

# Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

SEPTEMBER  
2018



Beginning in 2002, following revelations in a Pulitzer Prize winning series of investigative articles, the Roman Catholic Church has been the subject of a growing scandal about homosexual conduct and sexual abuse among its clergy, and a cover-up of this scandal by its leadership. Because the Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination, both in the United States and worldwide, many non-Christians and marginal Christians naturally consider this body to be representative of Christianity in general. So, this scandal is very tragic, not only for Roman Catholics, but for all Christians.

Paul admonishes Christians to, “*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity*” (Colossians 4:5). But, as Peter warns, such widely publicized “*depraved conduct*” will instead “*bring the way of truth into disrepute*” (2 Peter 2:2), especially among those outside or on the margins of the Christian faith.

It is because the life of Christian clergy in particular will reflect, either positively or negatively, upon the Church as a whole, that Paul requires pastors must be “*above reproach*” and “*have a good reputation with outsiders*” (1 Timothy 3:2, 7). He explains the two-fold danger of tolerating Christian clergy who do not meet this high standard: “*We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited*” (2 Corinthians 6:3).

Christian clergy who do not live out the Christian faith in their own lives create a “*stumbling block*” for those, both within and outside the Church, who are rightly offended at their misconduct, and the Christian ministry thus becomes discredited. So, while the Roman Catholic Church is the focus of this scandal, it has a negative impact on all denominations, and is a matter of great concern and sadness for all Christians.



**World renowned artist Lucas Cranach painted these portraits to celebrate the marriage of Martin Luther to Katharina von Bora. Cranach was actually Luther’s best friend and neighbor in Wittenberg, it was Cranach who acted as the intermediary to arrange their marriage, and he was best man at their wedding. Cranach made many copies of the Luther wedding portraits, and this pair recently sold at auction in London for nearly a million dollars.**

The root cause of this scandal is two-fold: *innate human sinfulness*, and *unnatural clerical celibacy*. Paul declares, “*There is no one righteous, not even one. . . There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:10, 22-23). This universal sinful nature engulfs all of humanity—including Christian clergy of every denomination. So, we must confess with Paul, “*What shall we conclude then? Are we any better?*”

*No, not at all. . . all alike are under sin*” (Romans 3:9). However, although there are cases of sexual abuse and misconduct among clergy of all denominations, the reason such sexual scandals seem most pronounced in the Roman Catholic Church is because *innate human sinfulness* is exacerbated by their requirement for *unnatural clerical celibacy*.

It is important to note there is a distinction between *chastity* and *celibacy*. Chastity is using your sexuality in a manner pleasing to God, within the marriage relationship, between a man and a woman who are husband and wife. “*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral*” (Hebrews 13:4).

Celibacy, on the other hand, means totally abstaining from all sexual activity and relations. Paul himself was unmarried and celibate, and he acknowledges that for some persons this is a natural condition: “*It is good for a man not to marry. . . I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that*” (1 Corinthians 7:1, 7).

So, only those with this gift have a disposition suitable for *celibacy*, but all clergy, and indeed all Christians, are required to live in *chastity*, in thought, word, and deed: “*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity. . . because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place. . . For of this you can be sure: No person who is immoral or impure. . . has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them*” (Ephesians 5:3-7).

We see clearly from the example of the Apostles themselves and the teaching of the New Testament that lacking the gift of celibacy does exclude a man from service as a minister in the Christian Church. In fact, Paul actually denounces requiring celibacy as a demonic doctrine: *"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith, and follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars who . . . forbid people to marry"* (1 Timothy 4:1-3). Rather than mandating unnatural clerical celibacy, Paul lists among the qualifications for a man to serve as a pastor that he be *"the husband of one wife"* and *"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect"* (1 Timothy 3:2, 4).

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***The root cause of this scandal is two-fold: innate human sinfulness, and unnatural clerical celibacy.***

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Declaring his own celibacy to be a voluntary choice, Paul explicitly states that the other Apostles *were* married: *"Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other Apostles, and the Lord's brothers, and Peter?"* (1 Corinthians 9:5).

