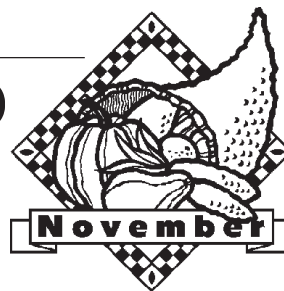


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2020



THANKSGIVING MESSAGE



"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

Psalm 103:2

To this day, descendants of the original Pilgrims set an extra place at their Thanksgiving Day tables. On the plate is put five kernels of corn, a reminder of the Pilgrims' first winter, when food was so scarce that meager amount was each person's daily ration!

Our own ancestors on the plains 150 years ago did not have life any easier. We see this in a true story recorded in the diary of the Rev. Emil Maehr, a missionary pastor who founded many Missouri Synod churches in Kansas, including my home congregation, Immanuel, Canton, and another parish I formerly served, Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove.

Once when Pastor Maehr was invited to a family's humble sod home for Sunday dinner, the lady of the house prepared a pot of soup, a special treat which she proudly placed in the center of the table. But, just as they bowed their heads for prayer, a mouse fell from the sod ceiling right into the pot of soup!

The family was very embarrassed and uncertain what to do, since that soup was literally the *only* food they had.

Pastor Maehr, knowing his hosts had nothing else to offer, asked for a strainer. After fishing out the mouse he offered a prayer of thanksgiving, and all partook with gratitude.

This true story reminds us how much we have to be thankful for. Like the Pilgrims, our ancestors endured great hardship and deprivation when they settled here. The blessings we enjoy are beyond their wildest imagination.

How easy it is to dwell on what we do not have. It is therefore fitting to set aside a special day to give thanks to God for all the abundance he has given us.

As the psalm writer says, *"Forget not all his benefits."* Give thanks daily for God's blessings, and especially at our special service at 10:00am on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, render thanks and praise unto your heavenly Father.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul!"

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Lutheran artist Albrecht Dürer's famous 1508 sketch of the Praying Hands was originally only a preliminary study for a large altarpiece. However, the altarpiece was destroyed by fire and this simple sketch has become one of Dürer's most well-known works.



Regular Sunday Service Time Resumes

Help spread the word that as of November 1 we have returned to our regular schedule of Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00am and worship at 10:00am. Unless there is some unexpected development, we will continue with this schedule throughout the winter and spring.

Whether we will again have worship at 9:00am next summer, as some have suggested, will be considered closer to that time.



Sunday School & Bible Class Resume

A bit of welcome normality returned to Trinity, when after eight months of suspension Sunday School & Adult Bible Class resumed on November 1.

Sunday School classes meet on Sundays at 9:00am, with the children asked to please wear masks during class time.

Also at 9:00am is Adult Bible Class. Instead of meeting in the Heritage Room, to allow for social distancing the Adult

Bible Class is being held in the basement. The topic is *When I Suffer Pains and Losses*. Named after a touching hymn by the famous Lutheran hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt—who experienced many extreme pains and losses in his own life—this study seeks God’s answers from the Bible to the questions we have about the sufferings and struggles we experience in this world, such as the current virus outbreak and its many consequences.

You and your children will be blessed by joining in Sunday School and Adult Bible Class!



Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate Thanksgiving Day at Trinity at our special service on Thursday, November 26 at 10:00am. The message will be "The Secret of Contentment" based on Philippians 4:12-13, the concluding sermon in our Fall Sermon Series on the book of Philippians.

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good, for His love endures forever!" (Psalm 136:1).

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

*Trinity Lutheran Church
34868 Block Road
Paola, Kansas 66071*

*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
November, 2020*

CHRISTMAS EVE



Looking Forward to Christmas

After everything we've gone through this year, as the popular song says, "We need a little Christmas, right this very minute... we need a little Christmas now!"

In that spirit, the Sunday School has decided that they will proceed with their usual Children's Christmas Program at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. This is a beloved old German tradition, and has no doubt been the unbroken custom observed at Trinity every Christmas Eve for over 150 years.

