

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2020



In Search of St. Patrick



This month I am sharing an article from the March, 2011 issue of The Lutheran Witness on the background of St. Patrick. A new movie "I Am Patrick" telling his stirring story will be released on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. In our area it will be showing at the AMC 20 at Town Center, 11701 Nall, Leawood, and Cinemark 20, 5500 Antioch, Merriam. More information is at the movie's website www.iampatrick.com.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

St. Patrick's Day has little liturgical significance. Outside of Ireland, it isn't even a national holiday—I don't know anyone who gets the day off. However, if there was ever a man who deserved to have a day named in his honor, it is Patrick. He was a Christian hero of incredible bravery, a man who changed history, and a man of faith who richly deserves to be remembered—and not only by the Irish!

As with many early heroes, history and legend have combined when it comes to Patrick. From his own few writings we know he was born near the end of the fourth century in Britain, an outpost of the crumbling Roman Empire.

It was a terrible time in the western world. Many Christians believed the end of the world was near. The imperium was disintegrating, and along with it the settled, ordered way of Roman life.

Decades of defensive warfare against a thousand foes along the empire's vast perimeter had consumed soldiers and resources at a rate impossible to maintain. Internal strife and corruption had further destabilized the great empire. Rome was slowly shrinking, drawing its troops inward to more defensible positions, and leaving

remote provinces and colonies perilously isolated. Britain was such an orphaned outpost, without real protection from blood-thirsty raiders who swept in from the sea to rob, rape, pillage and kidnap children for slaves.



The new movie "I Am Patrick" tells the fascinating, true story of this great saint. Opening on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, trailers, theaters, and other information is at www.iampatrick.com.

Irish Raiders

These raiders were the Irish—members of the same fierce Celtic race that had, in earlier decades, confronted Roman troops and fought them to a standstill on the borders of Roman Britain. In those days they had fought naked with their bodies painted in vivid colors. To the civilized Romans they were frightening savages with modern swords, shields and other weapons.

The Irish made jewelry and tableware from the bones of their victims, and they worshiped horrible, murderous monster gods. They practiced human sacrifice and were accused of cannibalism by the Romans, who never conquered them or their neighbors, the Picts. Instead, the Roman army steered clear of these natives and built sturdy walls across Britain in an effort to keep them at bay.

One of the unfortunate children stolen in a raid by these pirate warriors was Patrick, a Christian Roman boy dragged off one dark night, along with his two sisters, and carried across the sea to the remote mountains of Ireland. He was sold to be a shepherding slave. He was forced to live in horrible conditions, often hungry, often cold, threatened by the elements, and abused by his captors. Patrick survived, though, and over the years, he learned the language of the Irish and their ways.

In his Confession, one of two documents that have been attributed to St. Patrick, he tells us that he had not been particularly religious before his capture. But shivering alone in his mountain cave, with only his master's sheep for companions, he turned earnestly to the Lord.

During his six years in bondage Patrick prayed and meditated. One day, he tells us, God sent him a surprising vision in a dream. He was to go to a certain harbor, where a boat would be waiting to take him home to Britain. He believed the message, walked to the harbor, and events happened as he had been told. Now a young man, Patrick was free and at home with his parents once again!

He spent only a short time with his family, for he received another message, in another dream. Patrick tells us this dream was vivid and startling. He was to return to Ireland, the land from which he had just escaped, not as a slave, but as a minister of God. The Lord had chosen Patrick, he believed, to turn the Irish from their Druidic paganism to Christ.

Obediently, Patrick set to work on what was to be a lifelong task. He studied for years, became a priest, and began to petition to be sent to Ireland. His petitions were repeatedly denied, and he was given other work.

A decade passed, and then another. Patrick was made a bishop, but he was not allowed to go to Ireland. Most men would have given up, but Patrick worked, prayed and petitioned. Still more years passed. Another bishop, Palladius, was chosen to take the Gospel to Ireland—Patrick would not be the first missionary to Ireland after all.

