

Trinity Tribune: August

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Why Do We Use ‘Evangelical’?”

When Martin Luther kicked off the Reformation, he didn’t want a church named after him. This is because heretical movements are named after their founders. Arianism, the belief that Jesus was a being created by God the Father, was promulgated by a theologian named Arius. Luther did not want to be known as a heretic. That was not the purpose of his teaching.

How did Luther envision his movement and the beliefs around it? As a reformation—a change for the better that removes what is wrong and goes back to the original truths. For the Church, this means going back to the truth of Scripture. Martin Luther did not want to start a new church. From our perspective, he did not. The Lutheran Church is the Church of all ages. Our doctrine lines up with Scripture. We claim the Early Church Fathers as basically teaching what we teach. It is the Roman Catholic Church that has departed from pure doctrine.

Nonetheless, it became clear that we must put names to our differences at some point. The phrase that the early Lutherans called the Roman Catholic Church was first “Old-believers” and later “Papists” or “Romanists.” They didn’t want to ascribe the term Catholic Church to them—as if we were admitting that we were outside the “catholic church.”

In return, the term that Catholics used for us as early as 1519 was “Lutheran”—a term with baggage that we have adopted as a term of pride. We are not heretics, nor do we follow Luther on everything he said. (Nor do we worship him.) We do honor Luther for his insistence on the truth of God’s Word and for his work to reform the church.

What did Luther want his churches and followers called? He actually preferred the term “Evangelical.” This word means “of the gospel.” Luther wanted the Church to be known by the message that we proclaim. We should embrace this term even today! Yes, it has some baggage; there is a movement in America called “American Evangelicalism” that is a reform of the old Fundamentalists. Nonetheless, it has been a term of pride for many Lutherans throughout the centuries. You will see this term “evangelical” pop up everywhere in the Lutheran world.

For example, our synod is now named The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, but its original name in German is translated as “The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other State.” The LCMS’s first hymnal was titled “Kirchengesangbuch fuer Evangelisch-Lutherische Gemeinden” (Hymnal for Evangelical-Lutheran Congregations). Our first English hymnal was the Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book of 1889.

Many other synods incorporate Evangelical into their names, such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). Our sister synod in Germany is titled the “Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church” (SELK). Elsewhere in Germany, you will find two major church bodies: the Catholic Church and the “Evangelical Church in Germany” (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, or EKD). Although, the EKD has wandered from its Lutheran roots and embraced women’s ordination, gay marriage, and other liberal causes.

One other place you will often find this term is in the names of congregations. It’s in our name as well! If you look in our church’s constitution, Article 1 reads as follows: “The name of this congregation shall be Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Paola, Miami County, Kansas.” While the colloquial term for us is “Trinity Lutheran Church,” you might see me sneak in a reference to Evangelical by add “Ev.” before Lutheran. It’s not wrong to leave it out—it’s shorter, and many churches leave it out to save space or say a name quicker. But sometimes, it’s good to remember our roots and what that word means to us.

The gospel—the Evangelion—is what the Holy Spirit uses to create faith in our hearts. It is the good news of what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do for us. The gospel is what we desire all people on earth to know. Why wouldn’t we want it in our name? As St. Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom 1:16).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

August 1 Linda Giager
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 10 Kevin Erwin
August 11 Angela Parks
August 12 Janet Schneider
August 13 Cindy Karrow
August 14 Jeremiah Brandt
August 15 Alicia Brandt
August 15 Joan Fehling
August 15 Derek Johns
August 15 Jeff Menefee
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 20 Angela Carwile
August 20 Enora Copenbarger
August 22 Gayle Plummer
August 23 Ryan Boyer
August 24 Kelly Gerken
August 24 Jessica Erwin
August 24 Kathryn Rakoski
August 25 Derik Vaughn

August 26 Brooke Prothe
August 27 Cale Elkinton
August 27 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

Anniversaries

August 5 Jeff and Karen Garrison (17)
August 6 Bill and Ashley Dillenbeck (7)
August 15 Jeff and Autumn Menefee (27)
August 16 Doug and Judy Parks (43)
August 17 Curtis and Lucy Kettler (38)
August 18 Greg and Karen Windler (50)



Bible Study on Baptism: “A Washing of Regeneration”

Baptism contains so many promises for us! It is a new birth, a first death of our sinful nature, a washing away of sins, and contains promises for life eternal.

Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

Lutheran Links

LCMS: www.lcms.org
LCMS Kansas District: www.kslcms.org
Lutherans for Life: www.lutheransforlife.org
The Lutheran Hour: www.lutheranhour.org
Issues, Etc. (Talk Radio): www.issuesetc.org
KFUO Radio: www.kfuo.org

COFFEE HOUR



Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2023 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

BIEROCK MAKING

Our Bierocks are so popular that we sell out of them every year, and we are going to try to make more than our usual 600+ to meet the demand. We are planning to begin the beginning of August. We will meet on Tuesdays to make the filling and then we will meet on Thursdays to combine that filling with bread to form the Bierocks. After three weeks of these sessions, we will have around 600 Bierocks made! We will plan to start at 9:00 AM. The dates will be:

Tuesday, August 1st and Thursday, August 3rd
Tuesday August 8th and Thursday, August 10th
Tuesday, August 15th and Thursday, August 17th

NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **August 6th**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodge around 2:15 for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help but we could use your help too!

