

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2018
December



“The Twelve Days of Christmas” Is Really a CHRISTIAN Christmas Song? You Must Be Kidding!

During the 16th century England was at war with various Roman Catholic nations, and thus severe restrictions were placed on the practice of Roman Catholicism in England. The Roman Catholic faithful there devised ingenious ways to preserve their religion and pass it on to their children.

One such strategy was “catechism riddle songs,” seemingly aimless ditties that actually contained a hidden message, reminding Roman Catholics of the tenets of their forbidden religion. To outsiders these songs seemed innocuous, if not meaningless. But for those who knew the code, they were a powerful mnemonic device, especially for children.

One such code song is “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” which can be interpreted this way:

***“On the first day of Christmas
my true love gave to me . . .”***

“True love,” of course, represents God.

“ . . . a partridge in a pear tree”

Anti-Catholic sentiment led to a taboo against anything considered too “popeish,” including the traditional crucifix with Christ on the cross. This became the leading symbol of Roman Catholic resistance, and thus the song begins with “a partridge in a pear tree,” a cryptic reference to Christ on the cross.

“ . . . two turtle doves”

Old and New Testaments, which form an inseparable pair, like two turtle doves.



“ . . . three French hens”

Three Persons of the Trinity. France was considered a bulwark of the Roman Catholic faith, and priests who surreptitiously served in England were often trained in France.

“ . . . four calling birds”

Four Gospels, through which we are called to faith.

“ . . . five gold rings”

Five obligatory sacraments in Roman Catholic theology, Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Penance and Last Rites, Matrimony and Ordination being optional. (Lutheranism recognizes only Baptism and Communion as Sacraments per se.) They are described as “gold rings” and the music sets off this verse to highlight the importance of the Sacraments.

“ . . . six geese a-laying”

Represents the six days of work, and thus stresses that one day is reserved for worship, as Exodus 20:9-10 says, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.”

“ . . . seven swans a-swimming”

The gracefulness of swimming swans brings to mind the seven gifts of the Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).

“ . . . eight maids a-milking”

During their oppression Roman Catholics in England were required to receive Holy Communion eight times a year. The Church is like our spiritual mother, nursing her children with the milk of Word and Sacrament (Isaiah 66:11).

“ . . . nine ladies dancing”

The gracefulness of ladies dancing brings to mind the nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

“ . . . ten lords a-leaping”

Ten Commandments.

“ . . . eleven pipers piping”

Eleven remaining Apostles after Christ’s ascension, who blazoned the Gospel to the world like noisy bagpipers and refused to be silenced.

“ . . . twelve drummers drumming”

Apostles Creed, in Roman Catholic tradition divided into 12 articles, which together “drum” the faith into us.

Did you ever dream “The Twelve Days of Christmas” has such a deep Christian significance? That reminds us how easy it is to overlook the true meaning even of the Christmas event itself, the birth of God’s Son in the flesh for our salvation.

This Christmas, look deeper and consider carefully the real “reason for the season.” Really listen to the words of the Christmas songs that you hear and sing again and again. Really meditate on what the Christmas story that you see portrayed and hear and read means for you, personally.

And, of course, the place to experience the true significance of Christmas is in worship, study, and Christian fellowship at your church home!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

[Based on Hugh D. McKeller, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” The Hymn: Journal of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, Vol. 45, No. 4, Oct. 1994, pp. 30-32]

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In the background of this photo the building of Our Savior Lutheran Church, an LCMS congregation in Paradise, California, is burning down in a recent wildfire. Though their building was among the 95% of structures in the community completely destroyed, a great source of inspiration and hope for everyone in town is the large cross in front of Our Savior, which miraculously survived the fire.

LCMS Church Lost to California Wildfire

“I both love that picture, and I hate that picture,” says Rev. Brandon Merrick, Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Paradise, California. The photo he’s talking about dramatically shows Our Savior’s sanctuary in flames—while a large wooden cross in front of the church stands undamaged, silhouetted against the fire. The picture was taken on November 8 during a devastating wildfire that destroyed most of Paradise, and quickly went viral as an inspiring source of hope to survivors of the fire.

“I hate what the fire destroyed,” says Merrick. “But I love what has been saved from that, and that is the cross. The fact that the cross stands is what I think is truly important about that picture. For me, this picture is not just a heartbreaking reminder of what can happen to the things and people of this world. The cross represents our one true hope in the midst of tragedy, that cannot be destroyed by anything. God is with us, and He wants you to see Him through the cross, where His mercy and forgiveness are found. In this picture I understand how in the cross we see both the ultimate consequence of our sin in death, and the new life we have with Jesus.”

