

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

September  
2020 



*“And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.”* Romans 8:28

In the movie “Rain Man,” the actor Dustin Hoffman played a “savant,” a man with extraordinary abilities in certain areas. In one scene, a box of toothpicks is dropped and he immediately calls out the number 246. When they count, they discover that is indeed the exact number of toothpicks scattered on the floor.

That isn’t at all far-fetched, for individuals with such abilities do exist, and in fact “Rain Man” was based on a real-life person, Utah resident Kim Peek, who passed away of a heart attack at age 58 in 2009.

Neuroscientists theorize that all humans actually possess such abilities, but that in most people it is subconsciously “turned off” and filtered out. Individuals who are unable to filter out such information are actually called “idiot savants.” That’s because the overwhelming amount of detailed data they receive about the world around them renders them unable to function normally, paralyzed under a crushing mountain of information. As a result, many people assume they lack intelligence, while ironically they in fact have too *much* knowledge.

Therefore, although our neural receptors apparently gather and our brains constantly analyze such minutiae, in order for us to be able to function God has designed us to be *conscious* of only the vital, relevant data. As Psalm 139:6 says, “*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*”

In contrast to the limited knowledge we humans are able to process and possess, Psalm 147:5 declares about God, “*Great is our Lord and mighty in power, His understanding has no limit.*”



**This stained-glass window depicting creation and the Fall into sin was designed in consultation with Pastor Vogts and is featured in the sanctuary of his former congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. Before the Fall into sin the world was like a beautiful stained-glass window—that was smashed and shattered. But, God picks up the jumbled, broken, jagged pieces of our world and our lives, with all their painful, sharp edges, and uses them to create a beautiful new picture.**

That is why Jesus can say something truly extraordinary in the Sermon on the Mount: “*And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered*”(Matthew 10:30).

Jesus couldn’t have picked a better example of God’s omniscience, His total knowledge of all things. For, the number of hairs on a human head is constantly changing. If you’ve cleaned hair out of a drain or vacuum cleaner, you know that we are continually shedding hairs and growing replacements. In fact, the number of hairs on your head will be quite different when you finish reading this article than when you started. Multiple that by some seven billion people in the world, and consider that at any given moment God actually knows the number of hairs on each person’s head!

We have trouble even conceiving such total knowledge of all things, for it is indeed too wonderful and lofty for us—but not for God. And that gives special meaning to the familiar, precious promise in Romans 8:28: “*And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.*”

Like the number of hairs on your head, for each step your life takes there are an immense number of factors to consider. To take an example from my own life, there have been times in 30 years of ministry when I was aware that I was being considered for a call that appealed to me. From my perspective, it seemed such a call was ideal—but God had other plans. As Proverbs 16:9 says, “*In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*”

With my limited understanding, I can’t begin to conceive of all the factors the Lord has to take into consideration in such a situation. There’s not only what is best for me and my family, but the congregations involved, and all their individual members, and even non-members—known only to God—whom I might come into contact with through my pastoral service.

God in His infinite wisdom has to pull together all these countless threads in order to weave things together in my life for the good. As Psalm 139:16 says, "All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to pass."

And even when things don't turn out as we hope, even when things seem to us to go wrong, we always have that precious promise: "And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him." Never forget that you are included in that promise! God is *not* forgetting about you, or sacrificing what is best for you personally for the sake of someone else or some greater good. God is doing something that only He in His omniscience is capable of: He is always concurrently working all things together for the personal good of every one of His children—including you.

It's hard to see how even something like the present coronavirus crisis can be used by God for our good. In addition to those suffering or even tragically dying from the disease itself, the lockdown and other restrictions have caused widespread, unprecedented damage to our society as a whole, and so many individual lives.

We are assured in passages such as Psalm 103:10 that such occurrences are *never* a divine punishment for

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Christians: "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities." However, Paul explains in Romans 8:22 that "the whole creation groans" as a consequence of the Fall of humanity into sin. It is because we live in a broken world that we now experience sickness, suffering, and finally physical death. As Paul says in Romans 5:12, "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men."

**God is doing something that only He in His omniscience—His total knowledge of all things—is capable of: He is working all things together for the personal good of every one of His children—including you!**

Before the Fall into sin the world was like a beautiful stained-glass window—that was smashed and shattered. But, God picks up the jumbled, broken, jagged pieces of our world and our lives, with all their painful, sharp edges, and uses them to create a beautiful new picture.

