

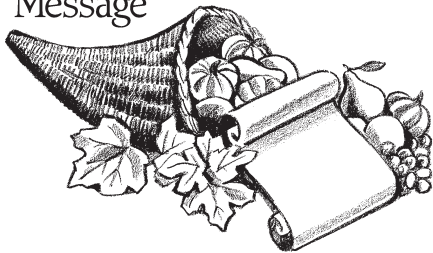
Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

November 2021



Pastor's Thanksgiving Message



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4-6

What comes to mind when you think of Thanksgiving Day? Turkey and dressing; time off from school and work; parades and football games on TV; family feasts and overeating?

Thanksgiving Day is more than just turkeys and ball games and family get-togethers. Thanksgiving Day is a special day set aside by proclamation of the President of our nation for all citizens of this land to give thanks to God for the many great blessings we enjoy. But instead, many of us, perhaps even most of us, will spend this day as we do many other days: Instead of giving thanks for what we do have, worrying about the things we do not have.

Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, it has been part of our sinfulness to be dissatisfied with what we have and to worry about what we do not have. Adam and Eve lived in paradise.

Everything was perfect: no illness, no hunger, no hurting, no fighting, no anger. A perfect couple, a perfect marriage, a perfect world. What more could they ask for? What more could they want? But, even they fell into the devil's trap called dissatisfaction.

The one thing they could not have, the forbidden fruit, that the serpent convinced them, was the one thing they must have to be truly happy. And so instead of giving thanks and being happy with the surpassingly great blessings they did have, Adam and Eve yearned for that which they did not have. In the process they ruined their perfect lives, ruined their perfect marriage, and brought sin and evil into our world. Trying to obtain what they did not possess they lost the greatest earthly blessings anyone ever did possess.

Still today, the devil tempts us into that old trap called: dissatisfaction. Still today instead of giving thanks for

what we do have, we worry about the things we do not have. Still today we go so far as to ruin our lives, ruin our marriages, fall into all sorts of sin and evil just to get our hands on the forbidden fruit.

A few years ago there was a story on *60 Minutes* about a special minimum security prison in Florida. It is sometimes called the country-club prison, because most of the inmates were once successful businessmen or politicians. Many of them are still worth millions of dollars. One man said that at one time he had made as much as 2 million dollars a day. What more could a person want? These men had it all, but even they threw it all away to reach for the forbidden fruit. What they had wasn't enough. They even broke the law to get more, in the process ruining their lives.

What percentage of divorces do you think are blamed at least in part on disagreements over money? According

to the experts money problems are at least partly the cause in over 90% of all divorces. And most of these are not poor people. They are people with good jobs and nice homes, comfortable people who already possess all the little luxuries of American life. And yet, instead of living together in love and giving thanks for what they do have, many couples fight and argue and worry about the things they do not have, in the process ruining their relationship in the quest for more and more things. That's why Proverbs 15:17 says, "It's better to eat a simple meal in a house filled with love, than a fancy feast in a house full of hatred."



The account of ten lepers being healed but only one returning to give thanks to Christ (Luke 17:11-19) is the traditional Gospel Reading for Thanksgiving Day. This woodcut illustrating that story is from Martin Luther's 1544 Exposition of the Epistles and Gospels for Advent.

It is part of our sinfulness to be dissatisfied. To forget the blessings we do have, to always be worrying about the things in life we do not have. Our materialistic society makes it even worse. Like the subtle temptations the serpent whispered in the garden, we are subtly taught in our society through advertising and the media that our main purpose in life is to acquire things, to be the ultimate consumer. Advertising leads us into the trap of believing we cannot be truly happy with what we have, that happiness comes from acquiring things, and it is exactly the things we do not yet have that finally will bring us happiness. But, then, the fashions change, or a new and improved model comes along, and once again we worry that we do not have it all.

Do you have in your mind a short little list of things you think you must have? And once you get these things, then you will finally be happy, finally be satisfied, finally be thankful, right? Wrong. An attitude of dissatisfaction sticks with you; you will simply move your sights and worry yourself about other things.

