

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✦ Paola, Kansas



2016

Pastor's Message for the NEW YEAR



"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to pass" (Psalm 139:16).

As we celebrate the New Year, the newspapers and television are once again full of reviews of the past and predictions of the future. But, what about you, personally? What has the past year brought? What does the future promise?

The folk song says, "He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got you and me brother in His hands." As we enter another year, He indeed has got your life in His hands. As Psalm 31:15 says, *"My times are in Your hands."*

Romans 8:28 assures us, *"And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him."* As you look back over 2015, and back over your entire life, it is easy to see the good in many blessed events: love, laughter, joy, happiness. But, it is much harder to see the good at other times: illness, suffering, strife, struggle, pain, death.

If you have ever seen a cloth woven in a loom, you know that the front side presents a beautiful pattern, but the back side is a jumbled, knotted mess, with no discernable pattern at all. There is a poem which compares our lives to such a weaving:

My Life Is But a Weaving

*My life is but a weaving
between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors,
He worketh steadily.*

*Of times He weaveth sorrow,
And I, in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the under side.*

*Not 'til the loom is silent
and the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
and explain the reason why.*

*The dark threads are as needful
in the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.*

*He knows, He loves, He cares,
nothing this truth can dim.
He gives His very best to those
who leave the choice with Him.*

As that poem says so beautifully, in this earthly life we look up toward heaven and see only the back side, the jumbled, knotted mess of our lives, with no discernable pattern that often doesn't make sense. But, God looking down from heaven sees the front side of the weaving of our days, the true pattern of our lives. And God is working all things together for our good, according to His pattern and plan.

In God's wisdom, the weaving of our days indeed has many bright and happy colors: the joyous times of life. But, according to God's plan, the pattern of our lives also has contrasting, darker colors: the times of sadness, suffering, sorrow.

Paul assures us in Romans 8:35-39 that through it all God is with you always: *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Whatever the New Year brings, whatever the rest of your life holds, your times are in His hands.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Pastor's Article in National Magazine

Pastor Vogts' article from last month's *Trinity Tribune* was "picked up" by the national magazine and web site *The Federalist* (www.thefederalist.com/2015/12/24/isis-doesnt-want-you-to-celebrate-christmas).

The article was slightly edited—such as using the spelling Quran instead of Koran—and the title changed from "Christmas Is Why They Hate Us" to "ISIS Doesn't Want You to Celebrate Christmas." However, otherwise the article was reprinted in this national magazine and web site just as it appeared in our church newsletter.



**Missionaries
of the Month**

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.

January 3

*Rev. Adam & Christine Lehman
Spain (See Article Pages 6-7)*

January 10

*Rev. Mark & Stefanie Rabe
Ethiopia*

January 17

*Deaconess Rachel Powell
Dominican Republic*

January 24

*Rev. Clinton & Lalita Hoff
Czech Republic*

January 31

*Levi Karth
Peru*

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

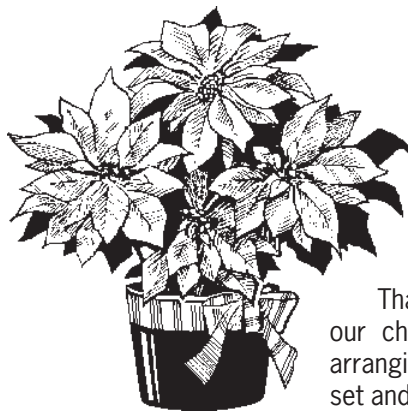
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Paola, Kansas 66071*

*Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary*

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Pastor's Study & Parsonage:
913-849-3711*

Pastor's Cell: 913-594-9865

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Facebook – trinitylutheranblock
pastorvogts@gmail.com
blocktlc@midwest-connections.com
January, 2016*



2015
*Poinsettia
Donations*

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas, to Barb Dillenbeck for arranging the plants, to Bill Koelsch for the new nativity set and Pam Peckman for the stable, and to the youth and all who helped decorate. There were many comments from visitors about how beautifully our church was decorated! (This list of donations was taken from the sign-up sheet in the Church Office.)

