

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2018  
JANUARY



From the  
**PASTOR**

## Ten Reasons to Trust the Bible

Those who strive to live by the Bible's teachings are confronted by the disbelieving dominant worldview of our modern culture, that presumes the Bible isn't actually true. We may not be sure what to make of such skepticism about the Book we love, or how to respond. Here's a brief summary of *Ten Reasons to Trust the Bible*.

❶ **Manuscript Evidence** — There are astronomically more copies of the biblical manuscripts, with remarkable consistency between them, than there are for any other work of ancient literature.

Because of disasters such as the famous fire which destroyed the ancient library at Alexandria, Egypt, we have very few copies of most ancient writings, and those we do have usually date from thousands of years later.

We have only seven copies of any works by Plato, the oldest dating to 900 A.D., some 1,200 years after Plato; ten copies of works by Caesar, the oldest dating to 900 A.D., some 1,000 years after Caesar; 49 copies of works by Aristotle, the oldest dating to 1100 A.D., some 1,400 years after Aristotle; and it's the same with most other ancient authors. Yet, no one doubts the historical accuracy of these writings, or the existence of figures such as Plato, Caesar, and Aristotle.

In contrast, museums and libraries all around the world have not just a few dozen, but *tens of thousands* of ancient, handwritten copies of portions of the New Testament. The oldest is from the Gospel of John and dates to 120 A.D., only about 30 years the Apostle wrote his Gospel.

*"There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament"* (F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*)



The motto of the Lutheran Reformation in Latin is *Verbum Dei Manet in Aeternum*, represented by this symbol of the letters **VDMA**. It is based on **1 Peter 1:24-25** and means, **"The Word of the Lord Endures Forever."**

❷ **Archaeological Evidence** — Many people aren't aware that the entire discipline of archaeology had its beginnings as *biblical* archaeology. In the 1800s, critics of the Bible asserted that the lands and cities described in its pages were a complete fantasy, like maps of mythical "Middle Earth" found in books of the "Lord of the Ring" series. These skeptics challenged Bible believers, that if they ever actually went to the Ancient Near East and tried to locate the features described in the Bible, they would find nothing.

In response, Queen Victoria sponsored the Palestinian Exploration Fund—still in existence—to conduct excavations in the Holy Land. And what did they find? *Everything was exactly as described in the pages of the Bible!* The more we dig, the more archaeology confirms the accuracy of the Bible.

*"It is important to note that Near Eastern archaeology has demonstrated the historical and geographical reliability of the Bible."* (*The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*)

❸ **Eyewitness Accounts** — The Bible was written by people who witnessed the events it describes; many were persecuted or put to death for their faith, but never changed their story. Would so many people die for something they knew was untrue? Would you?

*"It is not a minor verification of Scripture that it has been sealed by the blood of so many martyrs, especially when we reflect that they died to render testimony to the faith."* (John Calvin)

❹ **Corroborating Accounts** — There are extensive references in ancient sources outside the Bible to the events and people it describes.

For example, the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus, born in 37 A.D., "provide indispensable background material for the student of . . . New Testament history. In them, we meet many figures well known to us from the New Testament. Some of his writings provide direct commentary on New Testament references." (*The New Bible Dictionary*)

❺ **Literary Consistency** — The Bible contains 66 books written over 1,500 years by some 40 different writers—yet it tells a remarkably unified story of God's plan of salvation, culminating in Jesus Christ. In contrast, if you've ever played the "telephone game," where people in a circle pass

around a statement by whispering it in each other's ears, you know how distorted a mere human message quickly becomes.

*"There is indeed a wide variety of human authors and themes [in the Bible]. Yet behind these . . . there lies a single divine Author, with a single unifying theme."* (John R. W. Stott, *Understanding the Bible*)

⑥ **Prophetic Consistency** — There are over 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

*"The very dimension of the sheer fulfillment of prophecy of the Old Testament Scriptures should be enough to convince anyone that we are dealing with a supernatural piece of literature. . . God has Himself planted within the Scriptures an internal consistency that bears witness that this is His Word."* (R.C. Sproul, *Now That's a Good Question*)

⑦ **Expert Scrutiny** — The early Church had extremely high standards for what books were judged to be authentic and therefore included in the Bible. A book had to have been written by an Apostle or someone in their immediate circle; had to conform to basic Christian teaching; and had to be in widespread use among many churches.