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## **Trinity Tribune**

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*Trinity Lutheran Church  
34868 Block Road  
Paola, Kansas 66071*

*Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor  
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary*

*Church: 913-849-3344  
Pastor's Study & Parsonage:  
913-849-3711  
Pastor's Cell: 913-594-9865*

*trinitylcms.org  
facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock  
pastorvogts@gmail.com  
trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com  
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Ironically, though the Roman Catholic Church erroneously claims that Peter was the "first pope," both Paul in this passage and the Gospels report that Peter was in fact married: *"When Jesus came into Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on Him"* (Matthew 8:14-15; see also Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39).



**This is Martin Luther's wedding ring. He personally designed elaborate matching rings for himself and Katie, prominently featuring Christ crucified.**

God created humans as male and female, and then commanded us to *"be fruitful and multiply"* (Genesis 1:27-28). It is part of God's plan for creation that the vast majority of humans do not have the gift of celibacy. Requiring celibacy of those who do not possess this gift is not God-pleasing, but unnatural, dangerous, contrary to God's will and plan for humanity—including clergy.

Paul says, *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But, when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so that you can stand up under it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). For those who lack the gift of celibacy, Paul explains the *"way out"* of sexual temptation that God Himself has graciously provided: *"Since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the*

*wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone, but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone, but also to his wife. 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). So, rather than restraining sexual sins, unnatural clerical celibacy actually *exacerbates* the problem. As Paul concludes, *"It is better to marry than to burn with passion"* (1 Corinthians 7:9).

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***Though he was content to remain unmarried, Luther caught the eye of former nun Katharina von Bora—and she pursued him!***

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There is debate about when celibacy became required for clergy in the Roman Catholic Church. That this was not the custom of the earliest Church can be seen from the fact that the New Testament makes clear the Apostles themselves—even Peter, the supposed "first pope"—were married. Historical records indicate that for hundreds of years most priests, bishops, and even popes were married and had children. For example, similar to the Bush father-son Presidents, Pope Hormisdas (514-23 A.D.) was actually the father of Pope Silverius (536-37 A.D.). For about 1,000 years mandatory clerical celibacy seems to have been a notion which ebbed and flowed, came and went, here and there. It wasn't until 1139 A.D. that a universal requirement of celibacy was imposed on Roman Catholic Clergy.

Martin Luther stated that he personally did not have difficulty maintaining celibacy as a monk, and could have remained celibate for the rest of his life. However, he caught the eye of former nun Katharina von Bora—and she pursued him! Since the start of the Reformation other Protestant clergy had already become married, but it was Luther's own marriage on June 13, 1525 that marked the definitive end of clerical celibacy among Lutherans and other Protestants.

Throughout the American Edition of Luther's Works, Luther frequently denounces unnatural celibacy as "ungodly, abominable, disgraceful, destructive, vulgar, impure, spurious, monstrous, hellish." Luther was so violently opposed to mandatory clerical celibacy because he realized very few humans have this gift: "Man is not created for celibacy but to multiply . . . unless his nature is altered or hindered by God's supreme grace and a special miracle."

Luther explains that, rather than promoting chastity, a disdain for marriage and requiring celibacy of those without this gift actually promotes *unchastity*, as we sadly see still today in the scandals of homosexual conduct and sexual abuse among clergy in the Roman Catholic Church: "In comparison to married life celibacy . . . stinks before God . . . The monks also pay the penalty they deserve for this contempt of marriage on their part . . . they have fallen into monstrous shamelessness and lust . . . fornication, adultery, incest . . . and Sodomite depravity."

Summing up this topic, the Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church states: "The assertion that priests and clergymen may marry is based on God's Word and command. Besides, history demonstrates both that priests were married, and that the vow of celibacy has been the cause of so much frightful and unchristian offense, so much adultery, and such terrible, shocking immorality, and abominable vice" (Article XXIII).

Despite this harsh criticism, Luther still held the Roman Catholic Church to be a Christian body: "I honor the Roman Church. God has preserved in it Holy Baptism, the reading of the Gospel, the forgiveness of sins and Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar. Now where these things still exist, there the Church and holy believers are to be found." And we likewise must acknowledge today that the vast majority of Roman Catholic priests are upright men, who are themselves horrified by the homosexual conduct and sexual abuse committed by a comparatively small number of hypocritical scoundrels within their ranks.