Palladius' mission failed. It lasted less than a year. Finally, Patrick, now perhaps 60 years old, after waiting, praying and petitioning for most of his life, was given permission by the Pope to undertake his very dangerous mission to Ireland. What followed is an incredible story.

Patrick's Return

Ireland was a warrior nation divided into tribal districts. It was rich from years of raiding and from its booming slave trade. This was a world ruled by handsome, fierce, fighting nobles and black-hooded Druid priests. Here pagan, magical arts were practiced and the great idol Crom-Cruach, surrounded by 12 lesser deities, towered over a field dedicated to blood sacrifice. This was also a land where wandering poets sang songs of mythical heroes while chieftains feasted with their warriors in torchlit halls.

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According to tradition and to the stories passed down to us, in about the year 432 Patrick and a small band landed their boat in Ireland and, singing a hymn for divine protection, proceeded inland. They soon found themselves face to face with a party of armed warriors led by two Irish princes who had orders to kill the Christians. However, as Patrick spoke a few words to the soldiers, the Holy Spirit swept in, converting the majority, whom Patrick baptized on the spot, including the two princes. The warriors joined Patrick on his inland march. (The princes eventually became priests and bishops themselves.)

Eventually, Patrick arrived at the court of King Leoghaire at Tara, where Druid priests displayed their demonic magic, theatrically plunging the hall into darkness. Instead of cowering in fright, Patrick observed aloud that these priests could create darkness but that they could not dispel it—which they could not. He then proceeded to use this incident as the theme of a sermon, in which he likened Christ to the light. Many of the assembled nobles converted to Christianity that day, and Patrick gained the king's respect and protection.

The Druids claimed his mere presence sucked the magic power out of their practices. Other war parties sent to kill Patrick were converted by him instead. Tribal kings and queens fell in love with his charity and fearlessness. Even those who did not convert respected him. In about 434, after only two years of preaching in Ireland, Patrick himself used a long pry bar to topple the stone idol of Crom-Cruach.

He often faced certain death unafraid. He argued, preached and brought Christ with him everywhere he traveled. In his path he left converts and churches under construction. In about the time it took Patrick to walk across it, Ireland converted from paganism to Christianity. Ireland outlawed slavery and stopped raiding its neighbors. Never before in the history of the world and never since has such a dramatic and sudden cultural and religious change taken place without force of arms, solely through the Word of God.

An Irish Hero

In many ways, Patrick was more Irish than the Irish. He loved Irish legends, poetry and songs, and he insisted that this heritage be documented and retained. For their part, the Irish loved him and embraced him. Patrick lived his life in Ireland and died there. He left behind a Christian people, a civilized people, and he left behind towns, schools, seminaries and a love of learning perpetuated to this day.

Perhaps the story I have just told is as much myth as truth. We know that there were probably small groups of Christians in Ireland before Patrick's arrival, not in the least because of the kidnapping raids by Irish pirates. St. Patrick probably did not really drive all the snakes from Ireland either, as the legends say (biologists tell us snakes have never been native to Ireland), but we can agree that Patrick surely helped drive out one deadly serpent from that green garden!

A few years after Patrick's death, Germanic barbarians sacked the city of Rome, burned books, tore down buildings, melted priceless artifacts, and dragged the western world into the Dark Ages. Western civilization was almost lost, but the Irish, on their island beyond the reach of the barbarians, remained a bastion of Christianity and learning. Irish monks sought out, copied and protected the few manuscripts that survived the barbarian onslaught on the continent. They protected not only Christian manuscripts, but influenced by Patrick's love of literature and history, copied and maintained secular and pagan literature as well. Thanks to their efforts, we have the Iliad of Homer, the lectures of Cicero, and a thousand other cultural wonders that might otherwise have vanished. In short, for centuries Irish monks preserved our western heritage for us.

