

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2019

MARCH



*"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

This month we will again travel with our Savior on our annual Lenten journey to Calvary, as we contemplate the familiar story of His suffering and death. However, many aspects the Bible's account of what happened that first Holy Week and Easter are rejected by liberal sceptics and some supposed "scholars."

An extreme, shocking example is John Dominic Crossan, a professor of biblical studies at DePaul University. He very blasphemously writes: *"In all probability, his [Christ's] corpse was buried in a shallow grave and eaten by dogs that had picked up the scent from the cross. There is no actual documentation of what transpired after the crucifixion."* I can't explain why someone with that horrible attitude would be a professor of biblical studies!

However, the *fact* is that the archaeological and historical evidence actually completely backs up the Bible's account of the first Holy Week and Easter. A few examples:

**Pontius Pilate** — The New Testament mentions Pontius Pilate by name 53 times, with many additional references in other ancient literature. Even so, at one time critics of the Bible denied Pontius Pilate ever even existed. They declared he was just a figment of the New Testament writers' imaginations.

Then in 1961 a two-by-three foot stone was discovered at Caesarea with this inscription: *"Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, has presented this Tiberium to the Caesareans."* The "Tiberium" was an amphitheater named in honor of the Roman emperor Tiberius, and this was the dedication plaque like we often still have in public buildings today.



**Despite being named 53 times in the New Testament, with many additional references in other ancient literature, the very existence of Pontius Pilate was widely rejected by liberal critics and supposed "scholars" until 1961, when this dedication stone for an amphitheater was discovered at Caesarea, bearing the inscription: "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, has presented this Tiberium to the Caesareans."**

So, contrary to the critics, this irrefutable archaeological evidence provides conclusive proof not only that Pontius Pilate really existed, but also that he was the Roman governor of Judea, just as the Bible says.



**Discovered in 1990 in an ancient tomb at Jerusalem, many archaeologists believe that the bones found in this elaborately decorated stone ossuary or "bone box" that is inscribed with the name "Caiaphas" are indeed those of the very high priest who condemned Jesus to death!**

**Caiaphas the High Priest** — The ancient Jewish historian Josephus identifies the high priest at the time of Christ's crucifixion as *"Joseph, who was called Caiaphas, of the high priesthood."* The New Testament mentions him nine times, simply giving his nickname *"Caiaphas."* Nevertheless, once again many critics questioned the very existence of Caiaphas the high priest.

Then in November, 1990 construction workers outside Jerusalem accidentally broke open an ancient tomb. Archaeologists were called and inside were found several ossuaries, stone boxes in which the bones of deceased were stored.

One ossuary was particularly elaborate, and inscribed two places on this ossuary, on the back and end, were the words: *"Joseph son of Caiaphas."* Assuming that Caiaphas was some sort of family name, this would agree perfectly with Josephus' designation,

*“Joseph, who was called Caiaphas.”* Inside this ossuary were the bones of a 60 year-old man. Many archaeologists believe these are indeed *the very bones* of the high priest who condemned Jesus to death!

***Nailed to the Cross*** — It may surprise you to learn that the accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion in the Gospels themselves do not specifically say that He was nailed to the cross. However, we know Jesus was nailed to the cross because after His resurrection Thomas, the “doubting” Apostle, states: *“Unless I see the nail marks in His hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it”* (John 20:25). And Jesus says to all the Apostles, *“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!”* (Luke 24:38-39).

For many years it was objected that nails through the hands, even if through the more substantial wrist, which the Greek word for “hand” can include, could not hold the weight of a body, but would pull through the flesh. Some suggested that Jesus was tied to the cross with ropes in addition to being nailed, which is an acceptable possibility that would not conflict with the Bible.

At one time this idea was widely held, and there are many old paintings and illustrations showing Jesus *both*

nailed and tied to the cross. However, more extreme critics confidently declared that crucifixion victims were *never* nailed by the Romans to crosses at all—this was just a fanciful fiction of the New Testament writers.