Many commentators have observed that what the Roman Catholic Church needs to today is "another Martin Luther." However, Luther understood that the problem runs much deeper than moral failings such as these. It is a principle of Lutheran theology that every false doctrine or practice can ultimately be traced back to false teaching regarding the chief article of the Christian faith: salvation by grace through faith alone.



**This modern statue of Martin Luther's wife Katharina von Bora is in the courtyard of the Luther House in Wittenberg. A new tradition says that girls who rub her ring will be married within a year—and the bronze ring is bright and shiny from constant rubbing!**

The root cause of homosexual conduct and sexual abuse among Roman Catholic clergy is requiring unnatural clerical celibacy; and in turn the root cause of mandatory celibacy is the Roman Catholic doctrine of salvation by works. That is because forcing oneself into unnatural celibacy is considered to be the ultimate sacrifice, the ultimate good work by which one can earn salvation—and therefore a fitting requirement for their priests.

Once the false teaching of salvation by works is demolished, so is the rationale for mandatory celibacy. That's how it happened with the Reformation. Luther didn't begin by attacking and overthrowing celibacy. He attacked and overthrew the false teaching of salvation by works, and as a side effect of overthrowing this chief false doctrine, the false requirement of mandatory celibacy was also naturally overthrown, by the true teaching of salvation by grace through faith alone.

Actually, the misguided "sacrifice" of unnatural clerical celibacy means absolutely nothing to God, as Jesus declares: "In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

Pastor Kevin Vogts

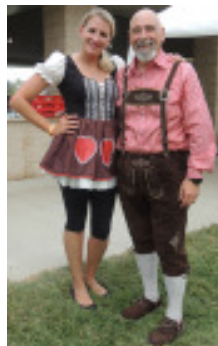


## 150th Anniversary Celebration November 4

We will rejoice to celebrate our congregation's 150th Anniversary on Sunday, November 4. Rev. Lane Burgland, former Pastor of Trinity, will be the guest speaker for the 10:00am Service of Holy Communion. Immediately following this morning service we will dedicate—Lord willing!—our Building Addition & Modernization Project. Everyone is then invited to a free catered Anniversary Luncheon at noon.

At 2:00pm we will have a special Anniversary Service with LCMS Kansas District President Rev. Peter Lange as our guest speaker, followed by an Anniversary Reception so that the reminiscing and fellowship can continue!

Please invite all your relatives and friends and anyone else who may wish to attend this grand reunion!



# Trinity's Sixth Annual Blocktoberfest



**Saturday, September 15  
Noon-6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service  
Sunday, September 16, 10:00am  
In the Shelter House**

**Come Join the Blocktoberfest  
Fun for the Whole Family!**

**For Schedule & Events Check [www.trinitylcms.org/blocktoberfest](http://www.trinitylcms.org/blocktoberfest)**



## Sermon Topics for September

September 2

*"Be Strong in the Lord"*  
Ephesians 6:10-20

September 9

*"The Healing Miracles of Jesus"*  
Mark 7:31-37

September 16 (Blocktoberfest)

*"Hold Firmly to the Word"*  
1 Corinthians 15:1-4

September 23

*"Who Is the Greatest?"*  
Mark 9:30-37

September 30

*"If It Is the Lord's Will"*  
James 4:15



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](mailto:trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com).

- 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 ..... Dennis Peckman
- September 4 ..... Steve Windler
- September 4 ..... Sarah Vogts
- September 5 ..... Dena Kaiser
- September 6 ..... Emerson Bunch

- September 6 ..... David Gatlin
- September 6 ..... Les Jones
- September 6 ..... Gay Stubbs
- September 7 ..... Cindy Belsanti
- September 7 ..... Teri Minden
- September 8 ..... Tore Smithhisler
- September 8 ..... Lloyd Ohlmeier
- 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 15 ..... Aaron Prothe
- September 16 ..... Conni Holte
- September 18 ..... Grant Haley
- September 18 ..... Anna Peckman
- September 18 ..... Skyler Prothe
- September 18 ..... Liam Simonson
- September 18 ..... Josslyn Fuller
- September 19 ..... Rolland Prothe
- September 21 ..... Katie Lindsey
- 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 25 ..... Ginny Peckman
- 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
- Sep 5 ..... Jerry & Reita Woodall (64)
- Sep 7 ..... Jason & Sacred Davis (22)
- Sep 8 ..... Jamey & Dena Kaiser (11)
- Sep 11 ..... James & Shannon Fanning (19)
- Sep 12 ... Dennis & Norma Peckman (64)
- Sep 13 ..... Johnny & Sharon Grother (54)
- Sep 15 ..... Ray & Janet England (56)
- Sep 17 ..... Kerry & Carole Brandt (35)
- Sep 18 ..... Paul & Kathy Haley (42)
- Sep 19 ..... Randy & Helen Maisch (21)
- Sep 21 ... Ryan & Tamara Mitchell (22)
- Sep 25 ..... Kelly & Valerie Gerken (42)
- Sep 28 ..... Gary & Rose Peckman (33)