It was also Irish missionaries, following in Patrick's footsteps, who risked their lives to bring the Gospel to those barbarians who had conquered Rome and spread across Europe—the Germans. Along with Christianity, Irish monks brought the same gifts to these barbarians that Patrick had carried to them not so many decades before: art, literature, learning and a new way of life.

So, we should give a bit of honor to Patrick, a Romanized Briton who began his letters, "I, Patrick, a sinner . . ." He was a man who trusted God, became a powerful witness for the Lord, and changed the world. He was truly a hero.



Special services each Wednesday throughout Lent are at 7:00pm, with a Lenten Supper before each service. The theme for this year's Lent services is *Portraits of the Passion*, illustrating the Lenten story with projections of classic artworks from the collections of the Nelson Atkins Museum and Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas.

"Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . who endured the cross."
(Hebrews 12:2)



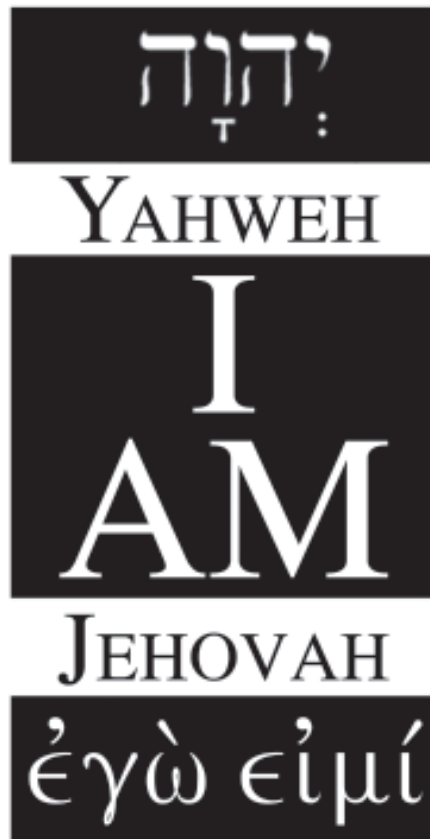
Everyone is invited to enjoy our Lenten Suppers, in our Fellowship Hall each Wednesday evening during Lent before the Lent Service. Our thanks to all those hosting these meals, for which freewill offerings are taken to benefit their programs and other causes.

February 26

Twin Valley 4-H – Pizza

March 4

Generations – Cemetery Fund
Pulled Pork



Lenten Sunday & Holy Week Sermon Series on the "I AM" Statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John

- March 1....."I AM" (John 8:58)
- March 8....."I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6)
- March 15....."I AM the Door" (John 10:9)
- March 22....."I AM the Light of the World" (John 8:12)
- March 29....."I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25)
- April 5 (Palm Sunday)....."I AM the True Vine" (John 15:1)
- April 9 (Maundy Thursday)....."I AM the Bread of Life" (John 6:35)
- April 10 (Good Friday)....."I AM the Good Shepherd" (John 10:10)

March 11

Blocktoberfest Committee
Brats & Bierocks

March 18

Generations – Hot Beef Sandwiches

March 25

Block Walkers – Potato Bar

April 1

Trinity Youth – Taco Bar

Nursing Home Services



You are invited to help provide worship services for nursing home residents at North Point and Medical Lodge on March 15. The services are about 20 minutes in length. We begin at 1:30pm at North Point and then go to Medical Lodge for the second service.

Worship for Shut-Ins Date Change

At one time our next Worship for Shut-Ins was scheduled for Thursday, March 12. *Please note and spread the word* that it has been changed to April 16, the Thursday after Easter, so that the shut-ins can see the church decorated for Easter.



A sheet listing those who signed up for tickets for the show "Church Basement Ladies" at the New Theater Restaurant is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Please check to make sure we have you down for the correct number of tickets and whether your payment has been received. If anyone who signed up is now unable to go there are others who would buy your tickets to this sold-out show. Payment of \$33 per ticket may be made to Pastor Vogts. He has the tickets and will keep them to distribute the day of the show.

