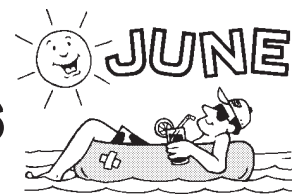


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2016



*O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
And let Thy pity waken:*

*How few are we within Thy fold,
Thy saints by men forsaken!*

*True faith seems quenched on every hand,
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
Dark times have us o'ertaken.*

It was the year 1524, and Martin Luther was depressed. The Reformation, which he launched seven years before by posting his 95 Thesis on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, was not proceeding as he anticipated. He had hoped that the Pope and other leaders of the Roman Catholic Church would take to heart his Bible-based criticisms, and proceed themselves to reform the church, cleansing it of errors in doctrine and practice.

Instead, in 1521 Luther had been called before the Emperor and ordered to recant his teachings. He famously replied, "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is bound to the Word of God. I cannot, I shall not, I will not recant. Here I stand, I can do no other. So help me God!"

This faithful defiance led to Luther being excommunicated from the very church to which he had devoted his life, as a monk, priest, and professor. Branded a criminal heretic, he was under the very real threat of being burned at the stake. Forced to go into hiding, he spent ten lonely months in the remote Wartburg Castle. In his absence, another professor launched his own "radical" reformation at Wittenberg, introducing many strange new ideas that Luther never intended. Everywhere it seemed that the truth of the Gospel was being persecuted, and across Europe many who took up his call for Reformation were indeed burned at the stake.

Luther commented, "When I am troubled by thoughts of such matters, I take up a psalm." In this case, it was Psalm 12 that Luther meditated on, and paraphrased into a new German hymn about the struggles of God's people to remain faithful in an unfaithful world. Translated into English as "O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold," it is hymn 260 in *The Lutheran Hymnal*. (For your convenience I have posted an organ recording of the tune on our church web site at www.trinitylcms.org/resources/TLH260.mp3)



When demanded to recant his teachings at the Diet of Worms in 1521, Martin Luther boldly declared, "My conscience is bound to the Word of God. I cannot, I shall not, I will not recant. Here I stand, I can do no other. So help me God!" This woodcut illustrating Luther's heroic stand, with him dressed and his hair "tonsured" as a monk, is from a report about the Diet printed in 1521.

"True faith seems quenched on every hand, men suffer not Thy Word to stand, dark times have us o'ertaken." Like Luther, we too may get depressed over the "dark times" we are living in—which lately seem to be growing darker every day.

*With fraud which they themselves invent
Thy truth they have confounded;
Their hearts are not with one consent
On Thy pure doctrine grounded.
While they parade with outward show,
They lead the people to and fro,
In error's maze astounded.*

During his lifetime many considered Luther to be a prophet, and although written nearly 500 years ago, his words "With fraud which they themselves invent Thy truth they have confounded" do indeed seem like a prophecy about one of the most distressing issues we face today, the so-called "transgender" phenomenon, which lately has been constantly in the news.

This is indeed a "fraud which they themselves invent," for by any and every measure it is absolutely impossible, from a moral, medical, and scientific standpoint, to "transition" from one sex to another. From the moment of conception—when you were still just a single cell—that one cell already contained your entire DNA, the marvelous map God designed for the formation of your body. That one cell already had either XY chromosomes, to make you a male, or XX chromosomes, to make you a female. As Jesus says in Matthew 19:4, "The Creator made them male and female."

So-called "transgenderism" is indeed a "fraud which they themselves invent" because, no matter what measures a person may take to assume the outward appearance of the other sex, even to the point of destructive surgery, the same XY or XX

chromosomes which that person has had since they were a single cell remain forever stamped on every cell of their body. Morally, medically, and scientifically they are still in fact either male or female, according to those chromosomes.

Those who feel they are the “wrong” sex suffer from a mental condition called “body dysmorphia.” The most common occurrence of this mental illness is anorexia, when people who are dangerously thin nevertheless “see” themselves as fat. Though they sincerely believe they are overweight, it would be morally wrong and medical malpractice to give such a person gastric bypass surgery!

Those who feel they are the “wrong” sex have a particular form of body dysmorphia called “gender dysmorphia.” Though they may sincerely believe they are the “wrong” sex, it is not loving to affirm or encourage their mental illness, and medical malpractice to give them hormone shots or surgery to create the fraudulent façade of the other sex. People with gender dysmorphia indeed need compassionate treatment and medical care—but not to further promote their mental disorder. Rather, they need help to overcome this mental disorder, and accept and love who they really are, male or female, as their Creator made them.

