

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✘ Paola, Kansas

2017

JANUARY



Pastor's Message for the NEW YEAR



The names of the months of the year pre-date Christianity and are derived from the ancient Romans. "July" is named in honor of Julius Caesar, who was born that month. "August" is named in honor of Caesar Augustus, who plays a role in the Christmas story as the Emperor at the time of Christ's birth: "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1).

In the old Roman calendar, September, October, November and December were the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth months, and so are named simply after the Latin numerals for seven thru ten: *septem*, *octo*, *novem*, and *decem*.

However, most of the months were named in honor of pagan false gods and goddesses. "February" comes from the Etruscan god Februus. "March" comes from the Roman god of war, Mars. "May" comes from the goddess Maiesta, "June" from the goddess Juno, and "January" from the Roman god Janus.

The Apostle Paul says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being

understood from what has been made" (Romans 1:20). Scripture tells us that non-Christians also have a Natural Knowledge of the true God, and although that knowledge is incomplete and defective and cannot lead to salvation, it does have some elements of truth. According to Paul, one of "God's invisible qualities" which even pagans "understood" are "his eternal power and divine nature."

That is why the false god Janus was depicted by the Romans as a head with two faces, one looking back and the other looking forward. The ancient Romans understood the eternity and what we call the "omniscience" of God, that He knows all things. And so they ascribed these qualities to their false god Janus, who is said to be eternal and omniscient, a timeless god, who looks both backward over time and forward into the future.



The Roman false god Janus, after whom the month January was named, was depicted with two faces, one looking back to the past, and the other looking forward to the future. Though wrongly ascribed to this false god, even these pagans understood the eternity and what we call the "omniscience" of the true God, that He knows all things.

In Athens, Paul said to those who worshipped such false gods, "Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23). Janus is only an imaginary being, who does not truly exist. But, Jesus Christ really is eternal and omniscient, the only true God. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," he says, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

For the ancient Romans, their belief in a god who knew all things was not a comfort, but a curse. Because that meant he knew all their sins. Janus looked back over their past failures, and he looked forward to their future punishment, unless they would appease the gods with sacrifices and offerings.

The bad news is, the true Almighty God does indeed know your sins. But, the Good News is, he himself sent his own Son to be your Savior, to appease God's wrath for you, by his life, death and resurrection. As Revelation 1:7 says, "[He] loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood."

The Apostle John writes, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). None of us can claim this past year, or throughout our lives, to have been without sin, failures, and shortcomings. Like the false god Janus, Jesus, the one true God, really is eternal and omniscient, the true timeless God, who looks both backward over time and forward into the future. But, the Good News is, unlike Janus, Jesus does not look backward with anger, or forward with threats of punishment.

Jesus looks backward with you over 2016, and over your entire life, not with anger, but with forgiveness. As John continues, "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness . . . The blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin" (1 John 1:7-9).

And Jesus looks forward with you over the coming year of 2006, and the rest of your life to come, not with threats of punishment, but with love. "Surely I am with you always" he promises (Matthew 28:20). The Lord says in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you up with my mighty hand." Hebrews 13:5-6 puts it this way: "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'"

Paul says in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Janus was thought to be against those who displeased the gods; but Jesus, the true eternal, omniscient God, is not against you, but for you, on your side, throughout the coming year of 2017 and beyond. That is why Paul tells us in Romans 8:28, "And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love him."

Moses tells Joshua, "Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). As you enter the New Year, have confidence that, unlike the imaginary god Janus, the true God Jesus really does know all things into the past and the future, and he is working all things together for your good. For he is the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Trinity Tribune

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January, 2017*



You Are Invited to an
Epiphany Open House
at the Parsonage

Sunday, January 8, 2017
2:00pm-5:00pm

All Invited - Everyone Welcome!

*Building
for the
Future*

**Building Pledges
Received Thru
January 15**

Following the Thanksgiving Potluck on November 20, congregational chairman Greg Windler gave a presentation on our congregation's proposed building project. The Powerpoint presentation he gave, project booklet with floor plans, and pledge card are all available online at www.trinitylcms.org/building.

He began with the underlying *assumption* behind the project, and the *focus* and *goal* of the project.

Assumption: Members of Trinity desire the congregation to continue serving the Lord into the future, at the present location, in the current church building.

Focus: Enhancing the function of the existing building and improving most critical aspects of code compliance.

Goal: Help ensure that we and generations to come will continue to enjoy using this Temple to the glory and service of the Triune God.

He then explained the main components of the project:

Handicapped Access: Instead of investing in another ramp, fill will be added to parking lot, gradually graded up to the building to put a new west entrance, at the same approximate location as the current handicapped entrance, at ground level. This entrance will also have a covered drive for dropping off passengers.

Restrooms: New handicapped accessible restrooms will be installed off the front lobby in same basic location as the current restrooms.

Elevator and Stairs: Because our current elevator and all the current staircases are no longer to code, an addition west of the current building will provide new stairs and a new full-size, fully automatic elevator to all three floors.

Overflow: The wall between the front lobby and overflow will be removed, and the overflow area will be opened up into one large room and will include a



Great fun was enjoyed at our second annual Christmas Party & Talent Show on December 4. Following the festivities we shared our favorite Christmas treats!

...serving station with kitchenette to prepare and serve snacks.

Next he discussed the finances of the proposed project:

Estimated Cost \$649,000
 Funds Available \$450,000
 Funds Needed \$199,000

And gave the timeline:

- Pledges received thru January 15, 2017.
- Considered by voters assembly on January 22, 2017.
- If approved construction would begin as soon as weather and contractor's schedule allows.
- Goal for completion is Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.
- Dedication would be sometime in 2018 as part of celebrating Trinity's 150th Anniversary year.