BLOCKTOBERFEST

Mark your calendars for September 16th! We look forward to our usual crowd of amazing people. Let's hope for great weather.

YOUTH GROUP

We have a number of events coming up! First, we're going to the Enigma 68 Escape Room in Louisburg on August 11th. If you RSVP'd, we look forward to seeing you there!

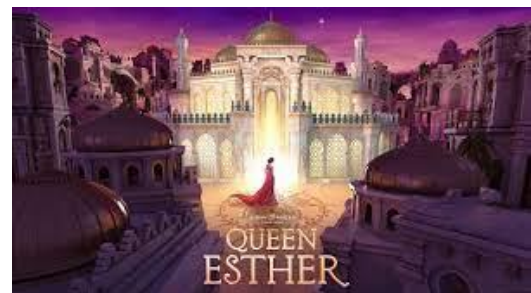


Second, we're also getting ready for Blocktoberfest, so keep an eye out for plans to help make bierocks!

Lastly, we have our Youth Night on the last Sunday of the month, August 27th, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor is teaching on the book of Esther, as we get ready to see it in Branson in November. We'll end the evening with games and fellowship.

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE "QUEEN ESTHER"

The youth group is planning a trip to Branson to see "Queen Esther" on November 4th. They will be arriving the previous night and leaving on Sunday, but you're invited to join them for the Saturday showing! See the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. Please indicate on the sheet if you would like to travel with others in a van or bus; group transportation will depend on those interested. It may result in an additional, shared charge. Currently the group price per adult for the showing is ~\$60.80 (not including tax); children 3-12 are \$29. Sign-ups will close on September 24th.



MEDITATIONS FROM THE EARLY AND LUTHERAN CHURCH FATHERS

Pastor's Note: Devin Canada has done some research and reading on the Church Fathers in connection with the Bible Study on Baptism. This passage that I'd like to highlight is from Justin Martyr, who lived from AD 100–165. As his name suggests, he was beheaded for refusing to sacrifice to pagan idols. His passage from his letter *First Apology* (ch 61) describes Holy Baptism in such a way that we can see the doctrinal continuity between him and Luther and us!

"I will also relate the manner in which we dedicated ourselves to God when we had been made new through Christ; lest, if we omit this, we seem to be unfair in the explanation we are making. As many as are persuaded and believe that what we teach and say is true, and undertake to be able to live accordingly, are instructed to pray and to entreat God with fasting, for the remission of their sins that are past, we praying and fasting with them. Then they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated. For, in the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, they then receive the washing with water. For Christ also said, "Except ye be born again, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" [John 3:5]. Now, that it is impossible for those who have once been born to enter into their mothers' wombs, is manifest to all. And how those who have sinned and repent shall escape their sins, is declared by Esaias [Isaiah] the prophet, as I wrote above; he thus speaks: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from your souls; learn to do well; judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow: and come and let us reason together, saith the Lord. And though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white like wool; and though they be as crimson, I will make them white as snow. But if ye refuse and rebel, the sword shall devour you: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" [Isaiah 1:16-20].

And for this [rite] we have learned from the apostles this reason. Since at our birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, by our parents coming together, and were brought up in bad habits and wicked training; in order that we may not remain the

children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins formerly committed, there is pronounced over him who chooses to be born again, and has repented of his sins, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe; he who leads to the laver the person that is to be washed calling him by this name alone. For no one can utter the name of the ineffable God; and if any one dare to say that there is a name, he raves with a hopeless madness. And this washing is called illumination, because they who learn these things are illuminated in their understandings. And in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and in the name of the Holy Ghost, who through the prophets foretold all things about Jesus, he who is illuminated is washed."

Here too is a segment from Martin Luther, *On the Sacrament of Baptism* (AE 35:30):

"The significance of baptism is a blessed dying unto sin and a resurrection in the grace of God, so that the old man, which is conceived and born in sin, is there drowned, and a new man, born in grace, comes forth and rises. Thus St. Paul, in Titus 3:5, calls baptism a 'washing of regeneration,' since in this washing man is born again and made new. As Christ also says, in John 3:5, 'Except ye be born again of water and the Spirit of grace, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.' For just as a child is drawn out of its mother's womb and born, and through this fleshly birth is a sinful man and a child of wrath, so man is drawn out of baptism and spiritually born, and through this spiritual birth is a child of grace and a justified man. Therefore sins are drowned in baptism, and in place of sin, righteousness comes forth."