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## Trinity Tribune

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It wasn't at all the case that the Church somehow *gave* these books authority; rather, they simply *recognized* the authority the books themselves naturally asserted among Christians, a careful process of, "*the people of God in many different places coming to recognize what other believers elsewhere found to be true.*" (*The New Bible Commentary*)

⑧ **Human Acceptance** — A majority of the greatest leaders and thinkers in history have affirmed the truth and impact of the Bible.

*"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong."* (Abraham Lincoln)

Many famous scientists were and are devout Christians, including Sir Francis Bacon, who devised what we call the "scientific method." Sir Isaac Newton, considered the father of modern science, was a firm Bible believer, who in addition to his scientific discoveries wrote extensive Bible commentaries.

⑨ **Global Influence** — The Bible has had an extraordinary influence on the laws, art, ethics, music, and literature of world civilization, far greater than any other book in history.

*"Christianity is responsible for a disproportionately large number of the humanitarian advances in the history of civilization—in education, medicine, law, the fine arts, working for human rights, and even in the natural sciences. . ."* (Craig L. Blomberg, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith*)

⑩ **Changed Lives** — Like Martin Luther, literally billions of people over the centuries have been transformed by the words of the Bible.

*"As unnamed masses of Christians down through the ages have shown us, the Bible is the most reliable place to turn for finding the key to a life of love and good works."* (T. M. Moore, *The Case for the Bible*)

That the Bible is so cherished—and still by far the most widely published, best-selling book in the world—is even more remarkable because we humans are self-centered creatures, but the Bible goes completely *against* so many aspects of our basic human behavior.

What draws us to this Book, even though it condemns our sinful ways? Just one more proof these writings are divinely inspired by a Higher Power, and could not be of mere human origin.

So, despite the skepticism of an unbelieving world, the Holy Bible truly is God's Word, inspired, inerrant, faithful, and reliable. This is expressed in a Latin phrase that became the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, *Verbum Dei Manet in Aeternum*, which is based on 1 Peter 1:24-25 and means, "*The Word of the Lord Endures Forever.*"

Pastor Kevin Vogts



## Sermons for January

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available on our website at [www.trinitylcms.org/sermons](http://www.trinitylcms.org/sermons), in both printed and audio form; as podcasts in the iTunes store by searching for "Rev. Kevin Vogts"; and printed copies of that day's and several most recent sermons are available in the Overflow.

January 1 (New Year's Day)  
"The Alpha and Omega"  
Revelation 1:8

January 7  
"King of Kings"  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 14  
Rev. Roger Schepmann  
Guest Minister

January 21  
"The Things of this World"  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31

January 28  
"Amazed at His Teaching"  
Mark 1:21-22



**Damon Donald Oberheide**

Born May 1, 1927  
 Entered Eternal Rest  
 December 11, 2017  
 Christian Funeral & Burial at Trinity  
 December 14, 2017

**Darrell Dean Peckman**

Born July 24, 1940  
 Entered Eternal Rest  
 December 13, 2017  
 Christian Funeral & Burial at Trinity  
 December 18, 2017

*"Come unto Me, all you who  
 are weary and heavy laden,  
 and I will give you rest. . . you  
 will find rest for your souls."  
 Matthew 11:28-29*



**New Adult Bible Study**

In January we are beginning a new study for the New Year in Adult Bible Class, *God's Grace in Colossians*.

Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, this Biblical book still speaks to our lives today in a surprisingly fresh and relevant way. One of the Apostle Paul's shorter letters, Colossians is especially rich with descriptions of Christ, His work, and the blessings He bestows on us.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to learn more about *God's Grace in Colossians*.



**2017 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 youth 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) .....                    | Lorene Debrick & Fred & Billee Lee |
| Jeff Garrison Family & Venita & Arlin Prothe .....  | Vernele Pipes                      |
| Gayle Plummer .....                                 | Leland Gerken                      |
| Jim & Sharon Prothe & Gladys Prothe Family (2) .... | Bob Prothe & Myrtle Thoden         |
| Venita & Arlin Prothe .....                         | LaVern & Vivian Wilson             |
| Doris Rodewald                                      |                                    |
| Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2) .....                 | Leroy & Ruth Vogts & Grandparents  |



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 Minden     |
| 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 .....  | Sunye Oswald       |
| 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 ..... Suzie Prothe  
 January 27 ..... Brianna Hoden  
 January 28 ..... Jimmy Massey  
 January 29 ..... Lindsey Holtz  
 January 30 ..... Elbert Jones  
 January 30 ..... Mason Kunard  
 January 30 ..... Mitch Plummer  
 January 31 ..... Morgan Richards  
 January 11 ... Jeron & Kendra Fuller (14)

**Guest  
 Minister  
 January 14**



Terry Vogts' grandfather was the founding president of the American Beekeeping Federation, and her whole family is gathering for the ABF 75th Anniversary Convention in Reno, Nevada, January 9-14. Her father, who himself was president for the 50th Anniversary, will give an opening address, and the family will be honored at the closing banquet.

