

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2015



One of the most troubling aspects of the aggressive campaign in our society for so-called "same sex marriage" and those who claim to be "transgender" is that the activists aren't satisfied with receiving legal recognition from the government. They immediately move on and demand—under threat of legal harassment, or boycotts and other revenge—approval from everyone else, including those who are morally opposed.

In particular, Christians who decline to endorse these perversions seem to be targets of their wrath. Many Christian business owners, such as photographers, florists, bakers, caterers, and restaurant owners, have faced lawsuits, huge judgments and fines, boycotts, and even the loss of their businesses.

Right now, a county clerk in Kentucky is actually in jail for declining to issue licenses for so-called "same sex marriage." Those individuals could have received a license from any of the other 119 county clerks in Kentucky—but they demanded it be from the *one* clerk who declined on account of her Christian beliefs.

Earlier this month high school students in Hillsboro, Missouri walked out in protest because the girls are being forced to share their locker rooms and restrooms with a supposed "transgender" male. *The Kansas City Star* reported that when given the option

of using a private restroom he insisted, "I didn't want to be in something gender-neutral. . . I am not going to be pushed away to another bathroom."

Why aren't these individuals satisfied with receiving legal recognition from the government? Why do they so adamantly insist that everyone else must also approve? And why do they target in particular conservative Christians—demanding they agree, or face vicious retaliation?

I believe the answer to this vexing question is found in the Bible, in the book of Romans:

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (Romans 1:18-27)

Why are they so insistent that conservative Christians in particular endorse their lifestyle? Because they are trying to assuage their guilt. For, as the Apostle Paul explains, no matter how much they "suppress the truth by their wickedness," no matter what the government, or even corrupted, liberal religions may say, nevertheless "God has made it plain to them," and the perverse "unnatural" character of their actions is "clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Because their perversion goes against natural law and nature itself, deep down they know it is wrong. Legal recognition and all the other approval they have received has not brought them peace; they still feel guilty.

And so they desperately seek absolution for their sins, from the right place, but in the wrong way. They hope to finally find peace by having the Christian Church—represented to them by these Christian photographers, florists, bakers, caterers, restaurant owners, county clerks, and high school students—absolve them by endorsing their perversion.

Isaiah 5:20 warns, "Woe to those who call evil good." It is indeed the mission and ministry of the Christian Church to grant absolution, but not by abandoning the Bible's teachings and "calling evil good." Absolution, the Good News of forgiveness of sins through Christ and His sacrifice, is the second part of the Christian Church's two-part mission and message, given to it by its Founder: "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations" (Luke 24:47).

Absolution follows confession of sins; forgiveness follows repentance. These Christian photographers, florists, bakers, caterers, restaurant owners, county clerks, and high school students

are declining to endorse these perversions not out of hate but out of love. It is their own way of preaching repentance, for only through the message of “repentance and forgiveness of sins” will those confronting them finally find peace.

The Apostle Paul expressly states in 1st Corinthians that through “repentance and forgiveness of sins” those guilty of such sexual perversions do indeed receive from Christ absolution for their sins:

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Of course, sincere repentance will bring about a change in one’s attitude and lifestyle: *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the heathen do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance*

that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:17-24)

Finally, the New Testament in many places tells us that when confronted with such situations, we should consider it an honor if we are forced to suffer for the sake of Christ and His truth:

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ. . . If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer, or thief, or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.” (1 Peter 4:12-16)

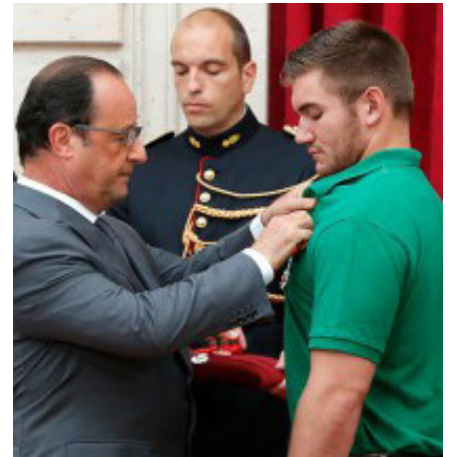
“If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.” (1 Peter 2:20-21)

“You have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.” (1 Peter 4:3-4)

“They called the Apostles in and had them flogged. . . The Apostles left the council rejoicing, because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the sake of His name.” (Acts 5:40-41)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” (Matthew 5:10-12)

Pastor Kevin Vogts



LCMS member Alek Skarlatos received the Legion d’Honneur, France’s highest award, from French President François Hollande on August 24.

