

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2018



## From the Pastor



*"For every house is built by someone, but God is the Builder of everything."*

Hebrews 3:4

For over a century, the widely held view in our culture has been that the vast array of life forms found on planet Earth evolved, gradually and sequentially, over a period of billions of years. However, a new study of DNA recently published in the respected scientific journal *Human Evolution* has thrown that assumption into great doubt.

Researchers found a way to determine how long DNA, as it currently exists in an organism, has been coded in its present state. By testing the DNA of thousands of different organisms, they concluded that at least 90% of all species currently in existence on Earth, including humans, all came into existence in their present form simultaneously, in a great, instantaneous explosion of life on Earth. Sound familiar?

*"Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. . . Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. . . Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind. . . Let Us make man in Our image'"* (Genesis 1:11-26).

This new scientific evidence throws the entire evolutionary theory into total disarray. Because, according to traditional evolutionary thinking, all living things on Earth share a common ancestry, with the variety of species evolving through a slow process of random mutation, natural selection, and adaptation, over roughly 4 billion years. The idea that humans and most animals suddenly appeared at the same time just does not fit the evolutionary model.



***Testing the DNA of thousands of different organisms they concluded at least 90% of all species, including humans, came into existence in their present form simultaneously, in a great, instantaneous explosion of life on Earth.***

The researchers were most certainly not expecting this, and the results shocked, startled, even scandalized them. But, to their credit, they rigorously checked and rechecked the validity of their methodology, data, and conclusions, and then published the results. The study's lead author was so

disturbed by how the conclusions challenged current scientific views that he says he "*fought against it as hard as I could*"—but the conclusions were inescapable.

Their method of studying DNA reveals the age of species relative to each other, but doesn't pin down an overall date for this explosion of life on Earth. However, it does suggest about 100,000 years ago, with a possible variance of about 100,000 years, and an outer limit of about 200,000 years ago.

A stunned reviewer at the respected website [www.phys.org](http://www.phys.org) could find no fault with their study and its conclusions, and commented: "*How does one explain the fact that 90% of animal life, genetically speaking, is roughly the same age . . . that nine out of 10 species on Earth today, including humans, came into being 100,000 to 200,000 years ago?*"

Contrary to popular misconception, the Bible does not give a specific date for the creation of the universe and age of the earth. The most widely assumed date of about 4000 B.C. comes from simply tallying up the ancestral lists, such as that in Genesis 5, of how long people lived and whom they "begat," in the familiar language of the King James Version. However, we know from similar ancient lists outside the Bible that it was a common practice to include only *significant* individuals in such lists, and to skip sometimes many generations from one "begat" to another.

The Hebrew word translated "begat" in the King James Version, or "fathered" in many modern versions, does not necessarily denote direct parentage. They had a communal view of the family, and distant ancestors were thought of and spoken of as "begatting" their descendants, just as much as the actual parents. The most obvious example in the Bible is that all Jewish men are

called “Son of Abraham”—even if removed from Abraham by thousands of years (Matthew 3:9; Luke 3:8, 19:9; John 8:39; Acts 13:26). So, it is not a valid method to simply tally up the ages and “begats” in these ancestral lists, because they may skip many generations, and were never intended to be a running chronology.

That is why our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, while generally holding to what is called a “Young Earth” view, has been careful to never declare as a matter of dogma a specific date or range of dates for the creation of the Earth. The *Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*, adopted in 1932, simply states:

*“We teach that God has created heaven and Earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative Word, and in six days. . . Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God’s own record, found in God’s own book, the Bible. We accept God’s own record with full confidence, and confess with Luther’s Catechism: ‘I believe that God has made me and all creatures.’”*

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The *Brief Statement* adds: *“Those questions in the domain of Christian doctrine may be termed ‘open questions’ which Scripture answers either not at all or not clearly.”* Therefore, because the specific age of the earth is not clearly revealed in Scripture, it is considered an *“open question.”* However, the *Brief Statement* also strongly rejects any views that attempt to somehow accommodate or harmonize the Biblical record with the theory of evolution: *“We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our day it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of time, developed more or less out of itself.”*

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**Compared to the evolutionary timeline of 4 billion years even the outer limit of 200,000 years would still mean a relatively “Young Earth” — just consider that 200,000 is only .05% of 4 billion!**

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The prevailing view in our society is so fixated on the Earth being billions of years old that we never hear about the many good, scientific evidences for a “Young Earth.” On the basis of a number of factors, such as the presence of radiocarbon in diamonds, the rate of the moon’s movement away from the earth, the existence of unfossilized dinosaur remains, I myself would put the earth’s age at about 10,000 years. However, that is only my opinion, not a matter of binding dogma.

