

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

AUGUST
2017 

From the Pastor

A few weeks ago during our tour of Germany, Terry and I stood in front of the doorway to the castle church in Wittenberg, where 500 years ago this year, on October 31, 1517, a monk named Martin Luther nailed up a piece of paper. Nailing up a notice was actually not unusual, because in those days the church door served as the town bulletin board.

However, this particular notice written by Luther was extremely unusual compared to the accepted religious ideas at the time. Just as the first shot fired in 1775 at Lexington, Massachusetts was called the “shot heard round the world” because it set off the American Revolution, you could call Luther’s nailing the notice to the church door that day the “hammer heard round the world,” because it set off the Reformation, a worldwide spiritual revolution, of which we are commemorating the 500th Anniversary this year.

The topic Luther was writing about was the sale of what were called “indulgences,” which are based on the unbiblical teaching of purgatory. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43), and the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 1:23, “I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.” So, the Bible clearly teaches that at the moment of death the souls of all who trust in Christ go immediately to be with Him in paradise.

But, sadly, during the Dark Ages a false doctrine arose, not taught anywhere in the Bible, that when you die you must first suffer some remaining

punishment in a supposed “purgatory.” Based on this false doctrine, it was claimed indulgences were like a “get out of purgatory free card” that you could purchase, supposedly granting time off from purgatory and immediate entrance into heaven in exchange for your cash payment.

A monk named John Tetzel came selling indulgences in Germany. He was a real huckster, who preached the supposed miraculous powers of indulgences to forgive all sins and guarantee entrance into heaven. He also urged people to buy indulgences on behalf of departed loved ones supposedly suffering in purgatory, so that finally they could enjoy the blessings of heaven.



On their “Lutherland” tour of Germany last month Pastor Kevin and Terry Vogts stand in front of the doorway to the castle church in Wittenberg, where 500 years ago this year, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses. In the 1800’s the original wooden doors, lost in a fire, were replaced with bronze doors incised with the text of the 95 Theses.

Because the people and even many of the clergy were ignorant of Scripture, most believed Tetzel’s claim that whoever bought an indulgence received full forgiveness of sins in exchange for their payment. Tetzel even had a catchy sales jingle, “As soon as a coin in the box rings, another soul into heaven springs.” As a result, many people were led astray to believe that they did not need to repent of their sins, or trust in Christ for salvation, or live a godly life, because they could just buy their way into heaven.

Luther was outraged when he heard about this. The clear teachings of God’s Word and the Gospel of Christ were being denied by the very church that was supposed to proclaim them. Luther protested the sale of indulgences because it threatened to destroy a Christian’s faith in Christ and relationship with God.

The purpose of the 95 Theses that Luther nailed to the castle church door was to challenge this false doctrine and call for a scholarly debate about them. Luther’s 95 Theses were revolutionary, the “hammer heard round the world,” because he was beginning to lead the church out of the Dark Ages and back to teachings of God’s Word.

Jesus told the Pharisees, “In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). That was the sorry state of the church at the beginning of the Reformation. Just coming out of the Dark Ages, the church had built up a whole series of false doctrines, such as purgatory and indulgences, making it almost unrecognizable as Biblical Christianity. All this was based upon the fundamental false notion, totally contrary to Scripture, that salvation is earned by our own good works,

That’s because during the Dark Ages very few clergy knew the original Bible languages of Greek and Hebrew, and many clergy were even illiterate and

could not read and write any language. Early on in the Reformation when Luther visited the churches in Saxony he was shocked to find clergy who didn't even know the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, or the Lord's Prayer, let alone the Bible itself. "Good God!" he said. "What wretchedness I beheld! Many of the pastors are completely ignorant and incompetent."

Luther, on the other hand, was a brilliant Bible scholar, fluent in Greek and Hebrew. When he received his doctorate degree at age 28 he was the youngest person in history up to that time ever to be awarded a doctorate.

Several years ago we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the King James Version, but 90 years before the King James Version, Luther had already translated the entire Bible into German. Terry and I also visited the study at Wartburg Castle where he accomplished the extraordinary feat of translating the entire New Testament from Greek into German in just ten weeks!

In addition, about 80% of the King James Version is taken from an earlier English translation by two students from England who came to study with Luther and actually lived with him and Katie at their home in Wittenberg. So, in a way, Luther is the father not only the German Bible but the English Bible as well.

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Martin Luther's study at Wartburg Castle where he accomplished the extraordinary feat of translating the entire New Testament from Greek into German in just ten weeks!

With the end of the Dark Ages and the dawn of the Renaissance and Reformation, Luther was leading the church back to the Word of God, to rediscover what God actually says in His Word. One of the Bible passages that would come to mean so much to him is from Paul's Epistle to the Romans:

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. . . For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law" (Romans 3:21-28).