LCMS Member Hero in French Train Incident

One of three heroic Americans who risked their lives to subdue an armed attacker on a train bound from Amsterdam to Paris on August 21 is a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Roseburg, Oregon, and his congregation is beaming with pride for him.

St. Paul member and Oregon Army National Guardsman Spc. Aleksander Skarlatos and his childhood friends, Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler, thwarted the attack as they were vacationing, when a gunman entered the train carrying a machine gun, handgun, and boxcutter.

Skarlatos spotted the attacker and immediately said to his friends, “Let’s go.” Stone then rushed the gunman as Skarlatos and Sadler disarmed and subdued him. “It wasn’t a conscious

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decision,” Skarlatos said. “We didn’t even have time to think about it. We just acted.”

The gunman was identified as a Moroccan with possible ties to Islamic militants.

French President François Hollande awarded all three Americans France’s highest honor, the Legion d’Honneur, on August 24. “We often use the word hero, and in this case I know that word has never been more appropriate,” said U.S. Ambassador to France Jane D. Hartly. “They are truly heroes. When most of us would run away, Spencer, Alek, and Anthony ran into the line of fire, saying ‘Let’s go.’ Those words changed the fate of many.”

On hearing about his church member’s heroism, the Rev. Andrew Farhat, who is pastor at St. Paul, said he wasn’t surprised by Alek’s bravery.

“Alek and his father Emmanuel and stepmother Karen became members of our church in 2011. Alek was always a strong-minded person who wanted to do things his way,” Farhat said. “After working at a local store for a while, he decided that he wanted to serve his country. At first, his father was very concerned about what could happen. But later, with the help of faith, he decided to bless his son’s endeavors. Little did he know that his son would become an internationally renowned hero.”

Farhat said that in the days following the incident Alek had spoken with President Barack Obama, Vice-President Joe Biden, and Hollande. “The congregation feels honored,” he said. “We live in a small city in southern Oregon that most people have not heard of, so many of our members felt proud and honored that a man from our community acted with no fear to disarm a terrorist and save innocent lives.”

Skarlatos’ heroism has earned him another unexpected reward: ABC recently announced that he will be a contestant on the new season of *Dancing with the Stars*. Presumably, he is both the first LCMS Lutheran to receive France’s Legion d’Honneur, and the first to be a contestant on *Dancing with the Stars*!

Trinity’s Third Annual



Blocktoberfest

Saturday, September 19, Noon–6:00pm

On the Church Grounds

Fun Activities for the Whole Family!

German Band and Dancing! — Delicious Food and Beverages!

See Pictures from Previous Years in Photo Gallery at www.trinitylcms.org

Outdoor Worship and Dedication
of the Trinity Memorial Shelter House
Sunday, September 20, 10:00am

Open to the Community!
All Invited—Everyone Welcome!



Sermon Topics for September

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our congregation’s web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons.

If you use an Ipad, Iphone, or Ipad you can also listen to or download Pastor Vogts’ sermons, or subscribe to a sermon podcast, in Itunes. Search for “Kevin Vogts” in the Itunes store. If you subscribe to the sermon podcast in Itunes the new sermon will be automatically downloaded each week. Another way to listen or subscribe is directly from the podcast hosting service

at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com. To listen on your smart phone, tablet, or other mobile device go to www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile.

