

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2020



From the
Pastor

Finding Peace in "Deo Volente"

The past six months have been extremely burdensome to us all, as the coronavirus epidemic has led to many disruptions, disappointments, and frustrations.

Though thankfully it seems most of our congregation's membership was deemed "essential" and kept their jobs, there still have been big changes and adjustments for many with their work, and financial consequences and uncertainties. For many families, attempting to all work and study from home has been a strain—a bit too much togetherness, and not enough space, computers, or internet bandwidth for everyone!

On the other hand, others have suffered from severe isolation and loneliness, especially the elderly who live alone, and those in care facilities, who for many months have not been allowed visitors.

Major events such as graduations, confirmations, weddings, and even funerals had to be postponed. Our daughter's wedding last month was

just barely able to take place because Christ Lutheran Church, the groom's congregation where it was held, happens to be in Platte Woods, Missouri, which had no restrictions at the time. But, the street in front of the church is the city limits with Kansas City, Missouri, so just 200 feet away their wedding would have been impossible. And Platte Woods decided the week before the wedding to adopt the same restrictions—but thankfully it didn't go into effect until a few days *after* their wedding. *Whew!*



This beloved, classic picture of Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane was painted in 1890 by German artist Heinrich Hofmann and is on display at the Riverside Church in New York City.

In addition to impacting such personal life events, the worship life of the entire church has also been affected and altered in many ways. Our last time kneeling at the altar for Holy Communion was March 15. The tentative plan is to resume such regular worship practices on our annual "Heritage Sunday," October 18, when we will be using liturgy and hymns from *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941 for our

worship. While we are thankful that innovations such as "Drive-In Worship" and livestreaming our services on Facebook allowed us to maintain our congregation's worship life, we also long for a return to the familiar flow of our Sunday routine.

A particular frustration for me is that the various government mandates affecting worship and other church functions are constantly changing and have often been vague, erratic, and contradictory. For example, at the beginning of Holy Week the governor issued an edict forbidding worship on Easter Sunday. But, the attorney general said that was unenforceable, and a legislative group overrode the ruling. But then, practically at the stroke of midnight on Holy Saturday, the Kansas supreme court upheld the governor. But, it was later thrown out by a federal judge! Such unpredictability makes it impossible to plan, and makes problematic even simple things like picking the hymns and order of service and composing the bulletin.

We have all faced an overwhelming mountain of such frustrations and adjustments for the past six months, and it is uncertain when it will all end. But, Psalm 46:1 promises, "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.*" As Christians, when faced with such vexing and wearying circumstances, we are blessed with a comforting refuge and source of strength. For, even in the midst of such struggles, we can find peace in the Biblical principle of "*Deo Volente*" (DAY-oh vull-LENT-tay), a Latin phrase that means "*God willing.*"

Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer "*Thy will be done,*" and He Himself practiced what He preached. For, He sets the ultimate example for us of such an attitude of submitting to God's will when He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane:

"As was His custom, He went out to the Mount of Olives, and the Disciples followed Him. And when He came to the place, He said to them, 'Pray that you will not fall into temptation.' And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.'" (Luke 22:39-42)

This principle is found frequently throughout Scripture:

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21)

"The LORD Almighty has sworn, 'Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.'" (Isaiah 14:24)

"Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?" (Lamentations 3:37)

James expounds on how such an attitude of submitting in all things to God's will affects our view of the future:

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even

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Trinity Lutheran Church
34868 Block Road
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Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344
Pastor's Study & Parsonage:
913-849-3711
Pastor's Cell: 913-594-9865

trinitylcms.org
facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock
pastorvogts@gmail.com
trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com
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know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:13-17)



This modern interpretation of Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane was created for Concordia Publishing House by renowned illustrator Richard Hook, who made a series of famous paintings for CPH.

Based on such passages of Scripture, the Latin phrase *Deo Volente* developed among Christians, as a way to sum up the proper Christian attitude: "God willing." It is actually very common in some church circles, especially still today in England, to append to all schedules of services, events, etc. the abbreviation "D.V." to recognize that all these plans are *Deo Volente*, "God willing." So, a church bulletin might say: "This Week's Schedule (D.V.)"

In the same spirit, put a "D.V." on any plans for the future at Trinity—and *thank you* to everyone for your patience and understanding about all the abrupt changes and adjustments at Trinity during this difficult time! The events of the past few months have certainly reminded us that everything is indeed always *Deo Volente*, "God willing."

The classic *My Prayer Book* has a beautiful prayer "For Grace to Adjust Myself," asking God to give us grace to adjust ourselves to trying circumstances and His will:

Gracious God, heavenly Father, I must confess that I am at times upset by the many changes that come in life. I find it difficult to make the necessary adjustments. I do not ask to understand, but help me, I pray Thee, always to realize that no matter what happens to me, and what changes must be made, Thou dost still love me and wilt make every experience work together for my good.

Give me the faith to trust Thy promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee." In mercy forgive all grumbling and complaining of which I have been guilty in the past. Teach me to follow the example of Jesus, my Savior and Lord, who also in trial and tribulation said, "Not My will, but Thine, be done." In that spirit I shall be able to meet whatever life has in store for me. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Service Time 9:00am Thru September 20

Help spread the word that the Voters Assembly last month decided to keep the Sunday service time at Trinity at 9:00am (NO 10:00am service) up to and including September 20.

