

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



2017



Is 'Transgender' True?

A shorter version of this article will appear in the July, 2017 issue of The Lutheran Witness, the national magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound teaching. Instead, to suit their own lusts, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn away from hearing the truth and turn aside to man-made fictions." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

I recently read an article about a famous inventor of medical devices who created a new machine that strengthens the "pelvic floor" of women through electrical muscle stimulation. It seems that a weak pelvic floor is an underlying cause of many female medical issues.

Although men have a similar structure, also called a pelvic floor, they are distinctly different in men and women, both in how they are designed and how they function. The article reported that as this inventor studied the female pelvic floor, he was quite surprised to discover how it is interconnected throughout the female body, in a way not found in males:

*"He'd discovered something that only a very few . . . researchers had ever seriously thought about: A woman's pelvic floor is almost unfathomably complicated, designed . . . to control and influence all sorts of bodily functions from bladder control to posture . . . The pelvic floor's health and strength affects not just obvious parts of a woman's anatomy, but also her lower back, hips, and knees."**

This is just one example of how ludicrous and unscientific it is to claim that men can "transition" to becoming women or vice versa. No matter what kind of cosmetic or even surgical changes are made, a man who claims to be a woman will never have a female pelvic floor, and a woman who claims to be a man will die with this piece of unique female anatomy in place—her body simply couldn't function properly without it.

I remember being quite surprised there were such obvious, distinct differences in male and female human skulls.

I have encountered firsthand such basic differences between the sexes myself when working as an archaeologist in the Holy Land, at an ancient Roman settlement about 30 miles from the Sea of Galilee. Because of my fair skin, I was assigned to work not in the desert sun (whew!) but in the cool, dark, underground tombs, elaborate caves cut into the rock, dating back generally to the New Testament era.

The families had a custom of allowing loved ones to "desiccate" after burial, a polite way of saying the fleshy portions would rot away, leaving only the bones. This is probably what Job is referring to, speaking of the resurrection of the body

in Job 19:25-27: *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has rotted away, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another."*

Somewhat bizarrely from our perspective, these bare bones would then usually be consolidated into piles to make room for new burials in the family tomb. This meant that a typical tomb with a half-dozen or so "loculai," horizontal, tunnel-like shafts cut into the rock from the main room, into which bodies would be laid, would often have the skeletal remains of *dozens* of individuals, of all ages and both sexes.

In one case in a tomb I excavated, I first came across a half-dozen skulls grouped together—quite a sight! As I continued to carefully dig down I found under the skulls all the bones from these half-dozen individuals, neatly arranged in layers according to type: all the tibias layered together, then fibulas, etc. It was a somewhat unusual arrangement and I was considered by the others on our team quite lucky to find it in one of the tombs assigned to me. Having never seen a patella before—they were usually lost over the centuries in the shuffling of bones—I nearly missed the little pile of a dozen kneecaps!

Due to this intentional rearranging of the bones, as well as disturbance from animals, flooding, and other geologic action, we rarely found a complete, intact skeleton as one imagines archaeologists uncovering—there were only a few of those out of hundreds of burials we excavated—but we rather ended up with jumbled piles of hundreds of mixed-up bones.

It was extremely important to know for archaeological and anthropological reasons how many distinct individuals these bones from a given tomb represented, and of what age and sex.

Our excavation staff included a professional osteologist, or ancient bone specialist, a professor of anatomy with a PhD in the field. Under his guidance, those of us on the tomb crew would sit around camp in the evenings engaged in a massive, macabre jigsaw puzzle, piecing together as much as possible full skeletons out of the mounds of bones retrieved from each tomb.

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One of the first things “Doc” taught us how to recognize is the distinct differences between male and female bones, particularly visible in the pelvises and skulls, but for an expert like him evident in many parts of the human skeleton. I must have been absent the days this was covered in biology classes, because while it made sense that the pelvises would be different to accommodate childbirth, I remember being quite surprised there were such obvious, distinct differences in male and female human *skulls*.

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A study of human anatomy reveals that the differences between male and female are not superficial, but extend throughout our bodies. The changes that those who supposedly “transition” to the other sex undergo, even if done surgically or with artificial hormones, are merely superficial and cosmetic. It’s like putting Ford nameplates and logos on a Chevrolet—and then claiming it has “transitioned” to being a Ford! The two brands indeed outwardly look very much alike, there are many similarities between them, and some parts are standardized and interchangeable between the two. But, fundamentally they are each uniquely engineered, and have basic differences incorporated throughout their design and functionality.

It is the same with men and women. The Bible says simply, “*Male and female He created them*” (Genesis 1:27), and “*at the beginning the Creator made them male and female*” (Matthew 19:4). The simplicity of those statements nevertheless reveals a profound reality that today many otherwise intelligent and educated individuals, even some with medical and scientific training, seem to have forgotten. Apart from very rare genetic defects, humans from the beginning universally have been and continue to be made either male or female—not some neutral gender or mishmash of both. These two sexes are distinct and not interchangeable, and the sex of each individual is permanent and immutable. Despite absurd views some apparently have to the contrary, these are indisputable scientific facts.

It’s like putting Ford nameplates and logos on a Chevrolet—then claiming it “transitioned” to being a Ford!

Psalm 139:13-16 makes clear that the sex of an individual, irreversibly determined at the moment of conception, is part of God’s plan for that person’s life: “*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, intricately woven together as in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body, and all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to pass.”