How can we put an end to this vicious cycle of dissatisfaction? How can we learn to be happy, satisfied and thankful? Paul gives us the answer: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Trinity Tribune

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November, 2021*

Instead of an attitude of dissatisfaction, live life with "an attitude of gratitude," giving thanks to God for His many blessings, especially the greatest blessing of all: Sending His Son to pay the penalty for your sins, forgiving all your sins for Jesus' sake.

God does forgive all your sins because Jesus shed His blood on the cross for you. God even forgives your sins of thanklessness and dissatisfaction. And God promises to hear and answer your prayers, to provide for your wants and needs, as Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

Paul puts it this way in Romans 8:32, "If God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, will not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" Jesus said, in the Sermon on the Mount, "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:24-33).

A little baby is totally dependent upon its parents. They provide for all its needs because they love their child. You are the beloved child of God. God made you His child in Holy Baptism, when He washed away your sins and implanted faith in your heart to trust in Jesus as your Savior. God your heavenly

Father will provide for your needs. As Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast your burdens upon the Lord, for He cares for you."

Casting your cares upon your heavenly Father will give you peace that all the things of this world could give, as Paul says in Philippians 4:4-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Looking Ahead to Advent & Christmas

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. With everyone this year still getting back "into the groove" of our normal holiday routines, here's a look ahead to our holiday schedule at Trinity this year.

Christmas Communion — Our annual "Christmas Carol Communion Service" with favorite Christmas carols being used for portions of the Liturgy will be on Sunday, December 19.

Two Christmas Eve Services — Because in the past the church could get very crowded on Christmas Eve and there is still a desire for some "social distancing" we will once again have two services on Christmas Eve this year, Friday, December 24, with an additional Candlelight Carol Service at 5:00pm that will not include the children's program, and the traditional Children's

Christmas Program at 7:00pm. Both services will feature the same sermon and your favorite carols, including "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.

Christmas Day — Our Christmas Day service will be on Saturday, December 25 at 10:00am. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Christmas at church and enjoy the beautiful Christmas trees, poinsettias, and other decorations in our sanctuary, but with generous "social distancing." The service will feature gradual lighting of the Advent Wreath as we read the story of Advent and Christmas and sing carols related to the readings.

First Sunday after Christmas — This year we have Christmas services three days in a row! We will continue the celebration with the First Sunday after Christmas on Sunday, December 26, using a special order of worship featuring Christmas carols being used for parts of the Liturgy.

No New Year's Day Service — For this year only we will not have a service on New Year's Day. Pastor and Terry Vogts will be departing for England on December 27 for their son Jacob's marriage to Fiona Howat in her hometown of Manchester, and not return until mid-January. A guest minister could not be found for New Year's Day so it was decided to cancel that service for this year only. Our guest minister for January 2 and 9 will be Rev. Roger Schepmann. He will conduct the installation of church officers and board members for 2022 at the service on Sunday, January 2.

Epiphany Celebration Transferred to January 2 — Epiphany, when we commemorate the visit of the Wise Men, is the "12th Day of Christmas" and actually falls on January 6, which this year is a Thursday. Therefore, we will transfer our observance of Epiphany to the previous Sunday, January 2.

*Oh, come, let us
adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*



Thanksgiving Day Service

Bring Your Family and Guests to Celebrate Thanksgiving at Trinity, Thursday, November 25, 10:00am

All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

O Give Thanks unto the LORD, for He is Good



Sermons for November

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.

November 7 (All Saints' Day Transferred)

"Four Strategies for Coping with Tribulation"
Revelation 7:13-14

November 14

"Seven Signs of the Second Coming"
Mark 13:1-13

November 21

"Where Can We Find Security?"
Mark 13:31

November 25 (Thanksgiving Day)

"Forget Not All His Benefits"
Luke 17:11-19

November 28 (First Sunday in Advent)

"The Lord our Righteousness"
Jeremiah 33:14-16



New Bible Class on Church Year Begins November 7

Have you ever wondered about the origin, meaning and significance of the "Church Year"? In *The Year of the Lord's Favor* we will explore such questions as how this system of celebrations and readings was established, what the annual cycle of these seasons means, why certain colors and symbols are used for the seasons and what they signify.

