

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



2022



An interesting feature of life here at Block is that many members of Trinity are interrelated, sometimes in several different ways across the generations. I myself have such a personal connection to the congregation.

At the time I accepted the Call here I had some vague idea of a family relationship to Trinity, Block, but did not realize how close it actually is. My great-great-grandparents, Johann and Katherina Windler, settled at Block Corners a mile north of the church in 1865, and were founding members of the congregation in 1868. They were blessed with nine children, but tragically my great-great-grandmother passed away in 1870 at the age of 43, and is buried in the front row of our cemetery. When I discovered this close connection I was sitting at my desk in the study at the parsonage, and was startled to realize that from my desk I could see, just across the driveway, my great-great-grandmother's prominent gravestone with a cross on top!

Her daughter and my great-grandmother, Anna Windler, was the youngest of those nine children, only 13 when her mother passed away, so when her father remarried three years later and moved to McPherson County in central Kansas, she was the only one to go with him and her new stepmother—who by the way gave my great-great-grandfather five more children! That is how I came to have roots at Trinity, Block, yet hail from our sister congregation Immanuel, Spring Valley, in McPherson County. And because the eight, older children who remained here intermarried with Trinity's various founding families, I am actually related not just to the surviving Windlers but a goodly portion of the whole congregation!

Such a "family church" was once very common, even the norm, but because people are now much more transient it is quickly becoming a thing of the past. My wife Terry and I are an example. She is from South Dakota, I am from Kansas, but since graduating from college between the two of us we have lived not only in our home states but also New Jersey, North Carolina, Indiana, Virginia, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Our children currently live in three different states, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, and it is hard to guess where they might end up!

You may not realize that modern "church growth experts" look down upon the idea of an old-fashioned "family church." They see only potential problems with having so many members related to each other. And because of the nomadic nature of suburban living, the typical "big box" church is indeed very anonymous, with members not really even knowing each another. It is more of a venue where you attend events, rather than a spiritual family.



**I was surprised when we moved here to discover that I could see my great-great-grandmother's grave while sitting at my desk in the study at the parsonage, just across the driveway in the front row of Trinity's cemetery!**

Of course, the Church in the Old Testament was the ultimate "family church," the Twelve Tribes of Israel, interrelated descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. However, you may not be aware that the Gospels reveal the New Testament Church was also from the start very much a family affair!

It can be hard for me to keep straight the various family relationships at Block, and it is the same with Jesus and His first followers. However, we know first of all that John the Baptist's mother Elizabeth was a "relative" of Jesus' mother Mary (Luke 1:36). Because of their age difference, it is generally assumed Elizabeth was Mary's aunt. That would make John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary first cousins—and John the "first cousin once removed" of Jesus!

The two sons of Zebedee, James and John, were among the first Disciples of Jesus (Matthew 4:21-22). Based on the accounts of the faithful women at the cross as Jesus was crucified, it seems that Salome was the wife of Zebedee, and therefore the mother of James and John:

*"Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joses, and Salome." (Mark 15:40)*

*"Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for His needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons." (Matthew 27:55-56)*

Furthermore, it seems that Salome was the sister of the Virgin Mary who is mentioned as being at the cross, and therefore Jesus' aunt—no doubt there comforting her sister, upon the tragic death of her nephew:

*“Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.”* (John 19:25)

So, that would make Salome Jesus’ aunt, Zebedee His uncle, and therefore James and John, two of His original twelve Disciples, His first cousins. In the Gospel that John wrote, he poignantly describes himself as “the Disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20). According to tradition, Jesus’ cousin John was the youngest of the Disciples, just a teenager when Jesus called him to be an Apostle. They had grown up together, and Jesus treated John like a beloved younger brother. This also means that when Jesus, just before He dies, commits His mother to the care of John, He was actually entrusting her to His cousin, and her nephew: “And from that time on this Disciple took her into his home” (John 19:27).

In case you’re wondering why not only Jesus’ mother but two of the other women who were at both the cross on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter morning were all named “Mary,” it is the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Miriam,” the sister of Moses, and was therefore an extremely popular girl’s name among Jews in ancient times—and still is today.

