



The Holy Land: Kansas or Oz?

“Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’ ‘I tell you, He replied, ‘if these were silent, the very stones will cry out.’”
(Luke 19:39-40)

Did you know that all archaeology began as *Biblical* archaeology, an endeavor to affirm the truthfulness and accuracy of the Bible?

In the 1800’s, skeptics of the Bible declared that the Old Testament in particular was but a book of myths and fables. According to these skeptics, the people, places, and events recorded in the Bible didn’t exist and never happened. And they issued a challenge to those who believed the Bible: If you actually went over there and started digging, you wouldn’t find any of the cities or other evidence to support the Bible, because it is all imaginary.

In the movie “The Wizard of Oz,” our state of Kansas during the Great Depression is famously portrayed in dreary black-and-white, switching to color for the fanciful, fantasy Land of Oz. Before the advent of archaeology, skeptics of the Bible dismissed the Holy Land recorded in its pages as a make-believe fantasyland, concocted by the writers of the Bible, no more real than the Land of Oz.

But, then Queen Victoria and others in England took up the challenge of the skeptics, founding the Palestinian Exploration Fund in 1865, and sending scholars to dig in the Holy Land, using the Bible itself as their guide.

It was from these efforts that a new discipline emerged—and a newly adopted English word was used to describe it: “archaeology,” from the Greek *arkhaiologia*, a compound of *arkhaios*, meaning “ancient,” and *logos*, meaning “words, study,” so literally archaeology is “words about and study of ancient things.”



Pottery vessels *in situ*, Latin for “in place,” as they were found in a room destroyed by an earthquake in Jerusalem, which was dated using Biblical references to the reign of King Uzziah (792-740 B.C.).



The same pottery vessels after reconstruction.

The skeptics had convinced so many that the Bible was only imaginary fiction that the stupendous results of this new discipline that came pouring back from the Holy Land rocked the world. Because, it is all there, exactly as the Bible says, exactly where it should be.

The Palestinian Exploration Fund is still in existence today and very active in Middle Eastern archaeology, and many, many others have joined the effort to uncover the background and history of the Bible lands. I myself have excavated at the site of the ancient city of Abila in Jordan, a Roman colony about 20 miles from the Sea of Galilee that was part of a federation of such outposts called the Decapolis or “Ten Cities,” which is mentioned in the Gospels (Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20, 7:23).

There have been especially great advances and discoveries in Biblical archaeology since the formation of the modern state of Israel in 1949. With thousands of years of exciting history literally in their backyards, the Israelis have become very devoted to archaeology—and to their credit have not shied away from evidence that supports the record of the New Testament as well as the Old.

One literally “earth-shattering” discovery was announced this month by Israeli archaeologists excavating in Jerusalem. They discovered what archaeologists call a “destruction layer,” containing collapsed buildings and broken pieces of pottery. “In [one] room, a row of smashed vessels was uncovered along its northern wall, above which fallen stones had been found,” writes the team from the Israeli Antiquities Authority. “It appears that these stones were the upper part of the

walls of the room, which had collapsed, destroying the vessels which had been set along the wall.”

It was evident that something violent had taken place, but the cause was unclear. The remains didn't fit the proper time period for invasion, and the fragments didn't contain any ash from the fires that normally accompany a foreign attack. What was it that could have brought these structures down?

That is when the archaeologists turned to the most reliable source of all—the same one used over 150 years ago as a guide for the pioneers in the field of archaeology. “We asked ourselves what could have caused that dramatic layer of destruction we uncovered,” IAA excavation directors Dr. Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf said. “Examining the excavation findings, we tried to check if there is a reference to it in the Biblical text.” There they struck gold—twice.

The book of the prophet Amos begins with this historical reference: “*The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa, what he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was King of Judah*” (Amos 1:1).

This ancient earthquake is also referenced in the book of the prophet Zechariah: “*You will flee as you fled from the earthquake, in the days of Uzziah, King of Judah*” (Zechariah 14:5).



An ancient room excavated by archaeologists in Jerusalem with shattered pottery vessels covered by stones from a collapsed wall, a telltale sign that the destruction was caused by an earthquake.

Just as we are already using “the lockdown” or “the virus” as a time reference, this natural disaster was so “earth-shattering” in the memory of ancient Israel that it was used as a marker of time, and referred to by these prophets simply as “the earthquake.” And since we have a good estimation of the dates for Uzziah's reign, approximately 792-740 B.C., this new discovery also helps us date other ancient remains being uncovered in the Holy Land every day. Until now, the earliest “destruction layer” in Jerusalem was from the Babylonian conquest of 586 B.C., so for archaeologists this historical anchor some two centuries earlier serves as an extremely important stratigraphic benchmark.

That's because archaeologists often use such a widespread “destruction layer” as a dating device. For, if the date of the event that caused the destruction is known—in this case an earthquake during the reign of King Uzziah—then everything under the destruction layer must be from before that date, and everything above the destruction layer after it. So, this new discovery is a very helpful piece of the puzzle as we continue exploring and excavating in the lands of the Bible.

