

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2021



“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Among the several funerals at Trinity last month was that of Berniece Wallace, who passed away a few weeks following her 100th birthday. Although she was a lifelong, faithful member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, you may not be familiar with her name and likely never met her.

That’s because she only recently moved to this area to be near her family, and due to COVID concerns at the time of her move worshipped weekly at Trinity either online or in a vehicle. She moved here from a suburb of Chicago, where she still lived in the same house that she and her twin sister were born in on the kitchen table in 1921!

I told her daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Dennis Karina, that Berniece probably had more than a dozen Missouri Synod pastors during her long lifetime, and I was simply privileged to be the one completing the cycle. Another brother LCMS pastor had baptized her and her twin sister as babies over 100 years ago at their church in Chicago, where their father was organist; perhaps another pastor had taught and confirmed her; many others had administered Holy Communion to her countless times over the years and led her in worship—as a faithful church member for over a century something like 6,000 services she had attended!

And then it fell to me to stand at her grave at the end of this long line of previous pastors, and give Christian burial to the earthly remains of her body, upon which the first Missouri Synod pastor in

an unbroken chain had poured the waters of Holy Baptism over a century ago.

Her congregation in Chicago was traditional in worship and she said when she moved here one of her friends from there told her she would never find a church with services like those to which she was accustomed. She was a sprightly character and said to me, “I told her there’s a Missouri Synod church right by my daughter’s house that has services *exactly* the same!”

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You may not realize how exceptional it is these days that someone was baptized within a church body and then buried over 100 years later within the very same church body. Most mainline Protestant bodies are quite new, recently formed by mergers—and declining fast. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was formed in 1983 with over 3 million members but has fallen to barely a million. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1988, at 5.2 million members they were twice the size of the LCMS. But, in the years since they have lost over a third of their members and now have just 3.3 million. The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 and is now in the midst of a bitter split.

As Lutherans, we obviously have had doctrinal disagreements with the Roman Catholic Church for over 500 years. But, its members too will tell you that it is not at all the same church in which they grew up.

In contrast, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was founded in 1847 and we will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year, making it just about the oldest continuously existing church body in the United States, and one of the oldest in the world. That’s why Berniece could be baptized in a Missouri Synod church in Chicago in 1921, and buried a century later from a Missouri Synod church in Kansas that is, as she said, “*exactly the same.*” But, most importantly, it is not merely the outward structure or the name “Missouri Synod” that has remained the same, but the *doctrine*.

Jesus said, “*If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” (John 8:31-32). Another version translates, “*If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples.*” But, the opposite is also true: If we do not continue in His Word and hold to His teaching, we are in danger of falling away from Him and ceasing to be His disciples.

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Sadly, that’s what’s happening in many church bodies and congregations that once were solid. Especially on a range of moral and cultural issues, they have not continued in but abandoned Christ’s Word and His teachings. I encountered a most blatant example of this while listening online recently to a service of Choral Evensong from the Church of England broadcast by the BBC. Their music is fantastic and their

services nearly identical to ours, because much of our familiar liturgy is based on their 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

However, this particular service had a reading that included 1 Corinthians 6:9, which gives a list warning against sinful acts that are inappropriate for Christians: *“Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”* I had to replay the reading of this text to see if I heard it correctly, because they went straight from adultery to thievery, and simply skipped over the words *“nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders.”* Presumably, because it is no longer “politically correct” to criticize certain sins they just cut that out from the Bible reading! So, they are quite literally no longer continuing in God’s Word nor holding to the Bible’s teachings.

In contrast, we rejoice that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod still has exactly the same doctrine upon which it was founded nearly 175 years ago. Because, that doctrine is based on the Word of God, *“who cannot lie”* (Titus 1:2), and *“who does not change like shifting shadows”* (James 1:17). As St. Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:15: *“So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you.”*

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That does *not* mean, however, that we as individuals nor our congregation have an unwavering loyalty to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! That is precisely the mistake being made by many church members. They are clinging to their church body or congregation as an institution, perhaps remembering nostalgically what it once was, even though it has now wandered from the teachings of the Bible.

But, if the LCMS should ever forsake God’s Word, then we must forsake the LCMS! The recently updated Constitution and Bylaws of our congregation puts it this way: *“This congregation shall hold membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, so long as the Synod conforms to the congregation’s confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this Constitution, or another orthodox Lutheran body which conforms to this confessional standard.”*

That “confessional standard” that we must above all else maintain reads: *“This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed Word of God, verbally inspired, and acknowledges and accepts all the Confessional Writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, to be the true and genuine exposition of the doctrines of the Bible. These Confessional Writings are the three Ecumenical Creeds, (Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.”*

While we rejoice that even after 175 years our Synod still holds firmly to the teachings of God’s Word and this confessional standard, we dare not have any kind of a “holier than thou” or superior attitude! Rather, we mourn the decline of so many once solid church bodies and congregations, we sympathize with their faithful members who are suffering under unfaithful leadership, and as the song says, *“We pray that all unity may one day be restored.”*

But, what a rare blessing it is these days that we indeed have such unity and continuity in our Synod that someone could be baptized in a Missouri Synod church in Chicago in 1921 and buried a century later from a Missouri Synod church in Kansas that is “exactly the same.”

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Gavin Nicholas Kaiser

Son of Jamey “Pete” and Dena Kaiser

Born April 17, 2013
Entered Eternal Rest June 24, 2021

Funeral Service at Trinity
and Christian Burial in
Paola City Cemetery
July 2, 2021

*“I am the resurrection
and the life. Whoever
believes in Me, even though
he dies, yet shall he live.”*
John 11:25



The quarterly issue of the devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer* for April thru June is available in the Gathering Room at church, in regular size, large print, and a medium “digest” size (same size as *Reader’s Digest*). A great way to keep close to the Lord!



