

Trinity Tribune: September 2024

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Genesis as the Foundation of the Bible”

One part of our universe that intrigues me is something called “fine tuning.” It’s the idea that God has made our universe with such specific “constants” that getting any one of them out of balance would ruin *everything*. For example, if the strong nuclear force that holds protons and neutrons together were 2% stronger, with all else remaining the same, all elements would fall apart. This applies to many, many aspects of our universe. Even gravity is so fine tuned that any change to it would affect the size of our universe, stars, planets, dark energy, and so much more.

Fine tuning is one argument that Christians can use to support our belief that God created the world, that there is an intelligence behind everything. We do not only find fine tuning in physics though. We find evidence of God’s design all around us. Even if our world is tainted by sin, enough good exists for us to see God’s purpose behind his creation.

Here is a list of all the things I noted that serve as foundations for our world, our faith, and the rest of the Bible. They are fine-tuned for our benefit. If even one thing is taken away or even tweaked slightly, then God’s order will suffer. Some are so foundational that removing it would change everything about us. Choosing to disbelieve any of these also has consequences for how we view God and fellow man.

Overall Creation

God created everything. *Nothing is outside his control.*

God is a God of order. *He is not a God of chaos or chance.*

God has power over all natural forces (light, water, air, earth, sun/moon/stars, birds, fish, animals). *They are not gods.*

God made all “very good.” *Sin and death were not intended.*

Creation of Man

God created Man in His image. *We are not just another animal. We have a soul given by the Spirit of God. We are special, with an eternal destiny with God.*

Woman was taken out of man—we share image, soul, destiny. *Women are not inferior to men.*

Male-Female dichotomy. *No changing one’s sex.*

Women are beautiful. *It is God’s special gift to women.*

Men and women have different tasks and minds, but the same dominion. *We work together, not separately, for God’s will.*

Marriage happens before the fall. *It is not given because of lust or sin, but as something we were always meant for.*

Murder is especially evil. It is the shedding of blood, the harm of someone who has a soul. *We are not just animals which may be slaughtered.*

Dominion

Man has dominion over creation (delegated authority). *We don’t serve “Mother Earth.”*

Work has always been good. *It is harder after the fall into sin. Adam names the animals. We get to help define creation.*

The First Gospel

God approaches sinful man. *He does not leave us alone in sin. There is gospel in the midst of sin. God promises a Savior.*

God invites repentance. *Do not blame others for your faults.*

God promises life in the midst of sin. *Eve becomes the mother of all the living, despite the reality of death now.*

God rebukes Satan, the accuser. *Do not believe Satan’s lies.*

Genesis 6–8

Marriage of believers to unbelievers often leads to unbelief.

The effects of original sin led to many actual sins and violence. Faith of Noah makes him a “blameless” man.

God loves animals and wanted to save them in the ark. *He does not wipe absolutely everything away.*

The flood reordered the world by catastrophe. *It may affect dating methods (Carbon-14, etc.).*

There is punishment of evil, either directly or indirectly by God. God gives us reminders in creation of his fingerprints (rainbow). *Beauty in the world is not random.*

The command remains to be fruitful and multiply. *God continues to bless man despite sin and evil in the world.*

Permission to eat meat. *We may eat meat; we are not required to be vegans.*

Capital punishment. *There is a valid, biblical reason to put others to death for taking the life of others.*

God makes covenants with man. *They are one-way promises from Him to us; not two-way, contingent agreements.*

The sons of Noah point forward to the people groups and the curse of Canaan. *We are all descended from Noah and his family, but we are distinct.*

The Messiah would come from Shem. *Yet he is the Messiah for all of us.*

Languages are different, but have the same origin in Babel. *We may not be able to find “the Original Language” from which all languages came.*

God wants man to spread out on earth. *He wants us to explore and fill it, not become prideful in our concentration.*

God preserves the line to Noah, then to Abraham. *God is in control of the plan of salvation.*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

- September 1 Noel Wendte
- September 2 Mary Ann Green
- September 2 Gladys Prothe
- September 3 Shane Honn
- September 3 Rebecca Hurst
- September 3 Ron Raines
- September 4 Lance Belsanti
- September 4 Mary Ann Maisch
- September 4 Steve Windler
- September 5 Dena Kaiser
- September 6 Emerson Bunch
- September 6 David Gatlin
- September 6 Les Jones
- September 6 Gay Stubbs
- September 7 Cindy Puckett
- September 7 Teri Minden
- September 8 Tore Smithhisler
- September 8 Lloyd Ohlmeier
- September 8 Lincoln Wolf
- September 10 John Henry
- September 10 Evan Kettler
- September 10 Nickolas Davis
- September 11 Connie Barnett
- September 11 Gary Peckman
- September 11 Kristie Weaver
- September 11 Carol Wray
- September 11 Lexi Clark
- September 12 Casey Maisch
- September 12 Pam Thompson
- September 13 Donald Smithhisler
- September 13 Sally Wood
- September 14 Hannah Menefee
- September 15 Aaron Prothe
- September 16 Conni Holte
- September 18 Grant Haley
- September 18 Skyler Prothe
- September 18 Liam Simonson
- September 18 Josslyn Fuller
- September 19 Rolland Prothe
- September 21 Katie Lindsey
- September 21 Barrett Miller
- September 22 Sarah Reyelts
- September 22 Jackson Lester
- September 23 Karen Brack
- September 23 Weston Davis

- September 23 Lindsey Ramsey
- September 23 Amanda West
- September 24 Dawson Bruce
- September 24 Kevin Debrick
- September 25 Jennifer Boydston
- September 25 Olivia Mitchell
- September 25 Thea Woelmer
- September 25 Charlotte Woelmer
- September 27 Scott Golubski
- September 27 Geraldine Holtz
- September 27 Ryan Holloman
- September 27 Leslie Thoden
- September 27 Lainey Hager
- September 28 Kaiden Armstrong
- September 29 Kathy Korsten
- September 29 Mary Shay
- September 30 Gale Nowasell

Anniversaries

- September 8 Jamey and Dena Kaiser (17)
- September 9 Joshua and Brianna Woelmer (7)
- September 11 James and Shannon Fanning (25)
- September 12 Karl and Cindy Karrow (33)
- September 12 Devon and Emily Wolf (9)
- September 17 Kerry and Carole Brandt (41)
- September 18 Paul and Kathy Haley (48)
- September 19 Randy and Helen Maisch (27)
- September 21 Ryan and Tamara Mitchell (28)
- September 25 Kelly and Valerie Gerken (48)
- September 28 Gary and Rose Peckman (39)

**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.



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 Sunday, **September 8th**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at Country Club Estates, and then go to Vintage Park around 2:15 for the second service. 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!

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir begins on Wednesday, September 11th, at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we "make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1).

LADIES' AID RAFFLE TICKETS

Ladies Aid will be selling raffle tickets for their hand quilted quilt, lap quilt, and a wall hanging. The drawing will be held at the end of the day during the Blocktoberfest for the winner's choice of hand quilted items. The remaining two items will be drawn during the Chili/Chicken Noodle dinner on our Heritage Day Sunday in October.

BLOCKTOBERFEST: SEPTEMBER 21

Ach du lieber! It's almost time for our eleventh annual Blocktoberfest! Held at the Shelter House on Saturday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., this year's Blocktoberfest will again feature lots of free fun activities and delicious food. Keep an eye (or ear) out for something new: Heartland Revival will be playing from 11:00 – 12:30!

And, on Sunday, September 22 we will also hold our annual "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House at our regular worship time of 10:00 a.m. We look forward to another wunderbar year celebrating our German heritage—and having fun!

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

We will meet on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room, beginning this Thursday. Bring your Bible and Catechism. Classes will be one hour long for about 11 weeks.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS

Confirmation Class for children has begun on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. These classes are for children in the 7th or 8th grades. The prospective Confirmation date this year will be May 4th.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to a texting group for getting prayer requests, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room, or speak with Pastor or Susan Schmitt.

LUTHERAN LINKS

LCMS: www.lcms.org
LCMS Kansas District: www.kslcms.org
Lutherans for Life: www.lutheransforlife.org
The Lutheran Hour: www.lutheranhour.org
Issues, Etc. (Talk Radio): www.issuesetc.org
KFUO Radio: www.kfuo.org

LUTHERAN RESOURCES

The Lutheran Study Bible is a great all-around resource to understanding the Scriptures. There are plentiful notes, prayers for your devotions, maps of the Holy Land, and so much more! The Lutheran Study Bible is the updated version of the Concordia Self-Study Bible that many of you may be familiar with.

Concordia Publishing House (cph.org) is having a Bible Sale right now where you can save 25% on all Bibles today with code Bibles24. (Make sure you enter it as the code in the checkout page!)

Are you tech-savvy and don't want to carry around a Bible? CPH has you covered! You can find the Lutheran Study Bible in app form on Apple and Android devices; simply look for "Lutheran Study Bible" in your app store.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

In 2025, Lutherans will recognize the 500th 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 16th, 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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