Given By

In Memory or Honor Of

Kevin & Denise Debrick (2)	Lorene Debrick, Billee Lee
Kathy Gerken	Ted & Frances Gerken
Paul & Kathy Haley (2)	Grandma Manda Prothe & Grandma Minne Debrick
Gayle Plummer	Leland Gerken
Janet Schneider (4)	Lloyd Schneider, Helen Leonard Danny Schneider, William Leonard
Phyllis Trickett	Damon & Ione Prothe
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2)	Leroy & Ruth Vogts & Grandparents
Vivian Wilson & Venita, Arlin, & Aaron Prothe	LaVern Wilson



Sermons for January

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available several ways, in both printed and audio form:

- ✘ On our congregation's web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons;
- ✘ As podcasts in the iTunes store under "Rev. Kevin Vogts";
- ✘ Online from our podcast host at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com;

✘ For mobile devices at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile, or download the Podbean app in the Iphone or Android app store.

January 3

*"The Gifts of the Wise Men"
Matthew 2:1-12*

January 10

*"The Servant of the Lord"
Isaiah 42:1-7*

January 17

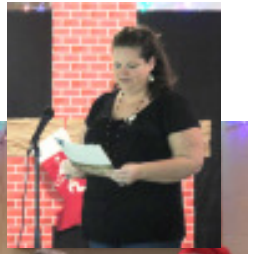
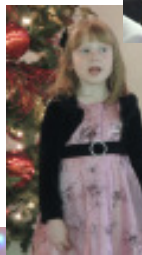
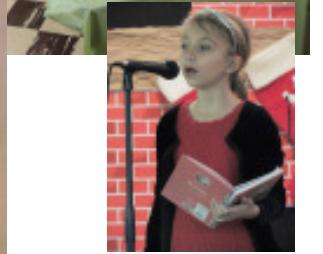
*"Miracle at Cana"
John 2:1-11*

January 24

*Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister*

January 31

*"Love Is . . ."
1 Corinthians 13:4-8*



More pictures in our online church Photo Gallery on our church web site at www.trinitylcms.org/photos



A large group of Trinity Lutheran Youth and members of the Trinity Choir led Christmas caroling for Trinity's services at North Point Care Center and Medicalodge on December 20. Trinity member Vivian Wilson, who was at North Point at the time and has since moved to Vintage Park in Paola, is pictured above on the far right.



Guest Minister January 24

Pastor and Terry Vogts celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on December 29. They will be taking an anniversary trip to Las Vegas, Nevada the third week of January. At the end of the trip Anna will join them for a college visit to Concordia University, Irvine, California.

Rev. Roger Schepmann will be our guest minister on Sunday, January 24. You may also contact Rev. Schepmann (913-764-4859) for pastoral needs while Pastor Vogts is away, or you may call

Pastor Vogts on his cell phone (913-594-9865) or at the parsonage number (913-849-3711), which will be forwarded to his cell phone, and he will arrange for pastoral care.



Issues, Etc. Sponsorship

Our congregation has become a sponsor of *Issues, Etc.*, the radio ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through a donation from the Trinity Lutheran Foundation.

Host and LCMS pastor Rev. Todd Wilken interviews expert guests—many from outside the LCMS—on a wide variety of subjects, giving a conservative Christian viewpoint on important issues of the day.

Listen live daily online from 3:00pm 5:00pm at www.issuesetc.org, or download past programs under

“On Demand Archives” and listen on your MP3 player at your convenience, or simply search for the *Issues, Etc.* app in the Iphone or Android app stores. You will be blessed by *Issues, Etc.*!



Voters Assembly January 17

The first quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly for 2016 will be on Sunday, January 17, following the worship service. An item of consideration will be proposed revisions to the congregation's Constitution and Bylaws.

The Church Council will meet in advance of the Voters Assembly, on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00pm.



Thank you to all members of Trinity for your lovely Christmas cards and very generous (and tasty!) gifts to our family throughout the holiday season.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

*Pastor Kevin & Terese Vogts
Jacob, Sarah, Anna*



Annual Church ELECTION

Officers and Board Members for 2016

Our thanks to all those who served Trinity as officers and board members in 2015, and those who have agreed to serve in 2016.

