have served in time of war! If their tombs hold

the earthly remains of heroes, then let us hold the liberties for which such heroes fought; let us hold the ideal which made them bold to fight not only in our hearts but in our practice today as well! What good is the sacrifice of heroes in war if we do not keep the treasured liberties their blood has sealed to us?

***If we disregard these liberties we shall surely lose them! A free nation cannot stand long when her churches stand half-empty.***

If we disregard these liberties then we shall surely lose them! What good is the blood of the honored dead if we are silent where free men would speak? What good is the blood of the honored dead if we even surrender our faith to apathy?

By the sacrifice of valiant warriors who thought it no small thing to fight in defense of an ideal of liberty, liberty is ours. If we surrender our hard-won liberties by our laziness, by our indolence, by our apathy, then we shame ourselves and are no longer a nation. For our nationhood rests on the very ideals these fell to defend.

A free nation cannot stand long when her citizens refuse to speak, refuse to vote, and her churches stand half-empty. For then surely even the blood of her martyrs must cry out that from such ashes a new nation arise to give birth to the ideals of liberty in the hearts of a new generation.

May God renew this nation and keep her strong in her ideals that the blood of the valiant fallen may yet serve a noble example to a new generation and we citizens may truly live and practice the liberties won at so great a price.

**Sermon  
Topics  
for  
May**



These are the sermon topics for May. Pastor Vogts' sermons are available in both written and audio format on our website at [www.trinitylcms.org/sermons](http://www.trinitylcms.org/sermons).

May 1–Confirmation Day  
*“Stay Connected to the Vine”*  
 John 15:1-17

May 8–Ascension Sunday & Mother’s Day  
*“I Am with You Always”*  
 Matthew 28:20

May 15–Pentecost Sunday  
*“My Peace I Give You!”*  
 John 14:27

May 22–Trinity Sunday  
*“Send Me!”*  
 Isaiah 6:1-8

May 29  
*“What We Learn  
 from the Centurion”*  
 Luke 7:1-10

**Trinity Tribune**

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 May, 2016*

**SPRING  
Cleanup Day**

**Cleanup Day May 14**

Everyone is invited to come help with spring cleanup at Trinity, in the morning on Saturday, May 14. Please bring along yard tools and other supplies.

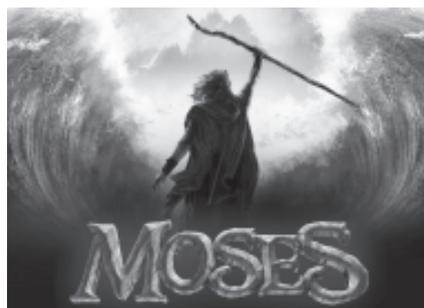


**Sight and Sound  
Branson Theater Trip**

The wonderful Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri is offering church groups a reduced ticket price of \$36 this summer for their new production *Moses* if we book before May 30.

If you would be interested in going together with a group from Trinity sign up on the list in the Church Office. We will then work out the date, day of the week, time, and travel arrangements with those who are interested.

For more information contact Bill Koelsch or Pastor Vogts, and for more about the Sight and Sound Theater and their *Moses* production visit [www.sight-sound.com](http://www.sight-sound.com).

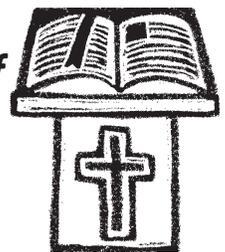


**Proposed Constitution  
and Bylaws**

Proposed revisions to Trinity’s Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the LCMS Kansas District, and the revised Constitution and Bylaws were presented to the Voters Assembly on April 17. They will be considered for adoption at the next quarterly Voters Assembly on July 24.

Copies are available in the Church Office for study and review before the meeting. They are also available online at [www.trinitylcms.org/constitution](http://www.trinitylcms.org/constitution).

**Printed  
Copies of  
Sermons  
Now  
Available**



In addition to being on the church web site, printed copies of the current day’s sermon and several previous sermons are now available each week in a new small literature rack in the back of the church.



