

# Trinity Tribune JUNE

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2019

## JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN

1 THESS 5:16-18

REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS

The national Convention of our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is held every three years. This year it will be in Tampa, Florida, from July 20-25.

To maintain a democratic balance between laity and clergy, each local Circuit of congregations is represented by two delegates, one pastor and one layperson, resulting in about 1,200 voting delegates. This year our Circuit's pastoral delegate is Rev. Andy Keltner from Louisburg, our lay delegate is Louis Bruns from Gardner.

The theme for the Convention this year is "Joy:Fully Lutheran," based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Therefore, to be fully Lutheran is to be full of joy—"Joy:Fully Lutheran"!

This inspiring excerpt is from the President's Report to the Convention by Rev. Matthew Harrison, current LCMS President.

### How Can We Speak of Joy?

Our LCMS convention will take place in a year of temporal turmoil in our nation and the world. National politics is unendingly rancorous and crude. Soundbite slander is the rule of the day. Antagonism toward Christianity continues to rise. The vilest forms of religion (like Satanism) are on the ascent. Christianity in the United States is on the decline. Scandals in some church bodies shake smear all denominations with

anti-Christian sentiment and bigotry. The nation is deeply divided. There is no need to mention well known international challenges, which often affect our partners around the world, harass our missionaries, and (in the case of militant Islam) threaten their safety. How can we speak of joy?

### No Surprise

First, let us not be surprised. We are in the "little season" (Revelation 20:3). "For the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" (Revelation 12:12). The number of the martyrs has not yet been fulfilled. "Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been" (Revelation 6:11).

**Jesus is the key to joy.  
Jesus is our source of joy.  
Jesus is our anchor of hope.  
Jesus is our joy!**

Satan has been "cast down" (Revelation 12:9) by the death and resurrection of Jesus! But he is "loosed for a little season" (Revelation 20:3) to cause havoc, even as the times are lengthened for God's purpose of bringing the Gospel to the world. The full number of believers shall come into the Church! What privilege it is that we, sinners that we are, are among God's tools to accomplish this! Wow!

### Jesus' Promise

Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by Me" (John 14:6). Jesus Himself told us it would be rough for the Church in the last days!

**God grant us an extra measure of His Holy Spirit so that we, too, may confess Christ before the world and rejoice, come what may!**

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:9-14)

And more important, Jesus also gave a promise, as true for us as it was when He spoke it to His Apostles: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). And our mission is VERY clear. "This Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world." (Matthew 24:14). This is why the Church still exists. This is why the LCMS exists.

### Joy in the Midst of All That?

In the midst of all the trials and tribulations the Church faces, Jesus promises, over and again, joy! This was promised by Jesus to His Apostles, and it's also our promise. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). The Apostle John, likewise, promised joy to all who believed the

apostolic message about Jesus and were grafted into the fellowship of the Church thereby:

*"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."* (1 John 1:3-4)

### **"Joy:Fully Lutheran"**

Jesus is the key to joy. Jesus is our source of joy. Jesus is our anchor of hope. Jesus is our consolation in the face of Satan and his fury! Jesus is our joy!

Saying that we ought to be "Joy:Fully Lutheran" doesn't mean that there's not joy (eternal life) outside orthodox Lutheranism. There is salvation and joy wherever Jesus' Word of free forgiveness through His cross and resurrection is present and believed!

Nevertheless, I am convinced that orthodox Lutheranism is the best thing going! Why? It's the clearest and most comforting refuge for sinners there is. It's all about Jesus. Knowing ever more firmly the basics—the Bible, the Catechism—we shall be fortified against all that the devil, the world, and the flesh can throw against us in these last days.

## **Trinity Tribune**

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*"And when they had called in the Apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus."* (Acts 5:40-42)

God grant us an extra measure of His Holy Spirit so that we, too, may confess Christ before the world and rejoice, come what may!

Rev. Matthew Harrison, President  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



### **Sermons for June**

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.

