

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



2020

*From the
Pastor*



The Stirring Story of "Jesus Loves Me"

Anna Bartlett Warner was born on Long Island, New York in 1827. Her father Henry Warner was a prominent lawyer and real estate tycoon, one of the wealthiest men in America. Anna and her sister Susan lived the privileged life of New York's high society, with mansions, estates, and servants.

Though at the time few females received a formal education, their father was a progressive man who saw to it that Anna and Susan were well-educated, becoming fluent in French and Italian, studying mathematics and history, reading literary classics, and studying singing and dancing.

The Warner family's investments were totally wiped out by the "Panic of 1837" and the severe depression that followed. They lost their elegant townhouse in New York City and their grand estate on Long Island.

In 1836, their father had purchased a ramshackle Revolutionary War era farmhouse and land on Constitution Island, just across the Hudson River from West Point Military Academy, intending to tear down the farmhouse and build a new country estate, but he never got the chance before losing his fortune. Instead, the Warners were forced to move into

the old farmhouse. Poor Henry never recovered from the economic disaster. His spirit was broken, his health declined, and he soon passed away.



**Anna Bartlett Warner
1827-1915**

Anna and Susan found themselves in quite a predicament. Along with their former way of life, they had also lost their potential for a good marriage, and neither ever did marry. Now, with their father gone, no longer living in luxury and privilege, faced with unpaid bills and the need to buy food and other necessities, they had to make money to survive.

About the only jobs available for women was domestic work, but they were genteel ladies—they had no skills for such jobs, since they had never learned to cook and clean, because they were supposed to marry wealthy men and have houses filled with servants.

The sisters decided to put their education to good use. They began to write poetry and stories for publication. Susan's first book, *The Wide, Wide, World* became a surprise bestseller.

Anna and Susan were devout Christians, and in addition to earning a living with their writing, they also used the opportunity to witness to their Savior. Their poems, stories, and books always included a Christian theme and testimony, focusing on the saving love of Jesus. They were well-known "superstars" of their day, and their very popular books and publications had profound spiritual impact upon countless readers.

They also shared their faith every Sunday, when their home would be filled with cadets from West Point, who rowed over to their island for Sunday School classes taught for them by the sisters.

The two sisters collaborated on another book, *Say and Seal*, which also became a bestseller. One scene in the book tells of a Sunday School teacher coming to visit one of his young students, who is dying and frightened by the prospect of death.

Grief-stricken, the Sunday School teacher takes the boy in his arms, rocks him, and recites a poem to comfort him. In the dramatic climax of the story, these are the last words the little boy hears as he dies in the teacher's arms:

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong:
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast died and bled for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.*

*Jesus loves me! Loves me still,
Tho' I'm very weak and ill.
That I might from sin be free,
Bled and died upon the tree.*

*Jesus loves me! He who died,
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin.
Let His little child come in.*

These words might have faded into obscurity if William Bradbury hadn't read the novel. Bradbury was an influential force in American church music, who wrote, arranged, and published tunes for hundreds of popular hymns, including "Just As I Am, Without One Plea," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us."

Bradbury was struck by Anna's poem, and composed a childlike melody to set the poem to music. It was Bradbury who added to each verse in Anna's poem the simple chorus: "Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so." Obtaining Anna's permission, Bradbury published the hymn—and it quickly became the most popular children's hymn of all time.

The song was popular not just with children. During the Civil War, it was common to hear soldiers on both sides of the battlefield singing "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" around their campfires at night.

Because of its easy-to-learn tune, and simple, yet profound lyrics, this was often the first Christian song missionaries taught on their journeys, and was used by God for many conversions. In 1943 in the Solomon Islands, John F. Kennedy's PT-109 was rammed and sunk. Islanders Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana, who found Kennedy and the survivors, remember that when they rode on PT boats to

retrieve the survivors the Marines and the natives sang together "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know," which the natives had learned from missionaries.

Anna Warner entered eternal life in 1915—the same year Dwight D. Eisenhower graduated from West Point. He was one of the last cadets to attend their Sunday School classes! For over 75 years the sisters served as foster mothers for their "boys," the Academy cadets. West Point honored both Anna and Sarah by allowing them to be buried at the Academy cemetery, a very unusual exception and high honor.

The house their father planned to tear down is now a museum, to his famous daughters and especially the famous hymn written there, "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Anna wrote a detailed, month-by-month description of life on Constitution Island called *Gardening by Myself*, and following her descriptions the Constitution Island Association meticulously maintains the house and gardens just as they were during her lifetime.

