

# Trinity Tribune: October 2024

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Block (Paola), Kansas

## “Halloween and Reformation Day”

Everyone in American society has October 31<sup>st</sup> marked down as Halloween—a day for trick or treating, dressing up, and spooky parties. Lutherans know it by another name: Reformation Day. (The great crossover happens when men dress up as Martin Luther and ladies as Katie Luther.) Other than that, is there any link between the two holidays?

The answer is yes, but not directly. What links them is what happens on the next day: All Saints’ Day.

The first and easiest to explain is Reformation Day. Martin Luther had been thinking about indulgences for a while, and he wanted to do something that was very common in his day: he wanted a debate over this topic. He didn’t want to start a grand movement to change the church. He didn’t expect much to happen except a friendly debate with some fellow theologians in Wittenberg.

So, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on indulgences to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He did this knowing that many people would be in church the next Sunday, because it was a holiday where everyone got the day off in order to come to church. The door of the church served as a bulletin board for the whole community to see what was going on.

What happened to the 95 Theses is that a printer took the notice down, turned it into a reproducible pamphlet, and sent it everywhere. Eventually this invitation to a debate turned into an inquiry and more as bishops and Pope sought to silence this professor from a small, German university.

So what about Halloween? Contrary to what modern atheists and pagans say, it is *not* related to a Celtic festival called “Samhain” Nor is its origins satanic.

Halloween is directly related to All Saints’ Day, also called “All Hallows Day.” It was first celebrated on May 13<sup>th</sup> in 609 by Pope Benedict III, but Pope Gregory IV moved it in 835 to November 1<sup>st</sup>. There are no records by any of these popes to Samhain. Rather, All Saints’ Day was intended to honor all of the saints who did not have their own “Feast Day” (see page xi in your hymnal). Lutherans would later expand All Saints’ Day to include all who have gone before us in the faith to their eternal

reward, not just those who have been “canonized” as saints by the Pope.

Halloween was simply the Eve of All Hallows Day, or “Hallows-evening,” shortened to “Hallowse’en,” then “Halloween.”

The practice of dressing up is also related to this church holiday. There are two ways this was practiced. The first was through parties called *Danse Macabre* where people would dress up like the dead and also the living, and they would dance together. This sent the message that all would eventually die, but that we would dance together one day when death was defeated.

Secondly, trick or treating came from a practice where the poor (later, children) would go around the community, knocking on doors and offering prayers for the departed in return for food in the form of small cakes. Shakespeare records this practice in his play *Two Gentlemen of Verona* with the words “like a beggar at Hallowmas.”

These two practices would merge, with people dressing up *and* going door-to-door asking for treats. The idea of tricking people if they did not give treats perhaps grew out of some mischievous instinct in humanity, suggesting that the dead would come back to trick you if you did not give the treats as requested.

So what are Christians to make of these holidays? First, go ahead and celebrate them! We transfer the celebration of Reformation Day to the last Sunday in October. Consider watching a Luther movie or learning more about Martin Luther’s life and why we are named “Lutheran.” Secondly, come to church the Sunday after for “All Saints’ Day” and praise God for the eternal life he has granted to our loved ones. Between those dates, enjoy some good Halloween fun. Consider leaving behind the ghoulish, demonic aspects.

Finally, remember always that Christ has won the victory over death and now has the keys of Death and Hades. Our departed loved ones are save in His arms, and nothing can come back from death to spook us.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

October 1 .....	Mike Schmidt
October 1 .....	Kimala Morton
October 1 .....	Michele Minden
October 2 .....	Ashley Peckman
October 2 .....	Sharon Prothe
October 4 .....	Kyle Minden
October 5 .....	Mark Deering
October 5 .....	Jocelyn Vaughan
October 8 .....	Megan Stutzman
October 8 .....	Brian Oberheide
October 8 .....	Lisa Vaughan
October 9 .....	Kyle Garrison
October 10 .....	LeRoy Thoden
October 10 .....	Lennon Jonas
October 11 .....	Shelby Barrett
October 11 .....	Kegan Warring
October 12 .....	Ray England
October 13 .....	Vicky Boyer
October 13 .....	Aaron Mueller
October 15 .....	Pam Peckman
October 15 .....	Jay Warring
October 16 .....	Ariel Alcorn
October 16 .....	Erica Peckman
October 17 .....	Dylan Fanning
October 17 .....	Tony Hubbard
October 17 .....	Julie Kellogg
October 18 .....	Carter Zajic
October 19 .....	Betty Prothe
October 19 .....	Joe Stephens
October 20 .....	Khrystin Davis
October 20 .....	David Minden
October 23 .....	Brett Golubski
October 23 .....	Kaelah Garrison
October 23 .....	Hannah Allcorn
October 24 .....	Payton Bruce
October 26 .....	Charlie Peckman
October 26 .....	Dalton Russell
October 26 .....	Cami Vaughan
October 27 .....	Kolby Fanning
October 27 .....	Lloyd Peckman
October 27 .....	Kayla Shappell
October 30 .....	Chris Kettler
October 30 .....	Rose Peckman
October 30 .....	David Prothe
October 30 .....	Jai Jenkins