June 2—Ascension Sunday  
*"Jesus' Exit Strategy"*  
Luke 24:46-48

June 9—Pentecost Sunday  
*"My Peace I Give You!"*  
John 14:27

June 16—Trinity Sunday & Father's Day  
*"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"*  
Galatians 3:26-27

June 23  
*"Hallowed Be Thy Name"*  
Luke 11:2

June 30  
*"Thy Kingdom Come"*  
Luke 10:18



### **New Bible Class Begins June 9**

Why do Roman Catholics have more books in their Bibles than Protestants? What about the "lost" books of the Bible we hear about in the news?

We'll look at these questions and more beginning Sunday, June 9 with a new study in Adult Bible Class, *Bible 101: An Introduction to Understanding the Bible*. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room!



### **United in Christ**

*JeriLynn (Troyer)  
& Alexander Brack  
United in Christian Marriage  
May 25, 2019*

*Kaelah (McMullin)  
& Quentin Garrison  
United in Christian Marriage  
June 8, 2019*

*"And the two shall become one."  
Matthew 19:5*

## Nursing Home Services June 16



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on Sunday, June 16. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along!



## Sight & Sound Theater

Tickets have been purchased for those who signed up for the show Samson at the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson on Saturday, June 22. You can repay Pastor Vogts, \$46 per adult, \$22 for children ages 3-12. You will be contacted about carpooling arrangements.



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.

June 2

*Rev. Micah & Robin Wildauer*  
Togo

June 9

*Rev. Herb & Markie Burch*  
Belize

June 16

*Rev. Edward & Monica Naumann*  
Madagascar (See Story Page 4)

June 23

*Rev. David & Joyce Erber*  
Ghana

June 30

*Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg*  
Sri Lanka (See Story Page 4)



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.

June 1 ..... Kelsey Davis  
 June 1 ..... Sara Slack  
 June 1 ..... Michele Prothe  
 June 1 ..... Minna Meyer  
 June 2 ..... David Koelsch  
 June 4 ..... Arlin Prothe  
 June 4 ..... Jamey Kaiser  
 June 5 ..... Samantha Ferrell  
 June 5 ..... Linda Prothe  
 June 5 ..... Lance Stewart  
 June 6 ..... Rhonda Kerr  
 June 7 ..... Kendra Fuller  
 June 9 ..... Kendra Woodrow  
 June 10 ..... Madison Wood  
 June 13 ..... Ed Reyelts  
 June 13 ..... Augustus Prothe  
 June 14 ..... Chris Carstens  
 June 14 ..... Ethan Debrick  
 June 14 ..... Leland Prothe  
 June 15 ..... Kathy Hall  
 June 15 ..... Kevin Prothe  
 June 16 ..... Michelle Jones  
 June 17 ..... Bailey Kaiser  
 June 18 ..... Theresa Kettler  
 June 19 ..... Richard Honn  
 June 20 ..... Paul Brack  
 June 20 ..... Judy Minden

June 21 ..... Kim House  
 June 21 ..... Jon Wendte  
 June 22 ..... Greg Brandt  
 June 22 ..... Beth Curry  
 June 22 ..... Vernon Prothe  
 June 22 ..... Jacob Vogts  
 June 24 ..... Tina Edwards  
 June 25 ..... Beth Herrs  
 June 25 ..... Rich Wood  
 June 26 ..... Kyia Fuller  
 June 26 ..... Donna Prothe  
 June 26 ..... Allison Wood  
 June 27 ..... George Holtz  
 June 29 ..... Devin Bruce  
 June 26 ..... Betty Cline  
 June 30 ..... Garry Block  
 June 3 ... Emerson & Wilda Bunch (63)  
 June 4 ... James & Rhonda Prothe (14)  
 June 9 ..... Jeff & Jamie Ennett (17)  
 June 9 ..... Dave & Phyllis Trickett (52)  
 June 10 ..... Chris & Lana Kettler (41)  
 June 10 ... Rolland & Betty Prothe (47)  
 June 11 ... Bruce & Gale Nowasell (31)  
 June 13 ..... Rick & Connie Holte (21)  
 June 14 ..... Jim & Sharon Prothe (39)  
 June 16 ..... Mike & Susan Schmitt (2)  
 June 18 .. David & Lorranda Baldrige (14)  
 June 19 ..... Brian & Erin Meyer (15)  
 June 22 ..... Clint & Michelle Haley (17)  
 June 25 ..... George & Nancy Honn (31)  
 June 28 ... Loren & Barbara Herrs (50)



## After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? The last two Sundays of June and most of the summer remains open!