Likewise, the Lord declares in Jeremiah 1:5, “*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart.*” It almost seems that the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:18 anticipated and refutes the claim that some humans are born the “wrong sex”: “*But in fact God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be.*”

It is precisely the differences God created in the two sexes of the human race that provides humanity with some of the greatest joys and pleasure in life.

The saddest part of the “transgender” concept is that the ingenious, complimentary manner in which God designed and still creates males and females is one of the most wonderful aspects of God’s creation. It is beautifully expressed in Genesis 2:18: “*The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion suitable for him.’*” The French have a cheekier way of saying it: *Vive la difference!*

It is precisely the *differences* God created in the two sexes of the human race that provides humanity with some of the greatest joys and pleasure in life. It is all part of God’s plan for our good. Attempts to deny or muddle those differences are a lie, robbing us of an essential aspect of our humanity. Instead of vainly trying to overthrow God’s plan, we will find happiness in embracing with gusto His design, for our individual selves and the whole human race. *Vive la difference!*

Pastor Kevin Vogts

*Gillespie, Nick. “Meet the Father-Daughter Team Behind the Yarnap.” *Reason*. Reason Foundation, April 27, 2017. Web. May 23, 2017.

Sermon Topics for June



Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons, as podcasts under "Kevin Vogts" in the iTunes store, online at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com, or at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile for mobile devices. Printed copies of the current Sunday's message and those from the past several weeks are also available in a small literature rack in back of the church.

June 4 (Pentecost Sunday)
"The Spirit Working in YOU"
1 Corinthians 12:4-6

June 11 (Trinity Sunday)
"The Only True God"
1 Corinthians 8:4-6

June 18 (Father's Day)
"Christ Died for Us"
Romans 5:6-8

June 25
"The Very Hairs of Your Head Are All Numbered"
Matthew 10:29-31



Guest Minister July 16

To commemorate this 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this year, Rev. and Mrs. Vogts will be on a Luther Study Trip in Germany from July 10-20. The tour is being led by Pastor Vogt's niece, who is the German teacher at Lutheran High School of Kansas City, and also going on the trip will be his brother and sisters and their spouses and Mrs. Vogts' sister and her husband.

In Pastor Vogts' absence on July 16 our guest minister at Trinity will be Rev. Roger Schepmann.



Outdoor Worship July 2

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 2.

Pastor Vogts' message will be "Government—God's Servant" based on Romans 13:1-7. The special order of worship will include a children's sermon and favorite patriotic songs.

This is a great opportunity to invite family, neighbors, friends, and holiday visitors for worship! All invited—everyone welcome!

July Communion Change

Because of the outdoor service in our Shelter House on July 2, Holy Communion in July will be celebrated on the second Sunday of the month, July 9, rather than the usual first Sunday of the month.

Nursing Home Worship Services



You are invited to help provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on Sunday, June 11. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service.



We rejoiced to celebrate the Confirmation and First Communion of Luke Elkinton and Evan Kettler on May 21.



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.

June 4
Mark & Megan Mantey
Uganda

June 11
Dr. Martin & Marie Dicke
Papua New Guinea

June 18
Rev. Gary & Stephanie Schulte
Togo

June 25
Rev. Eddie & Melissa Hosch
Peru



*Pondering
the Parables*

**New Bible Class on
Parables Begins in June**

In June we are beginning a new study in Adult Bible Class on *Pondering the Parables*. Approximately 35% of Jesus' teachings recorded in the Gospels is in the form of parables. Although these parables seem simple on the surface, the messages they convey are actually very deep and central to the teachings of our faith. They also offer Jesus' followers many practical life lessons. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow for *Pondering the Parables!*



We rejoiced to welcome into membership on May 28 Rick and Jill Druse. Rick is originally from Newton, Kansas and went to college at Kansas State University. He is advertising representative for the *Miami County Republic* newspaper. Jill (Riley) is the niece of Gladys Prothe. She grew up in Olathe, Kansas and went to college at Kansas State University and the Graduate School of Banking, Boulder, Colorado. She works as a bank examiner for the State of Kansas. The Druses are at home at 35675 Columbia Road, Paola, KS, 66071. Rick's cell phone is 620-338-0713 and Jill's cell phone is 620-408-7872. They love riding around on their Harley Davidson trike!



On May 7 we enjoyed a delicious Spaghetti Luncheon hosted by the Trinity Youth followed by an Easter program by the Sunday School. Check out our online Photo Gallery at www.trinitycms.org/photos for more pictures and a video.



After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? The last two Sundays of June are still open! The sign-up sheet is by the table with the snacks. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

June 4

Henry, Golubski, Prothe

June 11

Wood

June 18 & 25

Need Volunteers



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 trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

June 1 Kelsey Davis
 June 1 Jessica Thoden
 June 1 Sara Oberheide
 June 1 Michele Prothe
 June 1 Minna Meyer
 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 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 Herrs
 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 & Willda Bunch (61)
 June 4 James & Rhonda Prothe (12)
 June 9 Jeff & Jamie Ennett (15)
 June 9 Dave & Phyllis Trickett (50)
 June 10 Chris & Lana Kettler (39)
 June 10 Rolland & Betty Prothe (45)
 June 11 Bruce & Gale Nowasell (29)
 June 13 Rick & Connie Holte (19)
 June 14 Jim & Sharon Prothe (37)
 June 18 .. David & Lorranda Baldrige (12)
 June 21 Darrell & Kathy Peckman (43)
 June 22 Clint & Michelle Haley (15)
 June 24 .. Clinton & Roberta Peckman (28)
 June 25 George & Nancy Honn (29)
 June 28 Loren & Barbara Herrs (48)