

Trinity Tribune: December 2024

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Block (Paola), Kansas

“Jesus Was Adopted—So Are You”

If Jesus did not have an earthly biological father, how could he be considered David’s son (Matt 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30; et al.)? The answer to this is not found through Mary: mothers do not confer lineage on their children. Furthermore, we do not know Mary’s lineage; it may have been from Judah or perhaps Levi (since her cousin Elizabeth was married to a Levite priest, Zechariah).

The answer is simple though: Jesus was adopted by Joseph as his son, and so Jesus was adopted into the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and many others. Matthew 1 makes this clear: “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. . . and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ” (verses 1, 16). Luke is similar, but he wants to emphasize the *supposed* biological relationship between Joseph and Jesus: “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph” (Luke 3:23).

When Jesus was growing up, most people would have assumed that Jesus was Joseph’s son. Even if they had suspicions about his true parentage (given the timing of Mary’s pregnancy and the subsequent, quiet marriage), nonetheless Joseph made it clear that Jesus was his son by law by taking Jesus as his own.

Israelites cared more about this legal lineage rather than biological lineage, and we should too. For example, it is not the eldest son of Abraham (Ishmael) who gets the inheritance but rather Isaac—so too with Isaac’s children (Jacob rather than Esau) and Jacob’s children (Judah skips Reuben, Simeon, and Levi).

This legal lineage often reflects the lineage of faith. God was certainly behind the quirks of the line of the Messiah. He was with Jacob when he tricked the birthright away from Esau—because God recognized the unbelief of Esau and the faith of Jacob. Similarly, God arranges the death of David’s prideful firstborn, Absalom, in favor of the more faithful Solomon.

God also preserved the legal lineage even through unbelieving kings and queens (like Athaliah, 2 Kings 11). But there are also shining examples of faithful kings and leaders in this legal lineage that would lead to Joseph and

Jesus. One can think of David, Solomon, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah as examples.

Joseph, the legal father of Jesus, was also the epitome of a faithful and “just man” (Matt 1:19). He protected Mary and Jesus and lived up to the heritage of his forefathers.

We should also note that *we* are also adopted as sons of God. We may not have been adopted into a particular earthly, legal lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But we have been adopted into the greater lineage of faith by God the Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus. Here are the key verses that speak to your adoption as God’s son:

Galatians 4:4–5, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Romans 8:15, “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”

Ephesians 1:4c–5, “he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.”

Jesus was adopted into the Davidic line in order that you would be adopted into the similar lineage of faith. You share the faith of the Old Testament believers. They looked forward to the One whom we look back to: Jesus. They worshipped Jesus whom they could not see, and we worship Jesus who has come and still comes to us in our hearts.

Another image that the Bible uses to express this is that of grafting: you have been grafted into the root of the Jewish Old Testament (Romans 11). It is your history, not by blood or law, but by faith. We can learn from the lessons of the Old Testament, that we would not fall into the same pitfalls of the Israelite people. At the same time, we can learn much from them about repenting of sin, calling out to God in times of trouble, and persevering in the faith.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer

Birthdays & Anniversaries

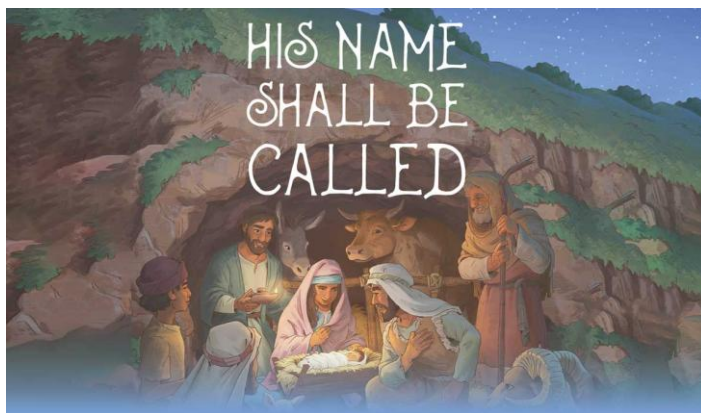
Birthdays

December 1	Kristie Gatlin
December 1	Brianna Chapman
December 3	Brianna Woelmer
December 5	Tyler Barnett
December 6	Susan Schmitt
December 6	Linda Oberheide
December 6	Jaxon Durham
December 8	Anita Koopman
December 9	Marsha Windish
December 9	Autumn Menefee
December 10	Betty Crome
December 11	Pam Holtz
December 11	Mika Menefee
December 13	Justin Prothe
December 13	Dillon Reyelts
December 15	Chris Jones
December 15	Linda Prothe
December 16	Joyce Johns
December 16	Jake Prothe
December 19	Samantha Honn
December 21	Carole Brandt
December 21	Nancy Green
December 22	Jack Smith
December 25	Shawn Brandt
December 25	April Bruce
December 25	Darleen Medlin
December 25	Brooks Massey
December 26	Brandon Prothe
December 28	Shemene Peckman
December 28	Royal Prothe
December 29	Brian Meyer
December 31	Randy Shannon