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June, 2016

*May God root out all heresy
And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
That shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail;
What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."*

It seems things haven't changed much in 500 years. For, Luther described the attitude of those who opposed the truth in his day as, “By right or might we shall prevail, what we determine cannot fail.” Again, this seems like a prophecy about current events. Just last month, New York City decreed that any business not using a person's preferred gender pronoun—including such made-up supposed “transgender” pronouns as “zir!”—can be fined up to \$125,000, and the United States Department of Education dictated that public schools nationwide must allow boys to use girls' restrooms and locker rooms, and vice versa, or they will lose federal funding for school meals for poor children. “By right or might we shall prevail” indeed!

*Therefore saith God, "I must arise,
The poor My help are needing;
To Me ascend My people's cries,
And I have heard their pleading.
For them My saving Word shall fight,
And fearlessly and sharply smite,
The poor with might defending."*

We may feel overwhelmed by the great wickedness that worldly forces are foisting upon us. Luther in his hymn, and Psalm 12 on which it is based, now turns to God's promise to arise in defense of His people.

God's defense comes in response to His people's prayerful pleadings: “To Me ascend My people's cries, and I have heard their pleading.” All these disturbing developments should drive us to our knees—not in despair or defeat, but in prayer! As Philippians 4:6-7 urges us, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” And James 5:16 promises, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

“For them My saving Word shall fight, and fearlessly and sharply smite.” God's defense of His people against the wickedness of the world comes by the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). All these disturbing developments should drive us also to our Bibles! For, it is only through reading, studying, hearing, teaching, preaching, and living God's Word that this spiritual struggle will be won. As St. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

*As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So through God's Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter through the cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.*

Sadly, the wickedness that has infected the world has spread to many “mainline” churches and denominations, which have shockingly endorsed such un-Scriptural evils as homosexual “marriage” and “transgenderism,” and even have openly homosexual and “transgender” clergy.

This didn't happen overnight. We are warned in 2 Peter 2:1, “There will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies.” As St. Peter says, for decades false teachers have been secretly introducing destructive heresies into these churches and denominations, which ultimately brought them to this sad state.

However, as Luther says, by this fiery trial the Church is actually being “purified from human dross” and “adulteration.” Because, for many simple Christians in these bodies, these issues have finally exposed the wickedness of their false teaching. People are voting with their feet, as every church and denomination that has

endorsed such worldly wickedness is suffering a catastrophic membership collapse, while in stark contrast those like our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that have stuck with the Bible on these issues are stable or growing.

*Thy truth defend, O God, and stay
This evil generation;
And from the error of their way
Keep Thine own congregation.
The wicked everywhere abound
And would Thy little flock confound;
But Thou art our Salvation. Amen.*

Luther closes with a beautiful prayer for the Christian struggling to remain faithful in an unfaithful world. Given all the disturbing events and trends in our world, it can be hard to look forward to the future with hope and optimism.

But, even when “dark times have us overtaken,” even though “true faith seems quenched on every hand,” even in what seems to be a hopeless situation, we have Jesus’ promise in Matthew 16:18 that not even the “gates of hell” shall prevail against His Church, and St. Paul assures us in 2 Timothy 4:18, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Sermon Topics for June

These are the sermon topics for June. Pastor Vogts’ sermons are available in both written and audio format on our website at www.trinitycms.org/sermons. Also, printed copies of the current day’s sermon and several previous sermons are available each week in a small literature rack in the back of the church.

June 5
*“Elijah and the
Widow of Zarephath”*
1 Kings 17:8-16

June 12
Rev. Paul Helmer
Guest Minister
June 19—Father’s Day
“Drowning Your Demons”
Luke 8:26-39

June 26
“Three Little Parables”
Luke 9:57-62

Guest Minister June 12



Pastor Vogts’ brother and sisters and their families are having a family reunion in Canton, Kansas next Sunday, June 12, to commemorate what would have been their parents’ 70th wedding anniversary.

Our guest minister next Sunday will be Rev. Paul Helmer, a retired pastor from Gardner. (Pastor Roger Schepmann is currently serving a vacancy at Zion, Vassar and is unavailable.)

During Pastor Vogts’ absence next weekend you may contact him on his cell phone (913 594 9864) or at the parsonage number (913 849 3711) which will be forwarded to his cell phone.



Sight and Sound Branson Theater Trip

Over 25 Trinity members and guests have signed up for our group trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson for their new production *Moses!*

Tickets have been purchased for the 3:30pm show on Saturday, June 25. We will meet that morning at 10:00am at the church for those who would like to carpool, with a stop for lunch along the way. Those who carpool will be coming back the same day after the show. Or, you are also welcome to drive separately—if perhaps you want to stay overnight—and meet the group at the theater.