However, to allow for greater social distancing, this year another Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on December 24, at 5:00pm. This extra service will not include the Children's Program, which will only be at the 7:00pm service. Instead, the 5:00pm service will follow an old *English* tradition for Christmas Eve, "A Festival of Readings and Carols," featuring favorite carols interspersed with Scripture readings.

Both the 5:00pm and 7:00pm services will include "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. However, there will not be a sermon at the 7:00pm service. Pastor Vogts' message for the 5:00pm service will be "The Two Sides of Christmas" based on Luke 2:15-20.

The purpose of having two Christmas Eve services this year is to reduce attendance at both to allow for some measure of social distancing. If you do not have children or grandchildren in the Children's Program this year, you may wish to consider attending the 5:00pm service instead.

Don't forget that our Christmas Day service on Friday, December 25 at 10:00am is another great option for celebrating Christmas with generous social distancing, since typically there are only a few dozen in attendance. This will be another service of readings and carols, focusing on the different characters in the Christmas story—Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men—as the candles are gradually lit on the Advent wreath. Pastor Vogts' message for Christmas Day will be "The Living Nativity" based on Luke 2:1-20.

Of course, all these services will be livestreamed on our congregation's Facebook page. And the basement will be available with a video feed for overflow, especially for the 7:00pm Children's Program, which normally has our largest attendance of the year.

Despite the difficult circumstances this year, take these opportunities to celebrate the real reason for the season!



Pastor and Terry Vogts and their children will be attending the 25th Anniversary celebration of their former congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota on Sunday, November 15, with Pastor Vogts giving a presentation on the congregation's history. Our guest minister that Sunday will be Rev. Paul Helmer, a retired pastor from Gardner.



Communion Postponed

Due to the absence of both Pastor Vogts and several elders on the third Sunday of the month, November 15, since there are five Sundays in November this year we are postponing our second celebration of Holy Communion for the month to the fourth Sunday, November 22.

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). Take a minute or two each day to join your fellow LCMS Kansans in prayer, with confidence that He will hear us!

November 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.

- November 1 Christopher England
- November 2 Steve Debrick
- November 4 Peyton Mitchell
- November 6 Jill Druse
- November 7 Fritz Meyer
- November 8 Erin England
- November 8 Leonard Windler
- November 8 Ashley Deknes
- November 9 Greg Windler
- November 9 Brad Ashley
- November 11 Lana Kettler
- November 11 Chylar Jones
- November 11 Lela Sands
- November 13 Dennis Ohlmeier
- November 13 Doris Rodewald
- November 14 Elena Smithhisler
- November 15 Frances Minter
- November 15 JoAnn Vaughn
- November 16 Sacred Davis
- November 19 Elaine Brocker



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

November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

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

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 19 Kreston Debrick
- November 19 Kathy Peckman
- November 20 Alexis Belsanti
- November 20 Luke Elkinton
- November 20 Randy Maisch
- November 21 Jim Prothe
- November 21 Megan Tesar
- November 22 Whitney Shoemaker
- November 22 Burl Peckman
- November 22 Jason Peterson
- November 23 Lisa Shannon
- November 24 Lindsey Lester
- November 25 Carolyn Isenhower

- November 25 Courtney Belsanti
- November 25 Dana Hall
- November 26 Liliana Peckman
- November 28 Hunter Rush
- November 29 Rick Druse
- November 30 Alan Hutchison
- Nov 3 Ken & Karla Debrick (35)
- Nov 18 Darrell & Barb Brandt (50)
- Nov 20 Harry & Gay Stubbs (46)
- Nov 22 Brad & Susan Ashley (17)
- Nov 23 Vernon & Donna Prothe (67)
- Nov 29 ... Webb & Virginia Oberheide (36)
- Nov 29 ... Brett & Becky Stutzman (53)



New Local Area FM Broadcast

Just in time for colder weather we have a new option for those worshipping in our parking lot! The audio of the service inside the Sanctuary is being broadcast on FM radio, limited to the area immediately surrounding the church. Tune your car radio to 99.9 FM to listen during the service! Our thanks to Clint Haley for installing this great system that he acquired with the aid of a Thrivent card. We had fun using it for a special broadcast to those attending our Drive Thru Trunk or Treat.