**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.

July 4

Deaconess Sandra Rhein
Taiwan

July 11

Rev. Micah & Robin Wildauer
Belize

July 18

Rev. Vance & Linda Becker
Kenya

July 25

*Rev. Arthur &
Deaconess Eva Rickman*
Panama



**JULY
Birthdays and
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.

- July 1 Emily Wolf
- July 3 Brandy Allen
- July 3 Molly Hermann
- July 3 Karen Windler
- July 3 Every Massey

**Spring
Cleanup Day**



**Thank you to all who helped with
our Spring Cleanup Day in May!**

- July 5 Joshua Bunch
- July 5 Samantha Prothe
- July 6 Ryan Morton
- July 7 Regan Boyer
- July 7 Shelly D'Amato
- July 7 Kennedy McMullin
- July 7 Tamara Mitchell
- July 10 Wanda Stagg
- July 11 Ken Debrick
- July 11 Dennis Prothe
- July 12 Joshua Sombke
- July 12 Steve Warner
- July 13 Steve Grother
- July 13 Duane Prothe
- July 13 Don Warring
- July 14 Sheryl Holtz
- July 14 Rayden Berry
- July 15 Karen Kaiser
- July 16 David Johns
- July 16 Brittannie Ritch
- July 17 Ann Davis
- July 18 Keith Prothe
- July 18 Madison Snider
- July 19 Clint Kettler
- July 19 Cathy Tesar
- July 19 Janet England
- July 19 Annabelle Ducey
- July 20 Mallory Tharp
- July 20 Norma Peckman
- July 21 Dan Hieber
- July 21 Chance Mueller
- July 23 Lillian Kettler
- July 23 Taryn Jones
- July 24 Zachary Davis
- July 24 Margo Rodewald
- July 24 Marcie Reyelts
- July 25 Shannon Fanning
- July 26 Stephanie Bivins
- July 27 Matthew Barnett
- July 27 Denna Jones
- July 27 Curtis Kettler
- July 27 Marla Prothe
- July 29 Lonnie England
- July 29 Barbara Herrs
- July 29 Cody Weaver
- July 31 Barb Dillenbeck
- July 31 Colleen Richardson
- July 1 Dannie & Elaine Stewart (49)
- July 7 ... Andrew & Brianna Chapman (9)
- July 8 Earl & Darleen Medlin (46)
- July 15 Adam & Lorri Jenson (26)
- July 18 Paul & Karen Brack (40)
- July 22 Charles & Kathy Hall (43)
- July 26 John & Kathy Gerken (52)
- July 26 David & Carol Wray (41)
- July 27 .. Phillip & Morgan Richards (19)
- July 29 Chris & Sherri Webb (32)



Sermons for July

Complete videos of all our services, as well as audio and printed text of the sermon only, are available on our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons. Printed copies of that day's sermon and several of the most recent sermons are also available in the Gathering Room.

July 4 (Independence Day)

"Let Freedom Ring!"

Leviticus 25:10

July 11

"The Fear of the Lord Is the Beginning of Wisdom"

Proverbs 9:10

July 18

"Baptism: Foundation for Christian Living"

Ephesians 5:25-33

July 25

*"Off With the Old—
On With the New"*

Ephesians 4:17-24

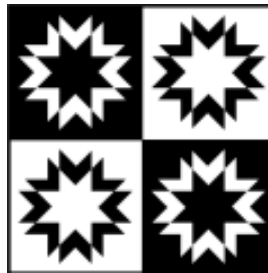


A large congregation enjoyed our annual Service in the Shelter House to observe Independence Day on July 4. More photos online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.



We rejoice to welcome into membership at Trinity this month Fritz, Miciah, and Everett Carter, by transfer from Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, Kansas; Carolyn Enyeart, by transfer from Christ Lutheran Church, Platte Woods, Missouri; and Jeff and Shelley Thompson, by transfer from Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Louisburg, Kansas.

We will have a New Member Sunday on August 8 to formally welcome these and other recent new members to Trinity, with a welcoming rite during the service and reception following in the Gathering Room. If you are interested in a transfer of membership to Trinity or membership classes please contact Pastor Vogts.



Quilt Raffle

In the Gathering Room is displayed a beautiful quilt that the Ladies Aid have made to raise money for missions. Raffle tickets can be obtained from Nina Gerken, Norma Peckman, Guylene Block, or Shirley Hubbard. The ladies would also appreciate help with selling tickets, so anyone willing to help please see them for extra tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn our annual Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner this fall.



The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held following worship on Sunday, July 18. In order to prepare for this meeting the Church Council will meet Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00pm.



Bible Class Returns to Heritage Room

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *Titus: The Conduct of the Christian and the Life of the Church*. After over a year holding class in the basement to allow for social distancing, we have now resumed meeting in the Heritage Room. You are invited to join in Sundays at 9:00am.

Scam Alert

Please be advised and share with others that someone has texted at least two Trinity members falsely claiming to be Pastor Vogts, and they may contact other members, and by other means such as email. If you reply they will probably ask for some kind of online money transfer or gift card to supposedly help someone in need.

This happened last year with several LCMS churches in Johnson County and some members of those congregations fell for it and lost quite a bit of money. *If anyone claiming to be Pastor Vogts ever asks you for any kind of money it is always a scam!* He will never ask anyone to do something like that. Thanks for spreading the word!