Chairman
Greg Windler

Elders
Bill Koelsch, Keviin Debrick,
Rolland Prothe

Trustees
Dave Prothe, Kevin Prothe,
Steve Debrick

Treasurer
Paul Brack

Mission Treasurer
Jeff Garrison

Finance
Brad Hendrickson, Pete Kaiser

School Board
Ken Debrick, Kyle Minden,
John Schlegel

Ushers
Phil Windler, Nathan Peckman

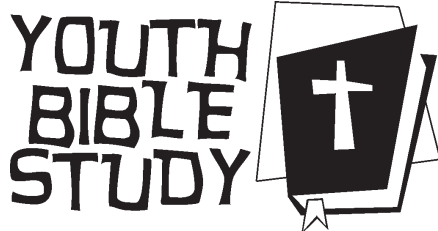
Sunday School Superintendent
Clint Haley

Assistant Sunday School
Superintendent
Kristina Jenkins

Sunday School Secretary
Michelle Haley

Church Secretary
Stacey Elkinton

Voters Secretary
Jim Prothe



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).

Trinity Bulletin On Web

The current week's Sunday bulletin is available electronically under the "Bulletin" button on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/bulletin. (You have to refresh the page to get the current bulletin.)



Trinity on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

We're just starting a page for Trinity on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock. Church members are invited to post information about events, comments, photos, etc. Stop by and give us a look—and a "like"!

You can also follow the Trinity Lutheran Youth on Instagram and Twitter! See pictures from our youth events, announcement of upcoming activities, and other helpful information and inspiration for teens, their parents, and church members. Find us on Instagram at [TrinityYouth_Paola](https://www.instagram.com/TrinityYouth_Paola) and on Twitter @TrinityPaola.



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 blocktlc@midwest-connections.com.

January 1 Bryce Peckman
January 2 Jan Cook
January 2 Anisha O'Barto
January 2 Tara Smith
January 4 Cathy Hieber
January 4 Jessica Parks
January 4 Stan Plummer
January 4 Dustin Prothe
January 5 Levi Alcorn
January 6 Matthew Richardson

January 7 Caylin Garrison
 January 7 Sunnye Oswalt
 January 8 Mike England
 January 8 Cormick Ferrell
 January 8 Linda Ferrell
 January 8 Michael Kriesel
 January 9 Jobie Debrick
 January 10 Don Minden
 January 11 Phyllis Trickett
 January 12 Devon Smithhisler
 January 13 Bill Dillenbeck
 January 13 Lorri Jenson
 January 14 Paul Deering
 January 14 Bruce Nowasell
 January 15 Chancie Minden
 January 15 Cooper Minden
 January 17 Lindsey Hall
 January 20 Zachary Donahue
 January 21 Jody Burnett
 January 22 Rick Holte
 January 24 Trent Fleming
 January 25 Mike Koelsch
 January 25 Webb Oberheide
 January 25 Aubry Peckman
 January 25 Joel Plummer
 January 25 Mike Thompson
 January 26 Gregg Hall
 January 26 Michael Thoden
 January 26 Philip Oberheide
 January 27 Suzie Prothe
 January 28 Jimmy Massey
 January 29 Lindsey Holtz
 January 30 Elbert Jones
 January 30 Mason Kunard
 January 30 Mitch Plummer
 January 31 Morgan Richards
 Jan 11 Jeron & Kendra Fuller (13)
 Jan 26 .. Damon & Betty Oberheide (65)

some treat. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

January 3
Gladys & Sharon Prothe

January 10
Linda Prothe

January 17
Vogts

January 24 & 31
Need Volunteers



Christmas in the Old Testament

The old German Christmas hymn "Behold, a Branch is Growing" says, "Isaiah hath foretold it, in words of promise sure." During January we will continue our study in Adult Bible Class on *The Prophets Have Foretold It: Christmas in the Old Testament*.

We are very familiar with the Christmas story from the *New Testament*. In this Bible study we are looking at the many prophecies of Christ's birth that are also found in the *Old Testament*, including:

- ❖ He will be born of a woman—Genesis 3:15;
- ❖ He will be a descendant of Jacob—Numbers 24:17;
- ❖ He will be born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2;
- ❖ He will be miraculously born of a Virgin—Isaiah 7:14;
- ❖ He will be "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace"—Isaiah 9:6.

Join in this fascinating study on Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow.



This winter we are again having extra services of Holy Communion, on both the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, in October, November, December, January, and February. This provides an extra opportunity to receive the Sacrament for those who may not be able to attend worship on the first Sunday of the month due to inclement weather.



