

# Trinity Tribune: May 2024

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Paola, Kansas

## “The Light in You”

Matthew 5:14–16: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Luke 11:33–36: “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

I remember singing “This Little Light of Mine” in Sunday School VBS growing up. It’s a wonderful song that is based on this teaching of Scripture, that our faith is a light within us that impacts our inner life and our good works.

Jesus speaks about this Light of God working in two ways. First, we must receive it into our souls. This is what Luke 11 is describing. Second, we ought to let it shine in our lives (Matt 5).

First, God’s Word must illuminate our lives. Jesus says, “Your eye is the lamp of your body.” What does the eye do? It takes in light. The light is shining regardless of whether a person receives it. But if the eye is unhealthy, as when an eye is clouded with a cataract, then the light from the sun reflecting off other objects will not bring illumination to the individual. So too, the Gospel is received through hearing and seeing, but hearts can be clouded so that the Light does not illuminate the individual.

This is Jesus’s warning about the body being full of darkness. What might be preventing God’s light from shining in our hearts? It could be sin and guilt, marital difficulties, insecurity, anxiety, and so forth. It could be false doctrine; many Christians are caught up in fear because they do not know God to be a gracious God who saves by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus’s encouragement is for us to keep our eyes clear, that is, to continue to hear the Word of God and keep it close to us.

Once our hearts are full of God’s light, they do shine out into this world. Jesus explains it this way: “If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light” (Luke 11:36). This is what Jesus clarifies in Matthew 5, with the light within us shining out before others, like a city set on a hill or a lamp filling a house with light.

Thinking of a city set on a hill reminds me of driving to any major city like St. Louis. As you get closer, I get interested in that moment when you turn a corner and see the first glimpse of the skyscrapers. Or, in the case of St. Louis, the Gateway Arch. There is something about the arch that catches your eye when you first see it.

Cities don’t want to be hidden. They are often on hills in order to be seen and to be defensible. From Jerusalem to Rome to Constantinople, hills provide a great vantage point to see and be seen.

Jesus draws this connection to our good works. The good works that we do for others out of love do not need to be hidden. Let them shine. Let your Christian joy and contentment in God also shine. Tell others about what God has done for you. Connect what is happening in your life with how God is working.

At the same time, of course, there are cautions that Jesus has about the Pharisees who do these things only to get praise for themselves. Praise for these good works should be directed to God, “the Father of lights” (James 1:17). It is His light that shone in our hearts and is the reason for our good works. We are the lamps through which God shines.

It might be tempting to “go along to get along” in this world. It might lead to an easier life. But this world needs our good works even as it needs the message of Christ. Good works, in the end, will not save. But they are signposts to the Gospel, which saves souls.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer



**Birthdays**

- May 1.....Clint Haley
- May 1..... Eric Prothe
- May 1..... Elijah Minden
- May 2..... Brad Hendrickson
- May 3..... Steve McMullin
- May 3..... Sondra Loftiss
- May 4..... Maysen Armstrong
- May 4..... Alex Brack
- May 5..... Sarah Berner
- May 5..... Kameron Alpert-Munir
- May 5..... Mallory Allcorn
- May 7..... Henry Vaughn
- May 8..... Garrett Rausch
- May 8..... Chloe Rausch
- May 8..... Jim Ohlmeier
- May 9..... Melanie Golubski
- May 9..... Wrenley Hager
- May 10..... Bobbie Jo Debrick
- May 10..... Kathy Haley
- May 10..... Bobbie Kunard
- May 10..... Johnny Pagels
- May 11..... Denise Holtz
- May 13..... Kraig Kettler
- May 13..... Lucy Kettler
- May 13..... Nathan Peckman
- May 13..... Nicholas Peckman
- May 14..... Trish Armstrong
- May 14..... Miranda Ferrell
- May 14..... Beth D’Amato
- May 15..... Matthew Reynolds
- May 15..... Kris Stubbs
- May 15..... Bill Eilts
- May 17..... Lori Donahue
- May 17..... Dean Gerken
- May 17..... Sherri Webb
- May 17..... Schyler Bogle
- May 18..... Emily Kettler
- May 18..... Susan Ashley
- May 19..... Jackie Smith
- May 19..... Samuel Allred
- May 19..... Abigail Allred
- May 20..... Paul Sombke
- May 21.....David Herra
- May 21..... Barb Koelsch
- May 21..... Clifford Prothe

- May 21..... Leslie Rudzinski
- May 23..... Andy Brack
- May 23..... Jeanne Hutchison
- May 23..... Amanda Maisch
- May 23..... Shane Gibson
- May 23..... Ray Roeser
- May 24..... Taylor Karrow
- May 25..... Stephanie Debrick
- May 25..... Roger Holtz
- May 25..... Kristie McMullin
- May 26..... Scott Gerken
- May 26..... Sharon Grother
- May 28..... Alyssa Holtz
- May 28..... Kayla Massey
- May 28..... Dale Prothe
- May 28..... Rawena Shay
- May 28..... Becky Hager
- May 29..... Wendy Bryant
- May 29..... Brandon Gibson
- May 29..... Aliyah Lester
- May 30..... Ginny Linville
- May 31..... Sarah Pemberton
- May 31..... Janet Koelsch
- May 31..... Amanda Stubbs

**Anniversaries**

- May 1..... Randy and Jennifer Rethman (26)
- May 1..... Dale and Patty Moser (31)
- May 16..... Ed and Marcie Reyelts (36)
- May 19..... Mike and Linda Oberheide (45)
- May 19..... Clifford and Donna Prothe (61)
- May 22..... Wendell and Breanna Strawder (3)
- May 25..... Jeff and Pam Thompson (44)
- May 25..... Alex and Jeri Brack (5)
- May 30..... Stan and Gayle Plummer (43)
- May 31..... John and Lori Schlegel (21)

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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 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.

## **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!

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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.

We will not meet on May 15 or 22 when Pastor is on vacation.

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## **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, **May 12<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. 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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## **APRIL VOTERS MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Windler, followed with prayer by Pastor Woelmer. Roll was answered by 27 members; there were no new member requests. Financial reports by the home treasurer and

mission treasurer were given. Pastor Woelmer's Q2 2024 report was given. Trustees report included HVAC circuit board repairs, additional elevator inspections have been completed, church cleanup day will be scheduled, back stair carpet pads have been replaced, and basement toilet repairs have been completed. Reports were heard from the Endowment, Youth Group, and Blocktoberfest committees.

Old business items included sign construction is nearing completion, and that 12 new flags will be installed in the western portion of the cemetery. Kitchen upgrades were approved by the voters, with work to start shortly after Confirmation dinners are finished. Photo directory status was reviewed.

New business items addressed included approval of membership transfers per Pastors Q2 report, and a \$25 per occurrence increase in mowing rate. On-line giving has been activated, with link on our home page. Other items discussed included checking the bulletin board for any correspondence, new shelter house booking site (still accessible through church web page), and annual dues for Paola Chamber of Commerce have been paid.

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# **Trinity Tribune**

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