Though for some reason not generally included in hymnals, the original third stanza of Anna Warner's poem beautifully expresses the truth found in Romans 8:28-39, that sufferings and struggles do not indicate God's anger, nor will they be able to separate us from God's love in Christ, but are rather God working all things together for our good—a lesson she learned herself when losing everything actually resulted in the greatest blessings in her life!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

Trinity Tribune

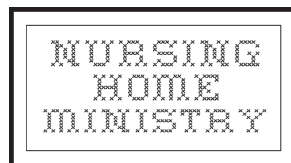
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February, 2020*



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on Sunday, February 16. 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.



FEBRUARY 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.

- February 2 Ashtin Armstrong
- February 4 Jodie Wood
- February 4 Leslie Vohs
- February 6 Kerry Brandt
- February 6 Tanna Jones
- February 6 Glenn Minden
- February 7 Stacey Elkinton
- February 7 Tyler Allen
- February 8 Karen Ohlmeier
- February 9 Daniel Wendte
- February 10 Darrell Brandt
- February 10 Terry Bunch
- February 10 Kathy Gerken
- February 11 Hannah Raines
- February 12 James Haley
- February 12 Mike Giager
- February 13 Valerie Gerken
- February 13 Logan Hendrickson
- February 18 Joey Stephens
- February 18 Stan Windler
- February 19 Debbie Windler
- February 20 Judy Kutz
- February 20 Angie Fickel
- February 20 Carolyn Warner
- February 21 Jeff Davis
- February 21 Marty Stutzman
- February 21 Jeri Brack
- February 25 Michelle Haley
- February 25 Curtis Hall
- February 25 Duane Rodewald
- February 26 Glenn Block
- February 26 Cate Minden
- February 27 Matthew Kriesel
- February 27 Reita Woodall
- February 28 Slina Prothe
- February 29 Austin Henry
- Feb 10 Curtis & Kristie Weaver (24)
- Feb 11 ... Lloyd & Karen Ohlmeier (58)
- Feb 13 Jeff & Windy Davis (27)
- Feb 15 Curtis & Jamie Hall (17)
- Feb 19 Michael & Katie Taylor (15)
- Feb 21 Ron & Marcia Raines (31)
- Feb 22 Kevin & Denise Debrick (28)
- Feb 22 Rick & Jill Druse (23)



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.

February 2

Deaconess Carol Halter
Hong Kong

February 9

Cindy Wrucke
Czech Republic

February 16

Rev. Brian & Amanda Gauthier
Panama

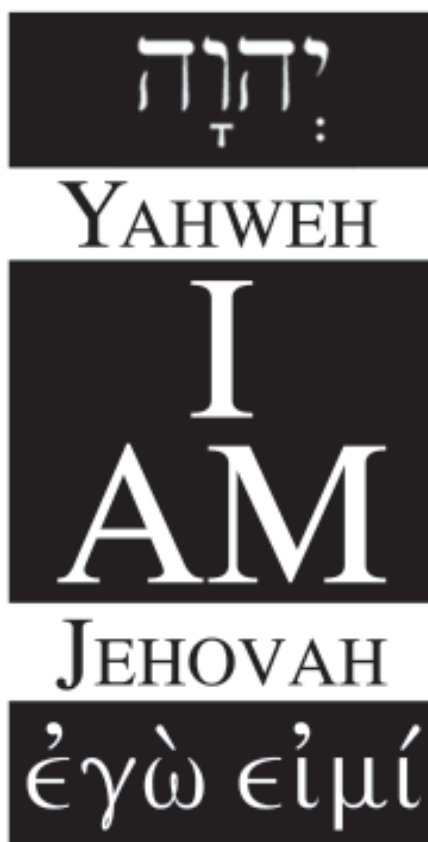
February 23

Rev. Jonathan & Anita Clausing
Tanzania

“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)



Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our website at www.trinitycms.org/sermons; as podcasts in the iTunes store by searching for “Rev. Kevin Vogts”;



Lenten Sunday & Holy Week Sermon Series on the “I AM” Statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John

March 1.....	“I AM” (John 8:58)
March 8.....	“I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6)
March 15.....	“I AM the Door” (John 10:9)
March 22.....	“I AM the Light of the World” (John 8:12)
March 29.....	“I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25)
April 5 (Palm Sunday).....	“I AM the True Vine” (John 15:1)
April 9 (Maundy Thursday).....	“I AM the Bread of Life” (John 6:35)
April 10 (Good Friday).....	“I AM the Good Shepherd” (John 10:10)

and printed copies of that day’s sermon and several of the most recent sermons are available in the Gathering Room.

