

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2020



In response to a deadly plague which swept through Wittenberg and other German cities in 1527, Martin Luther wrote a widely-circulated, 14-page pamphlet, "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague." It is interesting and quite amazing how advanced Luther's views were, and similar to that of authorities today, from the mode of transmission, to the practice of "social distancing."

These comments of Luther are freely excerpted and adapted from that pamphlet as it appears in the American Edition of Luther's Works, Vol. 43, pp. 119-138.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

I am of the opinion that all epidemics, like any plague, are spread among the people by unclean spirits that poison the air, or exhale a pestilential breath which puts a deadly poison into the flesh. Nevertheless, this is God's decree and chastisement to which we must patiently submit.

Some are much too rash and reckless, tempting God and disregarding everything which might counteract death and the plague. They disdain the use of medicines; they do not avoid places and persons infected by the plague, but lightheartedly make sport of it and wish to prove how independent they are. They say that it is God's punishment; if He wants to protect them He can do so without medicines or our carefulness. This is not trusting God but tempting Him. God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live in good health.

If one makes no use of intelligence or medicine when he could do so, such a person injures his body and must beware lest he become a suicide in God's eyes. By the same reasoning, a person might forego eating and drinking, clothing and shelter, and boldly proclaim that if God wanted to preserve him from starvation and cold, He could do so without food and clothing. Actually that would be suicide.



Deliver us, O Father, from every evil of body and soul; deliver us from Your eternal wrath and from the pains of hell; deliver us from Your strict judgment, in the hour of our death and at the last day; deliver us from sudden death; preserve us from fire and flood, from lightning and hail; preserve us from famine and scarcity, war and bloodshed; preserve us from great plagues, pestilence, and grievous sickness and diseases; preserve us from every bodily evil and woe; deliver and preserve us, so that even in the midst of such mortal dangers, at all times and in all places, Your name may be hallowed, Your Kingdom increased, and Your divine will be done; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**From the "Personal Prayer Book"
by Martin Luther (1522)**

It is even more shameful for a person not only to pay no heed to his own body and to fail to protect it against the plague the best he is able, but then to infect and poison others who might have remained alive if he had taken care of his body as he should have. He is thus responsible before God for his neighbor's death and is a murderer many times over.

Indeed, such people behave as though a house were burning in the city and nobody were trying to put the fire out. Instead, they give leeway to the flames so that the whole city is consumed—saying that if God so willed, He could save the city without water to quench the fire.

No, my dear friends, that is no good! Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; avoid persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence. Act like a man who wants to help put out the burning city! For, what else is an epidemic but a fire, which instead of consuming wood and straw devours life and body?

You ought to think this way: "Very well, by God's sufferance the old evil foe has sent us this deadly poison. Therefore, I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. However, I shall then also fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me. But, I have done what He has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If, however, my neighbor needs me to care for them, out of love I shall not avoid place or person."

See, this is a truly God-fearing faith, because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.

So, we must pray against every form of evil and guard against it to the best of our ability, in order not to act contrary to God's will. However, if it be God's will that nevertheless this plague should come upon us and destroy us, none of our precautions will prevent it.

When anyone is overcome by terror and despair, we should realize that it is the devil's game to induce such fear and dread in us. So, we should in turn minimize our trepidation, take such courage as to spite and annoy the devil, and send those terrors right back to him! We should arm ourselves with this answer to the devil:

"Get away, you devil, with your terrors! Just because you hate it, I'll spite you and pay no attention to you! No, you'll not have the last word, for I've got a heavy blow to use against you: If Christ shed His blood for me and died for me, why should I fear this feeble plague? If you can terrorize me, Christ can strengthen me all the more. If you can kill, Christ can give life. If you have poison in your fangs, Christ has far greater medicine. Should not my dear Christ, with His precepts, His kindness, and all His encouragement, be more important in my spirit than you, roguish devil, with your false terrors in my weak flesh? God forbid! Get away, devil. Here is Christ and here am I, His servant. Let Christ prevail! Amen."

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Published Monthly by

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May, 2020



Sermons for May

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our website at 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.

May 3 – Good Shepherd Sunday
"I Give Them Eternal Life"
John 10:27-28

May 10 – Mother's Day
"Living Stones"
1 Peter 2:2-10

May 10 – Good Friday
"I AM the Good Shepherd"
John 10:11

May 17
"The Painful Trial
You Are Suffering"
1 Peter 4:12-19

May 24 – Ascension Sunday
"Do God's Books
Balance for You?"
Daniel 7:9-10

May 31 – Pentecost Sunday
"An Astounding Assignment"
Acts 2:1-21

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.