Because the researchers put the date for the explosion of life on earth at about 100,000 years ago, with a possible variance of about 100,000 years, that would actually fit well with a “Young Earth” view. In any case, even their outer limit of 200,000 years ago would still have to be deemed “Young Earth” compared to the evolutionary timeline of 4 billion years! Just consider that 200,000 is only .05% of 4 billion.

Hebrews 11:3 declares, *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”* We accept the testimony of the Bible on matters such as the divine creation of the universe not because of any human opinion that happens to agree with it, but because by faith we trust, *“Thy Word is truth”* (John 17:17).

However, it is interesting that the latest scientific evidence actually supports the Biblical record, that the multitude of species found on Earth arose simultaneously, in an instantaneous explosion of life on earth in the relatively recent past, rather than evolving slowly and sequentially over billions of years.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



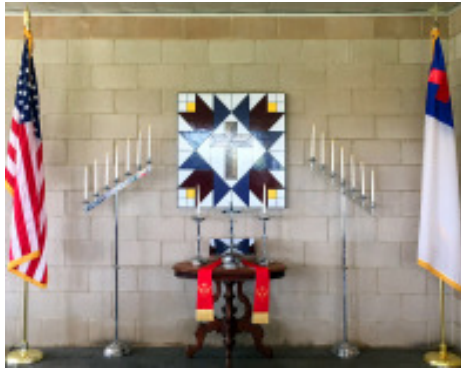
## **Pastor Lane Burgland Anniversary Speaker**

Rev. Lane Burgland, former Pastor of Trinity, will be the guest speaker for the 10:00am Service of Holy Communion to celebrate our congregation’s 150th Anniversary on Sunday, November 4.

Immediately following this morning service we will dedicate—Lord willing!—our Building Addition & Modernization Project. Everyone is then invited to a free catered Anniversary Luncheon at noon.

At 2:00pm we will have a special Anniversary Service with LCMS Kansas District President Rev. Peter Lange as our guest speaker, followed by an Anniversary Reception so that the reminiscing and fellowship can continue!

Please let all your relatives and friends who may wish to attend this grand reunion know now, so that they can save the date!



We had a great turnout for our annual Independence Day Outdoor Service & Potluck held at our Shelter House on July 1. We also dedicated our lovely new altar set and candelabras, generously given by Rev. Don and Ruth Gaffney for use at outdoor services in the Shelter House. Lots more pictures are in our online photo gallery at [www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos). Thanks to Michelle Haley, Anna Vogts, and Kevin Debrick for all the great photos! Mark your calendar for our next outdoor service in the Shelter House, part of our annual Blocktoberfest weekend, on Sunday, September 16 at 10:00am.

## Sermon Topics

August 5

*"The Irony of Materialism"*

John 6:24-35

August 12

*"Be Imitators of God"*

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

August 19 (Rally Day)

*"The School of the Holy Spirit"*

Proverbs 9:10

August 26

*"To Whom Shall We Go?"*

John 6:69



**Leonard Eugene Oberheide**  
February 10, 1937–July 12, 2018

*"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us."*  
Romans 8:18



## Rally Day August 19

Our Christian Education Rally Day to mark the beginning of a new school year will be Sunday, August 19. Pastor Vogts' message will be *"The School of the Holy Spirit"* based on Proverbs 9:10 and the special service will include presentation of Bibles and Catechisms.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).



## Nursing Home Services

You are invited to help provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on Sunday, August 12. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at Country Club Estates and then go to Vintage Park for the second service.



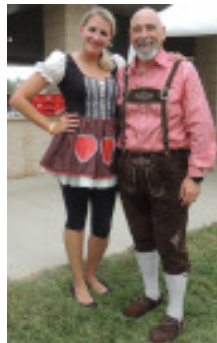
## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

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 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at [trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com).