September 6

“Christ’s Cure for What Ails You”
Mark 7:31-37

September 13

“A Beautiful Benediction”
Hebrews 13:20-21

September 20

Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
*“What Does It Mean
To Be A Lutheran?”*
Ephesians 2:8-9

September 27

“Turn Your Plans into Prayers”
James 4:13-16



Blocktoberfest

The third annual Blocktoberfest on the grounds at Trinity will be Saturday, September 19, from Noon to 6:00pm. Our previous two Blocktoberfests have been an extraordinary success! Check out fun photos from previous years under the Photo Gallery button on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

This year's Blocktoberfest will again include lots of fun activities and delicious food. On the following Sunday morning, September 20, we will again have our "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" at our regular worship time of 10:00am. This year's service will be the first to be held in our new Trinity Memorial Shelter House, and will include the formal dedication of this marvelous new structure to the glory of God.

We look forward to another great year celebrating our German heritage—and having fun!

Trunk or Treat



Mark your calendars for Trinity's very popular annual Trunk or Treat, which is set this year for Saturday, October 24, from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Confirmation

The first Confirmation class session for 2015-16 for students in 7th & 8th grades will be Sunday, September 13 from 8:00am-9:00am in the Youth Room. Please contact Pastor Vogts with questions.



Trinity Youth Free Car Wash August 22



More pictures online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



Thank you to everyone who gave pledges to help make the Trinity Youth Free Car Wash a big success! We washed a total of 114 vehicles, including cars, trucks, trailers, and even a few bikes, and raised nearly \$2,000!

Choir Begins



Our first choir rehearsal for the new season is Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited to participate—you enjoy being part of Trinity's excellent choir! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings in the church balcony. We usually sing every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month. Come and join the fun and fellowship!



Youth & Parent Meeting September 13

On September 13, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the church we will have a Youth and Parent Night, which will include pizza, music, games, devotion, and an important informational meeting for the National Youth Gathering 2016.

If you have any interest in attending the NYG, it is very important to be at the meeting, both youth and parents. Registration is coming up fast and we need to get a head count as soon as possible. Anyone currently in the 8th grade through high school is eligible to attend the NYG. The Youth and Parent Night is for all youth in 7th-12th grades and their parents. This meeting will include basic information about the cost, dates, schedule of the NYG, and also be a chance to ask any questions. You won't need to make a commitment to attend until October, but we need to start getting an idea of who is interested in going. If you can't be at the meeting, but are interested in attending the NYG, please let Youth Director Janette Reinke know so that she can make sure that you are included in those wanting to attend.



Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encouraged to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world supported by our congregation through our Synod.

September 6

*Rev. Mark & Susan Moss
Ghana*

September 13

*Deaconess Katie Ziegler
Dominican Republic*

September 20

*Johanna Balleine
Hong Kong*

September 27

*Rev. Edward & Monica Naumann
Madagascar*



Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at blockt1c@midwest-connections.com.

- September 1 Noel Wendte
- September 2 Mary Ann Green
- September 2 Gladys Prothe
- September 3 Shane Honn
- September 3 Rebecca Hurst
- September 3 Ron Raines
- September 4 Lance Belsanti
- September 4 Mary Ann Maisch
- September 4 Joan Mueller
- September 4 Dennis Peckman
- September 4 Steve Windler
- September 4 Sarah Vogts
- September 5 Dena Kaiser
- September 6 Emerson Bunch