Rev. Roger Schepmann will serve as our guest preacher at Trinity on Sunday, January 14. While Pastor Vogts is away you may still contact him at the parsonage number (913-849-3711), which will be forwarded to his cell phone, or call his cell phone directly (913-594-9865).



**Voters  
 Assembly  
 January 28**

The first quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly for 2018 will be on Sunday, January 28, following the worship service.

The Church Council will meet in advance of the Voters Assembly, on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00pm.

**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 who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.



January 7  
**Rev. Eddie & Melissa Hosch**  
*Alexandria (Lexi) & Joseph (Joe)*  
 Peru (See Article Pages 5-6)



January 28  
**Michael & Beth Ritzman**  
*Moreah, Onika, Azrielle,  
 Vignette, Eric, & Charles*  
 Papua New Guinea



January 21  
**Shara Osiro**  
 Kenya



January 14  
**Rev. Charles & Connie Cortright**  
 Czech Republic

**Snacks Hosts  
 Needed for  
 January and  
 2018**



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2018? The rest of January and the remainder of the New Year is open! The sign-up sheet for 2018 is on the table with the snacks.

Our Generations group generously provides and prepares 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 providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

January 7  
*Gayle Plummer*  
January 14, 21, & 28  
*Need Volunteers*

**COMMUNION  
 SUNDAYS**

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.



Our thanks to Mike Schmitt for hundreds of additional photos from Blocktoberfest last September, just posted to our online Photo Gallery, including lots of great aerial shots like this one from his drone! The web address [www.trinitylcms.org/blocktoberfest](http://www.trinitylcms.org/blocktoberfest) will redirect you to the Facebook post with a link that opens the album beginning with the first additional photo.

## MISSION NEWS

“You can’t fix everything. A lot of the situations you see, you want to help them all,” says LCMS missionary Rev. Eddie Hosch of the people living amid poverty and other hardships in Lima, Peru. What’s really important, he adds, is “to remind them that they are valuable in God’s eyes, so they can always know that God is with them and that Jesus died for them.”

That message has been embraced by many of the children who receive food for both body and soul from three Lutheran ministries that operate in this city as *Castillo Fuerte: Casa de Misericordia* or *Mighty Fortress: House of Mercy*. Each provides after-school care, tutoring, and meals, along with opportunities to study the Bible and take part in worship.

Four young ladies who were taught the faith at *Castillo Fuerte* in La Victoria were confirmed last November, along with two adults. Among the confirmands were Fernando and his two daughters, Victoria and Naomi, who sparked their father’s interest in Christianity. When he saw them reading the Bible and learning about Jesus, he, too, “wanted to learn more about the Gospel,” he said.

Rev. Hosch was born in Warrensburg, Missouri and grew up in the Kansas City area. He received a bachelor’s degree in education from Pittsburg State University, and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Before attending seminary he taught history at Arkansas City High School, and prior to serving in Peru he was pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Snellman, Minnesota, and Faith Lutheran Church, Churubusco, Indiana. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and reading.

Melissa Hosch was born in Garnett, Kansas and her hometown is Richmond, Kansas. She also attended Pittsburg State University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in technology. Before heading to Peru, Melissa worked for several school systems as a graphic designer and instructional and special education assistant. Melissa enjoys reading, fishing, walking, and bike riding. Rev. and Mrs. Hosch have two children, Alexandria (Lexi) and Joseph (Joe), who join them in the mission field.

Rev. Hosch says the LCMS ministries in Peru are making a difference because



LCMS missionary Rev. Eddie Hosch conducts a worship service in Lima, Peru.





## 2017 Children's Christmas Program

Thanks to Stacey Elinton for These Photos  
More Online at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos)



they are solidly centered on the Word of God. "We have joy and freedom because we have the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and because we have the Gospel we provide more than just material and physical help. We also provide love in Christ, just as He has loved us."



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*



Four young ladies recently confirmed in Lima, Peru receive First Communion from LCMS missionary Rev. Eddie Hosch. In the picture below, as night falls on the streets of Lima, Rev. Hosch is seen through open doors conducting an evening service. Note the banner celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

