



## Three Examples of the Bible Anticipating Modern Science

*"Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."* Genesis 3:19

The first day of Lent is called "Ash Wednesday" because of the ancient custom of ministers beginning the service by marking the foreheads of worshippers with a black cross of ground ashes, as illustrated in the artwork at right. Though not a tradition at Trinity, this custom is still observed in many churches, including quite a few congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

As the minister marks the cross on each person he recites the Lord's declaration to Adam after the fall into sin, "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). These words are not only a poignant reminder of our mortality, they are also a stunning example of the Bible anticipating by thousands of years the ideas of modern science.

Genesis 2:7 recounts the creation of the first human from the dust of the earth: "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." In fact, the Hebrew word for "man" is *adam*, which became the personal name of the first man, taken from *adamah*, the nearly identical Hebrew word for "ground,"

from which Adam himself was taken. Adam could never forget his origins, for his very name literally means "dirt." That's why Job 4:19 poetically describes our human bodies as "houses of clay," in which our human souls dwell.

It's only relatively recently, with the advent of molecular theory, that we understand the scientific truth behind this concept. For, molecular theory reveals that all matter, including human bodies, is composed on the atomic level of the same, interchangeable building blocks, protons, neutrons, and electrons. And because our bodies are in a constant state of decay and regeneration, every few years the bulk of our bodies are newly created, a process that rebuilds your body over and over again many times during your life.



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This involves shedding material from our bodies, which breaks down into the basic building blocks and is eventually incorporated into other objects—even other humans! We also take into our bodies material from the world around us that is incorporated into us through this rebuilding process.

In fact, because the First Law of Thermodynamics holds that on the molecular level matter can neither be created nor destroyed, every human that ever lived is actually still "here" with us, in the form of protons, neutrons, and electrons that were once part of their bodies—and perhaps now part of you!

In light of this modern scientific understanding, consider the deeper meaning communicated by such ancient Bible verses as:

Genesis 18:27 — "Then Abraham spoke . . . 'I am nothing but dust.'"

Job 34:15 — "All mortals return to dust."

Psalms 90:3 — "You turn men back to dust, saying, 'Return to dust, O sons of men.'"

Psalms 103:14 — "For He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust."

Psalms 146:4 — "When man's spirit departs, he returns to the earth."

Ecclesiastes 3:20 — "All are from dust, and to dust all return."

Ecclesiastes 12:5-7 — "Then man goes to his eternal home . . . and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Furthermore, modern scientific analysis shows the human body is indeed made up of materials and minerals found on the surface of the ground, which has a very different makeup from the deeper layers and core of the earth. Oxygen, being the most abundant element in the earth's outer crust, makes up 65% of the human body, and carbon, also abundant in the topsoil of the earth, is 18%, while hydrogen is 10%. In fact, the 59 elements found in the human body are all found on the earth's crust. So, what the Bible says about humans being made from "the dust of the earth" (1 Corinthians 15:47) perfectly matches the scientific composition of a human body.

Another example is those who claim that the Bible erroneously teaches a “flat earth.” Actually, the ancients fully comprehended the curvature of the earth, from their observation of a falling horizon, such as ships gradually appearing or disappearing on the ocean. The Bible itself clearly notes this in Job 26:10: *“He has inscribed a circular horizon on the face of the waters.”*

On the basis of such observations, in 250 B.C. the Greek scholar Eratosthenes—inventor of the discipline of geography—calculated the circumference of the Earth with remarkable accuracy, within 40 miles of the accepted modern measurement!

Given this ancient understanding, it isn’t surprising that the Bible too does *not* teach a “flat earth.” Isaiah 40:22 says of God, *“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth.”* Job 26:7 states that God *“hangs the earth on nothing,”* expressing in a simple way that the earth is floating in space.

In the modern era we have stunning pictures of the earth taken from space that dramatically show it floating in the cosmic void. However, considering that Job is thought to be one of the oldest books of the Bible, dating as early as 2000 B.C., it seems unlikely that a mere human author of that era could have envisioned this.

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## Trinity Tribune

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But, what about places where the Bible gives the impression that the sun moves across the sky? Well, if you watch the weather on the news tonight, the weatherman will say that tomorrow at certain times the sun will *rise* and *set*. He has an advanced degree in meteorology—doesn’t he understand that the sun doesn’t *actually* “rise” and “set”?

Of course he does, but that’s how it appears to us on earth, so that’s how we speak in everyday language. To be technically correct he would have to say, “Tomorrow morning at 6:00am the rotation of the earth around the sun will give the appearance of the sun rising on the eastern horizon, and at 6:00pm the rotation of the earth around the sun will give the appearance of the sun setting on the western horizon.” But, if he talked liked that they’d fire him, because it would be so boring no one would watch!

The reason the Holy Bible is still the #1 best-selling and most widely read book in all of human history is because God in His wisdom *didn’t* inspire the authors to compose it in the technical language that He certainly is capable of—actually, if He wanted, in a way far more lofty than any human could ever comprehend. But, what good would that do? So, instead He inspired them to write the Holy Scriptures in common, everyday language that we can understand. Otherwise, it would be as lengthy and boring as an encyclopedia set—and no one would actually read it.