Take comfort in the promise and assurance of Scripture that in His divine omniscience, in a way that is beyond our comprehension, the Lord is always working all things together for the good of those who love Him—including you!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

## Cemetery Cleanup September 25



Gayle Plummer has received a Thrivent card to clean up our cemetery. This will involve thinning out the peony bushes and cleaning tombstones that have mold on them. The date will be September 25. Volunteers are needed to come help! This is a project on which we can easily social distance, and wear masks as needed.

Please bring buckets, clippers, and other tools you think you might need. Also, if anyone objects to moving peonies or cleaning a loved one's stone please let Gayle know. She will be providing lunch for those helping that day. Please contact Gayle for more information.



## Service Time 9:00am Thru October

Help spread the word that because we are not going to resume Sunday School and Bible Class until November 1, the worship service time at Trinity will remain at 9:00am thru the end of October.

At this point we plan—Lord willing!—to return on November 1 to our regular schedule of Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00am and worship at 10:00am.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding when it is necessary to respond with such changes to the current unusual situation. Lord willing, things will get more back to "normal" soon!

POSTPONED:-(

## Education Delay

Because there was a recent rise in virus cases in our area—Lord willing the peak has now passed—many do not yet feel comfortable gathering together. To be on the safe side, we are delaying the start of in-person Sunday School and Bible Class at Trinity until Sunday, November 1, when Lord willing we will finally be able to resume our normal schedule and classes.

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.

- Sep 1 ..... Noel Wendte
- Sep 2 ..... Mary Ann Green
- Sep 2 ..... Gladys Prothe
- Sep 3 ..... Shane Honn
- Sep 3 ..... Rebecca Hurst
- Sep 3 ..... Ron Raines
- Sep 4 ..... Lance Belsanti
- Sep 4 ..... Mary Ann Maisch
- Sep 4 ..... Dennis Peckman
- Sep 4 ..... Steve Windler
- Sep 4 ..... Sarah Vogts
- Sep 5 ..... Dena Kaiser
- Sep 6 ..... Emerson Bunch
- Sep 6 ..... David Gatlin
- Sep 6 ..... Les Jones
- Sep 6 ..... Gay Stubbs
- Sep 7 ..... Cindy Puckett
- Sep 7 ..... Teri Minden
- Sep 8 ..... Tore Smithhisler
- Sep 8 ..... Lloyd Ohlmeier
- Sep 10 ..... John Henry
- Sep 10 ..... Evan Kettler
- Sep 10 ..... Nickolas Davis
- Sep 11 ..... Connie Barnett
- Sep 11 ..... Gary Peckman
- Sep 11 ..... Kristie Weaver
- Sep 11 ..... Carol Wray
- Sep 12 ..... Casey Maisch
- Sep 12 ..... Pam Thompson
- Sep 13 ..... Donald Smithhisler
- Sep 13 ..... Sally Wood
- Sep 15 ..... Aaron Prothe
- Sep 16 ..... Conni Holte
- Sep 18 ..... Grant Haley
- Sep 18 ..... Anna Peckman
- Sep 18 ..... Skyler Prothe
- Sep 18 ..... Liam Simonson
- Sep 18 ..... Josslyn Fuller
- Sep 19 ..... Rolland Prothe
- Sep 21 ..... Katie Lindsey
- Sep 22 ..... Sarah Reyelts
- Sep 22 ..... Jackson Lester
- Sep 23 ..... Karen Brack
- Sep 23 ..... Weston Davis
- Sep 23 ..... Lindsey Ramsey
- Sep 23 ..... Amanda West
- Sep 24 ..... Dawson Bruce



## Fall Sermon Series on Philippians

Beginning August 30 we are having a special "Fall Sermon Series" on the book of Philippians. Here are the weekly topics, with selections from Philippians for you to read in preparation for the sermon:

### August 30

*"When Bad Things Happen to Forgiven People"*  
Philippians 1:12-18

### September 6

*"To Live Is Christ and to Die Is Gain"*  
Philippians 1:19-26

### September 13

*"The Code of Christian Conduct"*  
Philippians 1:27-28

### September 27

*"To Suffer for Him"*  
Philippians 1:29-2:2

### October 4

*"Look Not Only to Your Own Interests"*  
Philippians 2:3-11

### October 11

*"Press on Toward the Goal"*  
Philippians 3:1-14

### October 18

*"Friendly Fire?"*  
Philippians 3:15-19

### November 8

*"Four Questions About the Resurrection"*  
Philippians 3:20-4:1

### November 15

*"The Cause and Characteristics of Christian Joy"*  
Philippians 4:4-7

### November 22

*"Think on Such Things"*  
Philippians 4:8-9

### November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

*"The Secret of Contentment"*  
Philippians 4:10-13

- Sep 24 ..... Kevin Debrick
- Sep 25 ..... Jennifer Boydston
- Sep 25 ..... Olivia Mitchell
- Sep 25 ..... Ginny Peckman
- Sep 27 ..... Scott Golubski
- Sep 27 ..... Geraldine Holtz
- Sep 27 ..... Ryan Holloman
- Sep 27 ..... Leslie Thoden
- Sep 28 ..... Kaiden Armstrong
- Sep 28 ..... Margie Monthey
- Sep 29 ..... Kathy Korsten
- Sep 29 ..... Mary Shay
- Sep 30 ..... Gale Nowasell

- Sep 5 ..... Jerry & Reita Woodall (66)
- Sep 7 ..... Jason & Sacred Davis (24)
- Sep 8 ..... Jamey & Dena Kaiser (13)
- Sep 11 ..... James & Shannon Fanning (21)
- Sep 12 ..... Dennis & Norma Peckman (66)
- Sep 13 ..... Johnny & Sharon Grother (56)
- Sep 15 ..... Ray & Janet England (58)
- Sep 17 ..... Kerry & Carole Brandt (37)
- Sep 18 ..... Paul & Kathy Haley (44)
- Sep 19 ..... Randy & Helen Maisch (23)
- Sep 21 ..... Ryan & Tamara Mitchell (24)
- Sep 25 ..... Kelly & Valerie Gerken (44)
- Sep 28 ..... Gary & Rose Peckman (35)





# Baptism

*Dawson Daniel Garrison*  
Son of Quentin Daniel Garrison  
and Kaelah Macenzie  
(McMullin) Garrison

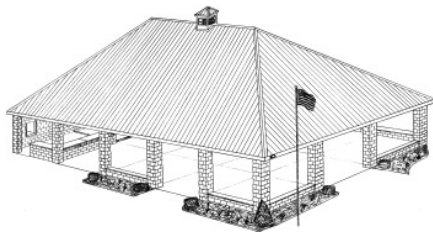
Born April 8, 2020  
Baptized August 9, 2020

*“Let the little children come to Me  
and do not hinder them.” (Mark 10:14)*

## 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!



## Service In The Shelter House September 20

Because of a rise of virus cases in the Block vicinity, the Board of Elders decided to return to “Drive-In Worship” at Trinity the last two Sundays of August and first two Sundays of September.



**Pastor Kevin and Terry Vogts admire a beautiful, hand-embroidered quilt that was created as a surprise gift for them by several ladies of the congregation and presented to them last month. *Thank you* for your thoughtfulness and generosity!**

The next Sunday, September 20, would have been our normal outdoor service for Blocktoberfest. Even though Blocktoberfest is cancelled this year we are still having our traditional outdoor service in the Shelter House that day at 9:00am. The audio of the service will be broadcast to the area surrounding the Shelter House so that you can stay in your vehicle or sit in the shade in a lawn chair.

For logistical reasons, there is no Communion during September. At this point we plan to return to worship in our Sanctuary on September 27, with Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of October—though that could change!

September 6  
*Rachel Krause*  
Germany

September 13  
*Barbara Rebentisch*  
Taiwan

September 20  
*Justin & Jordan Logston*  
Belize

September 27  
*Deaconess Sandra Rhein*  
Taiwan

## 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. *All of this month's missionaries are new, just sent last month into the mission field!*

## Kansas District Prayer Emphasis

In response to the virus outbreak, the Kansas District of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is having a 90-day prayer emphasis including daily scripture verses and prayers, from September 1 thru November 29, the 1st Sunday in Advent. These are shared daily on Trinity's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock](http://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock)). Take a minute or two each day to join your fellow LCMS Kansans in prayer, with confidence that He will hear us!