Luther used what Paul wrote to demonstrate from Scripture that we are not saved by the things we do. We are saved by what Jesus has done for us. God offered His Son as "a sacrifice of atonement." We receive forgiveness and eternal life "through faith in His blood."

In his 95 Theses, Luther began to call the church back to the Word of God, back to the Gospel the church in his day

had largely forgotten, back to the Good News that Christianity is really all about: Your sins are all forgiven because God presented His own Son as a sacrifice of atonement; you are justified freely by His grace; you are righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Luther put it this way in his Thesis 62: "The true treasure of the church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God."

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Building for the Future

Our building project has been delayed because the engineering survey revealed our existing septic tank is directly under the footprint of the proposed addition.

Because of the complexity and potential high cost of a new septic system, and uncertainty about what type of system the county would require, we have been working on an alternate plan that would keep the same features but place the addition and new drive-thru entry on the north side of the building.

This addition would mirror the wing currently extending from the south side of the building and create a T-shaped structure. In addition to saving a great deal of effort and expense replacing our septic system, it also seems this alternate plan could have other benefits over the original proposal.

We are currently finalizing plans with Legacy Builders of Paola, who have recently completed several church additions in our area. At this time we have only preliminary sketches, but when the new plan is completed it will be shared with the congregation.

If you have questions please contact chairman Greg Windler. Thanks for your patience!



Sermon Topics for August

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons, as podcasts under "Kevin Vogts" in the iTunes store, online at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com, or at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile for mobile devices. Printed copies of the current Sunday's message and those from the past several weeks are also available in a small literature rack in back of the church.

August 6

*"Nothing Will Separate Us
from God's Love"*
Romans 8:38-39

August 13

"Elijah and the 7,000"
1 Kings 19:9-18

August 20

"How Many Times Shall I Forgive?"
Matthew 18:21-35

August 27

Rev. Roger Schepmann
Guest Minister



**Guest
Minister
August 27**

Rev. and Mrs. Vogts will be taking their daughter Anna to begin her studies at Concordia University Texas in Austin the week of August 21. In Pastor Vogts' absence on August 27 our guest minister at Trinity will be Rev. Roger Schepmann.

While he is out of town Pastor Vogts can be reached by calling his cell phone (913-594-9865) or his study at the parsonage, which will be forwarded to his cell phone (913-849-3711).



Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to enjoy an All Church Picnic sponsored by the Board of Education on Sunday, August 13. We'll have our Rally Day service at the church and then enjoy our potluck picnic and fun and games at the Shelter House.

Please bring a side dish; meat and drinks will be provided and the Sunday School children are making dessert pizzas for everyone!

Come enjoy the fun, food, and fellowship! All invited—everyone welcome!



**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 who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

August 6

Rev. Delwyn Campbell
Gary, Indiana
See Article Page 5

Page 3

August 13

Rev. Arthur & Linda Just
Dominican Republic

August 20

Kevin Kong
Hong Kong

August 27

Rev. Mark & Susan Moss
Sierra Leone



You are invited to help provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on Sunday, August 6. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service.



This summer we our study in Adult Bible Class is *Pondering the Parables*. Approximately 35% of Jesus' teachings recorded in the Gospels is in the form of parables. Although these parables seem simple on the surface, the messages they convey are actually very deep and central to the teachings of our faith. They also offer Jesus' followers many practical life lessons.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow for *Pondering the Parables!*

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 trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

- 1 Linda Giager
- 1 Nancy Golubski
- 1 Shirley Hubbard
- 1 Justin Shay
- 2 Zack Hutchison
- 2 Russell Prothe
- 3 Ilda Koopman
- 3 Jeron Hermann
- 5 Kelly Kaiser
- 5 Jeff & Karen Garrison (11)
- 4 Halle Schlegel
- 6 Jeremiah Ordonez
- 8 Jeff Garrison
- 8 Melissa Mondry
- 8 Trevor Fleming
- 8 Kurt Golubski
- 8 Dennis & Sara Prothe (19)
- 9 Chris Tesar
- 10 Hailey Jones
- 10 Tabytha Ritch
- 11 Angela Parks
- 12 Janet Schneider
- 14 Jeremiah Brandt
- 14 Gerald Woodall
- 14 Terese Vogts
- 15 Alicia Brandt
- 15 Joan Fehling
- '5 Derek Johns
- 16 Shaun Ferrell
- 16 Shaylan Gibson
- 16 Mike Oberheide
- 16 Ellie Reyelts
- 16 Jace Allen
- 16 Doug & Judy Parks (37)
- 17 Tony Thompson



Trinity's Fifth Annual



Blocktoberfest

**Saturday, September 16
Noon–6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
Sunday, September 17, 10:00am
In the Shelter House**

