

Trinity Tribune: June 2024

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Praying the Psalms”

The Psalms are known as the hymnbook of the Bible. As with our hymnal, they can do much more than lead a congregation in singing: just as you can read through many of our hymns and use the stanzas as a basis for prayer, the psalms serve as a good basis for prayer.

There is a time and place to look at the authorship, dates, and poetic devices of the psalms. But here I hope to encourage you to use the psalms in daily devotions. It is not hard to read one psalm a day (or perhaps multiple of the short ones), though Psalm 119 will likely take a bit longer.

The psalms speak to all of life’s experiences. For this reason we should treasure it and meditate on it. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Wherever the Psalter is abandoned, an incomparable treasure vanishes from the Christian church. With its recovery will come unsuspected power” (Bonhoeffer, *Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible*, 90).

Speaker of the Psalms

The first question when meditating on a psalm is to ask, who is praying this psalm? There are three answers. The first is Christ. Not only is Christ behind every word, but he is particularly evident as a *speaker* of various psalms. Who can read Psalm 22 and not see Jesus praying these on the cross? There are many such psalms of suffering that have Jesus as the speaker.

The second is the historical writer, usually David. These psalms often draw from the writer’s experiences, whether praise or anger or guilt. Some of these psalms are meant to teach us the theological importance behind God’s saving acts of the Old Testament, especially Psalms 104–106.

Finally, the third speaker of the psalms is we, the church. Whether praising God, acknowledging our sin, or crying out in guilt and shame, the psalms help us put our life’s experiences into words. They guide and shape our responses to God.

Many times, these are combined. David begins Psalm 32 with a cry for forgiveness for what he has done by killing Uriah and taking his wife. Very quickly it moves into a penitential psalm that you and I could pray upon recognizing our sin. Sometimes there is a conversation between God and us, as we can see in Psalm 75.

Types of Psalms

There are traditionally five types of psalms, though these classifications depend on the commentator. Furthermore, individual psalms often include more than one type. Some move from penitence to imprecatory to thanksgiving, such as Psalm 35.

The first are penitential psalms. These help us lament over suffering, whether it is over sin (32), illness (102), or enemy (6). These psalms call on God’s favor and mercy. They recognize that He alone can help. God alone can forgive, heal, and protect. They draw the soul from our troubles to God for refuge.

The second are Messianic psalms; the foremost are Psalms 2 and 110. These teach us about the identity of Jesus as God’s Son and proclaim his kingship over his enemies. It is important to remember that the enemies of the Old Testament were primarily physical and surrounded Israel, but the enemies of the New Testament are spiritual in nature.

This leads us to the third category, the imprecatory psalms. These are the hardest for us to understand. How could the psalmist pray for the death of his enemies? We must first realize that these are not prayers for personal revenge. Our true enemies are the enemies of God—the devil and the temptation he brings. We can pray for justice from this enemy especially. Our prayers for justice should draw us to God’s justice against His enemies. Can we pray these psalms? Yes. We can pray the imprecatory psalms while recognizing their true marvelous fulfillment in Christ. This anger has become grace and joy for us.

The fourth type of psalm is the wisdom psalm. These serve to echo Proverbs, addressed to God instead of God to man. They teach us where to find true wisdom: in the fear of the Lord. Psalms 14 and 73 are particularly helpful for expressing this. Psalm 119 teaches us that every word, indeed every letter, of the Bible teaches us about God, his work, and his will for our lives.

Finally, psalms of thanksgiving are replete. Many psalms that begin with suffering and struggles end with thanksgiving. The Book of Psalms actually ends with a group of thanksgiving psalms, calling upon all things in creation to praise the Lord. The life of God’s saints is one of thanksgiving. How can we have faith in God without thanking him for what he has done for us?

The psalms (as with the whole Bible) are a deep, refreshing well that we will never find the bottom of. There is much that we can appreciate from a simple reading of these texts, and we could spend our whole lives studying these psalms and never exhaust their value or richness. I encourage you to search for Christ in these psalms and find peace, forgiveness, and protection in Him.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