We are also continuing a live audio and video feed of the service to the Heritage Room and basement Fellowship Hall, as well as livestreaming all our services on Trinity's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock).



Frances Minter will turn 97 on November 15! We would like to honor her with a card shower. If you would like to join in, please mail a birthday card to: Frances Minter c/oNorth Point Skilled Nursing Home, 908 North Pearl Street, Paola, KS, 66071. Also, Lela (Flake) Sands will be 102 on November 11! Her address is: Lela Sands, Vintage Park, 601 North East Street, Paola, KS, 66071.



2020 Advent-Christmas Sermon Series

November 29 (1st Sunday in Advent)

"Joy to the World"
Luke 21:27-28

December 6 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

*"Merry Christmas—
or Xmas?"*
Luke 3:15

December 13 (3rd Sunday in Advent)

*"Immanuel, Incarnation,
& Nativity"*
Isaiah 7:14

December 20 (4th Sunday in Advent)

"Carol, Alleluia, & Noel"
Luke 2:11

December 27 (1st Sunday After Christmas)

*"Gloria in Excelsis Deo
& Peace on Earth"*
Luke 2:13-14



Resurrecting Lutheranism in Transylvania

Transylvania—the birthplace of Bram Stoker's Dracula—is a mysterious land shrouded in myths and superstition. But for Rev. Sorin Trifa, it's home.

Located in modern-day Romania, Transylvania was settled nearly five centuries ago by German Saxon

immigrants, who brought with them their Lutheran faith. In fact, Rev. Trifa notes that "the first book ever printed into the Romanian language was the Small Catechism of Martin Luther."

But, after generations of Soviet-era communism, emigration, and the influence of liberal European churches, only a shell of that Saxon Lutheran heritage remains today. Their massive fortified churches still stand, "but the Lutheran faith is kind of a dead faith in Romania," said Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, Lutheran Heritage Foundation executive director. "The churches are empty, more like museums."

After growing up in one of the liberal Lutheran churches that had abandoned Biblical teachings, the Holy Spirit moved Rev. Trifa (who then was not yet a pastor) to begin digging into what the

Bible really teaches. He scoured theological websites related to our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, completed his theology degree, and connected with LCMS missionaries.



Sadly, after generations of Soviet-era communism and the influence of liberal European churches, the massive old Lutheran church buildings still standing in Romania, like this one in Brasov, are largely empty, more like museums than churches.

The LCMS Regional Director of International Mission in Eurasia recognized Sorin's zeal for the pure Gospel and his eagerness to get a theological education from the LCMS to become a Lutheran pastor. Through LCMS mission efforts in Europe, Sorin was trained and mentored by an LCMS missionary, eventually ordained into the pastoral ministry, and sent as an LCMS missionary back to his home. Beginning in Bucharest, Rev. Trifa's goal was to begin a faithful Lutheran Church in the Romanian language, and the result was the new but still small Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania.

With a goal to resurrect true Lutheran teachings in his homeland of Transylvania, Rev. Trifa began translating Lutheran writings into the Romanian language to share with his new members, as well as other searchers online like him.

"In the fall of 2018, with the help of my son Sergiu who was actively involved in the translation work, we published a new edition of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation in Romanian," he said.



Thanksgiving Day Service

Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving at Trinity, Thursday, November 26, 10:00am

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

O Give Thanks unto the LORD, for He is Good

Rev. Trifa studies the catechism with his small congregation, who met first in his home and then expanded to an Anglican church building in the city of Bucharest. Rev. Trifa also sends the books to people he meets through his Facebook page and other social media.



Rev. Sorin Trifa and his family, who are laboring as LCMS missionaries to resurrect the old, orthodox Lutheran faith in their homeland of Romania.

