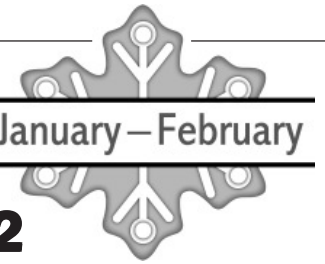


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

January – February

2022



The Four Loves of the Bible

In the English language we have just one word for the concept of “love.” We use the word “love” to express a fondness for things, like chocolate. We also use the same word on Valentine’s Day to say, “I love you sweetheart.” And on Mother’s Day we will say, “I love you, Mom.” Even though we use the same word in English, love for chocolate, love for your sweetheart, and love for Mom, are very different kinds of love.

The English language has just one word for these different kinds of love, but the Greek language in which the New Testament was written has four different words for love: *Erao*, *Phileo*, *Stergo*, and *Agape*.

Erao is sexual love, from which we get “erotic.” The word *Erao* does not occur in the New Testament, but that does not mean that sexual love is wrong or sinful. Within the marriage relationship, sexual love is a part of God’s plan, a good gift and a blessing from God.

Genesis 1:27 reports, “male and female He created them” and then just a few verses later says: “And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.” That includes human sexuality, which is “very good” when used according to God’s plan, by a man and woman, husband and wife, within their marriage relationship. Jesus affirms this when He says, “At the beginning the Creator ‘made them male

and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’” (Matthew 19:4-6).

Many people are surprised to learn that rather than forbidding or discouraging sexual relations, the Bible actually strongly encourages sexual relations between husband and wife: “Since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. . . Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).



And now these three abide: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

So, the problems, and pain, and suffering that we sometimes experience in this world with regard to human sexuality are not because sexuality itself is inherently evil, but because humanity is inherently evil, misusing something which God created for our good.

Phileo and *Stergo* are the Greek words for brotherly love, friendship and fondness, the words we would use to say “I love you, Mom,” or on those familiar bumper stickers when we proclaim our “love” for various things. *Phileo* and *Stergo* don’t occur very often in the New Testament. One example is in Romans 12:10 where Paul says, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”

The word which is used most often in the New Testament for love is *Agape*, a word we don’t really have an equivalent for in English. *Agape* means first of all an undeserved love; a love which you have not earned nor have a right to expect; a love which is given to you not because of who you are or what you have done, but because of who the one loving you is, because showing love is that person’s very nature. John beautifully expresses this aspect of *Agape*: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us . . . for God is love” (1 John 4:8-10).

We humans have a tendency to “love the lovable,” to show our love only to those who earn it in some way, or love us in return. But, because “God is love,” because undeserved love, *Agape*, is God’s very nature, He shows love to us even though our sins deserve not His love but His wrath and anger.

Agape is undeserved love, and it is also self-sacrificial love, love which shows itself in action, giving up oneself for the sake of others. John describes the action God took to show His *Agape*, His self-sacrificial love toward us: “This is how God showed His love for us: He sent

His only-begotten Son into the world that we may live through Him. . . He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”(1 John 4:9-10). Paul likewise says in Romans 5:8, “God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” And Jesus Himself beautifully describes how He put His love for us into action: “I am the Good Shepherd . . . and I lay down My life for the sheep”(John 10:14-15).

Agape is undeserved love, self-sacrificial love, and forgiving love, as John says in Revelation 1:7, “He loved us and has freed us from our sins by His blood.” Your sins are all forgiven because of God’s Agape, God’s undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love, as summarized in the most famous and familiar Bible verse telling us about God’s love: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”(John 3:16).

Jesus said at the Last Supper: “My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34). We respond to God’s Agape, God’s undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love toward us, by showing Agape, undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love, toward others. As John says, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another”(1 John 4:11).

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January–February, 2022*

Erao, Phileo and Stergo, and Agape—all four types of love found in the Bible must come together for a happy marriage: sexual love; friendship; fondness; and undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love.

In the wedding vows we say: “To have and to hold from this day forward. For better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health.” Erao, Phileo and Stergo will get you through the better, the richer, and the health. But, it takes Agape, undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love to get you through the worse, the poorer, the sickness.

At our wedding, and probably at yours, Paul’s beautiful words from 1 Corinthians 13 were read: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

In those verses the word for love is Agape, undeserved, self-sacrificial, forgiving love. It is very significant that it’s specifically this love, Agape, which the Bible says never fails. Erao, sexual attraction, may mellow over time. Phileo and Stergo, friendship and fondness, that will be enough to keep you together during the better, the richer, and the health. But, neither Erao, nor Phileo, nor Stergo is strong enough to get you through the worse, the poorer, the sickness.

