

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2019
AUGUST

The First Communion on the Moon!



"The day is Yours, and Yours also the night, for You established the sun and the moon." Psalm 74:16

This year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of men landing on the moon, on July 20, 1969. Something else very interesting and historic that you may not be aware of also happened on that date—the first Christian service of Holy Communion on the moon!

After the Apollo 11 Eagle lunar module landed on the moon, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were ordered to wait, for a planned rest period and various system checks, before they could literally take the next "big step" in their mission—onto the lunar surface. Aldrin spent this time inside the cramped lunar module doing something he had carefully planned and prepared for that moment: giving thanks to God by partaking of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Though the rite itself was simple it was not spontaneous, since it took a great deal of advance preparation to have the necessary elements for Communion aboard the lunar module with the astronauts. A devout Christian, Aldrin was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston. Before he headed into space he got special permission from NASA to take consecrated bread and wine from his church along with him and give himself Communion—on the moon!

Many previous astronauts had already prayed in space, including a reading from the creation story in Genesis 1:1-9 by the three Apollo 8 astronauts while orbiting the moon

the previous Christmas Eve, on December 24, 1968. But, Aldrin was about to go one step further—literally and figuratively. Part of his mission was not only to land on the moon, as pilot of the lunar module, but also to be only the second human ever to walk on it. To prepare himself, he took Communion while waiting inside the Eagle lunar module on the moon's Sea of Tranquility.



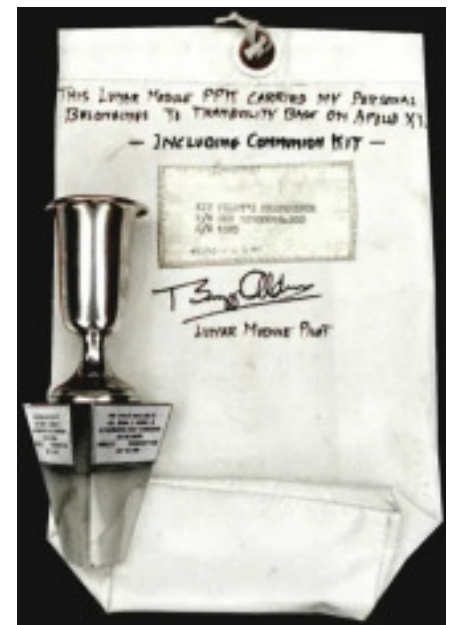
A famous picture of the earth from the Apollo 8 craft orbiting the moon below, taken on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1968, when the astronauts read the creation story from Genesis 1:1-9 and concluded, "God bless all of you—all of you on the good Earth."

The mood in the module was sober. Both Armstrong and Aldrin knew how important their mission was. "I was certainly aware that this was a culmination of the work of 300,000 or 400,000 people over a decade, and that the nation's hopes and outward appearance largely rested on how the results came out," Armstrong recalled.

As the men prepared for the next phase of their mission, Aldrin got on the comm system and spoke to the ground crew back on Earth. "I would like to request a few moments of silence," he said. "I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his own individual way."

Then he reached into the small bag each astronaut was allotted for personal belongings, and took out the bread and wine he had transported into space—which was also the first food or drink of any type ever consumed on the moon. "I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup," he later wrote. Armstrong looked on quietly but did not participate.

Before partaking of the bread and wine, Aldrin read an appropriate selection of Scripture that he had handwritten on a card and also brought with him from earth, John 15:5, from Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "And Jesus said, 'I am the Vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without Me.'"



The Apollo 11 personal effects bag of astronaut Buzz Aldrin, which he used to transport the elements for Holy Communion to the moon, including the small chalice he used for his lunar Communion.

Aldrin wanted the service broadcast to the entire world. However, atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair had sued NASA the previous year, after the broadcast of Apollo 8 astronauts reading from Genesis. Though the case was dismissed, it made an impression on NASA officials, who worried that broadcasting an overtly religious act such as the Christian Sacrament of Holy Communion would entangle the agency in more lawsuits.

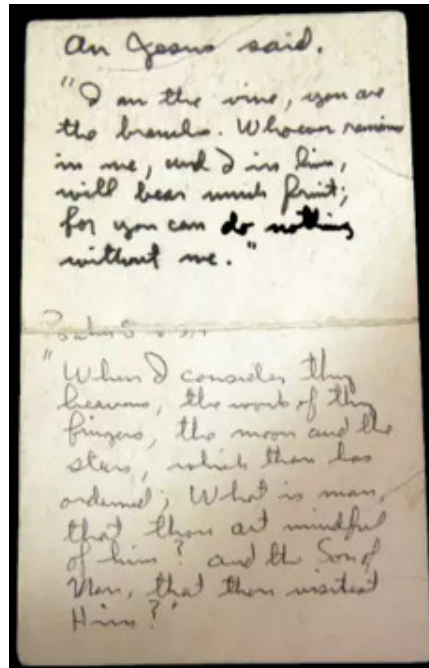
When Aldrin told the flight crew operations manager about his plan to broadcast a Communion service from the moon, the manager told him to go ahead and have Communion, but "keep your comments more general." So, Aldrin kept the ceremony low-key.

It was not done in secret, however, but was widely reported at the time that Aldrin had brought along Communion bread and wine aboard the spacecraft, and partook of Holy Communion before being the second human after Armstrong to step onto the surface of the moon.

However, this interesting fact of history was overshadowed by the landing itself, and Armstrong's famous declaration upon setting foot on the moon: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Though he was the first, Aldrin hasn't been the only United States astronaut to

receive Holy Communion in outer space. In 1994, three Roman Catholic astronauts received the Sacrament while orbiting the earth in Space Shuttle Endeavor.