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## Trinity Tribune

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In addition to the fairly clear references in the New Testament that indicate the Apostles James and John, the sons of Zebedee and Salome, were first cousins of Jesus, it seems “Mary the mother of James the Younger and of Joses” (Mark 15:40) was “Mary the wife of Clopas” (John 19:25), and her son “James the Younger” is assumed to be the Apostle “James son of Alphaeus” (Matthew 10:3), since “Clopas” and “Alphaeus” are apparently Hebrew and Greek forms of the same name.

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***If these interpretations and traditions are correct, out of Jesus’ original twelve Apostles three of them were His first cousins, and among the women who were at both the cross on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter morning were two of His aunts.***

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According to early Christian tradition, this Clopas/Alphaeus was a brother of Joseph, making this Mary another aunt of Jesus, on His stepfather’s side, and therefore the Apostle James the Younger and his brother Joses two more first cousins of Jesus. In fact, Joses is a probably a diminutive form of Joseph, so Joses may have been named “Little Joe” after his uncle, Jesus’ stepfather Joseph.

This “Aunt Mary” is called “the other Mary” to distinguish her from her sister-in-law, the Virgin Mary (Matthew 27:61, 28:1), and this Apostle James is apparently called “the Younger” with respect to, and to distinguish him from, the cousin of Jesus from the other side of the family with the same name, who was also an Apostle, “James son of Zebedee” (Matthew 10:2).

If these interpretations and traditions are correct, that means out of Jesus’ original twelve Apostles three of them, or 25%, were His first cousins: two on His mother’s side, James and John, sons of the Virgin Mary’s sister Salome and her husband Zebedee; and one on His

stepfather Joseph’s side, James the Younger, son of Joseph’s brother Clopas/Alphaeus and his wife, “the other Mary.”

It would also mean that the group of women who were at the cross on Good Friday watching Jesus suffer and die, as well as the tomb on Easter morning as the first witnesses of His resurrection, included two of His aunts. On His mother’s side, her sister Salome, the wife of Zebedee and mother of the Apostles James and John; and on His stepfather’s side “the other Mary,” His mother Mary’s sister-in-law and the wife of Joseph’s brother Clopas/Alphaeus, and mother of the Apostle “James the Younger.” So, for two of the women and three of Apostles, their grief on Good Friday and joy on Easter morning was greatly magnified by the unique fact that Jesus was not only their beloved Rabbi, He was also their nephew and cousin!

However, although it is a great blessing to have family members who are also fellow church members—a blessing that Jesus Himself experienced in His earthly life—Jesus makes clear that a family relationship is not essential for, nor overrides, a church relationship.

Lord willing, you will never be forced to choose between your family and your faith, but if that sad situation should develop, Jesus makes clear what your choice must be: “*Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me*” (Matthew 10:37). If forced to choose, we must choose Christ even over our family.

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***Jesus proclaims that there is a brotherhood of believers and sisterhood of salvation that transcends and surpasses even family relationships***

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On the other hand, Jesus proclaims that there is a brotherhood of believers and sisterhood of salvation that transcends and surpasses even family relationships:

*“Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” Pointing to His disciples, He said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.’”(Matthew 12:48-50)*

*“Then He looked at those seated in a circle around Him and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! Whoever does God’s will is My brother and sister and mother.’”(Mark 3:34-35)*

*“My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”(Luke 8:2)*

This is why the New Testament describes the Christian Church as the “family of God” (1 Peter 4:17) and “family of believers” (Galatians 6:10). The Apostle Paul explains that when we were “born again” through Holy Baptism (John 3:5-7), we were not only adopted as God’s spiritual children, but also into a new spiritual family:

*“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”(Galatians 3:26-28)*

*“He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to His good pleasure and will, to the praise of His glorious grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”(Ephesians 1:5)*

Thus, a beautiful and unique feature of the Christian Church is that it is not based upon nor limited by human lineage, as the Apostle Peter declares: *“God does not show favoritism, but accepts whoever fears Him and does what is right, no matter what people they belong to”(Acts 10:34-35).*

In today’s transient world, with many families scattered and separated, the Church has a special role and blessing as a welcoming, loving, caring family of faith. As the rite for receiving new members beautifully says:

