

Trinity Tribune: November

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Why Did the Son of God Become Man?”

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. We get to sing many Christmas carols and take part in the general spirit of Christmas. Christians are keen to emphasize the “Reason for the Season,” which is the birth of Christ. This is good, and we ought to share this good news, this gospel, with all those around us. The reason for the season is the birth of our Savior.

Why do we need a Savior, though? This may not be as obvious to people who have not been raised in the church. We say and hear nearly every Sunday that we are sinners who need forgiveness. Those in our world may not share this understanding of human nature. And, if people do not understand the human problem, they may not understand why the solution is so wonderful.

Imagine, for example, that you are on an island that is visibly becoming smaller as it sinks into the ocean. You are joyful when a boat approaches and offers you a ride off the island. But your friend says, “What? I don’t see a problem here. I think I’ll stay.” It’s only when the island finally sinks does he notice the waters closing in on him—and it’s too late.

So why did God need to send His Son to become man? What are the problems that we face? Romans 5 gives us the answer to these questions, and it is beautiful to consider.

First, the Messiah needed to be God in order to take away God’s wrath. St. Paul reminds us earlier in Romans, “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (1:18). God hates sin: “evil may not dwell with you” (Ps 5:4) and evildoers: “you hate all evildoers” (Ps 5:5). Romans 5 identifies us as “enemies of God” (10). Sin is not merely a defect, but it is actively opposed to God’s law and gospel.

In any war between enemies, a mediator is needed to achieve a ceasefire. Jesus needed to be God to be that mediator. Only one who is God and is perfect can even approach the throne of God. Jesus did so, showing His Father what He accomplished by his blood on the cross. Jesus accomplished “peace with God” (1). “At the right time Christ died for the ungodly” (6). St. Paul even explores this unbelievable action of Jesus: “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (7–8). We can imagine soldiers dying and sacrificing themselves for their homeland or even for one another. But we cannot imagine someone dying to save a drug dealer or felon. But Jesus did—he died for us.

Because he is God, he achieved reconciliation for us: “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (10–11). We are **reconciled** with God who had been full of wrath. His wrath is abated, and we are at peace with Him.

Why did Jesus need to be fully man? Romans 5 goes on to explain this. It is because sin has multiple effects. Yes, it makes God angry, but it also leads to death. We need saving from this death too. St. Paul demonstrates this connection between sin and death: “just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (12). That one man is Adam. Because he sinned, death has claimed him and many more, and will claim us unless Christ comes first.

St. Paul highlights the great reversal that Jesus has brought to us by becoming man: “the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many” (15). He emphasizes “that one man” here to make a point: Jesus is man. He became man in the womb of the Virgin Mary and was born as we all were. He lived a life much like ours: “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb 4:15).

Jesus reversed Adam’s work by providing us the promise of life against sin and death. “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous” (18–19).

By one man’s—Jesus’s—obedience, we are made righteous. Jesus is the “New Adam” who reverses the sinful act “Old Adam” by his act of righteousness.

This is why we celebrate Christmas with joy, gusto, and festivities. Jesus, who is God and man, came to earth to save us from our enemies and to reconcile us to the Father. So now “grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (21).

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 is on a Monday this year! That means we will have two days with three services, all with different themes! We will move from the announcement of Christ's birth into the children's telling of that wonderful story, and then the importance of it.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

"The Announcement to Mary"

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Children's Program: *"Symbols of Salvation"*

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

"Festival of Readings and Carols"

Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

All services will be livestreamed on Facebook

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

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 2023 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE JEWS:

“Israelite, Jew, Israeli?”

Jesus was born a Jew, fulfilling all the promises made to the Israelite people. The apostles exhorted the Jews to believe in Jesus as their Messiah, but many did not. How should Christians today regard the Jews and the promises made to them in the Bible?

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

LUTHERAN RESOURCES

It's Christmas time! If you're still looking for gifts, check out Ad Crucem. They produce all sorts of Lutheran art, from banners to greeting cards to jewelry to “Christmon” ornaments. Ad Crucem means “to the cross,” and the company was born out of frustration with a lack of quality, explicitly Christmas gifts. Their products are high quality and will always preach Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of our sins. Visit them at adcrucem.com.



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 “Symbols of Salvation.”

SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE BACK



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 \$9 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.

See the Angel Tree in the back to sign up for gifts for children through Cops for Tot. It is a program dedicated to the memory of Sheriff Ken Davis. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing Christmas gifts and assistance with school, clothing, food, or other emergency needs to the children of Miami County, Kansas.



Pictorial Directory



Photos for the updated pictorial directory begin today immediately after the service. The sign-up sheet is on a back table in the Gathering Room and there are still spots available for today. There are also spots available for the next two Sundays. Let us know if you need help getting signed up.

While we are working on the directory, we are gathering information to update church records. Please help us by confirming or updating our records using a form that the church will provide.

Contact Cindy Karrow at ckarrow524@yahoo.com with any questions.

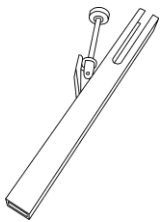
NURSING HOME SERVICES

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, **December 31st**. 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!

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will join with the 4-H group to spread happiness in our community by singing Christmas carols! On Sunday, December 17th at 3 p.m. we will gather at Trinity for soup, hot chocolate, and packing gifts. Then at 4 p.m. we will head out to sing to shut-ins and to the Osawatomie Life Care Center for some holiday caroling!

TONE CHIMES



It is time to get a group organized to play Silent Night using our tone chimes for our Christmas Eve service. It is fun to be part of providing this special element to our service, and they are easy to learn to play. Please let Nancy Golubski know if you are interested in participating. We will start practicing in late November.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Join us on New Year's Day to welcome a new year of God's many blessings. The service will be at 10:00 a.m. Although we normally have the Installation of New Officers during this service, we will be moving that to the previous day, Sunday, December 31st.

Children's Hymn Books for Gift Giving

Thinking about gifts for young people? Children and adults will enjoy these wonderfully illustrated books. They are of hymns we all know and love. The hymn is story form throughout the book with the last two pages being the music to the hymn. Several of the books are on display in the gathering room. If there is interest, we can place a group order from Concordia Publishing House and have the books here in early- to mid-December. If you are interested in ordering any of the books, please mark which ones you would like and how many along with your name and phone number. Be sure to take a look at the book "Father We Praise Thee," as it is illustrated by Brianna Woelmer.

Here are some of the other titles:

I Am Jesus Little Lamb
God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
Create in Me: Psalm 51 for Children
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
God Loves me Dearly
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

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