Doubting the accuracy of Scripture and accusing it of “errors” because it says things like, *“From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets the name of the LORD is to be praised”* (Psalm 113:3), is as silly as declaring you won’t trust anything on a newscast, because their meteorologist says the sun “rises” and “sets,” and since that isn’t scientifically accurate nothing they say can be trusted.

The final example of the Bible’s uncanny anticipation of modern science occurs first in Genesis 2:23, and is later reaffirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:5: *“A man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”*

Other ancient cultures had all sorts of crazy ideas about where offspring come from. Even Martin Luther reflected the misunderstanding of his day when he casually commented that baby mice obviously arise by spontaneous generation from dirt, since every housewife knows if you have a dirty house mice will soon follow!

In contrast to such silly notions about reproduction, thousands of years before we comprehended the intricacies of DNA, the Bible described in a succinct, simple way, but with perfect scientific accuracy, exactly how reproduction is accomplished: the male and female combine to produce a new organism derived from both, *“and the two will become one flesh.”*

We see from just these examples of the Bible uncannily anticipating modern science by thousands of years that those who claim the Bible is unscientific nonsense are actually the ones who are themselves nonsensical and unscientific—not the Bible!

Pastor Kevin Vogts



We have again arranged for Easter Lilies to be ordered through the Church Office from Price Chopper, for \$7 each. Sign up on the counter in the church office indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering plate marked “Easter Lilies.”

The deadline to sign up for ordering through the Church Office is Palm Sunday, March 25. You are also welcome to bring your own plants, if you wish to purchase them elsewhere or receive them as gifts. Please still sign up on the list indicating that you will provide your own plants and drop them by the church the week before Easter Sunday. You are also welcome to take your plants home any time after Easter Sunday.

When you sign up, please indicate whom your plants are in memory or honor of, the way you want it printed in the newsletter.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Twin Valley 4-H is sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Saturday, March 31 (day before Easter), at 10:00am on the Shelter House grounds. All children are invited to enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt and lots of other fun activities!



Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 25. A special service of Holy Communion commemorating the Last Supper will be held on Maundy Thursday, March 29, at 7:00pm. Pastor Vogts' message will be "*The Miracles of Lent: The Last Supper*" based on Luke 22:7-13 & 1 Corinthians 10:16.



On Good Friday, March 30, at 7:00pm we will have a traditional Tenebrae Service. "Tenebrae" (TEN-uh-bray) is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." The Tenebrae Service is marked by a gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights,



## 2018 Lenten Vespers Services

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday  
 "Darkness"  
 Luke 23:44-45

Wednesday, February 21

Lent Service II  
 "The Resurrection of Lazarus"  
 John 11:46-53

Wednesday, February 28

Lent Service III  
 "The Withering Fig Tree"  
 Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

Wednesday, March 7

Lent Service IV  
 "Four Miracles in the Garden of Gethsemane"  
 Luke 22:39-51, John 18:3-6

Wednesday, March 14

Lent Service V  
 "Tearing of the Temple Curtain"  
 Mark 15:37-38

Wednesday, March 21

Lent Service VI  
 "Earthquake"  
 Matthew 27:51-53

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion  
 "The Last Supper"  
 Luke 22:7-13, 1 Corinthians 10:16

Friday, March 30

Good Friday  
 "The Miracle of Good Friday"  
 Romans 5:6-8

*All Services at 7:00pm  
 Lenten Suppers Before Services*

symbolizing the death of our Lord, interspersed with readings, prayers, hymns, and other musical selections related to His Passion. Our Tenebrae Service will feature seven candles, gradually extinguished as we read Christ's seven last words from the cross.

Pastor Vogts' message will be "*The Miracles of Lent: Good Friday*" based on Romans 5:6-8. Bring your family to meditate upon our Savior's sacrifice for your salvation!



Our thanks to the Generations group for serving a light Easter Breakfast between our services on Easter Sunday, April 1, beginning right after the Sunrise Service. All are invited to enjoy the food and fellowship!

# SUNRISE Service

You are invited to an Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity on Easter Sunday, April 1 at 7:00am. This simple service will feature the Easter story and favorite Easter hymns.

A second Easter Service will be held at the regular time of 10:00am. The order of worship for the services will be different, but both services will feature Holy Communion, and the same Easter message by Pastor Vogts, "God's Easter Triple Whammy" based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Easter is one of the most moving and meaningful worship opportunities of the year. Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate the real significance of Easter.

## After Church Snacks

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2018? All of the year following Easter remains open! The sign-up sheet for 2018 is on the table with the snacks.

Our Generations group generously provides and prepares coffee and juice each week, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Thanks to all providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

March 4  
Jan Minden

February 11  
Phyllis Trickett

February 18  
Linda Prothe  
(Grandchildren's Birthdays)

February 25  
Sally Wood (Lauren's Birthday  
& Our Wedding Anniversary)



Sweetheart  
Dinner  
February 11, 2018  
More Photos Online at  
[www.trinitylcms.org/photos](http://www.trinitylcms.org/photos)





# MARCH

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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.