But, Agape “never fails,” because Agape is not based on whether your spouse has earned or deserves your love. Agape is based on the love that flows from your heart toward your spouse because of who you are, a child of God; the love that flows from your heart because of God’s love toward you.

*“Beloved, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.”*

*“My command is this: Love one
another as I have loved you.”*

*“Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.”*

“We love because He first loved us.”

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Thank you to everyone for your kind expressions of interest and concern as we journeyed to England at the beginning of the New Year for our son Jacob’s wedding to Fiona Howat in Manchester, near her hometown of Rawtenstall, and subsequently contracted Covid. Fortunately, all of us had mild symptoms similar to a bad cold.

Terry and Jacob were positive on the test required before reentering the United States, so they had to remain in England another ten days quarantining in a hotel room at the airport. Pastor Vogts was negative for this test and was allowed to return ahead of them, but then tested positive here and isolated at the parsonage for several weeks.

Special thanks to Rev. Roger Schepmann for serving as our guest preacher during January, both for Pastor Vogts’ scheduled absence and on very short notice for additional Sundays while Pastor Vogts was quarantining. Also thanks to our organists since the change in preachers required some adjustments to our planned schedule of services.

Except for this unfortunate glitch at the end we had a wonderful trip and were thrilled to be able to be present for our son’s wedding. We were also able to celebrate our own wedding anniversary on December 29 with a side trip for a few days to historic York to see this fascinating medieval city — the inn where we stayed has been operating since 1770! — attend several services at York Minster Cathedral, and enjoy the Christmas decorations at Castle Howard.

Thank you also to all who gave us so many generous gifts for Christmas before our departure.

Pastor Kevin & Terry Vogts

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent Begins March 2

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. Services that evening and each Wednesday throughout Lent will be at 7:00pm, with a Lenten Supper before each service.

The theme for this year's Lent services is "Our Lenten Journey," looking at locations of the Passion events, including:

- "The Upper Room" (March 2)
- "The Garden of Gethsemane" (March 9)
- "The Judgment Hall" (March 16)
- "The Way of Sorrows" (March 23)
- "Mt. Calvary" (March 30)
- "The Garden Tomb" (April 6)

Pastor Vogts, who has worked as an archaeologist in the Holy Land and professional photographer, will illustrate some of the messages with his own pictures from Jerusalem.

"Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . who endured the cross"
(Hebrews 12:2)



Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper

Trinity Youth invites you to our first Lenten Supper in nearly two years! Come enjoy an Italian feast before the Ash Wednesday service on March 2. Proceeds will be used to help fund youth activities.



Our Sunday School once again had a really wonderful and impressive Children's Christmas Program! Our thanks to the students and their parents, superintendents Michelle Haley and Kristina Eilts and all the Sunday School teachers, organist Carolyn Enyeart and pianist Becky Stutzman, Clint Haley for arranging the sound system, and Kyle Minden for broadcasting the livestream. In this still shot taken from the livestream they are just about to lead the congregation in singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. A video of the entire program is available on our congregation's YouTube channel at www.trinitylcms.org/videos.

Other dates for Lenten services and dinners are March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. Check the bulletin for the hosting groups and menus. A signup sheet for groups to host the other dates is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!

Lenten Supper Hosts Needed

If your organization, group, family, etc. would like to host one of our Lenten Suppers please sign up on the counter in the Gathering Room. *All weeks except Ash Wednesday are open and volunteers are needed!*

The meal does not need to be elaborate and a freewill offering is taken to cover expenses, with the excess used by your organization or donated to the congregation another cause. This is a great opportunity to support a worthy cause, which can be either within or outside of our congregation.



January 1	..... Bryce Peckman
January 2	..... Jan Minden
January 2	..... Anisha O'Barto
January 2	..... Tara Smith
January 4	..... Cathy Hieber
January 4	..... Jessica Parks
January 4	..... Stan Plummer
January 4	..... Dustin Prothe
January 5	..... Levi Alcorn
January 6	..... Matthew Richardson
January 7	..... Caylin Garrison