This earlier time helps reduce the temperature a bit for those worshipping outside in their vehicles or lawn chairs. Service time for September 27 and following will be decided later, closer to that date, depending on developments and circumstances at the time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this situation which has led to many changes and adjustments. "Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou who changest not, abide with me!" (Lutheran Service Book, 878, vs. 4)



Rally Day Postponed

Because the Kansas governor postponed the start of public school until September (though that has since been overridden by the state board of education), we decided to also postpone Rally Day and the start of Sunday School at Trinity until Sunday, September 20.

That Sunday would normally be our Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service, so even though there is no Blocktoberfest this year we will still have an outdoor service in the Shelter House, but to celebrate Rally Day instead. The outdoor service previously scheduled for August 9 is being held inside the sanctuary instead.

Because many who would attend Adult Bible Class will be involved in setting up for the outdoor service on September 20, resumption of Adult Bible Class is postponed until the following Sunday, September 27. These plans too are made "Lord willing" (James 4:13-15) and could be further delayed depending on circumstances. Thank you for your understanding!

Blocktoberfest

After much consideration and discussion we have decided to cancel Blocktoberfest for this year. We want to make sure everyone is safe and since we can't predict the future we felt this was the best path.

We appreciate your continuous support over the years and we plan on making Blocktoberfest 2021 the best one yet!



We rejoiced to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation and First Communion on July 19 for our 2020 class of confirmands, Molly Lynn Eilts, Emma Anne Haley, and Jai Thom Jenkins. *"I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow Your righteous ordinances"* (Psalm 119:106).

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.

August 1 Linda Giager
 August 1 Nancy Golubski
 August 1 Shirley Hubbard
 August 1 Justin Shay
 August 2 Zack Hutchison
 August 2 Russell Prothe
 August 3 Ilda Koopman
 August 3 Jeron Hermann
 August 5 Kelly Kaiser
 August 5 Halle Schlegel
 August 6 Jeremiah Ordenez
 August 8 Jeff Garrison
 August 8 Melissa Mondry
 August 8 Trevor Fleming
 August 8 Kurt Golubski
 August 9 Chris Tesar
 August 10 Hailey Jones
 August 10 Tabytha Ritch

August 11 Angela Parks
 August 12 Janet Schneider
 August 14 Jeremiah Brandt
 August 14 Gerald Woodall
 August 14 Terese Vogts
 August 15 Alicia Brandt
 August 15 Joan Fehling
 August 15 Derek Johns
 August 16 Shaun Ferrell
 August 16 Shaylan Gibson
 August 16 Mike Oberheide
 August 16 Ellie Reyelts
 August 16 Jace Allen
 August 17 Tony Thompson
 August 17 Bailey Vaughn
 August 18 Kaley Debrick
 August 18 Cathy Warring
 August 18 Lily Rush
 August 19 Ryan Hoden
 August 20 Angela Carwile
 August 20 Enora Coppenbarger
 August 22 Gayle Plummer
 August 23 Ryan Boyer
 August 24 Kelly Gerken
 August 24 Anna Vogts
 August 25 Derik Vaughn
 August 26 Brooke Prothe
 August 27 Cale Elkinton
 August 27 Don Prothe
 August 27 Beth Prothe
 August 28 Courtney McHenry
 August 30 Barb Brandt
 August 30 Hailey Raines
 August 31 Jamie Ennett
 August 31 Quentin Garrison

August 31 August Meyer
 August 5 Jeff & Karen Garrison (14)
 August 6 Bill & Ashley Dillenbeck (4)
 August 16 Doug & Judy Parks (40)
 August 17 ... Curtis & Lucy Kettler (35)
 August 18 .. Greg & Karen Windler (47)



Harold Clifford Peckman

Born December 25, 1925

Entered Eternal Rest July 31, 2020

Due to travel restrictions and other concerns during this time, the funeral for Harold has been postponed. Because his widow Ann is unable to receive visitors at this time, a sympathy card shower would be greatly appreciated: Ann Peckman, Vintage Park, 601 North East Street, Paola, KS 66071.

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.

August 2

Rev. Jacob Gaugert
Togo

August 9

Kipp & Tami Beaudoin
Ukraine

August 26

Rev. Walter & Robyn Steele
Kenya

August 23

Rev. Micah & Robin Wildauer
Belize



Our thanks to Paul Haley for spearheading the new drive, entry columns, and corner benches for our Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. The masonry work was completed last month and everything looks great! Many have commented that the new gravel drive is greatly appreciated. It makes it much easier, especially for elderly persons, to visit the graves of loved ones, and also provide a helpful secondary exit from our parking lot. The main block used for the benches and decorative columns is the same as the Shelter House, and the brick accents are the same as the new north wing and repaired south wall of the Church, so they compliment both of these structures and tie them together. In addition to completing the current row, one more row of graves can be added east of the new north-south drive, after which the cemetery will expand west of the drive. These very attractive and practical improvements to our cemetery were underwritten by memorial funds and proceeds from Blocktoberfest. A portion remains unfunded so if you would have any memorial funds you would like dedicated to these improvements please contact Paul Haley or chairman Greg Windler.

August 30

Rev. James & Peggy Krikava
Czech Republic

August 23

"The Two Natures in Christ"
Romans 9:1-5

August 30

"When Bad Things Happen to Forgiven People"
Philippians 1:12-14



Sermons for August

Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons.

August 2

"Who Is Worthy?"
Matthew 9:13

August 9

"Take Courage! Don't Be Afraid!"
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

"The Narrow Gate"
Matthew 7:13-14



Baptism

Molly Lynn Eilts
Baptized July 19, 2020

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)