Anniversaries

December 2	Leland and Slina Prothe (68)
December 3	Henry and JoAnn Vaughn (35)
December 12	Nicholas and Erica Peckman (8)
December 16	Mike and Trish Armstrong (28)
December 17	Steve and Kristie McMullin (29)
December 28	Richard and Mary Ann Green (48)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Christmas Hymn Sing

Come sing carols (pick your favorite!) and hear Scripture readings and also the histories behind your favorite carols!
Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Children’s Program: “His Name Shall Be Called”
Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols Service

“One Final Name: the WORD”
Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

All services will be livestreamed on Facebook

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

NEW YEAR’S DAY SERVICE

We will observe both the national holiday of New Year’s Day and the church festival of the Circumcision and Naming of Our Lord with a special service on New Year’s Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. This service also includes the installation of church officers and board members for 2020.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHRISTMASTIDE CONCERT

Join First Lutheran in Paola on December 15th at 4:30 p.m. for a music concert featuring choir, instruments, hymns, and more!

BIBLE STUDY ON 1 PETER: "An Epistle of Hope"

This book, written by St. Peter, is a book of hope in the midst of persecution and suffering. It reminds us who we are and how we can walk in this world as saints of God. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the Heritage Room from 10:30-11:30 on Wednesday mornings to hear a "sneak peek" of the readings for the next Sunday.

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The sign-up sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2024 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.



FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

The Ladies Aid is having a Food Pantry Drive. This drive is more about uncommon items such as pain relievers for adults and children, cough syrup for adults and children, toilet tissue, paper towels, kleenex, cough drops, salt & pepper, shelf milk and V8 juice. We have a metal tree with cards on it. Inside the card are items needed. Pick a card or two and then shop and bring the items to church. Ladies Aid will deliver them before Christmas. These items should not be wrapped as Christmas gifts. We ask that the items be here at church by Sunday, Dec. 22nd.

COPS FOR TOTS

The Sunday School and Youth are signed up to give at least 20 children a wonderful Christmas through Cops for Tots. If you would like to purchase a gift for a child or a family, please visit with Dena Kaiser or Michelle Haley. Wrapped gifts are due back by Dec 8th. Please make sure you write the child's number small on the corner of the gift, so it can be covered with a gift tag. Thank you for spreading God's blessings.



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Donating poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary is a great way to remember loved ones at Christmas! There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Gathering Room to order plants from Price Chopper at a cost of \$10 each. Place your payment in the offering marked "Poinsettias." When signing up please indicate how many plants you wish to donate and for whom they are in memory or honor. You are also welcome to bring your own poinsettias, which you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Just drop them by the church sometime before Christmas Eve and leave them on the tables in the Overflow. Please still sign up on the sheet in the Church Office, indicating that you are providing your own plants, and for whom they are in memory or honor of.



NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. There has been a change to the PACA nursing home schedule for December. Instead of leading worship on December 15th, we will now be singing on **December 22nd** at North Point (1:30) and Medicalodge (2:15). We will especially focus on Christmas carols at this service. Come help us bring some Christmas cheer to those who need to hear it!

ONLINE GIVING

Visit our church's Facebook page sometime and look for the bright blue "Donate" button next to the "Like" and "Message" buttons. The company Guidestar processes the transactions; you may either tack on an additional amount to pay the 3% fee that they would charge, or allow the fee to come out of the donation. You may, of course, continue to donate via the offering plates in church; this is just one more way that people can donate.



Devotional Booklets from CPH are available alongside the Portals of Prayer on the table in the back of church. They continue from Advent through the Christmas seasons and follow the theme "His Name Shall Be Called."

MISSION NEWS

Our congregation pledges \$7500 for District and Synod every year, and another \$500 to support a missionary (Jonathan Clausing in Tanzania). This comes out of our Missions Account; you can donate directly to it as you are able (mark "missions" on the memo line). Loose change and earmarked donations from Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will also go towards this missions budget. We still owe \$2380 for the year. Thank you for considering this as part of your giving, especially as we close out the year!

Together in Mission

Rev. Jonathan and Anita Clausing serve the Lord as missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Eastern Africa, based in Tanzania. Jonathan serves as a theological educator at St. Peter Theological Seminary in Himo, Tanzania, teaching a variety of courses in multiple departments.



Trinity Tribune

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