

# Trinity Tribune: September

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Paola, Kansas

## “Reading the Bible”

Reading the Bible can seem daunting. It’s a big book! Many people start with Genesis but quit when they try getting through Leviticus. There’s a lot that might not be immediately understood, especially in the Prophets. Nonetheless, it is important for Christians to be in the Word. It is good for families to set aside time for devotions when the whole family is present. For our family, that is first thing in the morning.

There are some strategies out there for reading the Bible. Some want to read through the whole Bible in a given time. Reading the Bible in three years is quite doable: it’s roughly one chapter a day. The Lutheran Study Bible includes a “Two-Year Reading Plan” on pages lix–lxiii in the Reference section of the book. If you decide to start reading the Bible and see how far you can get in any given day, I suggest starting with the Gospels, reading through Acts and the Epistles before circling back to the Old Testament. You should save Revelation for last under this plan.

There are some methods for reading the most important sections of the Bible. Our hymnal contains a “Daily Lectionary” to do this in a year. You can find it on pages 299–304. It contains an OT and NT passage to read each day. These readings are also contained in *The Treasury of Daily Prayer* (CPH), which has many other aids for daily devotions.

You could also pick a book of the Bible and read it straight through. In fact, apart from the Psalms, the Bible was written without verse or chapter divisions. Epistles were meant to be spoken out loud or read in one sitting. Many of the biblical books benefit from a straight read-through. My guess is most people can make it through a Gospel in about an hour, and the Epistles in far less time than that. The historical books are easier for doing this than other books.

You could take the opposite approach and chew on a verse or two. This works best with the Wisdom Literature, especially Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. You could ponder a number of questions: What does it mean? Does context impact its meaning? Does it speak law or gospel to me? What insight about God’s nature does it show? Does it teach me wisdom about this world? How is it convicting me of sin, encouraging my faith, or showing me how to love others? Is this a passage worth memorizing and coming back to another day to see if my mind has more insight to the passage?

Regardless your reading method, it is good to mull over what you have just read. Think about what you have just read throughout the day. When I read a passage to my family in the

morning devotions (usually a chapter or so), I take time after a passage has been read to explain a few things to my family, answering any questions they might have.

There’s a prayer in our hymnal that describes this contemplation on the Scriptures:

*Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.* (LSB, pg 308)

Ezekiel describes this process in a vivid vision that he received from God (Ezek 3:1–3):

And [the Lord] said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

Ezekiel received the Word from God, and in this vision ate the scroll with his mouth. The Word and the Holy Spirit became a part of him, so that his whole life and preaching was a witness to God’s work for Israel.

By hearing and meditating on Scriptures, we do the same. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to feed our spirit and restore us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us for each day by putting God’s Word on our mind.

Have you ever had it happen where a song on the radio seemed to speak to you because of what you are going through? Do you wonder if others are thinking the same thing as they hear it in their radios? The same happens to a greater degree with Holy Scripture. It happens quite often that my personal devotional reading merges with something I’m seeing or going through in my life. Imagine if this is happening for an entire congregation, hearing and discussing the Scripture that we have been reading that day.

The lack of Bible reading is not new. Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” If we complain about the way our culture is going, the first thing is to correct our own behavior—and that begins with the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

September 1..... Noel Wendte  
 September 2..... Mary Ann Green  
 September 2..... Gladys Prothe  
 September 3..... Shane Honn  
 September 3..... Rebecca Hurst  
 September 3..... Ron Raines  
 September 4..... Lance Belsanti  
 September 4..... Mary Ann Maisch  
 September 4..... Steve Windler  
 September 5..... Dena Kaiser  
 September 6..... Emerson Bunch  
 September 6..... David Gatlin  
 September 6..... Les Jones  
 September 6..... Gay Stubbs  
 September 7..... Cindy Puckett  
 September 7..... Teri Minden  
 September 8..... Tore Smithhisler  
 September 8..... Lloyd Ohlmeier  
 September 8..... Lincoln Wolf  
 September 10..... John Henry  
 September 10..... Evan Kettler  
 September 10..... Nickolas Davis  
 September 11..... Connie Barnett  
 September 11..... Gary Peckman  
 September 11..... Kristie Weaver  
 September 11..... Carol Wray  
 September 12..... Casey Maisch  
 September 12..... Pam Thompson  
 September 13..... Donald Smithhisler  
 September 13..... Sally Wood  
 September 14..... Hannah Menefee  
 September 15..... Aaron Prothe  
 September 16..... Conni Holte  
 September 18..... Grant Haley  
 September 18..... Skyler Prothe  
 September 18..... Liam Simonson  
 September 18..... Josslyn Fuller  
 September 19..... Rolland Prothe  
 September 21..... Katie Lindsey  
 September 21..... Barrett Miller  
 September 22..... Sarah Reyelts  
 September 22..... Jackson Lester  
 September 23..... Karen Brack  
 September 23..... Weston Davis  
 September 23..... Lindsey Ramsey

September 23..... Amanda West  
 September 24..... Dawson Bruce  
 September 24..... Kevin Debrick  
 September 25..... Jennifer Boydston  
 September 25..... Olivia Mitchell  
 September 27..... Scott Golubski  
 September 27..... Geraldine Holtz  
 September 27..... Ryan Holloman  
 September 27..... Leslie Thoden  
 September 28..... Kaiden Armstrong  
 September 28..... Margie Monthey  
 September 29..... Kathy Korsten  
 September 29..... Mary Shay  
 September 30..... Gale Nowasell