Jesus said that “*the very stones will cry out*” in testimony to Him, and this recent discovery is an example of how that's been happening since the discipline of archaeology was invented in the Holy Land over 150 years ago.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Sermons for August

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.

August 1

“Five Favorite Old Testament Stories: Creation”
Hebrews 3:4

August 8

Five Favorite Old Testament Stories: Noah's Ark”
Genesis 6-8

August 15

Five Favorite Old Testament Stories: Joseph's Coat”
Genesis 37

August 22

Rev. Paul Helmer
Guest Minister

August 29

Five Favorite Old Testament Stories: Baby Moses”
Exodus 2:1-10

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August, 2021



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

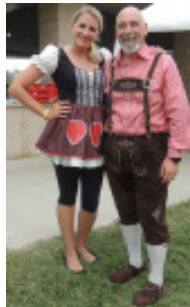
Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not be complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

August 1 Linda Gieger
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 5 Patty Moser
 August 6 Jeremiah Ordonez
 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 Coppenger
 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 28 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 (15)
 August 6 Bill & Ashley Dillenbeck (5)
 August 16 Doug & Judy Park (41)
 August 17 ... Curtis & Lucy Kettler (36)
 August 18 .. Greg & Karen Windler (48)



Trinity's Eighth Blocktoberfest



**Saturday, September 18
Noon–6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
Sunday, September 19, 10:00am
In the Shelter House
Free BBQ Lunch Following Service**

**Come Join the Blocktoberfest
Fun for the Whole Family!**



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 1

Rev. James & Peggy Krikava
Czech Republic

August 8

Rev. Daniel & Joan Jastram
Japan

August 15

Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad
Mexico

August 22

Ruth Maita
Puerto Rico

August 29

*Rev. Philip &
Deaconess Rachel Jasep*
Uruguay



These are just some of the 26 new members we rejoiced to welcome to Trinity on August 8. Welcome to the Trinity family of faith! (Photo by Greg Windler)

Fritz & Miciah Carter and Everett —

The Carters recently moved to Paola from Gardner. Fritz works at the Panasonic Service Center in Olathe and Miciah is a stay-at-home Mom and home educator for three-year-old Everett. They join by Transfer of Membership from Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee. They purchased a house in Paola and are at home at 402 West Pankishaw, Paola.

Carolyn Enyeart —

A native of Kansas City, Kansas, Carolyn grew up in Johnson County and lived many years in Platte Woods, Missouri. She is retired from Human Resources at the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City. She recently moved to Archie, Missouri to be nearer her children. She joins by Transfer of Membership from Christ Lutheran Church, Platte Woods, Missouri. Her hobbies include hiking and organ playing, and by coincidence she was the organist for Sarah Vogts' wedding last summer! Carolyn is at home at 211 Blackberry Circle, Archie, MO, 64725.

Chance & Becky Hager and Lainey & Wrenley —

Becky works at Elliot Insurance with Sharon Prothe and began attending Trinity with her daughters during COVID. The Hagers join by Release of Membership from Marion Hill Lutheran Church, White City, Kansas, and are at home at 13095 West 311th Street, Paola.

Kynda Harshman —

Kynda began worshipping at Trinity's drive-in services last summer and joins by Transfer from First Lutheran Church, Paola. Sadly, Kynda's husband Bruce passed away with COVID in December, 2020, and a memorial service will be held at Trinity at a later date. Kynda is at home at 26345 West 321st Street, Paola.

Beverly Helin —

Beverly's maiden name was Prothe and she has many relatives at Block. She grew up as a member of Trinity and attended Trinity Lutheran School. Before moving back to Paola several years ago she lived for many years in Dodge City, Kansas where she directed the school of cosmetology at Dodge City Community College. Beverly joins by Transfer of Membership from First Lutheran Church, Paola, and is at home at Vintage Park, 601 North East Street, Paola.

Dennis & Debra Karina —

The Karinas are both originally from the Chicago area and lived many different places in the United States and overseas while Dennis had a career in the Air Force and then held several positions in the technology sector. They most recently moved from Texas to be near family and found a place south of Louisburg with room for their dogs and a big garden. Debra's mother, Bernice Wallace, later



We rejoice to welcome into membership at Trinity these 26 new members on August 8. Welcome to the Trinity family of faith!

Lance & Stacey Anderson — Lance and Stacy recently moved to the area and join Trinity by Affirmation of Faith. Lance is retired from the Air Force and Stacey is a nurse at Olathe Medical Center. They are at home at 36011 New Lancaster Road, Paola.

also moved from the Chicago area and lived with them before passing away shortly after her 100th birthday, with her funeral held at Trinity in June. The Karinas join by Affirmation of Faith and are at home at 32676 Mission Belleview Road, Louisburg.

Mark Minden — Mark grew up in Paola and is retired from the U.S. Post Office. He married Trinity member Jan Minden in 2015. Mark joins by Transfer of Membership from First Lutheran Church, Paola, and is at home with Jan at 114 Crestview Drive, Paola.