Not only the church building but also the adjacent parsonage was totally destroyed. Flames were just beginning to lap at the sides of the church when Merrick and his wife, Wendy, fled to 15 miles to Chico, where the members of a sister LCMS congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, have opened their homes to evacuees. Most of the congregation’s members have been accounted for, and though nearly all Our Savior members also lost their homes and other property, thankfully no deaths or injuries have yet been reported among them. About half of the church’s 130 parishioners are living temporarily in Chico, where the ministry of Our Savior continues, © with its own Sunday services held at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Another wildfire raged an hour north of Paradise, near Redding. Reflecting on why no members of his congregation there suffered losses in the wildfires, Rev. Brian Cummins, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Redding, said, “Perhaps God spared us so that we might do His compassionate work unhindered for our community.”

To give to Lutheran Disaster Response to help assist those afflicted by these wildfires and other disasters go to www.lcms.org/disaster.



150th Anniversary Christmas Ornaments Make Great Christmas Gifts!

Beautiful pewter Christmas ornaments commemorating our congregation's 150th Anniversary are available for sale in the Gathering Room for \$10. They are embossed on one side with the 1884 Church, and on the other side with our current church, including the latest addition. What a great Christmas gift for your whole family!



Christmas Lunch & Talent Show December 9

Everyone is invited to our fourth annual Christmas Talent Show on Sunday, December 9. This year we will have a Christmas Lunch right after worship, followed by the talent show.

The free lunch will be leftover pulled pork, brisket, and other items from the 150th Anniversary Luncheon—yum! You are asked to bring your favorite Christmas treat to share for dessert. While we're eating dessert we'll have our talent show.



Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate
the Real "Reason for the Season"

Christmas Eve Service, Monday, December 24, 7:00pm

Featuring the 2018 Children's Christmas Program

"Angels We Have Heard" with Your Favorite

Christmas Carols Including "Silent Night" by Candlelight

Christmas Day Service, Tuesday, December 25, 10:00am

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!

Everyone—individuals, groups, families—is invited to share your talent! All types of performances are welcome and do not have to be Christmas related, and if Christmas related do not have to be strictly religious—"Jingle Bells" and Santa are welcome!

To get on the program email Pastor Vogts with the talent you will be sharing at pastorvogts@gmail.com. The fun will conclude with a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long. Come celebrate the holiday season with this festive fun!



We will celebrate our Christmas Communion on Sunday, December 16 with a "Christmas Carol Communion Service" with favorite carols used in place of the various parts of the Liturgy.

Trinity's Christmas Angel Tree



Our Sunday School children have put together an Angel Tree this year! It is located in the Gathering Room. We would love your help in purchasing gifts for these needy children in our community.

After choosing a green heart off of the tree please make sure you let Michelle Haley know which one you took. Please plan on purchasing and wrapping the gifts making sure the heart is taped to the bottom of the package. If you purchase extra gifts, such as toys, please wrap them as well.

Please place gifts back under the tree in the Gathering Room by December 12. They will be picked up on December 13 and delivered to the Sheriff's Department on December 14. Thank you all for helping children in our community!

Readings & CAROLS

Festival of Readings & Carols December 23

Our worship on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 23, will be a "Festival of Readings and Carols." This special order of service includes a series of Scripture readings related to the Christmas story, each followed by a Christmas carol.



Poinsettia Donations

Donating poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary is a great way to remember loved ones at Christmas!

There is a signup sheet on the cabinet by the west door of the Gathering Room to order plants from Price Chopper at a cost of \$8 each. Place your payment in the offering marked "Poinsettias." When signing up please indicate how many plants you wish to donate and for whom they are in memory or honor.

You are also *welcome* to bring your own poinsettias, which you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Just drop them by the church sometime before Christmas Eve and leave them on the tables in the Gathering Room. Please still sign up on the sheet, indicating that you are providing your own plants, and for whom they are in memory or honor, so that this information may be included in the church newsletter.



You Are Invited by Rev. Kevin and Terese Vogts to a
Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 16, 2:00pm–5:00pm
Bring the Whole Family – Children Welcome

All Invited – Everyone Welcome!



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.

December 2

Rev. Stephen & Maggie Oliver
Taiwan

December 9

Rev. Duane & Elizabeth Meissner
Belize

December 16

Alexandria Rappe
Thailand

December 23

Rev. Brian & Amanda Gauthier
Panama

December 30

Rev. Ryan & Emily McDermott
Togo

*"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)*



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate our Savior's birth with our Christmas Eve Children's Program and Candlelight Service on Monday, December 24 at 7:00pm.

Continuing our theme "*The Angels of Advent*" this year's program is "*Angels We Have Heard*," looking at the role angels play in the Christmas story.