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 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at [blocktlc@midwest-connections.com](mailto:blocktlc@midwest-connections.com).

- May 1 ..... Clint Haley
- May 1 ..... Damon Oberheide
- May 1 ..... Eric Prothe
- May 1 ..... Elijah Minden
- May 2 ..... Brad Hendrickson
- May 3 ..... Steve McMullin
- May 4 ..... Maysen Armstrong

May 4 ..... Alex Brack  
 May 5 ..... Sarah Berner  
 May 5 ..... Kameron Alpert-Munir  
 May 5 ..... Mallory Allcorn  
 May 7 ..... Henry Vaughn  
 May 8 ..... Garrett Rausch  
 May 8 ..... Chloe Rausch  
 May 8 ..... Jim Ohlmeier  
 May 9 ..... Melanie Golubski  
 May 10..... Bobbie Jo Debrick  
 May 10..... Kathy Haley  
 May 10..... Bobbie Kunard  
 May 10..... Johnny Pagels  
 May 11..... Denise Holtz  
 May 13..... Kraig Kettler  
 May 13..... Lucy Kettler  
 May 13..... Nathan Peckman  
 May 13..... Nicholas Peckman  
 May 14..... Trish Armstrong  
 May 14..... Miranda Ferrell  
 May 14..... Beth D'Amato  
 May 15..... Matthew Reynolds  
 May 15..... Kris Stubbs  
 May 17..... Lori Donahue  
 May 17..... Dean Gerken  
 May 17..... Sherri Webb  
 May 18..... Emily Kettler  
 May 18..... Susan Ashley  
 May 19..... Jackie Smith  
 May 20..... Paul Sombke  
 May 21..... David Herrs  
 May 21..... Barb Koelsch  
 May 21..... Clifford Prothe  
 May 21..... Leslie Rudzinski  
 May 23..... Andy Brack  
 May 23..... Jeanne Hutchison  
 May 23..... Amanda Maisch  
 May 23..... Shane Gibson  
 May 25..... Stephanie Debrick  
 May 25..... Roger Holtz  
 May 25..... Kristie McMullin  
 May 26..... Scott Gerken  
 May 26..... Sharon Grother  
 May 28..... Alyssa Holtz  
 May 28..... Kayla Massey  
 May 28..... Dale Prothe  
 May 28..... Rawena Shay  
 May 29..... Wendy Bryant  
 May 29..... Brandon Gibson  
 May 30..... Ginny Linville  
 May 31..... Sarah Pemberton  
 May 31..... Janet Koelsch  
 May 31..... Amanda Stubbs  
 May 1 . Randy & Jennifer Rethman (18)  
 May 16..... Ed & Marcie Reyelts (28)  
 May 19... Mike & Linda Oberheide (37)  
 May 19... Clifford & Donna Prothe (53)  
 May 25.... Lloyd & Ginny Peckman (53)  
 May 25..... Jeff & Pam Thompson (36)  
 May 30..... Stan & Gayle Plummer (35)  
 May 31..... John & Lori Schlegel (13)



**A large group of musicians and music lovers from the congregation and community enjoyed Trinity's first Bluegrass Jam in our Shelter House on the afternoon of Sunday, April 17! Check Trinity's web site at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos) for dozens of pictures from this fun event. (If you looked at the Bluegrass Jam pictures a day or two after the event check again—lots more new pictures were added!)**



### Shelter House Online Reservations

We now have an online reservation system for the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It automatically shows which dates and times are open up to two years in advance, and it is easy to make your reservations online.

Go to our church web site at [www.trinitylcms.org/shelter](http://www.trinitylcms.org/shelter). You will also find there the rules for Shelter House usage. If you do not have access to a computer to make your reservation, you can simply call or speak to Pastor Vogts and he will gladly make the reservation for you.



Check out Trinity's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock](http://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock). You are invited to post information about events, comments, photos, etc. Stop by and give us a look—and a "like"!