*We welcome you into the Lord’s family.  
We receive you as fellow members  
of the Body of Christ,  
Children of the same heavenly Father,  
To work with us in His kingdom.*

Pastor Kevin Vogts

## 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.

May 1

*Deaconess Carol Halter*  
Hong Kong

May 8

*Rev. Nathaniel & Emma Jensen*  
Germany

May 15

*Rev. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher*  
Ghana

May 22

*Rev. Tyler & Yanela McMiller*  
Italy

*(See Article Pages 5-6)*

May 29

*Rev. Jonathan & Anita Clausing*  
Tanzania



### After Church Snacks

Thank you to all those hosting Coffee Hour following our worship services. The signup sheet is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Drinks are provided so you only need to bring snacks. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

May 1

*Linda Prothe*

May 8

*Karen Windler*

May 15

*Nancy Golubski*

May 22

*Gayle Plummer*

May 29

*Ruth Gaffney*



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.

- May 1 ..... Clint Haley
- May 1 ..... Eric Prothe
- May 1 ..... Elijah Minden
- May 2 ..... Brad Hendrickson
- May 3 ..... Steve McMullin
- May 4 ..... Maysen Armstrong
- May 4 ..... Alex Brack
- May 5 ..... Sarah Berner
- May 5 ..... Kameron Alpert-Munir
- May 5 ..... Mallory Allcorn
- May 7 ..... Henry Vaughn
- May 8 ..... Garrett Rausch
- May 8 ..... Chloe Rausch
- May 8 ..... Jim Ohlmeier
- May 9 ..... Melanie Golubski
- May 10 ..... Bobbie Jo Debrick
- May 10 ..... Kathy Haley
- May 10 ..... Bobbie Kunard
- May 10 ..... Johnny Pagels
- May 11 ..... Denise Holtz
- May 13 ..... Kraig Kettler
- May 13 ..... Lucy Kettler
- May 13 ..... Nathan Peckman
- May 13 ..... Nicholas Peckman
- May 14 ..... Trish Armstrong
- May 14 ..... Miranda Ferrell
- May 14 ..... Beth D’Amato
- May 15 ..... Matthew Reynolds
- May 15 ..... Kris Stubbs
- May 17 ..... Lori Donahue
- May 17 ..... Dean Gerken
- May 17 ..... Sherri Webb
- May 18 ..... Emily Kettler
- May 18 ..... Susan Ashley
- May 19 ..... Jackie Smith
- May 20 ..... Paul Sombke
- May 21 ..... David Herrs
- May 21 ..... Barb Koelsch
- May 21 ..... Clifford Prothe

May 21 ..... Leslie Rudzinski  
 May 23 ..... Andy Brack  
 May 23 ..... Jeanne Hutchison  
 May 23 ..... Amanda Maisch  
 May 23 ..... Shane Gibson  
 May 25 ..... Stephanie Debrick  
 May 25 ..... Roger Holtz  
 May 25 ..... Kristie McMullin  
 May 26 ..... Scott Gerken  
 May 26 ..... Sharon Grother  
 May 28 ..... Alyssa Holtz  
 May 28 ..... Kayla Massey  
 May 28 ..... Dale Prothe  
 May 28 ..... Rawena Shay  
 May 29 ..... Wendy Bryant  
 May 29 ..... Brandon Gibson  
 May 29 ..... Aliyah Lester  
 May 30 ..... Ginny Linville  
 May 31 ..... Sarah Pemberton  
 May 31 ..... Janet Koelsch  
 May 31 ..... Amanda Stubbs  
 May 1 . Randy & Jennifer Rethman (24)  
 May 1 ..... Dale & Patty Moser (29)  
 May 16 ..... Ed & Marcie Reylts (34)  
 May 19... Mike & Linda Oberheide (43)  
 May 19... Clifford & Donna Prothe (59)  
 May 22... Wendell & Breanna Strawder (1)  
 May 25.... Lloyd & Ginny Peckman (59)  
 May 25..... Jeff & Pam Thompson (42)  
 May 25 ..... Alex & Jeri Brack (3)  
 May 30..... Stan & Gayle Plummer (41)  
 May 31 ..... John & Lori Schlegel (19)

## COMMUNION



## SCHEDULE

It was decided by the Voters Assembly in January to begin celebrating Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month year round. This will add several additional Sundays with Holy Communion per year, as we will no longer reduce the frequency of the Sacrament during the summer months.