August 1 ..... Linda Giager  
 August 1 ..... Nancy Golubski  
 August 1 ..... Shirley Hubbard  
 August 1 ..... Justin Shay  
 August 2 ..... Zack Hutchison  
 August 2 ..... Russell Prothe  
 August 3 ..... Ilda Koopman  
 August 3 ..... Jeron Hermann  
 August 5 ..... Kelly Kaiser  
 August 4 ..... Halle Schlegel  
 August 6 ..... Jeremiah Ordonez  
 August 8 ..... Jeff Garrison  
 August 8 ..... Melissa Mondry  
 August 8 ..... Trevor Fleming  
 August 8 ..... Kurt Golubski  
 August 9 ..... Chris Tesar  
 August 10 ..... Hailey Jones  
 August 10 ..... Tabytha Ritch  
 August 11 ..... Angela Parks  
 August 12 ..... Janet Schneider  
 August 14 ..... Jeremiah Brandt  
 August 14 ..... Gerald Woodall  
 August 14 ..... Terese Vogts  
 August 15 ..... Alicia Brandt



- August 15 ..... Joan Fehling
- August 15 ..... Derek Johns
- August 16 ..... Shaun Ferrell
- August 16 ..... Shaylan Gibson
- August 16 ..... Mike Oberheide
- August 16 ..... Ellie Reyelts
- August 16 ..... Jace Allen
- August 17 ..... Tony Thompson
- August 17 ..... Bailey Vaughn
- August 18 ..... Kaley Debrick
- August 18 ..... Cathy Warring
- August 18 ..... Lily Rush
- August 19 ..... Ryan Hoden
- August 20 ..... Angela Carwile
- August 20 ..... Enora Coppenger
- August 22 ..... Gayle Plummer
- August 23 ..... Ryan Boyer
- August 24 ..... Kelly Gerken
- August 24 ..... Anna Vogts
- August 25 ..... Derik Vaughn
- August 26 ..... Brooke Prothe
- August 27 ..... Cale Elkinton
- August 27 ..... Don Prothe
- August 27 ..... Beth Prothe
- August 28 ..... Courtney McHenry
- August 30 ..... Barb Brandt
- August 30 ..... Hailey Raines
- August 31 ..... Jamie Ennett
- August 31 ..... Quentin Garrison
- August 31 ..... August Meyer
- August 5 ..... Jeff & Karen Garrison(12)
- August 6 .... Bill & Ashley Dillenbeck (2)
- August 8 ..... Dennis & Sara Prothe (20)
- August 16 ..... Doug & Judy Parks (38)
- August 17 ... Curtis & Lucy Kettler (33)
- August 18 .. Greg & Karen Windler (45)



# Trinity's Sixth Annual Blocktoberfest



**Saturday, September 15  
Noon-6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service  
Sunday, September 16, 10:00am  
In the Shelter House**

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



Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *God's Grace in Colossians*. One of the Apostle Paul's shorter letters, Colossians is especially rich with descriptions of Christ, His work, and the blessings He bestows on us. Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, this Biblical book still speaks to our lives today in a surprisingly fresh and relevant way. Join in Sundays at 9:00am to learn more about *God's Grace in Colossians*.





## After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Hosts are still needed for July 15 and all of August. The sign-up sheet is by the table with the snacks. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

August 5

Linda Prothe

In Honor of Nancy & Kurt's Birthdays

August 12

Schlegels

August 19 & 26

Need Volunteers

## 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 of the Month from around the world, who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.



August 5

Britt &

Micah

Odemba

Rael & Silas

Kenya

August 12  
Rev. Matthew  
& Kali Wood  
Laurel & Eleanor  
Indonesia



August 19

Krista & Joel

Young

Sydney & Grace

Kenya



August 26  
Jamielynn  
Tinkey  
Dominican  
Republic



*"Brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it is among you."  
(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*



## Giving Hope to Children in Kenya

For Migwa Stephen Ochieng, a joint program between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) made all the difference.

When Ochieng was a boy, his education nearly came to a premature end, despite the fact that he was one of the top students in the village. Ochieng's father died and his mother was unable to pay the fees to send him back to school.



Young men at one of the boarding schools in Kenya sponsored by the LCMS walk to worship at the Lutheran congregation in Kisumu. Many of the children in this program are orphans, and some of these young men now graduating from high school have been in the care of the LCMS since infancy.

The village chief heard about the family's difficulties and looked for someone who could assist them. He found that help with the ELCK, and Ochieng was enrolled in *1001 Orphans*, a joint program of the ELCK and the LCMS that provided support for education and food for children in need. As students graduated from the program, they became eligible to receive an ongoing stipend to pursue higher education.

Thanks to *1001 Orphans* and generous donors around the Synod, Ochieng recently graduated from Kenya Medical Training College and passed his certification exam to become a registered nurse.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the LCMS for the help they have given me until now. I am a graduate because of the LCMS. You gave me hope when I was hopeless, the LCMS made me smile when I was shedding tears. I am now a nurse courtesy of the LCMS," Ochieng wrote in an email to the LCMS field office in Nairobi, Kenya, after his graduation.

