

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2019  
SEPTEMBER



The church is near,  
but the road is icy;  
The bar is far,  
but we will walk carefully.

That old Russian proverb humorously expresses the sinful tendency we humans have to prioritize other activities and events over worship in the Lord's house. Some churches have decided the solution to people preferring the bar over the church is the turn the church *into* the bar.

This summer several English cathedrals have installed carnival attractions *inside* their grand medieval sanctuaries, including a miniature golf course at Rochester Cathedral, and a five-story carnival slide at Norwich Cathedral. They are holding services in the midst of these amusements—with a sermon even being preached from the top of the slide.

Because these buildings are also national monuments, in response to widespread criticism for them being used this way the Church of England cited declining church attendance, and the desperate need for them to somehow, someway attract people to church, by any means necessary.

A similar example in our own area last year was a "mega-church" in northern Kansas City that advertised "A Beatles Christmas" and invited people to "Celebrate Christmas Eve with the Music of the Beatles."

It's hard to figure exactly what music that would be. For, although the Beatles did issue several commemorative 45 rpm singles as Christmas gifts for their fan club, they never included or performed any songs related to the real "reason for the season," the birth of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of such gimmicks is to attract people into order to preserve or enlarge the church *as an institution*. But, exactly what kind of "church" do you get with miniature golf, carnival slides, and the Beatles on Christmas Eve?



**Throughout this summer a five-story carnival slide fills the gothic sanctuary of Norwich Cathedral in England—a desperate attempt to do *something* to attract people to the declining Church of England. Though most all citizens are "members" by default, only about 2% attend worship services.**

The Apostle Paul writes, "*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men*" (1 Corinthians 15:19). In the same way,

if a "church" degenerates into merely a human institution, a social club, or another kind of "bar" as the Russian proverb says, what's the *point* of preserving the church or attracting people to it?

Jesus declares, "*True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks*" (John 4:23). The phrase "in spirit" could also be translated "spiritual."

The church is indeed a place of earthly fellowship, and fun events and social activities such as this month's Blocktoberfest *do* indeed have a proper place for the family of God, as we see from Jesus Himself attending the wedding feast at Cana and even turning water into wine for the festivities (John 2:1-11).

However, the church's priority must always be something above and beyond what any human institution, social club, or bar can offer—imparting *spiritual* comfort, help, and strength. The church's proper role in caring for the spiritual needs of human souls is seen in Paul's beautiful descriptions of Christian worship:

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God"* (Colossians 3:15-16);

*"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, sing and make music in your heart to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:19).

Don't those majestic images of Christian worship make celebrating Christmas Eve with the music of the Beatles or preaching from the top of a carnival slide seem awfully silly—and pointless?

The Formula of Concord of the Lutheran Church puts it this way: *“The churches of God in every locality and every age have authority to change such worship ceremonies according to circumstances, as may be most useful and edifying. . . Nevertheless, in this matter all frivolity and offenses should be avoided”* (Article X).



**At Rochester Cathedral this summer the enormous sanctuary completed in 1238 A.D. has been completely taken over by a miniature golf course.**

Actually, the real reason why many churches are declining is seen in the second part of Jesus’ formula for true Christian worship: *“God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24).

## Trinity Tribune

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Turning the church into a type of bar, or other mere social club, carnival, or other human institution, isn’t the solution but the problem. As historian Thomas C. Reeves explains in his book *The Empty Church: The Suicide of Liberal Christianity*:

*“Weigh the benefits: Sunday with the family at the beach or in church listening to a sermon on AIDS; working for overtime wages or enduring pious generalities about ‘dialoguing,’ ‘inclusiveness,’ and ‘sharing and caring’; studying for exams or hearing that the consolations and promises of the Bible are not ‘really’ or ‘literally’ true. . . Liberal Protestantism has succeeded in making itself dispensable.”*

To be faithful to our calling as a church we must offer what is unique to the Christian Church, something the world can’t ever provide: *“worship in spirit and in truth.”* That is the only formula for the Church to have true “success” in the sight of God.

Instead of the lackadaisical attitude toward Christian worship expressed in the Russian proverb, set your heart with the point of view expressed in Psalms 122:1 and 84:10: *“I rejoiced with those who said unto me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’ . . . Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”*

Pastor Kevin Vogts

## Sermons for September

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.