Please let Bill Koelsch know if you will be carpooling or driving yourself, so that we can be sure not to leave without anyone and can get tickets to those driving separately.



Outdoor Worship July 3

We will celebrate Independence Day weekend with an outdoor worship service in our Shelter House at the normal time of 10:00am on Sunday, July 3.

Pastor Vogts’ message will be “The Christian Citizen” based on Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.” Our youth will help lead the service, which will include favorite patriotic songs. This is a great opportunity to invite family, neighbors, friends, and holiday visitors for worship!

July Communion Change

Because of the outdoor service in our Shelter House on July 3, Holy Communion in July will be celebrated on the second Sunday of the month, July 10, rather than the usual first Sunday of the month.

Weekly Bulletin on Web

Trinity's Sunday bulletin is available online each week on our church web site at www.trinitylcms.org/bulletin. (You may have to refresh your browser for the latest bulletin.) The new bulletin is usually posted Saturday evening. Also when the new bulletin is available there is a message with a link to the bulletin on our church Facebook page, www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock.

Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Available

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.



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. All of this month's missionaries have recently been newly assigned for service (see article and photos pages 4-5).

June 5
Rev. Clint & Lalita Hoff
Czech Republic

June 12
Rev. Hans Trinklein
South Korea

June 19
Rev. Brian & Amanda Gauthier
Panama

June 26
Joel & Krista Young
Ethiopia



Nursing Home Services June 19

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point Care Center and Medical Lodge on Sunday, June 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 Medical Lodge for the second service.

After Church Snacks



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during the remainder of 2016? There are still two Sundays needing hosts in June, and all remaining Sundays for the rest of the year are 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.

Thank you to all those providing snacks and serving Coffee Hour!

June 5
Gayle Plummer

June 12
Linda Prothe

June 19 & 26
Need Volunteers

Page 4

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.



Rev. Clint and Lalita Hoff and their children, new LCMS missionaries in Prague, Czech Republic .

LCMS Sends Out More New Missionaries

Rev. Clint and Lalita Hoff feel like their lives have come full circle. The couple—he, from Alberta, Canada, and she, from Southern California—met on a mission trip to the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Slovakia some 22 years ago. Now the Hoff's—along with their growing family (their eighth child is due in June)—are returning to the Czech Republic as long-term LCMS missionaries. As Lalita puts it: “We’re a missionary team of soon-to-be 10” in a country that’s more than 80% atheist.

The Hoff's will join a handful of LCMS missionaries in Prague, where Clint will

be pastor of the English congregation at St. Michael Lutheran Church. It's a ministry to which he "absolutely, no doubt about it" feels God has called him, particularly because he did not seek it. Although Hoff, formerly pastor of a dual parish in northern Wisconsin, believes in the value of overseas missions, he "thought our family size prohibited us from doing it."

But God works in mysterious ways. Without telling him, a missionary friend gave Hoff's name to Synod mission recruiters who called the surprised pastor last year, planting the seed. "That started the conversation and the excitement," he recalls, as well as the soul-searching: "Is this something God wants us to do?" And when the call to serve overseas came, Hoff was ready to say yes. "I think this is a golden age for Lutheran mission work right now," he said, and he is excited to be part of it.

The Hoff's were among ten new missionaries, their seven spouses and 19 children, who recently completed a two-week orientation in St. Louis that culminated with a "Service of Sending" in the LCMS International Center Chapel. At the orientation, held twice a year, new missionaries learn about such things as staying healthy on the field, adapting to an unfamiliar culture, missiology, church relations, communications, and developing a network of support.

"The LCMS is a mission church body. It has been this way since our humble beginnings," explains Rev. John Fale, executive director of the Synod's Office of International Mission. "The sending of missionaries and telling the story of what our Lord Jesus continues to do in His church and in the world through their service is a healthy reminder to us of why we exist, and what should be our priority."

Missionary Rev. Brian Gauthier, who will be serving alongside the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panama to provide theological education to pastors, seminarians and deaconesses, said the Office of International Mission did a good job of "theologically equipping us for mission, but also helping us deal with some of the more practical things, like culture shock."

