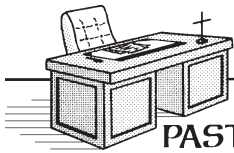


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2016
February



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Remember those who rule over you . . . consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7).

On April 23, 1891, in Philadelphia, a 24-page handwritten book was purchased at public auction. It was highly valued because of its author. Entitled *The Daily Sacrifice*, it was a book of prayers, containing beautifully composed, handwritten petitions for morning and evening of each day of the week.

Listen to some of its pleadings:

"Pardon, I beseech Thee, my sins. Remove them from Thy presence as far as the east is from the west, and accept me for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ."

"Remit my transgressions, and cover them with the absolute obedience of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, offered upon the cross for me."

"I humbly beseech Thee to be merciful to me in the free pardon of my sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son, my only Savior, Jesus Christ, who came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Who wrote these reverent prayers? Was it some famous theologian or great preacher? No, it was none other than a young George Washington! These writings, used for his own private devotions, reveal him as a young man who sincerely confessed himself a sinner, fervently prayed for forgiveness, and joyfully gave thanks that he had been saved by God's grace on account his Lord Jesus Christ.

On the third Monday of February each year our nation observes Washington's Birthday, which is actually on February 22. As we observe this holiday we should thank God that He gave such founding fathers to our country.

George Washington died on December 14, 1799. Though he was an Anglican, the memorial service on December 26 was actually held at Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, which at the time was the nation's capital. An estimated crowd of 4,000 packed the church, including President John Adams, and members of the Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court. A Lutheran pastor conducted the service,

and it was in a eulogy on this occasion that General L. H. Lee famously referred to Washington as, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

We do well to pause on Washington's Birthday and thank God that He led men of the stature, ability, statesmanship, and Christianity of George Washington in the blossoming of our nation. For, while in many other countries the life of the Church and the open proclamation of the Gospel have been hindered—and even outlawed—by civil authorities, historically we have been blessed by God with an entirely different type of ruler.

Some suggest that George Washington was not really a Christian, and did not believe that Jesus Christ was his Savior. However, throughout his life he was a regular churchgoer—you can still sit, as I have, in his pew at Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia—and when his family gathered for the reading of his last will and testament, these were the first words from him that they heard: *"My beloved, I sincerely trust to meet you all again in heaven, through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

You may have heard it asserted that George Washington was merely a deist, believing in some generic god, but not specifically Christianity or Jesus Christ. But, both the young man who wrote the fervent prayers above and these final words from Washington are not the testimony of a deist, but show his faith in the truth of Scripture, and his hope of salvation *"through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Washington's faith was also demonstrated when the British had driven the colonial militia out of Philadelphia to nearby Valley Forge, where he struggled to maintain an army intact through the bitter winter.



The memorial service for George Washington was held at Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Washington began his will by telling his family, "My beloved, I sincerely trust to meet you all again in heaven, through the merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

When all seemed lost where did Washington turn? He famously knelt down and prayed in the snow, for God's guidance, help, and protection. As he wrote in a letter from Valley Forge on March 13, 1778: *"It will ever be the first wish of my heart to ... inculcate a due sense of the dependence we ought to place in that all wise and powerful Being on whom alone our success depends."*

Washington's praying spirit is also seen in another beautiful prayer that he personally composed for our new nation:

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that You will keep the United States in Your holy protection, that You would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and finally, that You will most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the divine Author of our blessed religion, without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

Trinity Lutheran Church
34868 Block Road
Paola, Kansas 66071

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344
Pastor's Study & Parsonage:
913-849-3711

Pastor's Cell: 913-594-9865

www.trinitylcms.org
Facebook – [trinitylutheranblock](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock)
pastorvogts@gmail.com
blocktlc@midwest-connections.com
February, 2016



On March 13, 1778, when things looked bleak for the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War, George Washington wrote in a letter from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: *"It will ever be the first wish of my heart . . . to inculcate a due sense of the dependence we ought to place in that all wise and powerful Being on whom alone our success depends."* According to tradition, Washington dramatically demonstrated this sentiment by kneeling down in the snow in prayer at Valley Forge, seeking God's guidance, help, and protection. This classic engraving commemorating that tradition was commissioned by the United States and is now in the Library of Congress.