January 7 Sunnye Oswalt
 January 8 Mike England
 January 8 Cormick Ferrell
 January 8 Linda Ferrell
 January 8 Michael Kriesel
 January 9 Jobie Debrick
 January 11 Phyllis Trickett
 January 12 Devon Smithhisler
 January 13 Bill Dillenbeck
 January 13 Lorri Jenson
 January 14 Paul Deering
 January 14 Bruce Nowasell
 January 15 Chancie Minden
 January 15 Cooper Minden
 January 17 Lindsey Hall
 January 20 Zachary Donahue
 January 21 Jody Burnett
 January 22 Rick Holte
 January 24 Trent Fleming
 January 25 Mike Koelsch
 January 25 Webb Oberheide
 January 25 Aubry Peckman
 January 25 Joel Plummer
 January 25 Mike Thompson
 January 26 Gregg Hall
 January 26 Michael Thoden
 January 26 Philip Oberheide
 January 27 Suzie Prothe
 January 27 Brianna Hoden
 January 28 Jimmy Massey
 January 29 Lindsey Holtz
 January 30 Elbert Jones
 January 30 Mason Kunard
 January 30 Mitch Plummer
 January 31 Morgan Richards
 Jan 11 Jeron & Kendra Fuller (19)
 February 2 Ashtin Armstrong
 February 4 Jodie Wood
 February 4 Leslie Vohs
 February 6 Kerry Brandt
 February 6 Tanna Jones
 February 6 Glenn Minden
 February 7 Stacey Elkinton
 February 7 Tyler Allen
 February 9 Daniel Wendte
 February 10 Darrell Brandt
 February 10 Terry Bunch
 February 10 Kathy Gerken
 February 11 Hannah Raines
 February 12 James Haley
 February 12 Mike Giager
 February 13 Valerie Gerken
 February 13 Logan Hendrickson
 February 18 Joey Stephens
 February 18 Stan Windler
 February 19 Debbie Windler
 February 20 Judy Kutz

February 20 Angie Fickel
 February 20 Carolyn Warner
 February 21 Jeff Davis
 February 21 Marty Stutzman
 February 21 Jeri Brack
 February 25 Michelle Haley
 February 25 Curtis Hall
 February 25 Duane Rodewald
 February 26 Cate Minden
 February 27 Matthew Kriesel
 February 27 Reita Woodall
 February 28 Slina Prothe
 February 29 Austin Henry
 Feb 10 Bill & Kristina Eilts (4)
 Feb 10 Curtis & Kristie Weaver (26)
 Feb 13 Jeff & Windy Davis (29)
 Feb 15 Curtis & Jamie Hall (19)
 Feb 19 Michael & Katie Taylor (17)
 Feb 21 Ron & Marcia Raines (33)
 Feb 22 Kevin & Denise Debrick (30)
 Feb 22 Rick & Jill Druse (25)



Bible Class on the Church Year

Have you ever wondered about the origin, meaning and significance of the "Church Year"? In *The Year of the Lord's Favor* we are exploring 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 as we explore *The Year of the Lord's Favor*.

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.

February 6

Rev. Tom Park
Taiwan

February 13

Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez
Dominican Republic (See Article Page 5)

February 20

Rev. Hans & Gretchen Trinklein
South Korea

February 27

Rev. Gary & Stephanie Schulte
Burkina Faso

Voters Assembly Meeting Summary

Meeting was called to order on January 23, 2022 by Chairman Windler, followed by prayer. Roll was answered by 20 members; there were no new member requests.

Financial report by the Home Treasurer was given. The Elders reported the current acolyte schedule is working well.

As Pastor Vogts is currently in Covid quarantine, his worship, education, and administration report up to the first quarter of 2022 was reviewed.

Trustees reported on numerous items, including repair of the water inlet line at the parsonage (thanks to Earl Medlin for donating his time and equipment), insurance coverage review, elevator inspection, and chair cart design. Reports were heard from the Endowment, Board of Education, and Fellowship Committee.

It was approved by the Voters Assembly to offer Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays year round.

New business items addressed included approval of membership transfers per Pastor's report, directing Ash Wednesday and Lenten loose offerings to Missions, directing Good Friday loose offering to Lutheran Heritage (checks written during these offerings will be directed as written in the "for" line on the check, or if not, will go to the home account), and annual cemetery upkeep via Shane Stout.

Salary reviews for Church Secretary and Pastor were approved. Approval was given for upgrades to the Teacherage garage and installation of an internet link to the Shelter House.

Kansas District Convention Report

Delayed for one year due to Covid, the 74th LCMS Kansas District Convention will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka on June 9-10, 2022, with Pastor Vogts serving as Trinity's Pastoral Delegate and Paul Brack serving as our Lay Delegate

Every congregation is required to submit an update since the previous District Convention for the Convention Workbook, but limited to only 200 words. Pastor Vogts submitted the following on behalf of Trinity:

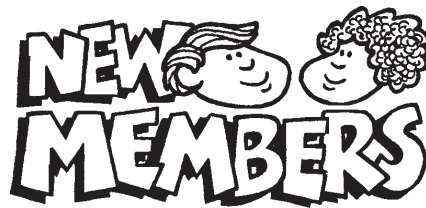
Trinity, Paola celebrated two milestones in 2018, our 150th Anniversary and refurbishment of our church and expansion with a new north wing. But, just after adding a north wing, the south wing was destroyed by a tornado, and construction started over to restore the building we had just renovated.