**Though the Bible indicates Jesus was nailed to the cross, until 1968 it was widely thought impossible for nails to hold up crucifixion victims on a cross without tearing through the flesh due to the body’s weight, and many skeptics confidently declared that the Romans never nailed victims to the cross, but rather tied them on, and the Bible’s account of Jesus being nailed to the cross was just a fictional flourish. Then the first set of bones from an ancient crucifixion victim was discovered—with this seven-inch iron spike still lodged in the heel bone. Remains of a piece of acacia wood between the bone and spike head explained the simple way the Romans—the greatest engineers of the ancient world—avoided the spike head tearing through the flesh: a wooden washer, to distribute the force of the body’s weight.**

Then in 1968 the first skeleton of an ancient crucifixion victim was discovered near Jerusalem, a man in his mid-twenties who was crucified about the same time as Jesus. The legs of the victim were broken, supporting what the New Testament reports regarding the two criminals crucified with Jesus (John 19:31-37). A deep gash in the right radius bone indicated that a nail had been driven between the two bones of his lower forearm just above the wrist. But, most interesting of all was a seven-inch iron spike still lodged in the heel bones, through which it had been driven.

These valuable spikes were usually extracted by the executioners and reused. But, this particular spike had apparently hit a knot in the cross and bent like a fishhook, so that it could not be pulled from the body. Amazingly, splinters of olive wood from that victim’s cross were still adhering to point of the spike.

And on the other end of the spike, between the head of the spike and the heel bones, was the solution to the question of how a person could be hung on a cross with nails without the nails pulling through the flesh: a piece of acacia wood that functioned as a washer, to distribute the force of the body’s weight. So, no one doubts anymore that crucifixion victims were indeed nailed to the cross, just as the Bible says.

***Three Hours of Darkness and Earthquake***—The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all report that *“darkness came over the whole land”* from noon to 3:00pm on Good Friday (Matthew 27:45, Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44), and Matthew adds that there was a great earthquake at the moment of Jesus’ death (Matthew 27:51). These details of the Easter story are scoffed at by skeptics as fanciful fabrications.

However, the ancient Greek author Phlegon in his *Questions of Nature* writes: *“In the spring of the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad it became so dark at midday that you could see the stars, and there was at the same time a great earthquake.”* The fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad is 33 A.D.!

Our faith in what happened that first Holy Week and Easter does not rest on such archaeological and historical confirmations. However, these proofs of the Bible’s accuracy do illustrate the folly of rejecting God’s Word for human notions—like the blasphemous, revolting idea that Jesus’ body was eaten by dogs!

As a matter of fact, that grotesque notion of a supposed “scholar” is completely *unscholarly*. There is absolutely no evidence even hinting that any such thing ever happened with Roman crucifixions.

## Trinity Tribune

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Imagine the outrage if after someone was put to death at Leavenworth the warden let his body be eaten by dogs. He would not only lose his job, but be severely prosecuted himself for the crime of abuse of a corpse.

In the same way, the Romans had great respect, even reverence, for the human body, and would not have abused a corpse in such manner, even that of a crucifixion victim. Ironically, before His death the soldiers had no compunctions about severely whipping Jesus, spitting on Him, and slapping Him (Matthew 26:67, 27:26). Yet, after His death they would have shown due respect to His dead body—just as we still will put someone to death, but nevertheless afterwards bury their body respectfully.

These are just a few examples of how skeptics of the Bible have been proven wrong again and again by the actual archaeological and historical evidence. It illustrates what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”*

Pastor Kevin Vogts



### **Sunday Sermons for March**

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our website at [www.trinitylcms.org/sermons](http://www.trinitylcms.org/sermons); as podcasts in the iTunes store by searching for “Rev. Kevin Vogts”; and printed copies of that day’s sermon and several of the most recent sermons are available in the Gathering Room.