September 1  
*“Your Sins Are Forgiven”*  
*Luke 7:36-8:3*

September 8  
*“Two Stories About Salvation”*  
*Luke 14:25-33*

September 15  
*“‘Holier Than Thou’ or  
‘A Tale of Two Men’”*  
*Luke 18:9-14*

September 22 (Blocktoberfest)  
*“The Parable of the  
Faithful Servants”*  
*Luke 19:1-27*

September 29  
*“Fight the Good Fight”*  
*1 Timothy 6:12*



## Historic Clock Donated

Check out the clock in the Heritage Room, crafted in 1972 by former Trinity Lutheran School teacher Jack Wiederhold, using wood salvaged from the altar in Trinity’s 1884 sanctuary.

On the back of the clock is an original pencil inscription of August 6, 1884, likely the date the altar was installed. This historic clock was donated to Trinity for use in our Heritage Room by Jack and Marian during their recent visit (see picture page 3).



# September

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not be 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.

- September 1 ..... Noel Wendte
- September 2 ..... Mary Ann Green
- September 2 ..... Gladys Prothe
- September 3 ..... Shane Honn
- September 3 ..... Rebecca Hurst
- September 3 ..... Ron Raines
- September 4 ..... Lance Belsanti
- September 4 ..... Mary Ann Maisch
- September 4 ..... Dennis Peckman
- September 4 ..... Steve Windler
- September 4 ..... Sarah Vogts
- September 5 ..... Dena Kaiser
- September 6 ..... Emerson Bunch
- September 6 ..... David Gatlin
- September 6 ..... Les Jones
- September 6 ..... Gay Stubbs
- September 7 ..... Cindy Belsanti
- September 7 ..... Teri Minden
- September 8 ..... Tore Smithhisler
- September 8 ..... Lloyd Ohlmeier
- September 10 ..... John Henry
- September 10 ..... Evan Kettler
- September 10 ..... Nickolas Davis
- September 11 ..... Connie Barnett
- September 11 ..... Gary Peckman
- September 11 ..... Kristie Weaver
- September 11 ..... Carol Wray
- September 12 ..... Casey Maisch
- September 12 ..... Pam Thompson
- September 13 ..... Donald Smithhisler
- September 13 ..... Sally Wood
- September 15 ..... Aaron Prothe
- September 16 ..... Conni Holte
- September 18 ..... Grant Haley
- September 18 ..... Anna Peckman
- September 18 ..... Skyler Prothe
- September 18 ..... Liam Simonson
- September 18 ..... Josslyn Fuller
- September 19 ..... Rolland Prothe
- September 21 ..... Katie Lindsey
- September 22 ..... Sarah Reyelts
- September 22 ..... Jackson Lester
- September 23 ..... Karen Brack
- September 23 ..... Weston Davis
- September 23 ..... Lindsey Ramsey



These are some of the Trinity members who welcomed former Trinity Lutheran School teachers Jack and Marian Wiederhold when they visited on August 12. They donated an historic clock for our Heritage Room (see page 2) and sent this thank you: *"Thank you to everyone for your wonderful hospitality during our visit to Block! It was a delight to see so many of our friends from our time in Block in the 1970's. And it was so good to see the way Block has kept its church and property so beautiful through the years! The new Shelter House where the school once stood is a wonderful remembrance of the school where we taught, and the recent additions and improvements to the church building are impressive. Thank you also for lunch at Spudley's and the people who joined us there to share old memories and renew old friendships. God's blessings on the work you do at Trinity."*

- September 23 ..... Amanda West
- September 24 ..... Dawson Bruce
- September 24 ..... Kevin Debrick
- September 25 ..... Jennifer Boydston
- September 25 ..... Olivia Mitchell
- September 25 ..... Ginny Peckman
- September 27 ..... Scott Golubski
- September 27 ..... Geraldine Holtz
- September 27 ..... Ryan Holloman
- September 27 ..... Leslie Thoden
- September 28 ..... Kaiden Armstrong
- September 28 ..... Margie Monthey
- September 29 ..... Kathy Korsten
- September 29 ..... Mary Shay
- September 30 ..... Gale Nowasell
- Sept 5 ..... Jerry & Reita Woodall (65)
- Sept 7 ..... Jason & Sacred Davis (23)
- Sept 8 ..... Jamey & Dena Kaiser (12)
- Sept 11 James & Shannon Fanning (20)
- Sept 12 Dennis & Norma Peckman (65)
- Sept 13 . Johnny & Sharon Grother (55)
- Sept 15 ..... Ray & Janet England (57)
- Sept 17 .... Kerry & Carole Brandt (36)
- Sept 18 ..... Paul & Kathy Haley (43)
- Sept 19 ..... Randy & Helen Maisch (22)
- Sept 21 .. Ryan & Tamara Mitchell (23)
- Sept 25 .... Kelly & Valerie Gerken (43)
- Sept 28 ..... Gary & Rose Peckman (34)



