

# Trinity Tribune: April 2025

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Paola, Kansas

## “The Blood of Jesus”

Blood is a big deal in the Bible. The first time it appears is when Cain kills Abel. God asks him, **“What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground”** (Gen 4:10). This serves as the condemnation of murder, even before God gave the Ten Commandments. God gives blood a speaking quality—innocent blood cries out to God. The reason for this is given later in Genesis: **“But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood”** (9:4) and **“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image”** (9:6).

Life is in blood because blood keeps one alive. God did not want man eating animal’s blood as a way of giving man life or power—a practice of many pagans. Because man is made in the image of God, God also allows the punishment of a murderer with their own killing.

Later in Exodus, the Nile turned to blood, showing the Egyptians that their life-giving “god” was dying and no longer giving their land life. Later, during the Passover, the Israelites would kill a young lamb and **“take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it”** (Exod 12:7). What this conveyed was that an animal had died so the firstborn inside would not. Animal blood could serve, for a time, as a substitute for human life.

This formed the basis of all sacrifices in the Old Testament. Rams, lambs, goats, pigeons, and turtledoves all had their blood shed to cover the sins of the people. Their blood would be thrown against the altar (Exod 24:6), sprinkled on the people (Exod 24:8), and anointed on the priests (Exod 29:21).

But this sacrifice was imperfect. It served a purpose under the old covenant. It pointed forward to Jesus. But animal blood could never suffice completely. As the author of Hebrews states, **“For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God”** (9:13–14).

The blood of Christ is more effective than the blood of animals because it cleanses our consciences. John says this in his first epistle: **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin”** (1 John 1:7). Jesus’s blood cancels the debt of sin by washing it from us. We are like the priests of the Old Testament who had the blood of animals sprinkled on them. We are priests of a new covenant, and **“we**

**have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus”** (Heb 10:19). That is, we can pray to God through the blood of Jesus.

How does this happen? Jesus serves as both the High Priest and the sacrifice when he brings his blood to God the Father: **“[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption”** (Heb 9:12). Jesus entered heaven, bringing his own blood to the Father that we would follow in his footsteps, also sprinkled by the blood of the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We are sprinkled by Jesus’s blood in our Baptism. The angel responds to John in his Revelation by pointing out the multitude praising God, **“These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”** (Rev. 7:14). Normally blood *stains* white garments; it does not purify them or make them white. But Jesus’s blood is not like our sinful blood. It works opposite ours. If blood made Israelites unclean in the Old Testament, Jesus’s blood does the opposite: it makes us clean.

There is one more opposite: even though God forbade the drinking of blood many times in the Old Testament, Jesus gives us his blood to drink as part of the new testament that he has made with us: **“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”** (Matt 26:27–28). When we drink Jesus’s blood, we receive his life. It is not forbidden.

Jesus pointed his disciples forward to this Sacrament (and greater faith in him) by emphasizing this fact in John 6:53–56, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”** By believing in Jesus and drinking his blood, He abides in us.

To conclude, when you come to church, **“you have come...to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”** (Heb 9:22, 24). Even though Abel died and his word cried out in vengeance, Jesus’s blood cries out a better word: you are cleansed by his blood.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer



**Birthdays**

- April 1 .....Lori Schlegel
- April 1 ..... Elaine Stewart
- April 3 ..... Brigitte Rodewald
- April 3 ..... Edwin Vaughan
- April 4 ..... Joy Hinds
- April 4 ..... Kristina Eilts
- April 5 ..... Shamron Ferrell
- April 6 ..... Kelsey Debrick
- April 8 ..... Leslie Prothe
- April 8 ..... Ella Durham
- April 8 ..... Dawson Garrison
- April 9 ..... Emma Haley
- April 9 ..... Karl Karrow
- April 10 ..... Karlie McMullin
- April 11 ..... James Fanning
- April 11 ..... Joshua Woelmer
- April 13 ..... Suzanne Peckman
- April 13 ..... Grayden Vaughan
- April 14 ..... Matt Oberheide
- April 14 ..... Venita Prothe
- April 14 ..... Layla Schlegel
- April 14 ..... Dana Simonson
- April 16 ..... Erika Hall
- April 18 ..... Melissa Richardson
- April 19 ..... Katie Taylor
- April 19 ..... Bailey Chilson
- April 21 ..... Ashley Debrick
- April 22 ..... Chloe Maisch
- April 22 ..... Lori Richardson
- April 22 ..... Nicholas Minden
- April 22 ..... Malcolm Brack
- April 23 ..... Eric Ritch
- April 24 ..... Bridget Medlin
- April 24 ..... Emily Prothe
- April 26 ..... John Gerken
- April 26 ..... Austin Reyelts
- April 26 ..... Tyler Reyelts
- April 29 ..... Krista Munzer
- April 29 ..... Abigail Koelsch
- April 29 ..... Erin Meyer
- April 30 ..... Ellen Pinneo