He also offered to volunteer with the LCMS and its Mercy Medical Teams "as a way of saying thanks to the Church and to everyone who made me smile during my difficult times in life."

The *1001 Orphans* program has expanded to become the Synod's *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* program, matching sponsors in the United States

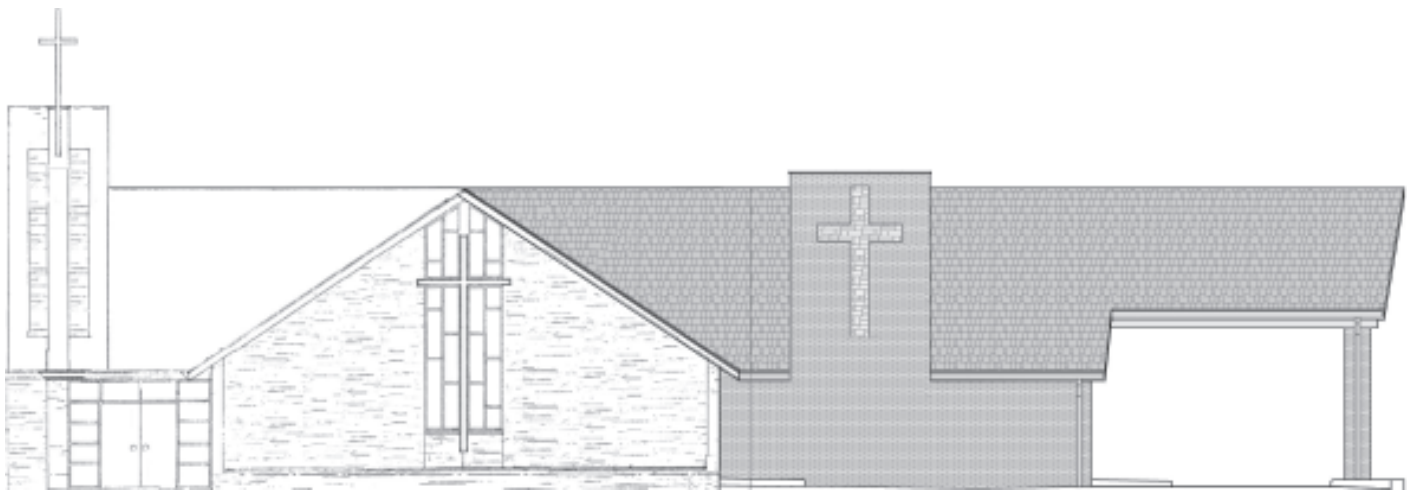
with children at the ELCK's boarding schools, where they receive schooling, food, medical care, and the Word of God in a residential setting.

The cost to sponsor a child is just \$90 per month. The sponsors receive an initial packet





In this photo of progress on our Building Addition & Modernization Project, the masons are completing work on the new north wing, and the general contractor is measuring for the new north door. On the elevator tower is the pattern for the large cross that will be featured in a contrasting color of brick on the tower's east side. This cross will be visible from the road and prominently displayed as people enter the church drive. As seen in the drawing below, it will be the third cross to bear witness in the very fabric of our church building to the purpose and focus of our congregation: *"We preach Christ crucified!"* (1 Corinthians 1:23).



of information on their child, as well as updates, photos and the ability to correspond with the child throughout the year. If you are interested in sponsoring a child visit [lcms.org/make-a-gift/christs-care-for-children-kenya](http://lcms.org/make-a-gift/christs-care-for-children-kenya) or contact Jennifer Hummel at [jennifer.hummel@lcms.org](mailto:jennifer.hummel@lcms.org) or 800-248-1930, Ext. 1326.

There are currently five ELCK boarding schools throughout Kenya, and a sixth site is slated to open in July. The

new site, Nyambiri, will be able to provide for 40 boys and 40 girls from the area.

"Not only do the children receive great care and an education, but more importantly they grow in their faith in God," said Britt Odemba, an LCMS missionary in Kenya who works with children in the project. "It is wonderful to see how the local Lutheran church has answered the call to help the children within their congregations. It is a joy to see how the Body of Christ works together and assists their own."



Boys listen to a missionary leading devotions at an LCMS sponsored boarding school in Kisumu, Kenya.