March 3

*“The Mountain Peek”*

*Luke 9:28-36*

March 10

*“Satan’s Temptation Triangle”*

*Luke 4:1-13*



## **2019 Lent Services** **Wednesdays, 7:00pm** **Lenten Suppers Before Services**

March 6 – Ash Wednesday

**“Clanking Coins,” “Kissing,”  
“Lying” & “Crowing Rooster”**

March 13 – Lent Service II

**“Slapping,” “Beating”  
& “Taunting”**

March 20 – Lent Service III

**“Flogging,” “Mocking”  
& “Spitting”**

March 27 – Lent Service IV

**“Washing Hands” &  
“Cross Scraping on Back”**

April 3 – Lent Service V

**“Sneering” & “Weeping”**

April 10 – Lent Service VI

**“Pounding Hammer,”  
“Spurting Water and Blood”  
& “Confessing”**

April 14 – Palm Sunday

**“Donkey’s Hoofs,”  
“Cheering Crowds,”  
& “Jeering Crowds”**

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

**“Singing,” “Breaking Bread”  
& “Pouring Wine”**

April 19 – Good Friday

**“Dice” & “Death Cry”**

April 21 (Easter Sunday)

**“The Rolling Stone”**

March 17  
"Our Citizenship Is in Heaven"  
Philippians 3:20

March 24  
"Crossing the Red Sea:  
A Symbol of Holy Baptism"  
1 Corinthians 10:1-2

March 31  
"The Parable of the Sinful Sons"  
Luke 15:11-32



*Liliana Christine Peckman*

Daughter of Nathan William Peckman  
& Journey Elizabeth Capettini Peckman

Born November 26, 2018  
Baptized February 10, 2019

*"Let the little children come to Me,  
and do not hinder them, for the  
kingdom of God belongs to such as  
these. I tell you the truth, anyone who  
will not receive the kingdom of God  
like a little child will never enter it."  
(Mark 10:14-15)*



**Lent Begins March 6**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Services that evening and each Wednesday throughout Lent will be at 7:00pm, with a Lenten Supper before each service.

The Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion and Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held on April 18 and 19 at 7:00pm.

The theme for this year's Lent services is *The Sounds of Lent*, meditating each week on several sounds from the familiar Lenten story, such as the donkey's hoofs, crowing rooster, flogging, slapping, jeering crowds, and pounding hammer. The sermon series will conclude on Easter Sunday with the sound of "The Rolling Stone."



Trinity Youth invites you to a Lenten soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on March 6. Proceeds will be used to help fund youth activities.

Other dates for Lenten services and dinners are March 13, served by Twin Valley 4-H; and March 20, with Generations serving a potato bar. Volunteers are still needed for March 27 and April 3 & 10. Check the bulletin for the hosting groups and menus. Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!

**Nursing  
Home  
Services  
March 17**



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on March 17. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at Country Club Estates and then go to Vintage Park for the second service.

The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a faithful few members who help but we could use your help too!



Do you like chili? Do you enjoy playing cards? The Fellowship Committee is hosting a Chili Contest & Card Party for the entire congregation after worship on Sunday, March 17!

Everyone who wants to participate in the chili contest is asked to bring a pot (or crock pot) of your favorite recipe. Other soups are also welcome! You do not need to have your soup or chili judged if you prefer not to. Other items such as crackers, cheese, relishes, other soups, and desserts are also welcome!

Following lunch we will have a card party. Bring along your cards, and board games or other activities for your kids! For more information see Gayle Plummer.



**Lent Devotional  
Booklets**

Devotional booklets for Lent from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the large literature rack in the South Lobby. Use these devotions to help you draw nearer to your Savior this Lenten season as you ponder His suffering for your salvation!