February 2 (Presentation)

“The Lord Comes to His Temple”
Malachi 3:1-4

February 9

“What’s Your Righteousness Level?”
Matthew 5:20

February 16

“The Beatitudes”
Matthew 5:1-12

February 23 (Transfiguration)

“The Hidden Glory”
Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 (Ash Wednesday)

“Portraits of the Passion: Prayer and Arrest in Gethsemane”
Matthew 26:31-56



ASH Wednesday

Lent Begins February 26

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26. 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 Wednesday Lent services *Portraits of the Passion*, illustrating the Lenten story with projections of classic artworks from the collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum and Spencer Museum at the University of Kansas.

Lenten Suppers



We will once again enjoy Lenten Suppers before our Wednesday evening Lent services. Twin Valley 4-H invites you to a pizza supper before the Ash Wednesday service on February 26.

Other dates for Lenten services and dinners are March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Check the bulletin for the hosting groups and menus. Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2020? 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. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Thank you to all who provide snacks for Coffee Hour!

February 2
Ruth Gaffney

February 9
Lisa Shannon

February 16
Gayle Plummer

February 23
Need Volunteers

Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

If you have a Thrivent product, with the change of year it is a good time to check if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available that could be designated for our congregation or other charitable cause.

Just call toll-free at 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt, or log in to your account and designate your "Choice Dollars" online. The deadline is March 31 to request designation of Choice Dollars from the previous year. For more information contact Karen Windler.



Lennon Elizabeth Jonas, daughter of Jason Lee Jonas and Regan Elizabeth (Boyer) Jonas, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 18, 2020. *"Let the little children come unto Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as them"* (Matthew 19:14).

Holy Days and Holidays

Adult Bible Study

We've just enjoyed celebrating another round of the traditional Advent and Christmas seasons and are entering upon the seasons of Lent and Easter. But, how did our holidays get started? What do they all really *mean*?

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *Holy Days and Holidays*. We're looking at the background of the holidays we celebrate, and what, if any, Biblical basis and Christian significance they have. You may be surprised how many of the holidays that we now consider "secular" actually started as Christian holy days—even Groundhog Day!

Come join in Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Heritage Room for a fascinating look at *Holy Days and Holidays*!



"I AM" Sunday Sermon Series During Lent

Beginning on March 1 the sermon themes for Sundays during Lent and Holy Week services will be based on the famous "I AM" statements that Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospel of John:

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

The Door

The Light of the World

The Resurrection and the Life

The True Vine

The Bread of Life

The Good Shepherd

Come learn the deeper meaning of these well-known and beloved declarations of our Lord.



The new quarterly devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer* for January thru March, 2020 is available in the Gathering Room. A great way to keep close to the Lord!



Trinity Youth and older Sunday School students and their adult leaders spent the afternoon of Saturday, January 26 volunteering at NourishKC, a downtown Kansas City community kitchen for those who can't afford a warm meal. The kids prepped tomatoes, potatoes, and onions for upcoming meals. They cleaned floors and tables and helped wrap silverware. Our leader at NourishKC, Kenny, was very inspirational to the kids and helped them see that there are a lot of people who need our help. We must step up to help others and spread kindness. The experience was just wonderful and we look forward to more community service events where we can spread the love of Christ with others.



Seminary Education Key to New Mission Model

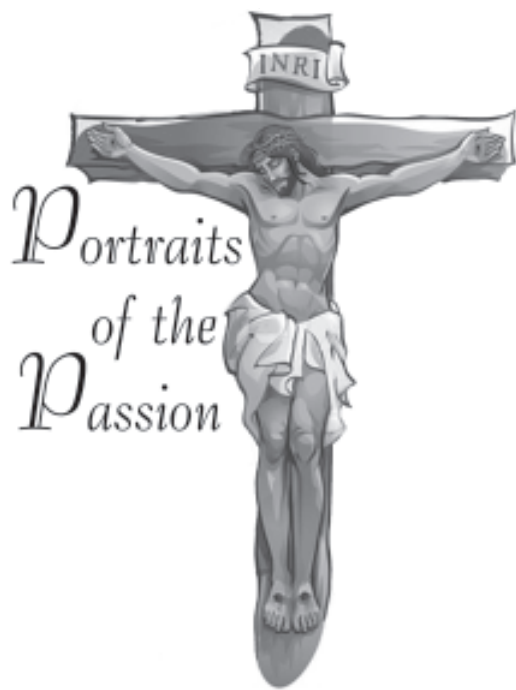
For over 100 years the primary model for mission outreach was for churches in Europe and the United States to send missionaries to places such as Africa and Asia. This model successfully led to so many conversions to Christ that largest Lutheran church body in the world is now not in Europe or America, but the 9 million member Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church!