**O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**



Advent
DEVOTIONALS

Devotional booklets for the Advent season from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the large literature rack in the South Lobby, in both regular and large print. Use these devotions to help you celebrate the real "reason for the season"!



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.

- December 1 Kristie Gatlin
- December 1 Brianna Chapman
- December 5 Tyler Barnett
- December 6 Susan Schmitt
- December 6 Linda Oberheide
- December 8 Anita Koopman
- December 9 Marsha Windish
- December 10 Betty Crome
- December 10 Don Prothe
- December 11 Pam Holtz
- December 11 Nancy Honn
- December 13 Justin Prothe
- December 13 Dillon Reyelts
- December 15 Chris Jones
- December 15 Linda Prothe
- December 16 Joyce Johns
- December 16 Jake Prothe
- December 19 Samantha Honn
- December 21 Carole Brandt
- December 21 Nancy Green
- December 22 Jack Smith



Advent-Christmas Sermon Series

December 2
1st Sunday in Advent
*"Gabriel's Surprise
for Zechariah"*
Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 80

December 9
2nd Sunday in Advent
*"Gabriel's Surprise
for Mary"*
Luke 1:26-38

December 16
3rd Sunday in Advent
*"The Angel's Surprise
for Joseph"*
Matthew 1:18-25

December 23
4th Sunday in Advent
*Festival of Readings
and Carols*

December 24
Christmas Eve
*"Good Tidings
of Great Joy!"*
Luke 2:1-20

December 25
Christmas Day
*"A Multitude of the
Heavenly Host"*
Luke 2:8-12

December 30
First Sunday after Christmas
"Escape to Egypt"
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

January 1
New Year's Day
*"The Name the Angel
Had Given Him"*
Luke 2:21-40

- December 25 Shawn Brandt
- December 25 April Bruce
- December 25 Darleen Medlin
- December 25 Harold Peckman
- December 26 Brandon Prothe
- December 28 Shemene Peckman
- December 28 Royal Prothe
- December 29 Dan Minden

- December 29 Brian Meyer
- Dec 2 Leland & Slina Prothe (63)
- Dec 3 Henry & JoAnn Vaughn (30)
- Dec 6 Darrell & Sandra Schultz (27)
- Dec 16 Mike & Trish Armstrong (23)
- Dec 17 ... Steve & Kristie McMullin (24)
- Dec 28 ... Richard & Mary Ann Green (43)
- Dec 29 ... Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (28)



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Two Sundays in December are open! The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the snack serving area. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

December 2

150th Anniversary Committee

December 9

Christmas Lunch

December 23

Ruth Gaffney

December 16 & 30

Need Volunteers



Because there are five Sundays in December we have nursing home services twice, on December 2, at County Club Estates and Vintage Park, and on December 30, at North Point and Medical Lodge. You are invited to help provide brief worship services for these nursing home residents. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length, beginning at 1:30pm at County Club Estates or North Point, and then going to Vintage Park or Medical Lodge for the second service.

Best Choice Labels

Best Choice labels will be turned in at the end of December, with proceeds going to the Trinity Youth. Please bring your labels to help! For more information contact Norma Peckman.



With our Sanctuary looking so nice after receiving new paint and carpet, it made the old Christmas trees look a bit dilapidated. Our thanks to the Trinity Youth for the generous donation of two lovely new trees and other decorations, and to the Trinity Youth and Sunday School for decorating the church so beautifully!



Adult Bible Study



Our current study in Adult Bible Class is "Put on the Full Armor of God!" as described in Ephesians 6:10-19: *the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, sandals of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit.*

What is the meaning of each of these for you? How can you "Put on the Full Armor of God!" in your life? Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room!



German Christmas Service

Everyone is invited to celebrate the season the *really* old-fashioned way at a *Weihnachtsgottesdienst in Deutscher Sprache* (Christmas Divine Service in the German Language), a German Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols, on Monday, December 10 at 7:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5601 West 62nd Street in Mission (Shawnee Mission Parkway at Nall Avenue).



Now that construction is complete fulfilling your pledge to the Building Fund as you are able would be appreciated. If you would like a reminder of your pledge amount contact Mike Oberheide.

If you did not make a pledge previously, or would like to increase your amount, additional donations are always welcome. Simply place in the offering plate marked "Building Fund."

Thank you to everyone whose very generous donations made this major project possible!



We will observe both the national holiday of New Year's Day and the church festival of the Circumcision of Our Lord with a special service on New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at 10:00am. This service also includes the installation of church officers and board members for 2019. Pastor Vogts' message will conclude "The Angels of Advent" sermon series with "The Name the Angel Had Given Him" based on Luke 2:21-40.