## Anniversaries

September 7..... Jason and Sacred Davis (27)  
 September 8..... Jamey and Dena Kaiser (16)  
 September 9..... Joshua and Brianna Woelmer (6)  
 September 11..... James and Shannon Fanning (24)  
 September 12..... Karl and Cindy Karrow (31)  
 September 12..... Devon and Emily Wolf (8)  
 September 13..... Johnny and Sharon Grother (59)  
 September 15..... Ray and Janet England (61)  
 September 17..... Kerry and Carole Brandt (40)  
 September 18..... Paul and Kathy Haley (47)  
 September 19..... Randy and Helen Maisch (26)  
 September 21..... Ryan and Tamara Mitchell (27)  
 September 25..... Kelly and Valerie Gerken (47)  
 September 28..... Gary and Rose Peckman (38)



## **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!

## 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.

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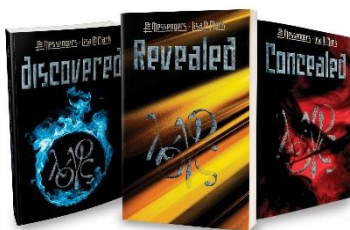
## LUTHERAN RESOURCES

My intention with this shorter column is to provide some ideas for Lutheran resources that are out there. These will range from books to art to podcasts. Some will be free, and some will cost some money.

The first Lutheran resources that I'd like to point you to are the Arch Books by Concordia Publishing House. Since it is September, and school has just begun, I thought an education-focused resource might be good. CPH has been publishing the Arch Books since 1965, and they are easy-to-read books for young kids. Most of them teach a Bible story in a simple way. CPH continues to publish them on a regular basis; you can find them by going to [cph.org](http://cph.org) and searching for Arch Books. They will also be for sale in the CPH catalog. You can even purchase collections on various themes, such as their Christmas Collection.



The second resource is for older kids, probably around middle and high school. If they are interested in dystopian Young Adult thrillers, CPH has published a series of three books called "The Messenger Series" by Lisa Clark. It takes place after society has collapsed, and the church has had to go underground...literally! The three books follow a boy named Simon Clay and his friends as they find Bible verses that comfort and inspire them through the challenges they face. The three books in the series are "Discovered," "Revealed," and "Concealed."



## 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, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at Country Club Estates, and then go to Vintage Park 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!

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## BLOCKTOBERFEST

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

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## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

First Lutheran in Paola is hosting Michelle Bauman, Y4LIFE Director of Lutherans for Life. She will be giving her presentation at 10:00 a.m. on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



What is Y4LIFE? Y4LIFE seeks to equip high-school- and college-aged youth to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life, publicly and privately pronouncing with joy "You are made 4 LIFE!" as well as answering the question: Why should I be 4 Life? Through service, education, worship, and celebration, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4 Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!

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## YOUTH GROUP

We have our Youth Night on the last Sunday of the month, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 24<sup>th</sup>.



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## 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 St. Augustine, who lived from AD 354–430. Augustine should be considered the most important of the church fathers for us Lutherans. Without Augustine there is no Luther. Luther was an Augustinian monk, and the influence of Augustine is shown throughout his works. At first Augustine was a follower of the Manichean heresy throughout his young life while living in sexual immorality. He converted to Christianity later in life and became the most prolific writer of the church. His commemoration day is August 28<sup>th</sup> in the Lutheran church.

In this passage he emphasizes the power of Baptism and the need for babies to be baptized. This is from Tract 80 on the Gospel of St. John, explaining verses 1–3:

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Why does He not say, Ye are clean

through the baptism wherewith ye have been washed, but "through the word which I have spoken unto you," save only that in the water also it is the word that cleanseth? Take away the word, and the water is neither more nor less than water. The word is added to the element, and there results the Sacrament, as if itself also a kind of visible word. For He had said also to the same effect, when washing the disciples' feet, "He that is washed needeth not, save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit." (John 13:10)

And whence has water so great an efficacy, as in touching the body to cleanse the soul, save by the operation of the word; and that not because it is uttered, but because it is believed? For even in the word itself the passing sound is one thing, the abiding efficacy another. "This is the word of faith which we preach," says the apostle, "that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10)

Accordingly, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "Purifying their hearts by faith;" (Acts 15:9) and, says the blessed Peter in his epistle, "Even as baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer (1 Peter 3:21) of a good conscience." "This is the word of faith which we preach," whereby baptism, doubtless, is also consecrated, in order to its possession of the power to cleanse. For Christ, who is the vine with us, and the husbandman with the Father, "loved the Church, and gave Himself for it."

And then read the apostle, and see what he adds: "That He might sanctify it, cleansing it with the washing of water by the word." (Eph 5:25-26) The cleansing, therefore, would on no account be attributed to the fleeting and perishable element, were it not for that which is added, "by the word." This word of faith possesses such virtue in the Church of God, that through the medium of him who in faith presents, and blesses, and sprinkles it, He cleanseth even the tiny infant, although itself unable as yet with the heart to believe unto righteousness, and to make confession with the mouth unto salvation. All this is done by means of the word, whereof the Lord saith, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."