Dale & Patty Moser — The Mosers are the parents of Trinity member Sally Wood and join by Transfer of Membership from First Lutheran Church, Paola. They are at home at 5 North Brayman Street, Paola.

Christie Stephens — Christie is married to Trinity member Joe Stephens and joined by Affirmation of Faith after taking Adult Information Class during COVID last year. Christie and Joe are at home at 36495 Somerset Road, Paola.

Jeff & Shelley Thompson — The Thompsons will be remembered by many as former members of Trinity. They are both veterinarians and together operate the Town & Country Equine & Pet Hospital in Louisburg, with Jeff working primarily on large animals and Shelley on small animals. The Thompsons rejoin Trinity by Transfer of Membership from Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Louisburg, Kansas, and are at home at 27965 Beaver Creek Road, Louisburg.

Tyler & Lisa Vaughn and Jocelyn, Graden, Camryn, and Edwin — The Vaughns began attending Trinity's drive-in services last summer. They live in Spring Hill where Lisa operates VaughanFire Market downtown. Tyler works in the insurance industry, and since being elected in 2018 also serves as a Miami County Commissioner. They join by transfer from King of Kings Lutheran Church, Gardner, and are at home at 22785 South Renner Road, Spring Hill.



Guest Minister August 22

The weekend of August 22 Pastor and Terry Vogts will be helping their daughter Sarah and her husband David move from the Minneapolis area to Chicago, where Sarah will be studying at DePaul University for a Master's Degree in Bassoon (delayed one year due to COVID). They will also be stopping in Coralville, Iowa to see their son Jacob's new home.

Our guest minister at Trinity on August 22 will be Rev. Paul Helmer.



Voters Assembly Summary

The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly on July 18 was called to order by Chairman Windler, with Pastor Vogts offering opening devotions. Roll was answered by 16 members; there were no new member requests.

Financial reports by the home treasurer and missions treasurer were given. Pastor Vogts reported on his worship, education, visitation, and administration efforts up to the third quarter of 2021.

Trustees reported on numerous items, including installation of carpet squares in the basement Sunday school rooms, basement flooding solutions, church cleanup on May 8, AED/CPR training scheduled for April 21, and that front sign design/discussions continue.

Reports were heard from the Endowment Committee, Board of Education, and Blocktoberfest. Work by the outreach committee continues; additional volunteers are welcome.

The church will not be used for the August primary election. The sign at the Shelter House has been repaired and repainted. Improvements to the barn are scheduled to start this week.

The Ladies Aid will be raffling a quilt, with proceeds going to missions. Coffee hour after services is slated to resume August 1. Audio/Visual upgrades to the altar area will be handled by the trustees.



In Christian Sympathy

Gerald Kenneth Woodall
August 14, 1931 – July 13, 2021

*"Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord."
Revelation 14:13*



After over a year with snacks suspended due to COVID we have resumed Coffee Hour after worship each Sunday. Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship?

Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. There is a sign-up sheet for the rest of the year on the table with the snacks. All of 2021 is open!

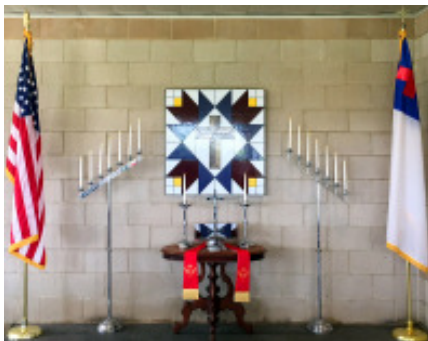
Our Generations group has generously agreed to provide and prepare the coffee and juice, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!



New Bible Class on “God and Government”

Many questions came up during the past year on the power of government related to the Church, and the proper relationship between Church and State. Our new study in Adult Bible Class on *God and Government* is taking a look at many of these questions and what the Bible has to say about the origins and power of the government and its relationship to the Church.

You are invited to join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room.



Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service & BBQ Lunch September 19

On Sunday morning, September 19, we will again have our “Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service” in the Shelter House, at our regular worship time of 10:00am.

The message will be “*God’s Priceless Gift*” based on Isaiah 55:1-3. Following the service there will again be a free BBQ lunch provided for everyone by the Blocktoberfest Committee.



2021 Quilt Raffle

Raffle tickets to support missions are available for this beautiful quilt made by the Trinity Ladies Aid. It is a generously sized queen, hand embroidered by the ladies and machine quilted for extra durability.

Tickets are \$1 per chance to win, or six tickets for \$5. Raffle tickets can be obtained from Nancy Golubski or Greg Windler. Your help would be appreciated selling tickets, so anyone willing to help please see Nancy or Greg for extra tickets.

You may also mail a check (no cash please) made out to “Trinity Ladies Aid” to: Trinity Lutheran Church, ATTN: Quilt Raffle, 34868 Block Road, Paola, KS, 66071. Be sure to include your full contact information in case you are the winner!

Tickets will also be available at Blocktoberfest on September 18. Tickets will be sold until October when the drawing will take place at Trinity’s Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner (need not be present to win).