## After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? 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!

September 1  
Phyllis Trickett

September 8  
Nancy Golubski

September 15  
Terry Vogts

September 22  
Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service  
& BBQ Lunch

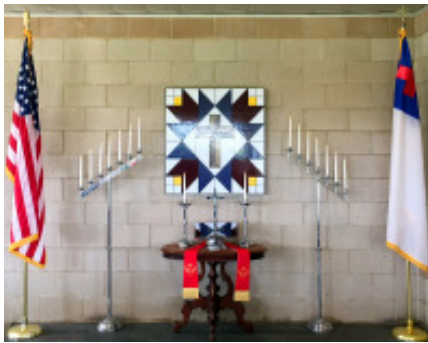
September 29  
Lisa Shannon



## **Blocktoberfest Dinner Donations**

It's time again to prepare for Blocktoberfest! The Trinity Youth are seeking donations from all our wonderful supporters. We need German potato salad and several desserts (pie, cobbler, strudel, etc.) to make a successful event!

There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church, if you'd like to help! We will provide disposable pans and lids along with the bacon for the potato salad. Thank you for your support!



## **Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service & BBQ Lunch September 22**

On Sunday morning, September 22, we will again have our "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House, at our regular worship time of 10:00am. The message will be "*The Parable of the Faithful Servants*" based on Luke 19:1-27. Following the service there will again be a free BBQ lunch provided for everyone by the Blocktoberfest Committee.



## **New Choir Season Begins**

Thank you to Kathy Peckman for agreeing to return serving as our choir director! We sing for God and you! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, starting on September 4 at 7:00pm.

Everyone is invited to help make a joyful noise to the Lord—come join the fun and fellowship! Contact Kathy for more information or questions.

## **"Heritage Sunday" with Church & Cemetery Rededication and Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner October 20**



Everyone enjoyed so much worshipping with *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941 for our 150th Anniversary Sunday last year that we are going to make it an annual tradition! This year our "Heritage Sunday" will be on October 20.

We have in storage several hundred copies of *The Lutheran Hymnal* in excellent condition. We'll pass them out at the door, or if you have a copy you received for Confirmation, or perhaps you inherited from your parents or grandparents, you're welcome to bring it along!

All of the hymns and liturgy that Sunday will be from *The Lutheran Hymnal*. Since it is our first extra "third Sunday" Communion for the fall and winter, the order of service will be the familiar "Page 15."

At the end of the service we will hold a brief rite of rededication for both our church building and cemetery, giving thanks that we were spared greater damage in the tornado, and that we were able to beautifully restore everything.

Following the worship service everyone is invited to stay and enjoy our annual Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner & Bazaar.



## **New Theater Restaurant in March**

The New Theater Restaurant in Overland Park is repeating the classic musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* next spring. Starring Cindy Williams from "Laverne and Shirley," and actually based on the bestselling book *Growing Up Lutheran*, you will laugh, you will cry, you will remember those good old days and our own beloved "Church Basement Ladies"!

If we get eight or more the group rate for the Saturday matinee at noon on March 21, 2020 is only \$33, including a delicious dinner and the show (same price adult or child). Rated "G" and great for the whole family—kids will love it too!

Church groups come from all over the Midwest for this favorite show and tickets are already going fast so we have to sign up now. If you are interested please sign up on the sheet on the counter in the Gathering Room by Sunday, September 15. No need to pay until the performance. We will plan on arranging carpooling for those who wish to ride together, or may not wish to drive in the city or at night. See Pastor Vogts for any questions.

## Volunteers Needed for Pastors Lunch September 17

Trinity will be hosting the first monthly meeting for 2019-20 of the pastors in our Johnson-Miami County Circuit on Tuesday, September 17. (We don't meet over the summer and the meeting here was postponed from last May due to a scheduling conflict for some pastors with another event.)