## 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.

- March 1 ..... Devan Boydston
- March 1 ..... Vera Kaiser
- March 1 ..... Guylene Klein
- March 1 ..... Johnny Prothe
- March 1 ..... Dave Trickett
- March 2 ..... Lance Elliott
- March 3 ..... Justin Hieber
- March 3 ..... Addison Kettler
- March 5 ..... Lorranda Baldrige
- March 5 ..... Billy Green
- March 5 ..... Joshua Pemberton
- March 5 ..... Aaron Maisch
- March 6 ..... Gary Prothe
- March 6 ..... Sandra Schultz
- March 7 ..... Andrew Thompson
- March 7 ..... Jackie Thompson-Dillon
- March 8 ..... Megan Prothe
- March 9 ..... Faith Ordonez
- March 10 ..... Jim Mueller
- March 11 ..... Diana Deering
- March 12 ..... Dylan Shoemaker
- March 13 ..... Karen Garrison
- March 14 ..... Darrel Rodewald
- March 15 ..... Allyssa Henry
- March 15 ..... Jacob Henry
- March 15 ..... Kyle Kettler
- March 15 ..... Judy Parks
- March 15 ..... Randy Rausch
- March 17 ..... Steve Cook
- March 17 ..... Breanna Prothe
- March 17 ..... Marcia Raines
- March 17 ..... Roger Smith
- March 17 ..... Robyn Weatherbie
- March 17 ..... Emersyn Chapman
- March 18 ..... Johnny Grother
- March 18 ..... Jennifer Rethman
- March 18 ..... Chris Smith
- March 19 ..... Jordan Harper
- March 20 ..... Paul Haley
- March 21 ..... Rusty Morton
- March 21 ..... Harry Stubbs
- March 21 ..... Becky Stutzman
- March 23 ..... Arnold Debrick
- March 23 ..... Karla Debrick
- March 23 ..... Elizabeth Kettler
- March 23 ..... John Schlegel Jr.
- March 25 ..... Laura Prothe
- March 26 ..... Loren Windler

# Holy Week & Easter Schedule

## Maundy Thursday Service

with Holy Communion  
Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm



## Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 19, 7:00pm

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20, 10:00am  
On Shelter House Grounds  
Sponsored by Twin Valley 4-H  
All Children Invited!



## Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 21, 7:00am  
Second Easter Service at 10:00am  
Both Services Include Holy Communion  
and Same Easter Message

## Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, April 21  
8:00am  
Sponsored by Generations



## All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

- March 28 ..... Joyce Brown
- March 28 ..... Zach Holtz
- March 28 ..... Justine Prothe
- March 28 ..... Tyler Tesar
- March 29 ..... Wilda Bunch
- March 29 ..... Lauren Wood
- March 31 ..... Alvin Thoden
- Mar 6 ..... Steve & Bobbi Debrick (20)

- Mar 7 ..... Dave & Suzie Prothe (27)
- Mar 9 ..... Rich & Sally Wood (28)
- Mar 10 ..... Jim & Shelisa Mueller (40)
- Mar 14 ..... Ryan & Brianna Hoden (4)
- Mar 20 ..... Mike & Linda Giager (33)
- Mar 21 . Sean & Robyn Weatherbie (21)
- Mar 28 ..... Tom & Nancy Green (40)
- Mar 28 ..... Arlin & Venita Prothe (54)



## 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.

March 3

Joel & Krista Young  
Ethiopia

March 10

Rev. Roy & Eliza Askins  
Taiwan

March 17

Erin Mackenzie  
Dominican Republic

March 24

Rev. Andrew & Kelsey Schlund  
Mexico

March 31

Mark & Megan Mantey  
Uganda

## Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

If you have a qualifying Thrivent product you have until March 31st to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars from previous year. Product eligibility requirement include \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products or \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products such as annuities and various life insurance products.



## Chili Contest & Card Party

Sunday, March 17  
After Worship



To Participate in Chili Contest Bring Pot (or Crock Pot) of Your Favorite Recipe — Other Soups Welcome!

*(Do Not Need to Have Chili or Soup Judged if You Prefer Not)*

Crackers, Cheese, Relishes, and Desserts Also Welcome!

Card Party Following Lunch — Bring Cards and Board Games or Other Activities for Your Kids

For More Information See Gayle Plummer

Thrivent Choice Dollars can be designated to Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola, which is already an established selection or any other charitable organization of your choice. You can log in to your Thrivent account and designate your "Choice Dollars" online or call toll-free 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. For more information or questions please contact Karen Windler or Phyllis Trickett.



## After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2019? Most of the year remains open! Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

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. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

March 3

Jan Minden

March 10

Brigetta Rodewald

March 17

Chili Contest & Card Party

March 24

Need Volunteers

March 31

Kyle & Pamela

## 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!