Sunday School children were awarded Bibles and Catechism on Christian Education Rally Day, August 19. Thank you to Michelle Haley, Kristina Eilts, Lori Schlegel, DCE Janette Reinke, and all those who help teaching Sunday School and leading the Trinity Youth. Thank you to Clint Haley for the photo.



## Blocktoberfest Meal Donations & Help Needed

Trinity Youth are looking for donations for the German meal at Blocktoberfest on September 15. We would greatly appreciate donations of German potato salad, German Green beans, and pie or strudel. Copies of the recipes we use for the potato salad and green beans are in the overflow, along with a sign-up sheet. We also created an online sign-up, if you'd rather sign up that way: ([www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094EACA62AA3FE3-blocktoberfest1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094EACA62AA3FE3-blocktoberfest1)).

Please see Janette Reinke, Pamela Peckman, Susan Schmitt or any Trinity Youth if you'd like to provide items or have questions. Trinity Youth are once again using proceeds from the Blocktoberfest meal to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering, which will be held in Minneapolis next summer. Thank you for your constant support of our kids!

## 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 of the Month from around the world, who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

September 2

*Richard & Sarah Sovitzky*  
Czech Republic

September 9

*Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett*  
Ethiopia

September 16

*Deirdre Christiansen*  
Germany

September 23

*Rev. Michael & Karen Schempf*  
Uganda

September 30

*Rev. Edward & Monica Naumann*  
Madagascar

*"Brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it is among you."  
(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*



A great deal of progress has been made on our Building Addition & Modernization Project! Except for final cleanup the brick exterior of the new north wing is complete, including the cross shown above in a contrasting color on the elevator tower. The shingles and the roof on the elevator tower have been installed. The new elevator has been delivered and is stored in crates in the new wing—take a peek thru the temporary glass door to the new wing to get an idea of the massive machinery! Cabinets have been delivered for the serving area in the new Gathering Room (former overflow and nursery). These cabinets and a large assortment of wood trim have been stained to match the original woodwork. New windows have been installed throughout the basement. Much of the original interior has already been repainted. Work is proceeding on the new heating and air-conditioning systems. And earth and concrete work outside is underway. *Lord willing* the project will be completed by November 4, and dedicated at the 10:00am service as part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations!



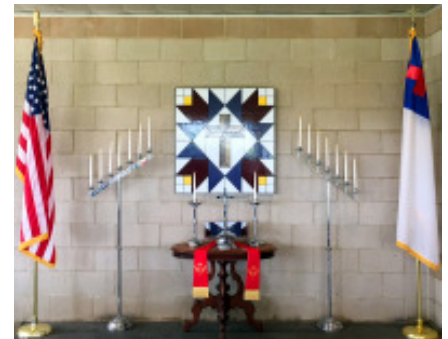
## Nursing Home Services

You are invited to help provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on Sunday, September 9. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service.

September 9  
*Gayle Plummer*

September 16  
*Blocktoberfest BBQ Lunch*

September 23 & 30  
*Need Volunteers*



## Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service & BBQ Lunch September 16

On Sunday morning, September 16, we will again have our “Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service” in the Shelter House, at our regular worship time of 10:00am. The message will be *“Hold Firmly to the Word”* based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Following the service there will again be a free BBQ lunch provided for everyone by the Blocktoberfest Committee.



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? Hosts are still needed for July 15 and all of August. The sign-up sheet is by the table with the snacks. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

September 2  
*Jan Minden*



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 to learn more about *God's Grace in Colossians*.