**Anniversaries**

- April 5 ..... George and Pam Holtz (35)
- April 5 ..... Burl and Shemene Peckman (39)

- April 11 .....Mark and Jan Minden (10)
- April 13 ..... Alan and Jeanne Hutchison (34)
- April 26 ..... Dan and Cathy Hieber (38)
- April 26 ..... Keith and Laura Prothe (45)
- April 27 ..... Kevin and Marla Prothe (34)
- April 27 ..... Jeff and Autumn Menefee (29)

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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 2025 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

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**ADULT BIBLE CLASS:**

“Survey of the Bible”

Our Bible Study is a Survey of the Bible, looking at each book of the Bible in overview. Although there are 66 books of the Bible, we will be combining a few and to make it through the whole Bible in a year. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room!

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**“LOOKING AHEAD” BIBLE STUDY**

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 AM in the Heritage Room. We study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a “sneak peek” of what you will hear on Sunday.



The new quarterly issue of the devotional booklet Portals of Prayer for April thru June is available at the church, in regular size, large print, and a new “digest” size (same size as Reader’s Digest). A great way to keep close to the Lord!

## CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

We are looking for volunteers to help us spruce up the church property this spring. A master cleaning list will be left on the kitchen island; feel free to add to the list if you notice an item in need of attention. We have targeted Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> to work together as a group, or feel free to stop by the week before or after to complete an item on the list. Many Thanks!

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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, **April 27<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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## VOTERS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held following worship on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. In order to prepare for this meeting, the Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

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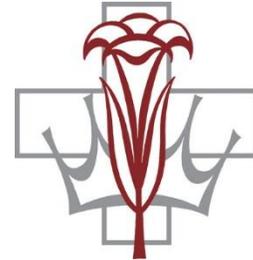


*Seraphina Dean Rose Carter*  
Daughter of Fritz and Miciah Carter  
Born February 17, 2025  
Baptized March 16, 2025

## CONFIRMATION

Join us on May 4<sup>th</sup> for the confirmation of Bailey Chilson and August Meyer! Time and date of the questioning to be announced.

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*In Christian Sympathy*

**Arlin Prothe**

June 4, 1938 — March 2, 2025

*"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13*

**Grant Haley**

September 18, 1986 — March 13, 2025

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

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## 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.

April 2

*"Envy and Kindness"*  
Matthew 27:15–28

April 9

*"Anger and Forgiveness"*  
Luke 23:32–43



**Palm Sunday**  
April 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.



**Maundy Thursday**  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Tenebrae: 7:00 p.m.



**Easter**  
April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sunrise: 7:00 a.m.

Divine Service:  
10:00 a.m.



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### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, April 19, 4:00 pm  
On Shelter House grounds  
Sponsored by Twin Valley 4-H  
*All Children Invited!*

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Join us in the church basement between the Easter services for the Easter breakfast!  
Easter Sunday, April 20  
8:00 am

### **EASTER LILIES**

We have again arranged for Easter Lilies to be ordered from Price Chopper, for \$11 each. Sign up on the counter in the Gathering Room please put your payment in the offering marked "Easter Lilies." The deadline to sign up for ordering is Palm Sunday.

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### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran has been scheduled for June 16–19, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. A sign-up link for children will be posted after Easter, but reserve this week in your calendar! Volunteers (both youth and adults) are also appreciated—a sign-up sheet for this will be on the counter in the Gathering Room. The theme this year will be "Epic Australian Adventure." Right on, mate!



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### **AUBURN PHARMACY CAPS**

Please save your Auburn Pharmacy caps, Trinity earns 25 cents for every specially marked cap collected from Auburn Pharmacy and submitted! There are 4 submission periods per year with an opportunity to earn up to \$2500 per period! There is a box in the gathering room for collection.

## BONUS ARTICLE: BIBLE TRANSLATION

There are some topics that I'll write about that I don't think are necessary worthy of being "above the fold" (newsletter parlance for being the first thing you see). Some of these will deal with ethical issues, but this one is more technical. It deals with Bible translations. I hope it is of benefit to you.

One question that pastors often get is this: which Bible version is the best? It's an understandable question, given the vast number of options out there. You are probably familiar that we switched from the New International Version (NIV) to the English Standard Version (ESV) last year. This reflects the adoption of the ESV by our Synod when the new hymnal (LSB) came out in 2006. The "Lutheran Study Bible" (same acronym) then came out in 2009, replacing the "Concordia Self-Study Bible" that used the NIV. All of our Synod's materials, with very few exceptions, now use the ESV. This includes the recent Small Catechism.