The matinee is at the New Theater Restaurant, 9229 Foster Street, Overland Park, on Saturday, March 21, with seating at 11:45am, lunch at 12:15pm, and the show following.

Our Generations Group is generously providing a bus from Crossroad Tours! There is a list in Gathering Room listing of those who have signed up to attend this event. Please indicate on this list if you would like to ride the bus. Pick-up will be at Wal-Mart parking lot in Paola at 9:30am and depart at 9:45am. Anticipated departure from theatre is 3:30pm and return to Wal-Mart parking lot by 5:30pm.

For questions about the bus please see Karen Windler or Phyllis Trickett, and about tickets please see Pastor Vogts.



Lenten Devotional Booklets

Devotional booklets for Lent from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the large literature rack in the South Lobby. Use these devotions to help you draw nearer to your Savior this Lenten season as you ponder His suffering for your salvation!



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2020? 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. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Thank you to all who provide snacks for Coffee Hour!

March 1
Sally Wood

March 8
Lori Schlegel

March 15
Susan Schmitt

March 22
Windlers & Halesy in Honor of
Arnold Debrick's 95th Birthday

March 29
Need Volunteers

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 1
David & Barbara Bush
Hong Kong

March 8
Rev. Gary Schuschke
Germany

March 15
J.P. & Aimee Cima
Cambodia

March 22
Peter & Lucy Hoffmann
Czech Republic

March 29
Vicar Benjamin & Grace Vanderhyde
Sri Lanka

*"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)*

Holy Days and Holidays

Adult Bible Study

How did our holidays get started? What do they all really *mean*? Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *Holy Days and Holidays*. We're looking at the background of the holidays we celebrate, and what, if any, Biblical basis and Christian significance they have. You may be surprised how many of the

holidays that we now consider “secular” actually started as Christian holy days—even Groundhog Day!

Come join in Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Heritage Room for a fascinating look at *Holy Days and Holidays!*

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 2 Zella McCully
- 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

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service

with Holy Communion
Thursday, April 9, 7:00pm



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 10, 7:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11, 10:00am
On Shelter House Grounds
Sponsored by Twin Valley 4-H
All Children Invited!



Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 12, 7:00am
Second Easter Service at 10:00am
Both Services Include Holy Communion
and Same Easter Message

Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, April 12
8:00am
Sponsored by Generations



All Invited — Everyone Welcome!

- March 18 Jennifer Rethman
- March 18 Chris Smith
- March 19 Jordan Harper
- March 20 Paul Haley
- March 21 Rusty Morton
- 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



2020 Wednesday Lent Sermon Series

Illustrating the Lenten Story with Classic Artworks from the Collections of The Nelson-Atkins Museum and Spencer Museum at The University of Kansas

February 26 (Ash Wednesday)
 "Prayer and Arrest in Gethsemane"

March 18
 "The Crucifixion"

March 4
 "Trial, Condemnation, and Flagellation"

March 25
 "Pieta"

March 11
 "Carrying the Cross the Calvary"

April 1
 "Descent from the Cross"



"I AM" Sunday Sermon Series During Lent

Beginning on March 1 the sermon themes for Sundays during Lent and Holy Week services will be based on the famous "I AM" statements that Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospel of John:

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

The Door

The Light of the World

The Resurrection and the Life

The True Vine

The Bread of Life

The Good Shepherd

Come learn the deeper meaning of these well-known and beloved declarations of our Lord.

- 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
- March 6 .. Steve & Bobbi Debrick (21)
- March 7 Dave & Suzie Prothe (28)
- March 9 Rich & Sally Wood (29)
- March 10 ... Jim & Shelisa Mueller (41)
- March 14 ... Ryan & Brianna Hoden (5)
- March 20 Mike & Linda Giager (34)
- March 21 ... Sean & Robyn Weatherbie (22)
- March 28 Tom & Nancy Green (41)
- March 28 Arlin & Venita Prothe (55)



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 Gathering Room indicating that you wish to have these plants purchased for you, and put your payment in the offering plate marked "Easter Lilies."