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!

June 2

*Lisa Shannon*

June 9

*Sharon & Gladys Prothe*

June 16

*Michelle Haley*

June 23 & 30

*Need Volunteers*





## Outdoor Worship & Picnic Potluck July 7

We will celebrate Independence Day at an outdoor Service in the Shelter House on Sunday, July 7, at the regular time of 10:00am. The special order of worship will include favorite patriotic songs and a children's sermon.

Following the service there will be a potluck picnic lunch for those who wish to stay. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert. Drinks and table service will be provided. This is a great opportunity to invite family, neighbors, friends, and holiday visitors for worship! All invited—everyone welcome!



*On Easter Sunday, April 21, over 250 people were killed in a series of suicide bombings in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka. Shortly thereafter, Rev. Steven Mahlburg, who with his wife Martha serves as an LCMS missionary in Sri Lanka, wrote the following update.*

On Easter Sunday, our family gathered with three congregations at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church located in the Sri Lankan mountains. Rev. Nadaraja conducted the service; Evangelist Anton assisted; I preached about the resurrection of our Lord.

During this service, we rejoiced as God raised three souls to new life in the waters of Holy Baptism. We thanked God as six baptized children of God confessed their faith in Jesus Christ and were confirmed.



**Rev. Steven Mahlburg, right, is introduced to residents of the Eila rubber plantation in the Sabaragamuwa Province of Sri Lanka. We give thanks to God that Mahlburg, his family, and fellow LCMS missionaries in Sri Lanka were unharmed in the bombings that occurred in Sri Lanka this year on Easter Sunday.**

After the service concluded, we learned of the terrorist attacks against three Christian churches and three luxury hotels. Rev. Nadaraja called the worshipers back together to pray for the victims and for the country. We were shocked and saddened by the terrible news.

I made several phone calls and learned that our fellow missionaries, Rev. Edward & Monica Naumann, were unharmed. I also learned that all of our partner church congregations, mission stations, pastors, and evangelists were unharmed as well. Praise be to God.

At the advice of several local people, we decided not to return home to Colombo on Sunday. Later, the government imposed a curfew that would have prevented us from returning.

Monday morning, they lifted the curfew, and we returned to Colombo with no problems. We were thankful to find that our apartment complex had implemented extra security measures. Sadly, we learned that one of our children's friends from school was at a hotels that was attacked, and he was among the fatalities. Lord, have mercy!

All schools and universities were cancelled the week after Easter. Our children's school is closed until further notice as they implement new safety protocols.

The country is on high alert. Social media is blocked. Traffic in Colombo is lighter than normal. Many shops and restaurants have closed or have shortened hours. We have stayed in our apartment as much as possible.

It is clear that this attack was mainly directed at Christians at a time that the churches would have been full. Satan was behind these attacks.

During my Easter morning sermon I had proclaimed: *"The devil and the demons tried to stop Jesus. When Jesus hung on the cross dead, He looked defeated. Looks are deceiving. When Jesus hung on the cross dead, He had defeated Satan and the evil spirits. Jesus rose from the dead."*

This terrorist attack may seem like a defeat, but Jesus rose from the dead and has given us the victory. All those martyred Christians are with Jesus in heaven and will be raised on the last day. For, Jesus promised, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25-26).

Please pray for the injured and the mourning. Pray for Sri Lanka. Pray for the terrorists. Pray for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all your prayers, concern, and support for our outreach to the people of Sri Lanka!