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 by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

May 1

*Caitlin Worden  
Peru*

May 8

*Rev. James & Angela Sharp  
Uruguay*

May 15

*Matthew Fick  
Taiwan*

May 22

*Rev. David & Shelee Warner  
Spain*

May 29

*Rev. Peter & Bethany Haugen  
Macau*



## Blocktoberfest

September 17, 2016

### Blocktoberfest Meeting Notes

Seventeen were present for the Blocktoberfest meeting on April 17 at the Shelter House after we listened to the music jam in the afternoon and planted 7 new trees around the building. The 2016 Blocktoberfest is Saturday, September 17 from noon to 6:00pm.

Sharon Prothe has contacted the Ice Hut, but they have not confirmed yet.

Ken Debrick has reserved the same blue and white tent as we had last year.

Phyllis Trickett reported that our Paola Chamber of Commerce coffee will be Friday, August 19 at either Town Square or Little Town.

We found out that Mike Ewing indeed moved out of the state. Gayle and Stan will look into other options for pony rides including possibly a horse drawn cart.

We discussed setting up a credit card system for customers to pay for food, beer, and souvenirs. Michelle Haley will do research to see what the cost will be. We can decide on this at a future meeting.

It was decided that instead of having a float this year in the parade we will have the kiddie train and a Blocktoberfest banner carried. We will decide at our next meeting if we will only do the Paola Rotary parade in July, or also the John Brown Jamboree parade in June.

Details of the Teen Tent were discussed. Possibly we could do 2x4 Jenga blocks, bean bag toss, Twister, and other teen games. The tent would be off limits to pre-teens. Our plans are to put up a 10' x 20' tent and place it at a somewhat isolated location on the grounds. This will give teens somewhere to go when they aren't working the food and drink concessions, or for other teens who attend the event. Hannah offered to help plan the activities.

We talked about event day vendors. Candice will not be there this year with her Bauernhof Prothe products. We don't know if Emily Kettler will return, either. Linda will ask Sunflower Orchards if they would like to participate.

Barb had reported she found some 28 oz. glass steins at the new Dollar Tree store in Osawatomie that only cost—you guessed it—a dollar. We could put the Blocktoberfest stickers on them and sell them with or without beer in them. Concern was voiced if it was a good idea to sell glass steins that could break on the concrete and cause a danger. We will look at them and decide at a later date.

Jean has applied to Walmart for a \$2,500 grant from Sam. Still no word yet if we will get all, or part, of that amount.

The Trinity Youth plan to have the same food items for sale as last year. First Lutheran Youth will have the same drink and snack menu, also.

Clint got a \$250 Thrivent cash card for the Shelter House PA system. It has an amplifier and four speakers and seems to work pretty well. We can use this for events at the building like church services and other gatherings. The amp can be connected to a cell phone by Bluetooth as well.

Jeff Haley has agreed to furnish his petting zoo again at Blocktoberfest.

Kevin Debrick wondered if we wanted to put our event on a website called Everfest. It has festivals listed all over the world. Here in this area you can get information on Roots Festival and the Miami County Fair to mention a couple. We will get more information about costs, etc. before we decide to list Blocktoberfest.

The Trinity Youth will be serving lunch at this year's Tour de Vino at Nighthawk Winery on Saturday, April 30. It was decided we should have a banner or yard signs at Nighthawk to advertise for Blocktoberfest.

Donna Prothe has requested a slicker dance floor for our event. It would make dancing better if it were not just rough concrete. She even offered to paint the dance floor area. After much discussion we decided painting would help the dancing but would also make the floor too slick the rest of the

year when kids are playing on the slab, especially if it were wet. We will look into possibly renting a wood dance floor. If we could get the cost paid by a sponsor it might be a possibility.

Thanks to all those who have donated time, labor, and money to plant trees and landscaping around the Shelter House. The voter's assembly has donated up to \$2,500 toward planting materials. Also, the grove west of the slab looks really green and inviting since all the brush has been cleared out. It will make a nice addition to the church ground improvements.

We need to decide how the new playground layout should look. After a lot of discussion we decided we need help to determine the best way to plan the playground equipment location. Stan will ask Jeff Hines if there is a PHS student who is studying that. We will talk about this more at our next meeting.