Pamphlets explaining the project, including floor plans, and pledge cards are available in the overflow area, where the Powerpoint presentation is playing on televisions during Sunday mornings. These materials and the Powerpoint presentation as a Youtube video are also available online at www.trinitylcms.org/building.

Please review these and prayerfully consider what pledge you may be able to make toward this proposed project. Completed pledge cards may be placed in the pledge box in the overflow by Sunday, January 15, 2017, or mailed to the church, or given to chairman Greg Windler. You may contact Greg with questions or for more information.



Voters Assembly January 22

The first quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly for 2017 will be on Sunday, January 22, following the worship service. As noted in the article above, an important item of consideration will be the proposed building project.

The Church Council will meet in advance of the Voters Assembly, on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00pm.



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*



Sign Up for Snacks in 2017

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2017? 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. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

January 1
Jan Minden

January 8
Linda Prothe

January 15
Tamara Mitchell & Kristie McMullin

January 22 & 29
Need Volunteers



As has become customary, we are again having extra services of Holy Communion from October thru March, on both the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. 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 during the more stormy fall and winter months.



Sermon Topics

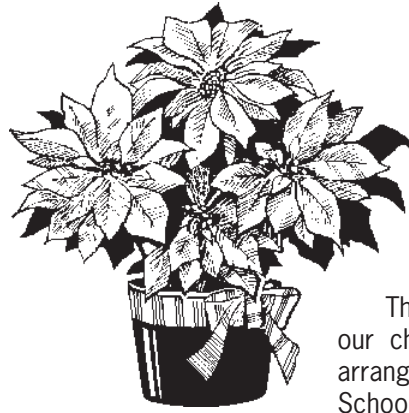
January 1
"Shed for You"
Luke 2:21

January 8
"Baptized For Us"
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15
"Calibrating Your Faith and Life"
John 1:29

January 22
"The Message of the Cross"
1 Corinthians 1:18

January 29
"Jesus' Topsy-Turvy Teaching"
Matthew 5:1-12



2016 Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas, to Barb Dillenbeck for arranging the plants, and to the Trinity Youth, Sunday School children, and all who helped decorate. There were many comments from visitors about how beautifully our church was decorated! (This list of donations was taken from the sign-up sheet in the Church Office.)

Given By

In Memory or Honor Of

Kevin & Denise Debrick (2)	Billee Lee & Lorene Debrick
Brian & Erin Meyer Family (2)	Erin's Mother (Doreen Colwell) Erin's Brother (Ryan Colwell)
Gayle Plummer	Leland Gerken
Gladys, Jim, & Sharon Prothe	Bob Prothe
Phyllis Trickett	Damon & Ione Prothe
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2)	Leroy & Ruth Vogts & Grandparents
Venita, Arlin, & Aaron Prothe	LaVern & Vivian Wilson



Annual Church ELECTION

Officers and Board Members for 2017

Our thanks to all those who served Trinity as officers and board members in 2016, and those who have agreed to serve in 2017.

Chairman
Greg Windler

Secretary
Jim Prothe

Treasurer
Paul Brack

Mission Treasurer
Jeff Garrison

Elders
Kevin Debrick, Rolland Prothe,
Darrel Rodewald

Trustees
Kevin Prothe, Steve Debrick,
Clint Haley

Education
Kyle Minden, John Schlegel,
Bill Koelsch

Finance
Pete Kaiser, Mike Oberheide,
Phil Windler



Due to changes recently made by the church's internet service provider the old church email address [blockt1c@midwest-connections.com] is no longer active and emails sent to that address will not be received.

Please make a note of the church's new email address and update your contact information, trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.



New Bible Class

Our new study in Adult Bible Class is *The Lessons of the Lord*. In this study we are looking at the weekly Scripture readings used in our worship, including how this system developed, how the readings are selected, and a study of that Sunday's readings.

Everyone is invited to "start the New Year right" by joining in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to learn more about *The Lessons of the Lord* and how these selections from God's Word can bless you on your weekly walk with God!



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 trinitylutheranblock@gmail.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 Smithisler
- 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 Brianna Hoden
- 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
- Jan 11 Jeron & Kendra Fuller (13)
- Jan 26 Damon & Betty Oberheide (65)



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.

January 1
Dennis & Monta Denow
Asia

January 8
Persephone James
Hong Kong

January 15
Tom & Debi Going
Japan

January 22
David & Barbara Bush
Macau

January 29
Rev. Todd & Kim Roeske
Philippines



LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram (back row in black) recently spearheaded a reconciliation conference between pastors of the Japan Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of Korea to end decades of hostilities stemming from an incident in the Korean War era.

Historic Meeting Ends Hostilities

On April 3, 1948, a rebellion on Jeju Island near Korea led to a massacre of inhabitants by order of the new South Korean government. Many of those killed and many of the survivors were Lutheran, the result of successful mission work by our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Most of the Lutheran survivors fled to Japan, where they became an important part of the LCMS—related Japan Lutheran Church. This led to severe tensions over the years between the JLC and the Lutheran Church in Korea.

Under the leadership of LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, a first-ever joint conference of the pastors of these two bodies was recently held and they formally reconciled after nearly 70 years of hostility. Dr. Jastram reports the JLC and LCK now plan to work actively together in a joint celebration of the Reformation 500th Anniversary and spreading the Good News of the great reconciliation ever—with God through Jesus Christ.



2016 Children's Christmas Program

More Photos Online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos

