

Trinity Tribune: February 2025

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Running with Endurance”

The theme for the upcoming National Youth Gathering is “Endure,” based loosely on Hebrews 12:1–3,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

This theme is a perfect one for our youth and for each one of us. After all, we have promised in the vows we made at our Confirmation to endure in faith: “Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully ... to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death ... to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?”

God strengthens us to endure two types of attacks. The first are external. Hebrews 12 points us to Jesus “who endured from sinners such hostility against himself” (v. 3). We may endure similar hostility for being Christians. Certainly the devil would love to cause all sorts of external mischief in our lives because he hates our Lord. Yet just as Jesus “endured the cross, despising the shame” (v. 2), we too can bear our own crosses, knowing that Jesus bore far more that we could ever bear, and he did it for us.

There are many examples in the Bible that would encourage us to endure through external attacks. Daniel is the prime example. There are many times when he or his friends had pressure to cave to the demands of the Babylonians or Persians, whether it was to eat non-kosher food, or to bow down to an idol or face a fiery furnace, or to pray in the face of a godless order. Other examples would be Joseph resisting the temptation of his master’s wife, David going up against Goliath and many other Philistines, and Paul enduring all sorts of physical torments (2 Cor 11:21b–33).

The second type of attacks that God strengthens us are internal attacks. These can be further divided into two types, temptations to sin and temptations to despair. Again, Hebrews 12 exhorts us to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely” (v. 1). Athletes training for the Olympics train at higher elevations in Colorado Springs, so when the “weight” of less air is relieved, they would perform better. Some runners train with weights, so removing them at race time could give them an edge.

Our race of faith will go better when we confess our sins, lay them aside, be forgiven, and run with endurance the race that is set before us. So too with the temptation to despair: Christ did not despair, but saw joy in enduring the cross: the joy of your salvation. So lift up your heads, look to the finish line that Jesus has already won for you, and endure for a little while longer whatever suffering may be in your life.

Similarly, there are people in the Bible who give us examples of failure and strength through temptations and internal doubts. David failed when he lusted after Bathsheba, but he endured the loneliness of exile from King Saul’s court. His Psalms bear witness to the confession of sin and the reliance of God through many inner turmoils. God sustained Elijah when he began to despair (1 Kings 19).

We could read about almost any Bible character and see them through the lens of endurance. What were their challenges and struggles? Where did they fall and why? How did God strengthen them to endure? How can we learn from them to run the race that is set before us, knowing that it is the same race that has been run by all those who have gone before us.

Christians are not promised an easy life in this world—we should remind our children and youth of that. But we are promised that God will listen to our prayer, support us in all trials, and give us eternal peace. He ultimately is the one who helps us endure all things and run the race of faith that is before us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

- February 2 Ashtin Armstrong
- February 4 Jodie Wood
- February 4 Leslie Vohs
- February 4 Jacey Hager
- February 6 Kerry Brandt
- February 6 Glenn Minden
- February 7 Stacey Elkinton
- February 7 Tyler Allen
- February 8 Tanna Jones
- February 9 Daniel Wendte
- February 10 Darrell Brandt
- February 10 Terry Bunch
- February 10 Kathy Gerken
- February 10 Blakely Strawder
- February 11 Hannah Raines
- February 12 James Haley
- February 12 Mike Giager
- February 13 Valerie Gerken
- February 13 Logan Hendrickson
- February 18 Joey Stephens
- February 18 Stan Windler
- February 19 Debbie Windler
- February 20 Judy Kutz
- February 20 Angie Fickel
- February 20 Carolyn Warner
- February 21 Jeff Davis
- February 21 Marty Stutzman
- February 21 Jeri Brack
- February 25 Michelle Haley
- February 25 Curtis Hall
- February 25 Duane Rodewald
- February 26 Cate Minden
- February 27 Matthew Kriesel
- February 27 Reita Woodall
- February 28 Slina Prothe
- February 29 Austin Henry

Anniversaries

- February 8 Tyler and Lisa Vaughan (21)
- February 10 Bill and Kristina Eilts (7)
- February 10 Curtis and Kristie Weaver (29)
- February 15 Curtis and Jamie Hall (22)
- February 19 Michael and Katie Taylor (20)
- February 21 Ron and Marcia Raines (36)
- February 22 Kevin and Denise Debrick (33)
- February 22 Rick and Jill Druse (28)

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 signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2025 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS:
"Survey of the Bible"**

We have begun a new Bible study, a Survey of the Bible! Although there are 66 books in the Bible, we will be combining a few and (hopefully) make it through the whole Bible in a year. We will also be alternating between Old and New Testament books.

Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

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, **February 2nd**. 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!

"LOOKING AHEAD" BIBLE STUDY

We will start meeting again this Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 AM in the Heritage Room. We will study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a "sneak peek" of what you will hear on Sunday.

Lenten Services: Glittering Vices (The Seven Deadly Sins)

For our midweek Wednesday services during Lent this year we are learning about the Seven Deadly Sins (“Vices”) and their corresponding “Virtues.” Everyone is invited to join us at 5:30 p.m. for supper downstairs and 7:00 for the service.

March 5 (Ash Wednesday)

“*Gluttony and Fasting*”

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

March 12

“*Greed and Generosity*”

Matthew 26:1–16

March 19

“*Pride and Humility*”

Matthew 26:30–35, 69–75

March 26

“*Sloth and Diligence*”

Matthew 26:36–46

April 2

“*Envy and Kindness*”

Matthew 27:15–28

April 9

“*Anger and Forgiveness*”

Luke 23:32–43

Overview:

Vices are habitual dispositions of the sinful heart that show forth the reality that we, as people of God, fail to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. In place of God, vices cling to the self, or the things of this world, in an attempt to secure our own good. We seek justice, and don’t trust God to provide it, so we take justice into our own hands and lash out in anger at our enemies. We want status, but instead of seeking our worth in knowing Jesus, we envy others and tear them down. Indeed, vices “glitter” with the appearance of providing “do-it-yourself” shortcuts to happiness. But while they look good on the surface, in the end, they turn out to be idols that fail us every time.

In the passion account of our Lord, we find these vices manifesting themselves time and time again as broken people live their sinful lives. The disciples show their *greed* when the Lord is anointed with expensive perfume and they label the money “wasted.” Judas betrays our Lord for the false security of silver he can hold in his hands. *Prideful* Peter boasts his faith is so strong he will never betray the Lord. *Slothful* disciples slumber in Gethsemane, unable to watch with our Lord even a single hour. Scripture says it was out of *envy* the Pharisees and the Sadducees delivered up Jesus for crucifixion.

When we do endeavor to fear, love, and trust in God above all things, we increasingly free our hearts from the grips of idolatrous vice, and are enabled to pursue holy habits—habits that run intentionally counter to our unholy penchants. Instead of being greedy, we strive to be generous. In place of pride, we learn humility. Rather than be slothful and lazy, we pursue the tasks of the Kingdom with diligent zeal. Instead of hating our enemies in anger, we forgive them, pray for them, and even serve them in Christian love.

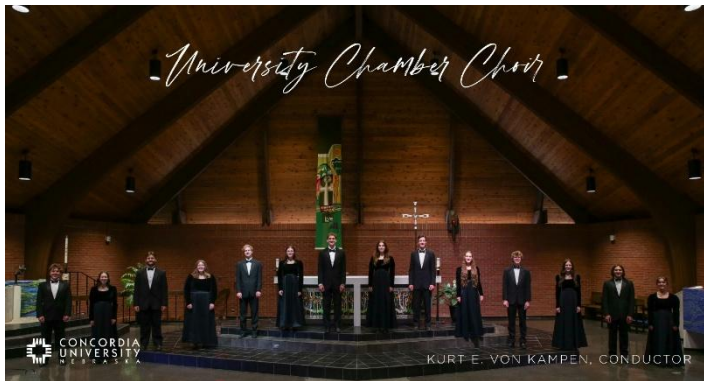
As we journey through the Passion account once again this Lenten season, we invite you to peer into the story through the lens of virtue and vice. As you do, examine your own sinful heart to recognize the vices that dwell deep within. Then, listen in for how you might learn holy habits, the virtues that grow and bear fruit from hearts that trust in the reality that the Lord provides for every need of body and soul.

Lenten Dinners

The Lenten midweek services begin on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. The youth will provide the meal for that evening, beginning at 5:30 (service at 7:00). There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room for other groups of the church to sign up to provide food for March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

CHOIR CONCERT

The University Chamber Choir from Concordia University, Nebraska will perform a concert at Redeemer Lutheran Church (920 S Alta Lane, Olathe) on February 23rd at 7:00 pm. The choir is directed by professor of music, Dr. Kurt E. von Kampen, conductor of the acclaimed University A Cappella Choir. Professor of music and pianist, Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo, will also perform with the choir.



Voters Meeting Summary

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Windler, followed with prayer by Pastor Woelmer. Roll was answered by 30 members; there were no new member requests. Financial reports by the home treasurer and mission treasurer were given. Pastor Woelmer's Q4 2024 report was given. Trustees report included parsonage landscaping plan for spring, west parking lot handrailing plans, parking lot elderly signage, spring cleanup plans, and mowing to remain as past year. Reports were heard from the Endowment, Board of Education, Youth, and Blocktoberfest committees. New business items addressed included directing Ash Wednesday, Lenten, and Good Friday loose offerings as previous year, Pastor and secretary salary increases, and election of Alex Brack as elder for 2025–2027. Reminder was given to designate Thrivent choice dollars, as well as thanks to the camera/social media team, thanks to all for help with Christmas decorations, plus thanks to all with help at funeral dinners.

YOUTH SWEETHEART DINNER

You're invited to the Trinity Youth 2024 Valentine's Dinner! The food and decorations this year are going to be *New Orleans/Mardi Gras* themed! There will be a 3-course dinner with live entertainment!

It begins on February 15th, 2025 at 5:30!

The tickets for the dinner are \$25, and they can be purchased after church or by contacting Michelle or Kristina.

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

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
facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock
joshua.woelmer@gmail.com
trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com