October 31 .....	Nina Gerken
October 31 .....	Stan Loftiss

## Anniversaries

October 1 .....	Chance and Becky Hager (13)
October 7 .....	Scott and Nancy Golubski (35)
October 12 .....	Nathan and Journey Peckman (6)
October 17 .....	Joe and Anisha O'Barto (26)
October 17 .....	Darrel and Brigitte Rodewald (43)
October 19 .....	Dustin and Candice Prothe (11)
October 19 .....	Kyle and Pam Minden (33)
October 22 .....	Alaric and Schyler Bogle (2)
October 24 .....	Kevin and Donna Erwin (43)
October 25 .....	Mark and Diana Deering (21)
October 28 .....	Joe and Christie Stephens (16)
October 30 .....	Les and Beth Prothe (31)
October 31 .....	Dale and Linda Prothe (47)

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## 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!

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## 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.

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## 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.



## 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. This month, we are scheduled for two Sundays, **October 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. On October 6<sup>th</sup> we will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodges around 2:15 for the second service. Similarly, on October 27<sup>th</sup> we will visit Country Club Estates then Vintage Park. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help, but we could use your help too!

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## HERITAGE SUNDAY: OCTOBER 20

As a nod to the long-standing hymnal that has served our Synod and congregation well for many decades, our worship on October 20<sup>th</sup> will be entirely from *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941, with the order of service being the familiar "Page 15."

We will also have our traditional Chili and Chicken Noodle Lunch following the service downstairs, hosted by the Generations Group.



*Bryce Holland Cyphers*  
Son of  
Brett and Margo Cyphers  
Born October 27, 2023  
Baptized September 22, 2024

*ScottiLyne Elizabeth Brack*  
Daughter of  
Alexander and JeriLyne Brack  
Born September 16, 2024  
Baptized September 29, 2024



*United in Christ*

*Alexis Clark*  
& *Brett Golubski*  
United in Christian Marriage  
September 7, 2024

"And the two shall become one." Matt. 19:5



*Beverly Helin*  
Entered Eternal Rest June 6, 2024

*Arnold Debrick*  
Entered Eternal Rest June 16, 2024

*Jon Wendte*  
Entered Eternal Rest June 25, 2024

*Webb Oberheide*  
Entered Eternal Rest July 20, 2024

*Shirley Hubbard*  
Entered Eternal Rest August 30, 2024

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."  
*Revelation 14:13*

# PORTALS of PRAYER

The new quarterly issue of the devotional booklet Portals of Prayer for July thru September is available at the church, in regular size, large print, and a new "digest" size (same size as Reader's Digest). A great way to keep close to the Lord!

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## VOTERS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held following worship on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Included on the agenda will be the election of church officers for 2025, officer reports, setting the mission budget, designating the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings, and any other business presented.

In order to prepare for this meeting, the Church Council will meet Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

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Saturday, October 26, 4:00–6:00 p.m.  
at the Shelter House

Food – Games – Crafts

Everyone is invited to offer trunk or treats from your car, truck, or other vehicle!  
(Please have your setup completed by 3:30 p.m.)

**All Invited—Everyone Welcome!**

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

In 2025, Lutherans will recognize the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin and Katie Luther's wedding. The LCMS Kansas District is sponsoring "Marriage Enrichment Seminars" around the District, and we will host one on November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The cost will be free, but there will be a sign-up sheet so we know how many to expect.

### About the Seminar

Our theme is "Marriage refers to Christ and his Church." We will look at the Biblical foundation of marriage, the definition of marriage, and the purpose of marriage. We will also look at current trends in marriage, pitfalls in marriage, and things that lead to a positive marriage. Finally, we will look at the needs of men and women in marriage reflecting the relationship between Christ and His Church.

### About the Speaker



Rev. Jim Woelmer is pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas. Before coming to Kansas, he served as pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Madison, Nebraska, from 1990-2002 and Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas, from 2002-2023. He received his B.A. in Theology from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI, and his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Possessing a Master's degree in Family Life from Concordia University in Nebraska, he brings expertise on the needs of men and women in marriage. Rev. Woelmer and his wife, Rachel, have five adult children and 14 grandchildren.

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# Trinity Tribune

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Trinity Lutheran Church  
34868 Block Road  
Paola, KS 66071

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Pastor  
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344

Pastor's Cell: 785-893-3960

Website: [trinitylcms.org](http://trinitylcms.org)  
[facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock](https://facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock)  
[joshua.woelmer@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.woelmer@gmail.com)  
[trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com)

# BLOCKTOBERFEST 2024