If you could help serve lunch on September 17 and/or provide a dessert please sign up on the counter in the Gathering Room. For questions see Pastor Vogts.



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're looking at these questions and more with our current study in Adult Bible Class, *Bible 101: An Introduction to Understanding the Bible*. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room!

## Nursing Home Services

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on Sunday, September 8. 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.

## Missionaries of the Month

This month's Missionaries of the Month are all new to the mission field, having just been appointed for service. You are encouraged to remember in prayers these and our other missionaries around the world who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

September 1  
*Chelsea Irwin*  
Czech Republic



Chelsea Irwin will deploy to the Czech Republic. She will be based in Bohumín while serving the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. Irwin will assist with youth group and Sunday school leadership and use her musical skills to accompany worship. She will also teach English to elementary students in local public schools. Irwin, who just graduated from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, has served the past ten years as a counselor at a middle-school summer camp in Poland, teaching English, Bible and music classes. She will continue teaching these camps during her summers of missionary service.



September 8  
*Phillip Magness*  
Togo

Phillip Magness will serve as a half-time music specialist in French-speaking countries in West and Central Africa. He will provide instruction in musical composition, Lutheran hymnody and liturgy at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Togo, West Africa. He will also travel regionally to lead music seminars and advise the LCMS partner church in Ghana on their new

hymnal project. Magness is a composer and musician who also serves half-time as director of worship at Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, Missouri.

September 15  
*Rev. Walter &  
Robyn Steele*  
Kenya



Rev. Dr. Walter and Robyn Steele will serve in Kenya, where Walter will teach at Matongo Lutheran Theological College. A Navy chaplain for 16 years, he has served three LCMS congregations and previously taught in Africa in a short-term position at Jonathan Ekong Memorial Seminary in Nigeria.



September 22  
*Ashley Lehr*  
Puerto Rico

Ashley Lehr will serve in Puerto Rico as an English and communications specialist. She will be stationed in Mayaguez, the Puerto Rican municipality that sustained the most damage during Hurricane Maria in 2017. She will teach English and music classes, assist short-term mission teams that come to the region, and help the region with communications. Lehr recently graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and has gone on two short-term mission trips previously, to Haiti and Guatemala.

September 29  
*Rev. Vance &  
Linda Becker*  
Kenya



The Rev. Vance and Linda Becker are also going to Kenya. Vance will teach at Matongo Lutheran Theological College, and Linda will work with adults, children and deaconesses. Vance was previously pastor of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in North Mankato, Minnesota. He has taught in Africa before, leading courses at the Lutheran Theological Institute in South Sudan.

# MISSION NEWS

Concordia Seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic has been a busy place over the past months, with several large, exciting, back-to-back events.

Pastors, church workers, deaconesses, and others from across Latin America gathered at the seminary for the second annual Lutheran theological symposium. Over seventy participants from nineteen countries were in attendance, including first-time representatives from Cuba, Peru, and Costa Rica, as well as guests from 13 LCMS partner churches in Latin America.

Also in attendance were representatives from the LCMS International Center, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary St. Louis. The standing room only event included theological presentations centered around a theme very appropriate for many Latin American nations: "The Consolation of God's People in the Midst of Suffering."



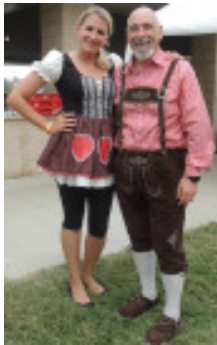
Last May eight men were in the first graduating class of Concordia Seminary in the Dominican Republic.

Wrapping up the week of events, guests moved to an outdoor venue, a large tent adjacent to the seminary, for the thrilling highlight of the conference. A joyous worship service celebrated the first graduating class of Concordia Seminary! Eight faithful men from four countries, Bolivia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, received their diplomas, evidence of years of hard work, study, and dedication. Though the rain was steady throughout the evening, it had no effect on the smiles, hugs, congratulations and tears of joy on the faces of the graduates, the professors, the families and special guests. Thanks be to God for this new Concordia Seminary, the professors, the students, and the first graduating class!



## Trinity's Seventh Annual

# Blocktoberfest



**Saturday, September 21  
Noon–6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service  
Sunday, September 22, 10:00am  
In the Shelter House**

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