More translation projects are now underway, including devotional books and parts of the Book of Concord, which contains the doctrinal confessions of the Lutheran Church. In addition to this work in his homeland, Rev. Trifa has expanded his missionary labors into Greece and Italy, and will soon publish Lutheran texts in Greek and Italian.

"After centuries of darkness and spiritual wandering, Romania is called back to the Faith," Rev. Trifa reflected. "I'm so happy that God chose to put me here. He's given me the opportunity to share the Gospel with the country and people and revive the Lutheran Reformation begun here so long ago."

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.

November 1

*Rev. Thomas & Mary Aadland
Kenya*

November 8

*Rev. Sorin Trifa
Romania
(See Picture at Left
& Article Pages 4-5)*

November 15

*Stephanie Wilde
Puerto Rico*

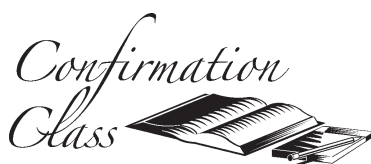
November 22
Rev. Herb & Markie Burch
Belize

November 29
Rev. Charles & Cheryl Ferry
Indonesia



Donating poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary is a great way to remember loved ones at Christmas! There is a signup sheet on the counter in the Gathering Room to order plants from Price Chopper at a cost of \$7 each. Place your payment in the offering marked "Poinsettias." When signing up please indicate how many plants you wish to donate and for whom they are in memory or honor.

You are also welcome to bring your own poinsettias, which you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Just drop them by the church sometime before Christmas Eve and leave them on the tables in the Gathering Room. Please still sign up on the sheet, indicating that you are providing your own plants, and for whom they are in memory or honor, so that this information may be included in the church newsletter.



Because of schedule conflicts, this year there will be two identical sessions each week, covering the same material, with both 7th and 8th grade attending either session. Students can vary which session they come to depending on their schedule that week.

Classes will be held in-person at Trinity on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm beginning



Many thanks to everyone who helped pull off another successful Trunk or Treat! We had over 90 cars come through this year's Drive Thru Trunk or Treat and handed out treats to an estimated 250 kids! Great turnout and beautiful weather! Many commented that they liked the new location along the cemetery path. It was great seeing the smiling faces of the kids and adults. Many visitors commented how grateful they were that we do this each year (and especially this year). Hopefully, next year we will be able to have the kids walk thru! A full album of photos is online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

November 10 and 11. We will meet in the basement Fellowship Hall to allow for generous social distancing. Pastor Vogts will teach from behind a plexiglas shield and the students are asked to please wear masks during class. Please contact Pastor Vogts if you have any questions.

In Difficult Times LCMS Missionaries Still Being Sent

As the world continues grappling with the effects of COVID-19, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues sending missionaries into that world to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At a Service of Sending on August 7 at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, four new LCMS missionaries were sent out to serve.

- Barbara Rebentisch, missionary to Taiwan, will work to develop Lutheran resources in Mandarin Chinese.
- Justin and Jordan Logston will serve in Belize, Central America. Responsibilities will include working with short-term mission teams and building local church leadership.

- One more new missionary will be working in Europe and Central Asia. Due to the danger doing mission work in this Islamic area, this missionary's name is being kept confidential.

In addition to these four new missionaries sent on August 7, earlier this year two more missionaries were sent out, but due to the coronavirus shutdown the customary Service of Sending was not possible.

- Deaconess Sandra Rhein serves as a sacred music educator for the Asia region, and is developing a new Indonesian Lutheran hymnal. Both a musical and linguistic expert, Rhein previously worked on the production of new hymnals in several languages.
- Rachel Krause will serve as a refugee outreach missionary in Germany, working primarily among the many Islamic immigrants to that country, with which our partner church body in Germany has had great success.

Regarding the difficulties and risks beginning new mission work in the midst of a global pandemic, Rhein said: "I know my work and my life are in the Lord's hands. We pray for His will, and rest in peace. I serve as I am able, knowing that He is in control."