Mark reported that Alice Grandon will play her accordion and Margo will sing before the 1:00pm start of the Loehn Band.

Several of us attended the Touch a Truck at the Family Center last month. We took some good ideas from that for our event. They had a shelled corn "sand box" built out of small square bales of hay and a tarp that would be easy and lots of fun for kids. Also, they had a new stock trailer the kids loved running in and out of, and through.

Beth Connor has offered to have an outdoor activity center for kids to explore. That will be a welcome addition. Michelle will also have some new kid's activities.

We will again meet Sunday, May 22, at 6:00pm. Thanks to everyone who attended our meeting.

## Nursing Home Services May 22



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on May 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.

## Male and Female He Created Them

By Deaconess Kim Schave  
Chair of the LCMS Task Force on  
Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Perhaps in recent weeks you have found yourself at the receiving end of criticism for your position on the transgender public facilities debate. Have you been called a bigot? Have you been referred to as hysterical and fear driven in your quest to want to protect innocent women and children? Have you noticed how the argument has been twisted to claim that we are afraid of those identifying as transgender as the demographic we fear will exploit those in public restrooms and changing areas?

The true argument in this debate is not centered on an irrational fear of transgenders being more prone to victimizing innocent people than the rest of the population. The argument centers on the fact that members of either sex may simply claim that they “identify” as the opposite sex and position themselves to be in a place where privacy, modesty, and vulnerability have traditionally been safeguarded in our culture. The bar is not set at impersonating the opposite sex, just “identifying” as the opposite sex. Is it possible that those with ill intentions might manipulate a situation that was designed to help a small few feel safer in such a vulnerable state, thereby negating the privacy and safety concerns of the vast majority of American citizens? Let’s examine the facts.

It is estimated that up to 0.3% of the U.S. population identifies as transgender, roughly 700,000 individuals. It is also interesting to note that there are 747,048 registered sex offenders nationwide in the U.S. While the prevalence of sexual violence among the transgender population is disconcerting, there are also numerous newsworthy stories demonstrating the sexual victimization of the remainder of the population in public facilities, to include other forms of sexual exploitation such as harassment, voyeurism, or exposure. Additionally, a 6-year old girl was exploited in a public restroom as well as a woman in a dressing room in, you guessed it, a Target store. A listing

of news stories covering other sex crimes committed in Target stores can be found at [www.sonsoflibertymedia.com/sex-crimes-target-doesnt-want-know-occurred-stores](http://www.sonsoflibertymedia.com/sex-crimes-target-doesnt-want-know-occurred-stores). In another newsworthy story, the University of Toronto was forced to reverse their gender-neutral bathroom policy when male students were discovered recording women over the top of private shower stalls. Sadly, it was discovered in another university that leaders charged with enforcing Title IX (which requires universities receiving federal funding to ensure a non-hostile experience for students) seemed unconcerned with carrying out their duty to protect their students from sexual exploitation.

A particularly disturbing fact about the proposal that stirred this debate is that the man responsible for promoting the bathroom bill in Charlotte is a convicted pedophile and registered sex offender. He has since resigned his position with the LGBT Chamber of Commerce as the result of the criticism emanating from his criminal status. There are other examples of organizations pushing the LGBT agenda, including a coalition under the advocacy group National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women. While claiming to have the support of over 200 organizations that work with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors in opposing legislation to restrict public restrooms and changing areas, they are also known to be a vocal advocate for the LGBT agenda.

The medical community has thus far not completely caved to the LGBT lobbyists. The American Psychiatric Association, publisher of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th Edition, diagnoses gender dysphoria (the distress that may accompany the incongruence between one’s experienced or expressed gender and one’s assigned gender), as a disorder, much like other mental disorders (DSM-V, 5th edition, 2013, p. 451). The American College of Pediatricians issued a statement indicating that gender ideology harms children since “conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.”