So, on the occasion of Washington's birthday, remember and give thanks for the miraculous guidance God gave to the founding fathers of our country, because of which we still today have the priceless blessings of Christian liberty and freedom of worship. Of course, not everything is well with our country, and it seems that even these fundamental freedoms could be threatened. Like Washington at Valley Forge, we should kneel and implore God to continue His hand of blessing upon our nation and its leaders. As Paul commands Timothy: *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth"*(1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Mardi Gras Sweetheart Dinner February 13

Beat the winter blahs with a fun Mardi Gras themed Sweetheart Dinner put on by the Trinity Youth on Saturday, February 13. The cost is \$20 per person. Proceeds will be used to help fund the 17 youth from Trinity who will be attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer—which is why we chose a Mardi Gras theme! Youth will be available after worship services to take reservations, or you may text 913-461-3399 or email susankhenry@yahoo.com to make your reservation.



Thank you to everyone who helped on January 30 with the cleanup of our new Shelter House Grove, southwest of the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It really looks great and will be a nice additional feature to our church grounds for Blocktoberfest and other events. More pictures are in the Photo Gallery on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

The Epistles of Love
 1st, 2nd & 3rd John
**New Adult Bible Class
 Begins in February**

What is the meaning of love? What are the four kinds of love found in the Bible? How does God want you to show love toward Him and toward others? In February we are beginning a new study in Adult Bible Class, *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*.

John is often called the “Apostle of Love” because the word “love” occurs in his writings over 100 times, more than any other books of the Bible. Though his Epistles of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John are some of the shortest books in the Bible, the word “love” occurs in them more than 50 times!

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow as we learn about love from the Author of love with our study of *The Epistles of Love—1st, 2nd & 3rd John*.



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.

February 7
 Rev. Richard Otiso
 Finland (See Article Page 6)

February 14
 David & Barbara Bush
 Macau

February 21
 Rev. Daniel & Amy Johnson
 Siberia

February 28
 Joel & Krista Young
 Ethiopia



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

February 7
 Haley

February 14
 Vogts

February 21
 Golubski

February 28
 Need Volunteers



Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Services that evening and each Wednesday throughout Lent will be at 7:00pm.

The theme for this year's Lenten services—for both Sunday and Wednesday evening services—is *Questions at the Cross*, considering questions asked by Jesus and others in the Lenten story. *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . who endured the cross"* (Hebrews 12:2).

Come meditate on our Lord's suffering for your salvation!



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Trinity Youth invites you to a Lenten soup supper in our basement Fellowship Hall before worship on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Proceeds will be used to help fund the 17 youth from Trinity who will be attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Other dates for Lenten services and dinners are February 17 & 24 and March 2, 9, & 16. Check the bulletin for the hosting groups and menus. Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!



Questions at the Cross

Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday
"Where Is My Guest Room?"
Mark 14:14

Sunday, February 14

First Sunday in Lent
*"What Will You Give Me
If I Betray Him?"*
Matthew 26:15

Wednesday, February 17

Lent Service II
*"Could You Not
Keep Watch with Me?"*
Matthew 26:40

Sunday, February 21

Second Sunday in Lent
*"Will You Really Lay Down
Your Life for Me?"*
John 13:38

Wednesday, February 24

Lent Service III
"Shall I Not Drink the Cup?"
John 18:11

Sunday, February 28

Third Sunday in Lent
"If Men Do These Things . . .?"
Luke 23:31

Wednesday, March 2

Lent Service IV
*"Are You Not One of
His Disciples?"*
John 18:17, 25

2016 Lenten Sermon Series

Evening Services
at 7:00pm

Wednesday Lenten Suppers
Before Service in
Basement Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent
"Shall I Crucify Your King?"
John 19:15

Wednesday, March 9

Lent Service V
"What Is Truth?"
John 18:38

Sunday, March 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent
*"Why Do We Need
Any More Witnesses?"*
Mark 14:63

Wednesday, March 16

Lent Service VI
*"My God, My God,
Why Have You Forsaken Me?"*
Matthew 27:46

Palm Sunday, March 20

"Who Is This?"
Matthew 21:10

Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
*"Do You Understand What
I Have Done for You?"*
John 13:12

Friday, March 25

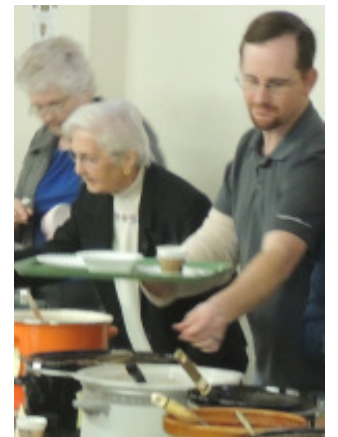
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
*"What Crime Has
He Committed?"*
Matthew 27:23