In many cases, these "daughter" church bodies in the "third world" are

now bigger, stronger, and much more faithful than the "first world" church bodies whose missionary efforts originally founded them. For, while many denominations in the United States and Europe have forsaken the truth, in contrast most Christians in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world have clung to the "faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

In many cases, they no longer need actual missionaries sent from the "first world." They have ample numbers of young men who are eager to serve their own people as pastors, missionaries, and evangelists. But, what these bodies often lack is the seminaries, professors, and other resources to train them.

Because so many "Lutherans" around the world are in fact no longer truly Lutheran in their doctrine, about 25 years ago leaders of these "third world" Lutheran church bodies started coming to us in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, asking for our help to educate pastors for their churches.



2020 Wednesday Lent Sermon Series

Illustrating the Lenten Story with Classic Artworks from the Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum and Spencer Museum at The University of Kansas

February 26 (Ash Wednesday)

“Prayer and Arrest in Gethsemane”

March 4

“Trial, Condemnation, and Flagellation”

March 11

“Carrying the Cross the Calvary”

March 18

“The Crucifixion”

March 25

“Pieta”

April 1

“Descent from the Cross”

The LCMS responded with the Global Seminary Initiative, helping to establish full-fledged seminaries in over a dozen countries around the world. In many cases a regional seminary serves the needs of Lutherans in several countries that share a similar language and culture. While our LCMS missionaries still actively preach and evangelize, many now also teach at and help operate these seminaries, in order to multiply the mission outreach with native pastors.

The results have been astounding! Thousands of young men have received the theological education that equips them to faithfully serve their people, as Paul told Pastor Timothy: “Study to show yourself as one approved by God,

a worker that need not be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). And, not surprisingly, these native pastors have greater success reaching their own people than foreign missionaries, because they do not have to overcome barriers of language and cultural differences.

Here’s some comments from Lutheran pastors around the world who have benefited from this innovative, exciting program.

Rev. Abdi Mulat — “My church in Ethiopia is the fastest-growing Lutheran church in the world, with more than 9 million members. The church shows tremendous growth every year as her

members are actively participating in mission work. More pastors are needed every year to serve, nurture, and educate our members with the Word of God. Another challenge that our church faces these days is persecution. Groups of Islamic extremists persecute Christians by attacking them and burning church buildings. It is very difficult to get land to build church buildings and even bury the dead in the areas where the extremists dominate. I thank God He moved my church partners in the LCMS to reach out to more people with the Gospel. When we walk in the mission field in Ethiopia, we feel your presence by our side as you share your love and life with us.”

Rev. Jacob Kingsly — “My father is a pastor in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, who served in many Lutheran congregations and evangelism centers, and equipped me to study the Bible and Lutheran doctrine. India was the first mission field of the LCMS in 1894. Now we blessed with many of our own pastors, and the greatest blessing that the LCMS gave us is Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil. All Christians should be educated and nurtured by qualified Lutheran pastors and professors, and my desire is to proclaim the Word of God on the foundations of Lutheran confessions of faith.”

Rev. John Nkambule — “I grew up on a farm in South Africa. We are blessed that our economy is stable, and many people from other countries are coming to South Africa looking for greener pastures. Presently, I am teaching at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria. Our seminary gets students from many African countries, because Lutheran theology teaches the truth.”

Rev. Alan Furst — “My ministerial education was at Seminário Concórdia in São Leopoldo, Brazil. We are blessed in Brazil with the freedom to share and preach the Gospel. I love the ministry and serving the church of my Lord Jesus Christ. The support for theological education shown by the LCMS to sister churches such as us in Brazil impacts not only individual students but generations of pastors and the entire future of the Lutheran Church around the world!”