LCMS missionary Rev. David Warner recently conducted what may be the first Lutheran Baptism in Spain in nearly 500 years!

Long After the Inquisition Lutheranism Returns to Spain

After Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church in 1517, the ideas of the Reformation spread across Europe during the next few decades.

In Spain, these ideas took root among some Spanish Christians, especially in monasteries like San Isidoro near Seville. But, after seeing the growing religious unrest that was occurring elsewhere in Northern Europe, the



Sign Up for Snacks in 2016

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2016? There is a sign-up sheet for the New Year on the table with the snacks. Our Generations group has generously agreed to provide and prepare the coffee and juice each week! So those signing up are only asked to provide

Spanish Inquisition, which had been in effect since 1478, moved to quell the movement within its borders.

Reformation-minded Spanish Christians who chose not to flee were arrested, and some were even burned at the stake. It wasn't until nearly 500 years later that a Lutheran presence would again return to the country.

In 2000, a Lutheran family in Spain partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina to lay the foundation for a Spanish Lutheran church. Between 2000 and 2014, three Argentine missionaries served in Spain, where they led outreach efforts and established Lutheran missions.

With the partnership of the LCMS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spain (IELE) was planted and recognized by the Spanish Government in 2004. In October 2010, the Rev. Juan Carlos was installed as the first—and only—native Spanish pastor of the IELE.



As Lutheranism finally returns to Spain nearly 500 years after it was abolished by the infamous Spanish Inquisition, Rev. Adam and Christine Lehman and their children recently became the second LCMS missionary family serving in this new mission field.

The Rev. David Warner and his wife, Shelee, moved to Seville in April, 2015 to become the first full-time LCMS missionaries to the country. Warner provides pastoral care to some 80 Lutherans scattered around Spain, mentors four men who are currently studying to become pastors, and provides ongoing Greek and Hebrew



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recently sent 20 new missionaries, along with their 40 spouses and children, into service in 13 countries around the world.

instruction to Rev. Carlos. Warner also is working to secure a permanent worship space for the growing congregation in Seville, as well as looking for funding for similar sites in Madrid and Cartagena.

“The members of the IELE are very inspiring,” Warner said. “They became members because they were convinced that Lutheran doctrine is true and faithful. They are committed even though they lack facilities, worship opportunities and pastoral care. I am humbled to be serving them.”

On May 23, 2015 Warner performed his first Baptism on the mission field. While many Roman Catholic family members watched, the grandson of one of the original members of the IELE became God's child through the waters of Holy Baptism.

“I preached a Law and Gospel sermon about the miracle of Baptism and salvation by faith and then went out to dinner and spoke with members of the family for a couple of hours as the plates of food kept coming,” he said. “Lord willing, the many seeds planted will take root and grow.”

The Rev. Adam Lehman and his family recently joined the Warners as LCMS missionaries to Spain. The Lehmans look forward to their life and work on the Iberian Peninsula.

“Having learned more about the history and development of Spain, I have realized what a great blessing it is to be privileged to serve as a Lutheran pastor in Spain at this time,” Lehman said, reflecting on his call to serve as a church planter there. “After being snuffed out via the Spanish Inquisition, the Lutheran Reformation has now returned to Spain!”

MISSION NEWS

LCMS Sends 20 New Missionaries and Families into Service

In a jubilant “sending service” in the chapel at the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod International Center in St. Louis, the LCMS recently sent 20 new missionaries—along with their 40 spouses and children—into service in 13 countries around the world. They join a global mission team of nearly 130 other missionaries deployed to the four corners of the earth.

That number represents continued successful efforts toward *doubling* the number of LCMS career missionaries on the field to 136 by 2016—as called for by the 2013 Synod convention.

At the sending service, the Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, First Vice-President the Synod, preached the sermon and encouraged the missionaries and their families. “You are signs of Christ's presence and Christ's care, signs always pointing to Christ crucified and risen, alive and giving away His life.”

The missionaries—slated for East and West Africa, Latin America, Eurasia, Asia Pacific and Southern Asia—completed an intensive two-week orientation to prepare for service overseas. They will serve in diverse roles, including as nurses, evangelists, deaconesses, theological educators, and international school chaplains.

2015 Children's Christmas Program



Thank you to Stacey Elkinton for these photos. Check the Photo Gallery on our church website for more photos at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