**Come Join the Blocktoberfest
Fun for the Whole Family!**



- 17..... Bailey Vaughn
- 17..... Curtis & Lucy Kettler (32)
- 18..... Kaley Debrick
- 18..... Cathy Warring
- 18..... Greg & Karen Windler (44)
- 20..... Angela Carwile
- 20..... Enora Coppenbarger
- 22..... Gayle Plummer
- 23..... Ryan Boyer
- 24..... Kelly Gerken
- 24..... Anna Vogts
- 25..... Derik Vaughn
- 26..... Brooke Prothe
- 27..... Cale Elkinton
- 27..... Don Prothe
- 27..... Beth Prothe
- 28..... Courtney McHenry
- 30..... Barb Brandt
- 30..... Hailey Raines
- 31..... Jamie Ennett
- 31..... Quentin Garrison



After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Two Sundays in August are still open! The sign-up sheet is by the table with the snacks. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

August 6

Susan Schmidt & Linda Prothe

August 13

Church Picnic

August 20 & 27

Need Volunteers

CHURCH

Anniversary

PREPARATIONS

There will be a meeting August 20, 2017, immediately following the service to work on planning our 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2018. We invite anyone interested in helping plan this event to join us! If you have any questions please contact Greg Windler or Phyllis Trickett.



In Christian Sympathy

Jack Lee Alpert

November 12, 1942–July 24, 2017

Robert Brandt Jr.

Father of Dena Kaiser
June 22, 1958–July 23, 2017

*“Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord.”*
Revelation 14:13



Bringing the Lord Home

As the clouds over Lake Michigan loomed dark above the Gary skyline, the Indiana air had a peculiar smell from the U.S. Steel plant down the road. “It’s like the twilight zone,” said the Rev. Delwyn Campbell, new national missionary for The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to his own hometown of Gary, Indiana.

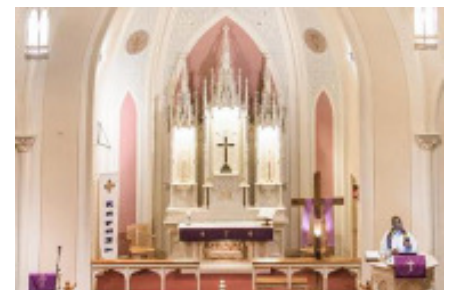
Campbell sees opportunity where others perceive roadblocks, returning to his childhood home of Gary as an ordained pastor and LCMS missionary. Campbell is on a mission, and he’s God’s

pick for this battered city of 77,000 people, down hundreds of thousands since its peak in 1960 as a flourishing commercial and industrial center. He is one of the many new missionaries in the United States under the Synod’s *Mission Field: USA* initiative, proclaiming the Gospel all across America—doing mission work not only in other countries, but also right in our own backyards!



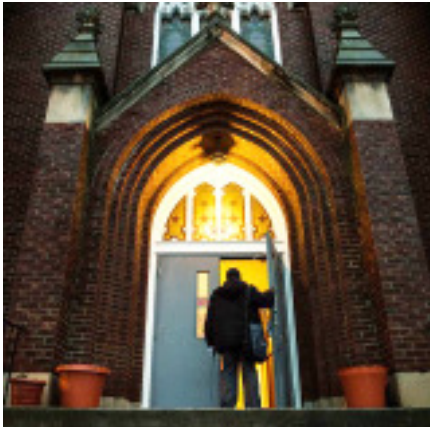
Campbell has a history with the city. His grandfather owned the largest trash hauling company in the area, which was given to him by the previous owner when his grandfather found the owner’s wallet in the dump and returned it. His father lived in a nearby house—now abandoned by the current owner—and Campbell remembers running errands as a kid to the neighborhood store while men played checkers outside.

St. John’s Lutheran Church, founded in 1870, has a grand church with a towering steeple, built in 1922. The sanctuary is stunning—classic altar, gleaming gold cross, soaring stained-glass windows and arched ceilings. It’s definitely Lutheran.



Also nestled into a residential neighborhood close to St. John’s is St. Philip Lutheran Church, a modern A-frame structure. When Campbell came back to

town he found the congregation there “desperately trying to hold on”—and now serves them, too. Earlier, Campbell stopped into Ascension Lutheran Christian School, where work is underway through an initiative of the LCMS Indiana District to open a new school in the old building.



As the light fades in the evening Campbell opens the doors at St. John’s for a Wednesday Lenten service. Here in a warm sanctuary, on a frigid and icy night, God brings His gifts to this little city and its devoted flock of Lutherans love their church through an ever-smiling, soft-spoken pastor named Del Campbell.

From his childhood, Campbell still remembers Gary’s streets and that same smell from the nearby steel plant. His love for this place and its people has brought him back home—and with him he’s bringing the Lord home, to the place where he was raised.



Outdoor Service & Potluck Picnic

We were blessed with perfect weather as a large group of worshippers enjoyed our annual Independence Day Outdoor Service & Potluck Picnic on July 2. Our thanks to Kevin Debrick for taking lots of great photos! More pictures online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

