

Trinity Tribune: March 2025

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Vices and Virtues”

Our theme for this Lenten season is the “Seven Deadly Sins” and corresponding “Seven Virtues.” Although you will not find these vices and virtues in a precise list in the Bible, they are nonetheless in God’s Word—in Jesus’s or Paul’s vice lists or elsewhere. Furthermore, all of them can find their home in one or more commandments.

First, what are the seven vices and virtues?

Vice	Virtue
Pride	Humility
Envy	Kindness
Anger	Patience
Sloth	Diligence
Greed	Generosity
Gluttony	Temperance
Lust	Chastity

You should notice that these are entirely *internal*. That is, only you can know when you are guilty of these vices. They may lead to some outward actions (theft, adultery, eating too much), but we all know that people can have these vices and hide it very well from others.

Jesus himself speaks about this nature of sin: it starts with inside desires that manifest with outward actions, “For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person” (Mark 7:21–23). The source of all sin is a fallen heart that desires evil things due to original sin. Paul has further vice lists in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21; and Colossians 3:5–8.

We can also note that breaking any of the commandments 2–10 is also breaking the First Commandment, by not putting God central in our life. Likewise, the seven vices are indicators to us that we still struggle with idolatry in our life. Martin Luther explained the First Commandment with these words: “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Each of these vices show how we **fear** pain, so a lack of trust leads to sinful desire; we have disordered **love**, in ourselves or wrong pleasures; and we **trust** in ourselves (through pride) to get what we want to satisfy ourselves.

For all this, we ought to repent. It is important to note that the medieval church taught that the answer to all the

vices was a corresponding virtue. But Martin Luther taught that our first response should be to repent and allow God to change our hearts first.

It can be a mistake to assume that sins are human problems that need human solutions. No, vices are forms of idolatry, and we need God to break our “hearts of stone” and give us a “new spirit” and a “heart of flesh” (Ezek 36:26). We pray in Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

However, God does work good in our lives to combat sin. The Fruits of the Spirit include some of the seven virtues: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22–23). These virtues help us as humans improve as individuals as we combat sin and vices in our lives and soul.

We are *not* saved by this struggle. Another error of the medieval church was to think that one can be saved by one’s own righteousness, practicing these good habits and virtues. That is not the case. We *should* struggle against vice and cultivate virtues, but not because this struggle will merit salvation.

Rather, the key to any true concept of virtue is faith. Without faith, no work is a genuine work. The faith we receive from God is always the starting point and source of Christian virtue and work. Love flows from faith. Our trust in Jesus should lead us to desire better things for our souls and the lives of our neighbors entrusted to us. This is called the “new man” who desires to do God’s will freely. Paul says, “put on the new man, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (Col 3:10).

To help us serve in God’s kingdom well, the Holy Spirit molds us and shapes us using virtuous habits. When the new man rises, it looks like the fruits of the Spirit. This doesn’t happen automatically. We must intentionally embrace these qualities in order to carry out God’s command to love our neighbor. It is good when Christians cultivate virtues in order to continually slay the old sinful nature, those vices and sins that reside in our hearts and hinder our ability to live as the holy people God has called us to be.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

- March 1Devan Boydston
- March 1 Guylene Klein
- March 1 Johnny Prothe
- March 2Lance Elliott
- March 3 Justin Hieber
- March 3Addison Kettler
- March 3 Mark Minden
- March 5Lorranda Baldrige
- March 5Billy Green
- March 5 Joshua Pemberton
- March 5Aaron Maisch
- March 6 Gary Prothe
- March 6 Sandra Schultz
- March 7 Andrew Thompson
- March 7Jackie Thompson-Dillon
- March 8 Megan Prothe
- March 9 Faith Ordonez
- March 10 Jim Mueller
- March 11 Diana Deering
- March 12Dylan Shoemaker
- March 13Karen Garrison
- March 14Darrel Rodewald
- March 15 Allyssa Henry
- March 15 Jacob Henry
- March 15 Kyle Kettler
- March 15 Judy Parks
- March 15 Randy Rausch
- March 17Steve Cook
- March 17Breanna Strawder
- March 17 Marcia Raines
- March 17 Roger Smith
- March 17 Robyn Weatherbie
- March 17Emersyn Chapman
- March 18 Jennifer Rethman
- March 18 Chris Smith
- March 18 Shelley Thompson
- March 19Jordan Harper
- March 20Paul Haley
- March 21 Rusty Morton
- March 21 Harry Stubbs
- March 21Becky Stutzman
- March 23Karla Debrick
- March 23 Elizabeth Kettler
- March 23 John Schlegel Jr.
- March 25Laura Prothe
- March 26Loren Windler
- March 28 Joyce Brown

- March 28Zach Holtz
- March 28 Justine Prothe
- March 28 Tyler Tesar
- March 28Kendall Karrow
- March 29 Wilda Bunch
- March 29 Lauren Wood
- March 31 Alvin Thoden

Anniversaries

- March 6Steve and Bobbi Debrick (26)
- March 7 Dave and Suzie Prothe (33)
- March 9Rich and Sally Wood (34)
- March 10 Jim and Shelisa Mueller (46)
- March 20 Mike and Linda Giager (39)
- March 21 Sean and Robyn Weatherbie (27)
- March 28 Tom and Nancy Green (46)
- March 28Arlin and Venita Prothe (60)

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"**

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 (hopefully) make it through the whole Bible in a year. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room!

"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.

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, **March 2nd and 23rd**. On March 2nd we will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodges around 2:15 for the second service. Similarly, on March 23rd we will visit Country Club Estates and Vintage Park. 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!



Theodore Atticus Lee
Son of Luke Lee and Abigail Allred
Born September 20, 2024
Baptized February 15, 2025

Zoe Brielle Woelmer
Daughter of Joshua and Brianna Woelmer
Born February 13, 2025
Baptized February 23, 2025



In Christian Sympathy

Leta England

June 13, 1938 — February 13, 2025

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

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.

Trinity Tribune

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YOUTH SWEETHEART DINNER

What a wonderful night! Even though we had to re-schedule our Mardi Gras Sweetheart Dinner it went great! Lots of food, fun, and friendship! Jambalaya, Blackened Chicken Alfredo, along with an array of appetizers and desserts! Family Feud had everyone stumped, but one team came out on top! The shoe game was quite hysterical and the jokes by the youth were entertaining! We all can't wait to visit New Orleans in July! Thank you to all who came out!