Other highlights are growing attendance at our annual "Blocktoberfest," named after our rural community of Block, and large contingents we sent to the national youth gatherings.

We successfully navigated the pandemic and turned challenges into blessings. With a large country campus and excellent sound system for our "Blocktoberfest" we were the only church in the area to hold drive-in services, for about a year having drive in attendance equal or better than usual.

We also invested in equipment and an internet link—a challenge in our rural location—for online broadcast of services. An unexpected outcome was connecting with viewers all over the country, many with no previous relationship to our congregation or even the Lutheran Church.

Though we began the pandemic apprehensive about the impact on membership and attendance, God worked all things together for the good, and even in the midst of the shutdown we received several dozen new members.



**Jeff & Autumn Menefee
Jordan, Hannah, Mika**

Received by Transfer from
First Lutheran Church, Paola

*We are planning an Outdoor
Service in the Shelter House on
May 29 with a New Member
Sunday to Welcome These and
Other Recent New Members*

MISSION NEWS

Youth Ministry in Dominican Republic

Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez serves the Lord as an LCMS missionary in the Dominican Republic. In her work, Ramirez serves as a congregational deaconess, mentors Dominican deaconesses in training, and works with our seminary in the Dominican Republic. She also supports the work of mercy houses in the Dominican Republic, seeking to strengthen their relationships with congregations. One of the programs she works most closely with is *Amigos de Jesus* ("Friends of Jesus"), a disabilities outreach ministry.

This past fall, Ramirez partnered with another deaconess to hold joint activities with the youth from two congregations in Santiago. "We have about 20 active youth who gather together twice a month," Ramirez wrote in her missionary newsletter. "We've been studying Genesis and learning about God's plan for His people and His love for us. We eat, play, laugh, serve our neighbor and join together as youth in Christ."



Lutheran youth cook supper in Santiago, Dominican Republic, during a fellowship event organized by LCMS missionary Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez.

"I love getting to work with these young people and watching them grow in faith and discipleship. Please pray for their spiritual growth and protection from the attacks and temptations of the devil."



**After
Church
Snacks**

Sign Up for Coffee Hour In 2022

A new member recently commented how much they appreciated the informal visiting at Coffee Hour following our worship services, and that was one thing that attracted them to join our congregation. The signup sheet to host Coffee Hour in 2022 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. — most of 2022 is open!

January 2
Phyllis Trickett

January 16
Lida Prothe

January 23
Nancy Golubski

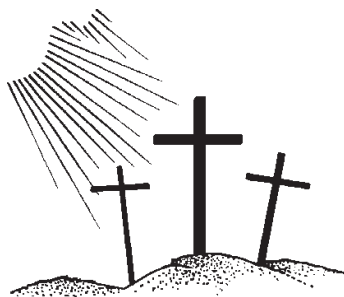
January 30
Gayle Plummer

February 6
Kristine Eilts
In Honor of Wedding Anniversary

February 13
Michelle Haley
In Honor of James' Birthday

February 20
Need Volunteers

February 27
Kyle Minden & Pamela Peckman
In Honor of Cate's Birthday



Our Lenten Journey

2022 Lent Sermon Series

For our special Wednesday services during Lent this year we are taking a walk with Jesus through the story of his suffering and death, visiting the places of the passion as we walk "Our Lenten Journey." Pastor Vogts, who has worked as an archaeologist and professional photographer, will illustrate some of the messages with his own pictures from the Holy Land. Everyone is invited to join "Our Lenten Journey" on Wednesday at 7:00pm.

March 2 (Ash Wednesday)

"The Upper Room"
Mark 14:15

March 9

"The Garden of Gethsemane"
Matthew 26:36-39

March 16

"The Judgment Hall"
Acts 2:22-23

March 23

"The Way of Sorrows"
Matthew 27:27-33

March 30

"Mt. Calvary"
Luke 23:33

April 6

"The Garden Tomb"
John 19:38-42



Poinsettia Donations

Given By

In Memory or Honor Of

Kynda Harshman	Bob, Twila, & Jim Frye Bruce Harshman
Karl & Cindy Karrow	Diane Karrow
Lester & Karen Kaiser (2)	Gavin Kaiser Kenneth Kaiser
Mike & Linda Oberheide (2)	Leonard & Shirley Windler Damon, Betty & Debbie Oberheide
Venita & Arlin Prothe	LaVern & Vivian Wilson Vernele Pipes
Stan & Gayle Plummer	John & Bonnie Plummer
Ron & Marcie Raines (2)	Paul & Dorothy Raines Keith & Royline Dixon
Doris Rodewald	Herman Rodewald
Sandy Schultz	Darrell Schultz Lester & Alma Debrick
Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2)	Ruth & Leroy Vogts Don & Lucille Schmidt, Our Grandparents