**Our thanks to the Trinity members who stayed following the Bluegrass Jam on April 17 to plant trees around the Shelter House. Lots more pictures are available in the online photo gallery on our church web site at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos).**

Since the church is charged with protecting her most vulnerable—the children—she must not cave to the demands of the LGBT agenda (Mark 9:42). For church bodies such as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who believe in the infallible and inerrant Word of God and employ it as the normative guide by which our lives are ordered, it is vital that we look to His Word on these matters rather than getting swept up by the winds of political correctness. In Genesis 1:27, we read that God created mankind in His own image and that “*male and female He created them.*” As Christians, we acknowledge that a loving Creator was so intimately involved in crafting each and every one of us that even the numbers of our hair are numbered (Luke 12:7).

When we despise the very way in which He lovingly formed us, we sin against Him. Martin Luther reminds us in the *Small Catechism* that when we confess in the First Article of the Apostle’s Creed that “*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth*” this means “*I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.*” Given the fall of mankind in Genesis 3 when sin entered the world, it is not a surprise that our view of the sexes would be corrupted.

In addition to verses in Scripture in which we are warned against engaging in sexual immorality (to include homosexuality), transvestism is considered contradictory to the God ordained distinction between the sexes and is even classified as an “abomination to the LORD” (Deuteronomy 22:5). With respect to the transgender issue, The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations has stated:

*“From the standpoint of our bodies—which is the only objective means of determining who is male or female—we have a God-given identity that is either masculine or feminine. One is a man or a woman because that is what the body given by God indicates”* (CTCR, *Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective*, 2014, p. 5).

Because the Scriptures are also clear about how we are to love our neighbor, how can we respond in love and mercy to those identifying as transgender who we encounter within our vocations or who wish to seek refuge in our churches? The CTCR provides some helpful guidance in this regard:

*“A pastoral response to individuals with any form of gender dysphoria requires a clear grounding in a biblically based understanding of natural law and our creation by God as male and female. A biblical understanding of both the gravity of sin’s effects and the Gospel of redemption from sin by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is also necessary. But such doctrinal awareness is not the sum of pastoral care”* (p. 8).

*“Loving pastoral care for the individual seeks to provide a spiritually nurturing, encouraging, and accepting “safe place” to someone who may well have suffered from actual or perceived ostracism, mockery, and animosity. He or she may view the church with suspicion or share the common assumption that Christianity is more concerned with moral judgments, cultural battles, or political victories than about broken and suffering people. In accepting the struggling individual, a relationship of interpersonal trust develops. Within that relationship there will be natural opportunities to make Christ known, to call the person to trust in his promises and love, and to show that the purposes and commands of God for our lives are for our good”* (p. 9).

Indeed it is possible as a Christian to oppose these new understandings being foisted upon us of practices long considered sinful, yet treat those we encounter who struggle with such inclinations with dignity and respect. That is our moral and Biblical obligation as Christians. It is entirely possible to forge meaningful relationships with those at the opposite extremes of our own religious and political views. But when opponents of our Biblical worldview resort to insults and putdowns to quiet us, we can still hold fast to God’s promise in 1 Peter 3:13-17:

*“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”*

Doing good and responding in true love—a love that has at its source God’s Holy Word—often comes at the price of being hated by this world (Matthew 10:22). Often times it feels as though the battle is lost. *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:57).

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*The Epistles of Love*  
1st, 2nd & 3rd John

You are invited to Adult Bible Class this summer as we study *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*. They are often called the “Epistles of Love,” because these brief letters use the word “love” more frequently than any other books of the Bible.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow as we learn the meaning of love from the Author of love.



**Confirmation and First Communion was held on May 1 for this year’s Confirmands, Lance Elliott, Karlie McMullin, and Olivia Mitchell, with the Public Examination on April 29. Several more pictures are available in the online photo gallery on our church web site at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos).**



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2016? Beginning in June, all Sundays for the rest of the year are still open. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. The sign-up sheet is 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. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

May 1

Tamara Mitchell & Kristie McMullen

May 8

Michelle & Emma Haley

May 15

Sharon & Gladys Prothe

May 22

Need Volunteers

May 29

Terry Vogts