May 3
Rev. Vance & Linda Becker
Kenya

May 10
Rev. Michael & Jen-Yi Paul
Taiwan

May 17
Rev. Adam & Christine Lehman
Spain

May 24
Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood
Indonesia

May 31
Rev. John & Hannah Loum
Gambia

"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)



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.

May 1 Clint Haley
May 1 Eric Prothe
May 1 Elijah Minden
May 2 Brad Hendrickson
May 3 Steve McMullin
May 4 Maysen Armstrong
May 4 Alex Brack
May 4 Alayna Reinke
May 5 Sarah Berner
May 5 Kameron Alpert-Munir
May 5 Mallory Allcorn
May 6 Emma Reinke
May 7 Henry Vaughn
May 8 Garrett Rausch

May 8 Chloe Rausch
 May 8 Jim Ohlmeier
 May 9 Melanie Golubski
 May 10..... Bobbie Jo Debrick
 May 10..... Kathy Haley
 May 10..... Bobbie Kunard
 May 10..... Johnny Pagels
 May 11..... Denise Holtz
 May 13..... Kraig Kettler
 May 13..... Lucy Kettler
 May 13..... Nathan Peckman
 May 13..... Nicholas Peckman
 May 14..... Trish Armstrong
 May 14..... Miranda Ferrell
 May 14..... Beth D'Amato
 May 15..... Matthew Reynolds
 May 14..... Kris Stubbs
 May 17..... Lori Donahue
 May 17..... Dean Gerken
 May 17..... Sherri Webb
 May 18..... Emily Kettler
 May 18..... Susan Ashley
 May 19..... Jackie Smith
 May 20..... Paul Sombke
 May 21..... David Herra
 May 21..... Barb Koelsch
 May 21..... Clifford Prothe
 May 21..... Leslie Rudzinski
 May 23..... Andy Brack
 May 23..... Jeanne Hutchison
 May 23..... Amanda Maisch
 May 23..... Shane Gibson
 May 25..... Stephanie Debrick
 May 25..... Roger Holtz
 May 25..... Kristie McMullin
 May 26..... Scott Gerken
 May 26..... Sharon Grother
 May 28..... Alyssa Holtz
 May 28..... Kayla Massey
 May 28..... Dale Prothe
 May 28..... Rawena Shay
 May 29..... Wendy Bryant
 May 29..... Brandon Gibson
 May 30..... Ginny Linville
 May 31..... Sarah Pemberton
 May 31..... Janet Koelsch
 May 31..... Amanda Stubbs
 May 1 . Randy & Jennifer Rethman (22)
 May 16..... Ed & Marcie Reyelts (32)
 May 19... Mike & Linda Oberheide (41)
 May 19... Clifford & Donna Prothe (57)
 May 25.... Lloyd & Ginny Peckman (57)
 May 25..... Jeff & Pam Thompson (40)
 May 28..... Alex & Jeri Brack (2)
 May 30..... Stan & Gayle Plummer (39)
 May 31..... John & Lori Schlegel (17)



Because our “Drive-In Sunrise Service” on Easter Sunday went so well, and in response to suggestions and requests from those in attendance, the elders decided to hold “Drive-In Worship” at Trinity each week until we are able to resume normal services.

“Drive-In Worship” is held every Sunday at 9:00am. This service is also livestreamed each week for those preferring to worship at home.

Normally there will only be the drive in service at 9:00am. However, in case of bad weather the drive-in service for that Sunday will be cancelled and we will instead broadcast our worship as usual from the sanctuary at 10:00am.

We are thankful that we are blessed with ample land, an outdoor sound system, etc. that allows us to worship “together but separate” in this manner. To maintain “social distancing” those in attendance at “Drive-In Worship” are asked to remain in their vehicles.

We haven’t taken a count of how many have been in each vehicle, but the “attendance” in terms of the number of vehicles has been quite good. Interestingly, if Facebook viewer statistics are accurate, in combination with livestreaming we’re getting about our regular number of worshippers—or better.

We seem to be the only church in the area having “Drive-In Worship” so there may be others who would be interested in this option. Please spread the word about “Drive-In Worship” at Trinity!

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” 3 John 2



Because many are unable to attend worship during this time, we are broadcasting our worship services at Trinity, live on the church’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock) at 10:00am Sundays. Our thanks to Stacy Elinton for making these livestream broadcasts possible.

We are now including the full liturgy and hymns in the bulletin so that those worshipping at home can follow along without the need for a hymnal. The current service bulletin is online at www.trinitylcms.org/bulletin. Also the printed text of the sermon is available in advance at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons. For your convenience, in preparation for the service you may wish to print out the bulletin and/or text of the message.