- June 1..... Kelsey Davis
- June 1..... Sara Slack
- June 1..... Michele Prothe
- June 1..... Minna Meyer
- June 2..... David Koelsch
- June 3..... Fritz Carter
- June 4..... Arlin Prothe
- June 4..... Jamey Kaiser
- June 4..... Molly Eilts
- June 5..... Samantha Ferrell
- June 5..... Linda Prothe
- June 5..... Lance Stewart
- June 6..... Rhonda Kerr
- June 7..... Kendra Fuller
- June 9..... Kendra Woodrow
- June 9..... Jordan Menefee
- June 10..... Madison Wood
- June 13..... Ed Reyelts
- June 13..... Augustus Prothe
- June 13..... Leta England
- June 14..... Chris Carstens
- June 14..... Ethan Debrick
- June 14..... Leland Prothe
- June 15..... Kathy Hall
- June 15..... Kevin Prothe
- June 16..... Michelle Jones
- June 17..... Bailey Kaiser
- June 18..... Theresa Kettler
- June 19..... Richard Honn
- June 19..... Dale Moser
- June 20..... Paul Brack
- June 20..... Judy Minden
- June 21..... Kim House
- June 21..... Jon Wendte
- June 22..... Greg Brandt
- June 22..... Beth Curry
- June 22..... Vernon Prothe
- June 24..... Tina Edwards
- June 25..... Beth Herra
- June 25..... Rich Wood
- June 26..... Kyia Fuller
- June 26..... Donna Prothe
- June 26..... Allison Wood
- June 27..... George Holtz
- June 27..... Kynda Harshman

- June 29 Devin Bruce
- June 29 Betty Cline
- June 30 Garry Block

Anniversaries

- June 3 Emerson and Wilda Bunch (68)
- June 4 James and Rhonda Prothe (19)
- June 8 Quentin and Kaelah Garrison (5)
- June 8 Jeff and Jamie Ennett (22)
- June 10 Chris and Lana Kettler (46)
- June 10 Rolland and Betty Prothe (52)
- June 11 Bruce and Gale Nowasell (37)
- June 12 Ben and Kennedy Rakoski (3)
- June 13 Rick and Connie Holte (26)
- June 14 Jim and Sharon Prothe (44)
- June 15 Stan and Sondra Loftiss (11)
- June 16 Mike and Susan Schmitt (7)
- June 16 Michael and Cindy Puckett (5)
- June 18 David and Lorranda Baldrige (19)
- June 19 Brian and Erin Meyer (20)
- June 22 Clint and Michelle Haley (22)
- June 25 Chancie and Carrie Minden (2)

**BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF
JUDGES:
“Cyle of Unbelief and Salvation”**

This often-overlooked book tells us much about human nature and the tendency of man to fall away from the faith and come back. It gives us many pictures of Jesus.

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 signup 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, **June 2nd** (Country Club Estates and Vintage Park) and **June 30th** (North Point and Medicalodges). We will begin at 1:30 pm at the first place, and then go to the second 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!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP JUNE 30TH

We will celebrate Independence Day with an outdoor service in the Shelter House on Sunday, June 30th, at 10:00 a.m. The special order of worship will include favorite patriotic songs. Bring your lawn chairs as we give thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed on our nation (and as we pray for our country in these troubling times)!



We rejoiced to celebrate the Confirmation of Layla Schlegel and Bailey Kaiser on May 12th. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Rev 2:10).

BLOCKTOBERFEST SEPTEMBER 21

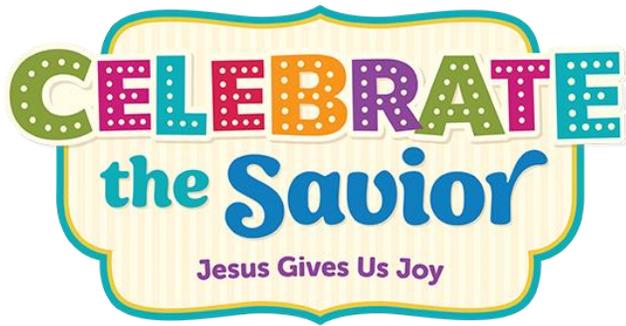
Ach du lieber! It's almost time for our eleventh annual Blocktoberfest! Held at the Shelter House on Saturday, September 21, from noon to 6:00 p.m., this year's Blocktoberfest will again feature lots of free fun activities and delicious food. Keep an eye (or ear) out for something new: Heartland Revival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

Join us Sunday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Shelter House to help start plan for this great day!

VBS June 17–20

Trinity is joining First Lutheran, Paola for Vacation Bible School this year. You are invited to come enjoy the party, “Celebrate the Savior!” Come learn God’s promises to you as we celebrate God’s work in our lives. Join the fun Monday thru Friday, June 17-20, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. Held at First Lutheran Church, 401 East Pankishaw Street, Paola. Sign up for children or volunteers at <https://vbsmate.com/events/FirstLutheranPaolaKS/28604>.



We rejoice to welcome into membership at Trinity Bob and Rose Eberly, by reaffirmation of faith. We welcome you into the Lord’s family!

FUNDRAISER FOR BILL KOELSCH

Join us for BBQ and music by Heartland Revival on June 14th from 5–7 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Shelter House. Music starts at 6 p.m. Free will donations will help Bill install a cement slab to help with wheelchair loading at his home and other expenses. Any questions, contact Barb Dillenbeck or Karen Windler.

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