Easter Sunday, March 27

"Why Are You Crying?"
John 20:15

Chili Cookoff & Card Party

A large crowd stayed after worship on January 31 to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food at our first Chili Cookoff & Card Party. Thank you to Gayle Plummer for organizing this great event and all who helped and participated. Congratulations to Phyllis Trickett for receiving the most votes in the Chili Cookoff, and to Pastor Vogts for having the high score in the progressive pitch Card Party. More pictures are in the Photo Gallery on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

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.

- February 2 Ashtin Armstrong
- February 4 Jodie Wood
- February 4 Leslie Vohs
- February 6 Kerry Brandt
- February 6 Tanna Jones
- February 6 Glenn Minden
- February 7 Stacey Elkinton
- February 7 Tyler Allen
- February 8 Karen Ohlmeier
- February 9 Daniel Wendte
- February 10 Darrell Brandt
- February 10 Terry Bunch
- February 10 Kathy Gerken
- February 10 Leonard Oberheide
- February 11 Hannah Raines
- February 12 James Haley
- February 13 Valerie Gerken
- February 13 Logan Hendrickson
- February 18 Joey Stephens
- February 18 Stan Windler
- February 19 Debbie Windler
- February 20 Judy Kutz
- February 20 Angie Marshall
- February 20 Carolyn Warner
- February 21 Jeff Davis
- February 21 Marty Stutzman
- February 25 Michelle Haley
- February 25 Curtis Hall
- February 25 Duane Rodewald
- February 26 Glenn Block
- February 26 Cate Minden
- February 27 Matthew Kriesel
- February 27 Reita Woodall
- February 28 Slina Prothe
- February 29 Austin Henry
- Feb 10 Curtis & Kristie Weaver (20)
- Feb 11 Lloyd & Karen Ohlmeier (54)
- Feb 13 Jeff & Windy Davis (23)
- Feb 15 Curtis & Jamie Hall (13)
- Feb 19 Michael & Katie Taylor (11)
- Feb 21 Ron & Marcia Raines (27)
- Feb 22 Kevin & Denise Debrick (24)

MISSION NEWS

Kenyan Pastor Shares Gospel with Immigrants in Finland

What's a pastor from Kenya, Africa, to do when he marries and moves to Finland, just 450 miles from the Arctic Circle? Why, keep on preaching and teaching, of course! To the Finns, Kenyans, Poles, and Latvians who enter the doors of St. Barnabas International Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helsinki.

Rev. Richard Otiso was born in Kenya in 1970 and after marrying his Finnish wife, immigrated to Finland in 2001. Throughout his 16 years as a Lutheran pastor, his most treasured possession has been his Small Catechism in his native Swahili language. Rev. Otiso explains his unique mission work:

"I work with all people here at St. Barnabas International Lutheran Parish. We have people from East Africa, mostly from Kenya and Tanzania, and then we have Finns, people from Poland, Latvia, and many other countries.



Kenyan native Rev. Richard Otiso visits with a parishoner at St. Barnabas International Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helsinki, Finland, where he serves as missionary pastor to a diverse community of immigrants from many countries and native Finns.

"It is good to have a congregation such as ours, since some people are not comfortable with services held in the Finnish language. We are the only English-speaking Lutheran parish, and many Lutherans search for their own

affiliations when they move here. Religion plays a big role when people move to foreign land. The stress and other challenges make Christian immigrants look for people of the same faith.

"We have such a huge amount of immigrants who came to Finland in the past few months. It is said that Finland received over 33,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq. So right now my wife and I have opened a door in our home for two people from Iraq who are interested in Christianity. They have come in time to time to talk about their challenges and how they want to change their religion. We are moving slowly, but we are sure that in the end, all will be fine.

"Another time, I was called upon to translate for a Congolese refugee in one of our Helsinki hospitals. When I arrived, I found over 10 people there, who asked me to help them come to our Church by teaching them Lutheranism. I was shocked since I was there only for translation work, and yet by God's grace, it turned to be something else.

"We live in an immigration era more than any other time in human history. As Christians should see the situation as a golden chance to reach out to these immigrants."

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.