This class will help you to better understand and appreciate our worship, and its thematic organization around the Church Year. Join in Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room beginning November 7 as we explore *The Year of the Lord's Favor*.



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 Ashley Deknes
- November 9 Greg Windler
- 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 JoAnn Vaughn
- November 16 Sacred Davis
- November 19 Elaine Bocker
- 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 23 Vernon & Donna Prothe (67)
- Nov 29 ... Webb & Virginia Oberheide (36)
- Nov 29 ... Brett & Becky Stutzman (53)

Voters Assembly Summary



Meeting was called to order by Chairman Windler, with Pastor Vogts offering opening devotion and song. Roll was answered by 18 members; there were no new member requests.

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

Trustees reported on numerous items, including barn upgrade being complete, old church sign debris removed, cemetery headstone alignment, chair cart for the elevator, and elevator reset needed after a power outage. A meeting will be held to finalize new church sign design and location.

Officers elected are Chairman – Greg Windler, Elder – Darrel Rodewald, Trustee – Dave Prothe, Board of Education – Nancy Golubski, Finance Committee – Lori Schlegel, Usher – Mike England, Secretary – Jim Prothe. Reports were heard from the Endowment Committee, Board of Education, Youth, and Blocktoberfest.

Work by the outreach committee continues; future direction is needed. The 2022 Mission Budget was set at \$7500, the same as 2021. Thanksgiving loose offering will go to missions; Christmas Eve and Christmas Day loose offerings will go to our mission partner.

Endowment committee appointments of Kynda Harshman and Jeff Thompson were approved. The church will be used for the November 2 election, and will be locked in conjunction with same.

Discussion was held regarding having Communion on the first and third Sunday's year around, with action being tabled until the January meeting.

The 2022 New Year's Day service will not be held due to Pastor Vogts being on vacation, and no additional

Pastor available; installation of officers will be held at the January 2 service. Discussion was held regarding the need for additional audio/visual help.

Pastor Published in Lutheran Witness

Pastor Vogts has an article, "Hearts in Harmony," on pages 27-28 of the November, 2021 issue of our national denominational magazine *The Lutheran Witness*. It is a shortened version of his article from the July, 2021 issue of our church newsletter *Trinity Tribune*. This is the sixth time in his ministry that Pastor Vogts has been privileged to have an article appear in *The Lutheran Witness*.



Tone Chimes for Christmas

We are getting a group together to play tone chimes for our Christmas services. This is a lot of fun and adds a beautiful element to our Christmas celebrations. All who are interested please contact Nancy Golubski.

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 7

*Rev. Joel & Deaconess Clarion
Fritsche*

Dominican Republic
(See Article Pages 5-6)

November 14

Herman & Sheila Strozier
Czech Republic

November 21

Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump
Kenya

November 28

Rev. Matthew & Kali Wood
Indonesia



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? There is a sign-up sheet on the Gatherin Room counter. Our Generations group has generously agreed to provide and prepare the coffee and juice each week! So those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

November 7

Linda Prothe

November 14

Christie & Joe Stephens

November 21

Nancy Golubski

November 28

Need Volunteers

MISSION NEWS

In addition to our regular giving to missions, for many years Trinity has also given additional “Together in Mission” gifts to support a particular missionary family. Currently, our “Together in Mission” contributions help fund the work of Rev. Joel & Deaconess Clarion Fritsche, who with their sons Viktor, Sergei, and Andrei serve in the Dominican Republic.

Rev. Fritsche was born in Houston, Texas. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Nebraska, and received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before becoming a missionary, he served as a pastor of congregations in Wyoming, Texas and Illinois, and worked as an admissions counselor at the seminary.