In addition to the livestream, the day after each service another video of the entire service, and printed text and audio of the sermon only, are posted on our church’s website at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons. Our thanks to Greg Windler for use of his video camera to make these videos.

Another wonderful resource for home worship is videos of Missouri Synod services from “Worship Anew” at www.worshipanew.org. These broadcasts are led by Missouri Synod pastors and choirs and feature familiar hymns and liturgy.

Similar to “Worship Anew” is the program “Main Street Living” at www.mainstreetliving.com, featuring services led by Missouri Synod pastors from South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa.



Pastoral Care During Quarantine

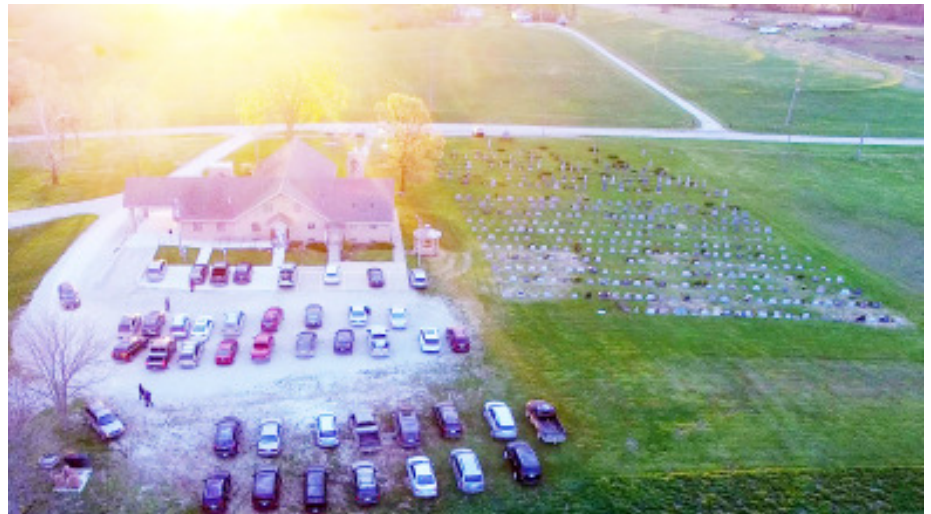
During this time Pastor Vogts is generally not making visits, so as not to inadvertently carry the virus to anyone. However, *please* notify him if you or a loved one should become ill or hospitalized. Especially in serious cases, he can get special permission as a pastor to visit parishioners and provide spiritual care in a medical facility, while wearing protective gear.

You may contact Pastor Vogts for any reason by telephone at the parsonage (913-849-3711), by email (pastorvogts@gmail.com), or by text on his cell phone (913-594-9865).

If you have internet access and have not yet “liked” Trinity’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock, doing so is a great way to help stay informed during this time. Information and announcements are generally made through the church’s Facebook page, because it is the easiest and most convenient way to contact many members who are already active on Facebook, it gets the word out quickly in a situation that is constantly evolving, and there is no cost to the congregation.

Until we are able to resume normal worship services and other activities, may God grant you and your loved ones the blessing of good health!

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).



Our thanks to Mike Schmitt for this dramatic drone photo of our “Drive-In Sunrise Service” on Easter Sunday. It was taken just before the service as people were still pulling in. The sun is dramatically rising over the church building, and the cemetery is a poignant reminder of St. Paul’s assurance in 1 Thessalonians 4:14: *“We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.”* To see this beautiful photo in color, along with many more photos of our “Drive-In Sunrise Service” by Mike Schmitt, Terese Vogts, and Kyle Minden, go to our online album at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



It is difficult to interpret exactly how activities such as worship services and Holy Communion, Sunday School, Bible Class, and other regular church functions and events fit into the latest guidelines issued by the Kansas governor.

At this point, before resuming our regular schedule we are waiting for guidance from the LCMS Kansas District, and to see what action is taken by other churches in our community. So far, all the other churches seem to be maintaining online worship only (we seem to be the only church in the area having “Drive-In Worship”) and suspension of their other church activities.

All events, meetings, and activities at Trinity, other than “Drive-In Worship” and livestream broadcasts of our services, remain suspended until further notice.

Because the situation and government guidance is constantly changing it is impossible to make firm plans. However, the governor’s new guidelines anticipate possibly lifting all restrictions by June 15, so perhaps we could return to normal worship on Sunday, June 21. Nevertheless, there always seem to be delays and extensions, so nothing is certain.

Watch the church’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock) for announcements about resumption of regular worship and other activities.

Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that we who in Your name seek the grace of Your protection may be guarded and defended, morning and evening, every minute of every hour, and spared from the contagious disease which is threatening us, that having been freed from this plague, we who have seen Your salvation may serve You all the days of our lives, until we depart in peace according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.