- March 1 ..... Devan Boydston
- March 1 ..... Vera Kaiser
- March 1 ..... Guylene Klein
- March 1 ..... Johnny Prothe
- March 1 ..... Dave Trickett
- March 2 ..... Lance Elliott
- March 3 ..... Justin Hieber
- March 3 ..... Addison Kettler
- March 5 ..... Lorranda Baldrige
- March 5 ..... Billy Green
- March 5 ..... Joshua Pemberton
- March 5 ..... Aaron Maisch
- March 6 ..... Gary Prothe
- March 6 ..... Sandra Schultz
- March 7 ..... Andrew Thompson
- March 7 ..... Jackie Thompson-Dillon
- March 8 ..... Megan Prothe
- March 9 ..... Faith Ordonez
- March 10 ..... Jim Mueller
- March 11 ..... Diana Deering
- March 12 ..... Dylan Shoemaker
- March 13 ..... Karen Garrison
- March 14 ..... Darrel Rodewald
- March 15 ..... Allyssa Henry
- March 15 ..... Jacob Henry
- March 15 ..... Kyle Kettler
- March 15 ..... Judy Parks
- March 15 ..... Randy Rausch
- March 17 ..... Steve Cook
- March 17 ..... Breanna Prothe
- March 17 ..... Marcia Raines
- March 17 ..... Roger Smith
- March 17 ..... Robyn Weatherbie
- March 17 ..... Emersyn Chapman
- March 18 ..... Johnny Grother
- March 18 ..... Jennifer Rethman
- March 18 ..... Chris Smith
- March 19 ..... Jordan Harper
- March 20 ..... Paul Haley
- March 21 ..... Rusty Morton

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 10:00am  
 On Shelter House Grounds  
 Sponsored by Twin Valley 4-H  
 All Children Invited!



## Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 1, 7:00am  
 Second Easter Service at 10:00am  
 Both Services Include Holy Communion  
 and Same Easter Message

## Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, April 1  
 8:00am  
 Sponsored by Generations



*All Invited — Everyone Welcome!*

- March 21 ..... Harry Stubbs
- March 21 ..... Becky Stutzman
- March 23 ..... Arnold Debrick
- March 23 ..... Karla Debrick
- March 23 ..... Elizabeth Kettler
- March 23 ..... John Schlegel Jr.
- March 25 ..... Laura Prothe
- March 26 ..... Loren Windler
- March 28 ..... Joyce Brown
- March 28 ..... Zach Holtz
- March 28 ..... Justine Prothe
- March 28 ..... Tyler Tesar
- March 29 ..... Wilda Bunch
- March 29 ..... Lauren Wood
- March 31 ..... Alvin Thoden
- Mar 6 ..... Steve & Bobbi Debrick (19)
- Mar 7 ..... Dave & Suzie Prothe (26)
- Mar 9 ..... Rich & Sally Wood (27)
- Mar 10 ..... Jim & Shelisa Mueller (39)
- Mar 14 ..... Ryan & Brianna Hoden (3)
- Mar 20 ..... Mike & Linda Giager (32)
- Mar 21 Sean & Robyn Weatherbie (20)
- Mar 28 ..... Tom & Nancy Green (39)
- Mar 28 ..... Arlin & Venita Prothe (53)



**God's GRACE  
 IN COLOSSIANS**

### Adult Bible Study

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *God's Grace in Colossians*.

One of the Apostle Paul's shorter letters, Colossians is especially rich with descriptions of Christ, His work, and the blessings He bestows on us. Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, this Biblical book still speaks to our lives today in a surprisingly fresh and relevant way.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to learn more about *God's Grace in Colossians*.



It was a joyous day and historic occasion on March 4 when we held the ceremonial groundbreaking for our building addition and modernization project. The members above are standing along the outer walls of the addition. Everyone brought their own shovels and we all broke ground together! Thank you to Karen Windler for getting the fun commemorative “hard hats” and Kyle Minden and Mike Schmitt (and his drone!) for recording this historic event. Additional photos and videos will be added to our online Photo Gallery at [www.trinitycms.org](http://www.trinitycms.org) as they become available.

## 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.

March 4

*Jana Inglehart*  
Dominican Republic

March 11

*Dr. Martin & Marie Dicke*  
Papua New Guinea

March 18

*Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg*  
Sri Lanka

March 25

*Rev. Herb & Markie Burch*  
Belize



Everyone is invited to enjoy Lenten Suppers at Trinity each Wednesday evening before Lenten Vespers. On March 14 Generations will be serving, and for our final Lenten Supper on March 21 the Blocktoberfest Committee will give us a taste of Blocktoberfest! Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!

## Volunteers Needed for Interior Design Committee

Even though we’ve just broken ground, we already need to select interior design elements for our addition, such as carpet and other flooring, paint colors, and furnishings and fixtures, so that they can be ordered now to arrive in time for installation.

In preparation for our 150th Anniversary celebration in October we are also taking the opportunity to do some additional refreshing of the building, such as recarpeting and painting the sanctuary and chancel to match the new Gathering Room that will be formed out of the existing overflow and nursery.

If you would you be interested in serving on the Interior Design Committee please let chairman Greg Windler know.