For context, there are approximately 900 different English versions that have been published since William Tyndale's very first English translation in 1526. The most famous of these is the King James Version (KJV) of 1611, also called the "Authorized Version" for its widespread adoption in the English (Anglican) Church.

So, which version is the best? Here's my simple answer: **the one that you will read**. While there are some versions that will get a firm "no" from me because they are *interpretations* rather than true *translations*, any translation will convey God's truth to you from the original languages. Reading a Bible, even from a so-called "weaker" translation, is better than not reading the Bible. God's Word is effective in all languages; that is the promise and blessing of Pentecost. We are not like Muslims who insist on the holy book being read only in its original language.

Thanks be to God we do not need to learn Greek and Hebrew before understanding Scripture! Many scholars over the centuries have labored hard to give us the Word of God accurately. It is up to us now to **read it**.

I know a story of a pastor who was responding to criticisms of his evangelism method. He replied to the critic, "Tell me, how do you do it?" The critic replied, "I don't do it." The pastor replied, "I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it." Similarly, reading any Bible version is better than not reading the Bible at all.

That being said there are a few aspects of any version to take into consideration: accuracy, readability, and stability.

The last one, stability, refers to the changes that may (or may not) happen after a version is published. Does the publisher keep tinkering with it, or do they keep the words the same regardless of cultural changes? A good example of this is in the King James tradition: both the KJV and the New King James Version (NKJV, 1982) are very stable versions. Neither has undergone word revisions since being published, though punctuation and capitalization updates (extremely minor) did occur in the KJV in the 1700s. On the other hand, the New International Version was published in 1978, revised in 1984, and revised again in 2011. This last revision was major, making substantial gender-neutral changes to the text ("men" to "people" and "he/him/his" to "they/them/their"). This does not mean that the 2011 NIV is no longer God's Word, but it is not ideal to have a version changing so regularly. God's Word should be in our minds and on our hearts—and introducing these changes throws off God's people when they approach an updated translation with changed verses that they had memorized from a previous edition—of the same "version"!

A less important consideration is the balance between accuracy and readability. These are connected because translation can be a tricky task: sometimes translators try to be extremely accurate, but they tend to sound "wooden." An example of this is the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Other translators aim for an easy reading version at the expense of some accuracy, such as the NIV or the Good News Translation (GNT). Some, like the ESV or its predecessor the Revised Standard Version (RSV), try to balance the two.

My only word of caution is for versions that are not really translations but are interpretations of the text. These carry the theology of the interpreter (usually Baptist or other Protestant) and misinterpret key sacramental sections of the Bible. Examples of these would be "The Message," "New Living Translation," and "The Voice." Even the "Amplified Bible" is suspect on this account.

So, which version do I suggest? Yes, the one that you will read. But if you want specifics, I suggest the English Standard Version or the New King James Version. Both check all my boxes that I look for in a version, and I read from both but memorize from the ESV because it is the version our synod has adopted.

Why not the old King James Version? The English language has understandably changed in the last 400 years. Words no longer mean what they used to, and an update (NKJV) was sorely needed to bring clarity back to several Bible passages. Furthermore, we now know more about some rare Hebrew and Greek words, and the NKJV revision has helped substantially in these verses. I wish you God's blessings as you read His Holy Word!

## News from the Clausing Family

### February Newsletter



#### *A New Church Plant*

Although the town of Himo has been home to St. Peter Seminary for many years, there has not been a confessional Lutheran parish within the city limits for more than a decade. In the early 2000's a mission start struggled along for a period of years but eventually closed before I came to Africa. Since relatively few Tanzanians have the luxury of owning cars that they can conveniently drive to a neighboring village to attend the church of their choice, it's especially important to have congregations located within walking distance of people's homes, and the absence of a congregation in Himo has long been notable deficiency. Our Tanzanian church body aims to remedy that deficiency this year. Our bishops have appointed our two newest seminary instructors, Rev. Emmanuel Semng'indo and Rev. Jonathan Mkiramweni, to serve part-time as church planters re-establishing the congregation at Himo. The seminary chapel, which has typically sat unused on Sunday mornings, will serve as a convenient facility in the which the new congregation can worship initially, and our young pastors bring youthful energy and faithfulness to God's word to the task set before them. Please pray for this new congregation and her pastors, that the word and sacraments preached and administered there would produce a bountiful harvest.

#### *Family News*

We're happy to announce that our oldest daughter Ellie is engaged and planning her wedding for this coming July! She and her fiancé Logan Matters attended college together at Concordia, Seward. Logan, originally from the Kansas City area, now works for Concordia University, and the two intend to remain in Seward following their wedding. We ask for your prayers for the couple as they embark on their journey of married life together.

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# Trinity Tribune

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