Deaconess Fritsche was born and raised in the Republic of Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1996 and received a bachelor’s degree in education from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wisconsin. She taught for several years in Lutheran schools before entering the mission field with her family, and to aid in her mission work recently also became a deaconess through study with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.



Through our “Together in Mission” contributions our congregation gives special support to Rev. Joel & Deaconess Clarion Fritsche, who with their sons Viktor, Sergei, and Andrei serve in the Dominican Republic.

Rev. Fritsche serves as the director of Concordia Seminary in Palmar Arriba, teaching courses to prepare men to be pastors not only the Dominican Republic but throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. He also helps the local pastors plant and develop new churches in the region.

Deaconess Fritsche serves as a deaconess at the “home church” of the seminary, Iglesia Luterana del Pueblo Nuevo (Lutheran Church of Pueblo Nuevo), where she directs Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and women’s Bible studies. She also supports the wives of the seminarians with Bible studies and other activities to help

prepare them for their new role as a pastor’s wife. In addition, she assists with curriculum and teaching in the Lutheran parochial schools in Licey and Palmar Arriba.

Rev. Fritsche shares some news about our seminary in the Dominican Republic:

Last year due to COVID we were in and out of the classroom, bouncing between in-person and virtual classes, with two quarantine periods from close brushes with the virus. But, an even bigger issue for us than COVID was a problem with the solar panel system that supplies essential electricity for our seminary complex, but thanks to generous donors it is working again after a major repair and update.

Despite these challenges we rejoiced to graduate eight more men from our seminary this past May, most of whom are already ordained and serving congregations in their home countries. I traveled to Bolivia for the ordination of two of our recent Bolivian graduates. We have had at least five graduates from Bolivia and now three current students. Our faculty recently spent several months teaching continuing education classes for all of the current pastors in Bolivia by Zoom.

Things are opening up in the Dominican Republic as more and more people are getting vaccinated. Worship attendance at the congregation in Pueblo Nuevo has been returning to normal. We have a superb team of evangelists hitting the pavement twice a week to take the Gospel to the doorsteps of family, friends, and neighbors of the church members.

Seminarians Hector and Carlos each led an evangelistic Bible study series in two different areas of the community. One was outside a member’s home where numerous women gather daily in the afternoon under the shade of a tree to visit. The second was in the home of a recent contact we made through another church member. The next step is to continue visiting these folks and working toward catechism classes and active church participation. We could soon have a nice-sized new catechism class! Please pray that the Lord would bless these evangelistic efforts.

This year, despite curfews and COVID restrictions, we were finally able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter services in our new church building at Pueblo Nuevo. We moved into our present location in 2019, but last year for Holy Week and Easter we could only gather virtually. It was wonderful to be together to shout "Christ is risen! Alleluia" this Easter.



Christmas Open House

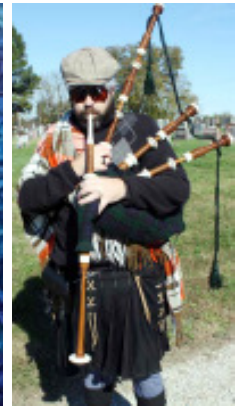
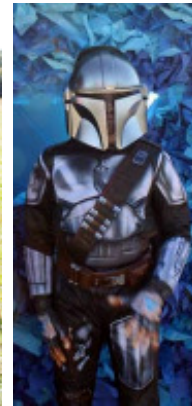
You Are Invited to a
Christmas Open House
at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 5
1:00pm–5:00pm

All Invited – Everyone Welcome!

PORTALS of PRAYER

The quarterly issue of the devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer* for October thru December is available at church, in standard, large print, and medium size. A great way to keep close to the Lord!



Thank you to everyone who helped make our 13th Annual Trunk or Treat on October 31 another big success! Thanks also to Greg Windler for the photos of this event. Lots more pictures online at www.trinitycms.org/photos.