A card handwritten by astronaut Buzz Aldrin with John 15:5 (top) and Psalm 8:3-4 (bottom), Scriptures he recited before being the first person ever to receive Holy Communion on the moon and at the end of the mission.

The first Holy Communion in outer space was only experienced by one man and witnessed by another, but although it was largely unknown at the time it hasn't been forgotten. "Lunar Communion Sunday" is still celebrated annually at Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston to commemorate this event, and Aldrin—who is still living at 89 years old—has often written and spoken about this unique experience. As he said in his 2010 memoir: "I could think of no better way to acknowledge the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

At the end of their mission, Aldrin broadcast to earth another very appropriate selection of Scripture, Psalm 8:3-4: "When I consider Thy heavens, the works of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou visitest him?"

Pastor Kevin Vogts

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August, 2019



Outdoor Worship August 18

There has been a request to hold more outdoor services in our Shelter House during the summer months. Plan now to attend our August Outdoor Service in the Shelter House on Sunday, August 18, at the usual time of 10:00am.

We will usually have four outdoor services per year, in May/June, July, August, and September. The July services will usually be on the first Sunday to commemorate Independence Day; the September services will be on Blocktoberfest weekend; and the May/June and August services will vary depending on the calendar, holy days, and holidays.

Ice Cream Social August 18



We are having an Ice Cream and Dessert Social at the Shelter House on Sunday, August 18 beginning at 5:00pm. Come join the fun and bring your favorite homemade ice cream or dessert to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided.



Guest Minister August 11

Pastor Vogts will be gone on Sunday, August 11 for the 65th Anniversary celebration of Terry's parents in South Dakota, which was postponed from when it was originally scheduled several months ago.

Our guest minister that Sunday will be Rev. Paul Helmer, a retired pastor from Gardner. (Our regular substitute minister Rev. Schepmann was not available for that Sunday.)

Sermons for August



Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our website at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons; as podcasts in the iTunes store by searching for "Rev. Kevin Vogts"; and printed copies of that day's sermon and several of the most recent sermons are available in the Gathering Room.

August 4

*"For Thine Is the Kingdom
and the Power and the
Glory Forever and Ever"*

1 Timothy 1:17

August 11

Rev. Paul Helmer
Guest Preacher

August 18

"Plug In to God's Power"

Acts 2:37-42

August 25

"The Heavenly Jerusalem"

Hebrews 12:18-24



AUGUST 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.

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



**REAL.
PRESENT.
GOD.**

Eight Trinity Youth and three adult counselors attended the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 11-15. They had a fantastic time and say it was a great faith experience! Lots more photos online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos.

August 5 Halle Schlegel
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 11 Angela Parks
August 12 Janet Schneider
August 14 Jeremiah Brandt
August 14 Gerald Woodall
August 14 Terese Vogts
August 15 Alicia Brandt
August 15 Joan Fehling
August 15 Derek Johns
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 18 Lily Rush
August 19 Ryan Hoden
August 20 Angela Carwile
August 20 Enora Coppenbarger
August 22 Gayle Plummer
August 23 Ryan Boyer
August 24 Kelly Gerken
August 24 Anna Vogts
August 25 Derik Vaughn
August 26 Brooke Prothe
August 27 Cale Elkinton
August 27 Don Prothe

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
August 5 Jeff & Karen Garrison (13)
August 6 Bill & Ashley Dillenbeck(3)
August 8 Dennis & Sara Prothe (21)
August 16 Doug & Judy Parks (39)
August 17 ... Curtis & Lucy Kettler (34)
August 18 ... Greg & Karen Windler (46)



We rejoiced on July 7 to welcome back into membership Glenna Algozzini (right), by Affirmation of Faith, and Lela Sands (left), by Transfer from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Palestine, Texas. Both were previously members of Trinity decades ago and have recently moved back to the area. They are both residents of Vintage Park, Paola, where this picture was taken.

AFTER CHURCH SNACKS

Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship? There is a sign-up sheet on the table with the snacks. Our Generations group has generously agreed to provide and prepare the coffee and juice each week! So those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Thanks to all those providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

August 4
Ruth Gaffney

August 11
Sally Wood

August 18
Linda Prothe

August 25
Gayle Plummer

Missionaries of the Month



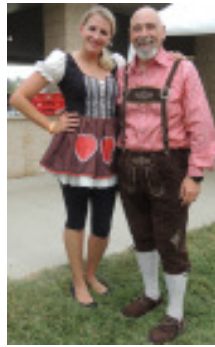
This month's Missionaries of the Month are all new to the mission field, having just been appointed for service. You are encouraged to remember in prayers these and our other missionaries around the world who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.

August 4
Rev. *Funchato & Kalia Lo*
Thailand

August 11
Cynthia Pine
Dominican Republic

August 18
Rev. *John & Melinda Bombaro*
Latvia

August 25
Deaconess *Kathryn Phillips*
Dominican Republic



Trinity's Seventh Annual Blocktoberfest

Saturday, September 21
Noon–6:00pm



Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
Sunday, September 22, 10:00am
In the Shelter House

Come Join the Blocktoberfest

Fun for the Whole Family!

Nursing Home Services



You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on Sunday, August 11.

The simple services are about 20 minutes long at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service. Its great to have members there for the services to greet the residents, sing along, help with the songbooks, etc.



Why do Roman Catholics have more books in their Bibles than Protestants? What about the "lost" books of the Bible we hear about in the news? We're looking at these questions and more with our current study in Adult Bible Class, *Bible 101: An Introduction to Understanding the Bible*. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room!



We had a great turnout for our Outdoor Service in the Shelter House on July 7 to commemorate Independence Day, and a delicious potluck after! Lots more photos online at www.trinitylcms.org/photos. Thanks to Kyle Minden for all the pictures!