## Ascension Sunday

### Outdoor Service Memorial Day Weekend

On May 29 we will observe both Ascension Sunday and New Member Sunday with an Outdoor Service in the Shelter House! Other Outdoor Services planned for this year are July 3 in observance of Independence Day and our annual Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service on September 18.



### New Bible Class "Rabboni: Women Who Encountered Jesus"

We are most familiar with the male Disciples of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. However, the Gospels also emphasize that Jesus had many female followers, who feature prominently in the New Testament, but are sometimes overlooked.

All are invited and encouraged to join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room the new study in Adult Bible Class on *Rabboni: Women Who Encountered Jesus*.



## Sermons for May

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](http://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.

May 1

*"Power Breakfast by  
the Sea of Galilee"*

John 21:1-14

May 8 (Mother's Day)

*"My Sheep Listen to My Voice"*

John 10:27-28

May 15 (Confirmation Sunday)

*"In My Father's House"*

John 14:1-6

May 22

*"Your Grief Will Turn to Joy"*

John 16:19-22

May 29 (Sunday after the Ascension)

*"We Shall Be Like Him"*

1 John 3:2



## Confirmation Sunday

We rejoice with Cale Elkinton, James Haley, and Cate Minden and their families as they celebrate their Confirmation and First Communion on May 15.

*"I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances"* (Psalm 119:106).

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## Lap Quilt Project

The Ladies Aid is beginning to put together lap quilts. Would you happen to have some flannel or cotton material to help with this project? If so, please contact Shemene Peckman or Gail Plummer.

At our next meeting on June 2 at 11:00am we will bring sewing machines and cutting tools to begin putting the lap quilt tops together. If you would like to join in, please mark your calendar—we would love to have you! Youth are welcome to join us as well!

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## Voters Assembly Summary

The meeting was called to order on April 24, 2022 by Chairman Windler, with Pastor Vogts offering opening devotions. Roll was answered by 13 members; there was one new member request.

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 second quarter of 2022.

Trustees reported on numerous items including new pilot lite tubes for kitchen range, church cleanup slated for May 7, front sign construction to start soon, and new chair rack construction is in progress.

Reports were heard from the Endowment Committee, Board of Education, and Blocktoberfest. Upgrades to the teacherage garage are in progress.

It was reported that ten youth and six adults will attend the National Youth Convention. Trinity received six new members via transfers.

Discussion was held regarding cemetery guidelines; a draft will be compiled for review at the next voters meeting.

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## PORTALS of PRAYER

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

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## MISSION NEWS

### After 500 Years Luther Returns to Rome

While still a monk, in 1511 Martin Luther was sent by his monastic order on the long pilgrimage from Wittenberg, Germany to Rome. Whatever excited expectations he had for the “Eternal City” and Vatican were crushed by what he witnessed there, as he was confronted with the church’s extravagance, corruption, veneration of relics, and selling of indulgences.

Now 500 years later in 2022, Luther is back in Rome! Not Luther himself, of course, but the orthodox, Bible-based Lutheranism of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For, although there have been liberal Lutheran congregations in Rome, sponsored by various state-controlled bodies and chiefly for embassy personnel and other foreign nations, this handful of Lutherans have come together to plant in Italy the first “confessional” Lutheran church, adhering to the conservative, old teachings of the Lutheran Confessions.

Michael Morizio’s parents were born in Italy and emigrated to the United States. A visit to the “old country” led to him and his wife Nancy becoming successful operators of tours there. Members of the LCMS, in 2018 they were commissioned as LCMS missionaries, and left behind their children and grandchildren and moved to Michael’s ancestral hometown of Abruzzo, Italy.

There they encountered Luiz Lange, who had been baptized and confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil and began pre-seminary studies as a young man. But, he instead switched to a career in music, and spent time in the United States, where he eventually fell away from the faith before moving to Padua, Italy.