In Summer Sunday School on May 29 the children learned about how Jesus' feet were anointed by a woman who had done many things wrong. She used her tears to wash, expensive perfume to anoint, and her hair to dry (Luke 7:36-50). Your children are invited to have fun learning Bible stories at Summer Sunday School each week at 9:00am! Check out more pictures online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



Gauthier—who will be the only LCMS missionary in Panama—said it's comforting to know that there are staff in St. Louis and in the Latin America and Caribbean Region who are just a phone call away with help and support. "It's good to know that we go ... with full support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as we share the Word of God and give God's people Jesus' gifts." Accompanying him in Panama will be his wife, Amanda, and son, Ezra, 10 months, who is "excited" about the move "we think," jokes Gauthier. "But he's excited about everything."

Krista Young, a director of Christian education for 22 years, said she is excited to finally be fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming a missionary. Young, who lived in Papua New Guinea with her missionary parents (Richard and Loretta Adler) until age 12, never thought she would stay in the States after her DCE training at Concordia University, St. Paul. But those plans were sidelined when she met and married Joel Young, a teacher. Now the couple and their two teenage daughters are relocating to Ethiopia, where Krista

will serve as a volunteer coordinator in partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Africa's largest and fastest-growing Lutheran church, with some 7 million members.

Young's 14-year-old daughter, Grace, said she thinks "it's really cool" that her mom "finally gets to do that, and we can be a part of that with her." Krista Young will coordinate travel for LCMS pastors providing theological education to EECMY church workers, and will help the church body's pastors identify their needs so that she can match those needs with short-term volunteers from LCMS congregations in the U.S. She's also looking forward to experiencing the "relational" culture in Ethiopia: "That fits my gifts really well," Young said, "and we're looking forward to building those relationships."

Fifteen-year-old Violette, the eldest of the seven Hoff children, believes "missionary work is definitely a good thing. But for those families who are not missionaries, just remember that you're a missionary wherever you are because you can always tell people about Jesus."



As the LCMS continues to expand its worldwide mission outreach ten new missionaries, with seven spouses and 19 children, were recently commissioned in a "Service of Sending" at the LCMS International Center Chapel in St. Louis.



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 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at blocktlc@midwest-connections.com.

- June 1 Kelsey Davis
- June 1 Minna Meyer
- June 1 Sara Oberheide
- June 1 Michele Prothe
- June 1 Jessica Thoden
- 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



We rejoiced on May 29 to celebrate New Member Sunday, formally welcoming these members into our fellowship at Trinity.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the Body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom.

Brian, Erin, Minna, Fritz, and August Meyer

The Meyers recently moved to rural Louisburg from Lenexa and join Trinity by Transfer of Membership from Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee.

Brian grew up in Emporia and Erin in Leawood. Brian teaches physics at Shawnee Mission North High School and Erin teaches Spanish at Shawnee Mission West High School. Minna just completed 3rd grade and Fritz 1st grade, and August will start Kindergarten next year.

They are at home at 32030 Rockville Road, Louisburg, KS, 66053; 913-837-5104; bemfmeyer@yahoo.com. Erin enjoys gardening and Brian keeps busy remodeling their home.

- June 30 Vivian Wilson
- June 3 Emerson & Wilda Bunch (60)
- June 4 James & Rhonda Prothe (11)
- June 9 Jeff & Jamie Ennett (14)
- June 9 Dave & Phyllis Trickett (49)
- June 10 Chris & Lana Kettler (38)
- June 10 Rolland & Betty Prothe (44)
- June 11 ... Bruce & Gale Nowasell (28)

Ray and Janet England

The Englands join Trinity by Transfer of Membership from First Lutheran Church, Paola.

Before retiring Ray was an inspector at Havens Steel in Ottawa and Janet worked at the District Court for 33 years as Clerk and Deputy Clerk. They have three daughters and five grandchildren. Ray and Janet both attended Trinity Lutheran School, and Janet was confirmed here.

They are at home at 32391 Victory Road, Paola, KS, 66071; 913-294-5082.

Phillip Windler

Phil recently moved back to the area from South Carolina and joins by Transfer of Membership from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Simpsonville, South Carolina.

In South Carolina he worked in the trucking industry, and since moving he works for Miami County Public Works.

He is at home at 22415 West 363rd Street, Paola, KS, 66071; 913-849-3496.

- June 13 Rick & Connie Holte (18)
- June 14 Jim & Sharon Prothe (36)
- June 18 David & Lorranda Baldrige (11)
- June 19 Brian & Erin Meyer (12)
- June 21 Darrell & Kathy Peckman (42)
- June 22 Clint & Michelle Haley (14)
- June 24 Clinton & Roberta Peckman (27)
- June 25 George & Nancy Honn (28)
- June 28 ... Loren & Barbara Herra (47)