- September 6 David Gatlin
- September 6 Les Jones
- September 6 Gay Stubbs
- September 7 Cindy Belsanti
- September 7 Teri Wimp
- September 8 Tore Smithisler
- September 8 Lloyd Ohlmeier
- September 10 John Henry
- September 10 Evan Kettler
- September 10 Nickolas Davis
- September 11 Connie Barnett
- September 11 Gary Peckman
- September 11 Kristie Weaver
- September 11 Carol Wray
- September 12 Casey Maisch
- September 12 Pam Thompson
- September 13 Donald Smithisler
- September 13 Sally Wood
- September 15 Aaron Prothe
- September 16 Conni Holte
- September 18 Grant Haley
- September 18 Anna Peckman
- September 18 Skyler Prothe
- September 18 Liam Simonson
- September 18 Josslyn Fuller
- September 18 Rolland Prothe
- September 21 Katie Lindsey
- September 22 Sarah Reyelts
- September 22 Jackson Lester
- September 23 Karen Brack
- September 23 Weston Davis
- September 23 Lindsey Rausch
- September 23 Amanda West
- September 24 Dawson Bruce
- September 24 Kevin Debrick
- September 25 Jennifer Boydston
- September 25 Olivia Mitchell
- September 25 Clinton Peckman
- September 25 Ginny Peckman
- September 27 Scott Golubski
- September 27 Geraldine Holtz
- September 27 Ryan Holloman
- September 27 Leslie Thoden
- September 28 Kaiden Armstrong
- September 28 Margie Monthey
- September 29 Kathy Korsten
- September 29 Mary Shay
- September 30 Gale Nowasell
- Sep. 5 Jerry & Reita Woodall (61)
- Sep. 7 Jason & Sacred Davis (19)
- Sep. 8 Jamey & Dena Kaiser (8)
- Sep. 11 ... James & Shannon Fanning (16)
- Sep. 12 ... Dennis & Norma Peckman (61)
- Sep. 13 Johnny & Sharon Grother (51)
- Sep. 15 Ray & Janet England (53)
- Sep. 17 Kerry & Carole Brandt (32)
- Sep. 18 Paul & Kathy Haley (39)
- Sep. 19 Randy & Helen Maisch (18)
- Sep. 21 .. Ryan & Tamara Mitchell (19)
- Sep. 25 Kelly & Valerie Gerken (39)
- Sep. 28 Gary & Rose Peckman (30)

AFTER CHURCH SNACKS

There is a sign-up sheet on the table with the snacks. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Our Generations group provides and prepares the coffee and juice each week, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Thank you to all providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

September 6
Gayle Plummer

September 13
Tamara Mitchell

September 20
Blocktoberfest

September 27
Vogts



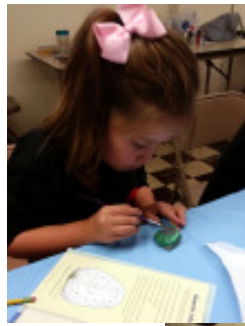
Adult Bible Class

During September we will continue our current study in Adult Bible Class on *These Are a Few of Our Favorite Hymns*, looking at the background and meaning of—and singing!—beloved hymns. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to get a deeper appreciation for your favorite hymns!

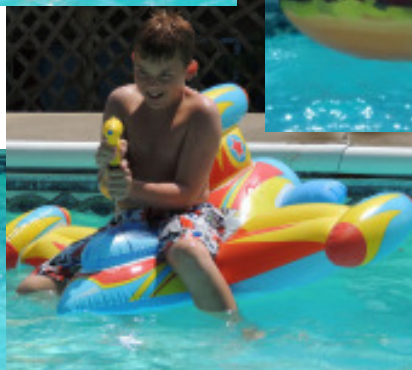
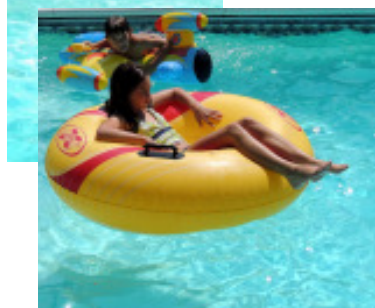
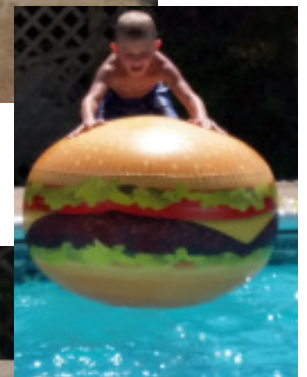
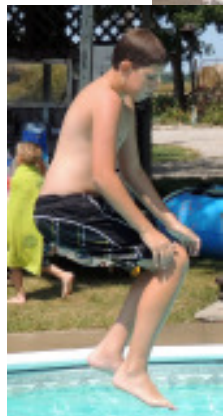


All youth are invited to join in each week our Youth Bible Study, led by our Youth Director, Janette Reinke, during the Sunday School hour from 9:00am-10:00am in the Youth Room (upstairs behind the Choir Loft).

Summer Sunday School



This year's Summer Sunday School theme was *H2O! God Keeps His Promise* focusing on water in the Bible—so we ended with a pool party! Thanks to all the students and teachers for making it a great summer!



More pictures online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.