In 2014, through the witness of a friend in Italy, God called Lange back to the Christian faith. Unable to find a Lutheran Church, he eventually located an LCMS military chaplain. Lange attended a few services and found himself rediscovering the confessional Lutheranism of his youth. It was Lange who originally contacted the LCMS Office of International Mission in St. Louis about starting mission work in Italy, which led to the commissioning of the Morizios.



**Recent seminary graduate Rev. Tyler McMiller, newly assigned to pastor the fledgling LCMS church in Rome, Italy, visits with two of his new parishioners, Pakistani native Joshua Salas and Italian native Lorenzo Murrone, new Lutherans and best friends, who are both studying to become Lutheran pastors.**

Shortly after arriving in Italy, Michael and Nancy Morizio were contacted by a young man in Rome named Lorenzo Murrone, who wanted to become Lutheran. He has been baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic Church, but pursuing a university degree in early Christian studies led him to reevaluate the faith, and he did not want to remain in Roman Catholicism because of its conflicts with the Bible.

Murrone first tried Anglicanism, and at the Anglican Church in Rome met Joshua Salas, who became his best friend and dear Christian brother.

Salas was a devout Christian from Pakistan, who moved to Rome when his father got a job there. Salas and Murrone conversed about theology and shared their mutual desire to one day become ordained. However, they also realized that the theology of neither the churches they grew up in nor the church they were attending matched their understanding of the Bible. The minister of the Anglican Church suggested they “broaden their horizons” to accept a less literal, more liberal view of the Bible, but for the two young men this was impossible.

It was during this period that Murrone discovered confessional Lutheranism through YouTube videos by several LCMS pastors, and he began corresponding with these pastors via email. Eventually, all these “lost Lutherans” from so many different nations and backgrounds came together to form the first confessional Lutheran congregation in Italy: the Morizios from the United States; Lange from Brazil; Murrone from Italy; and Salas from Pakistan! And now the four men are all enrolled in an LCMS seminary program based in Latvia to become ordained as Lutheran pastors.

But, COVID struck just as they were going to begin regular worship services. Starting off instead with online services throughout the pandemic, they have had a good beginning with about two dozen regular online attendees. Because ordination is some years away for the four men among them studying for the ministry, they have just been assigned as their first pastor Rev. Tyler McMiller, a new LCMS seminary graduate, who himself grew up in in Central and South America, where his parents served as LCMS missionaries during his childhood.

McMiller and his family are making final preparations to deploy to the land where Martin Luther was sent 500 years ago, and worship space has kindly been provided by the Rome Baptist Church. So, 500 years after Luther’s visit, there will soon be confessional Lutheran services in Rome’s historic center, just 300 yards from the Pantheon!



**Thank you to all those who donated so many lovely lilies to beautify our sanctuary for Easter! Special thanks to Barb Dillenbeck for the lovely arrangement of the Lily Cross and Easter flowers.**

**Given By**

**In Memory or Honor Of**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Nina Gerken (2) .....               | Leland, Clarence, & Louis Gerken<br>Don, Loretta, Glenn, & Vera Peterson                                 |
| Paul & Kathy Haley (2) .....        | Grand & Great-Grandparents   |
| Dan & Cathy Hieber (2) .....        | Lorene Medlen  |
| Karl & Cindy Karrow .....           | Diane Karrow   |
| Brian & Erin Meyer .....            | Doreen Colwell   |
| Gayle & Stan Plummer .....          | Leland Gerken<br>John & Bonnie Plummer   |
| Arlin & Venita Prothe .....         | LaVern & Vivian Wilson<br>Verneal Pipes  |
| Gladys Prothe (2) .....             | Bob Prothe<br>Nada Thoden<br>Myrtle & Elmer Thoden   |
| Doris Rodewald .....                | Herman Rodewald  |
| Alvin Thoden .....                  | Clarence “J.R.” Webb   |
| Shelly Thompson (2) .....           | Norris Reissener<br>Wayne Thompson   |
| Phyllis Trickett .....              | Dave Trickett<br>Damone, lone, Bill, & Myra  |
| Rev. Kevin & Terese Vogts (2) ..... | Don & Lucille Schmidt<br>Leroy & Ruth Vogts<br>Grandparents<br>Great-Great Grandmother Katherina Windler |