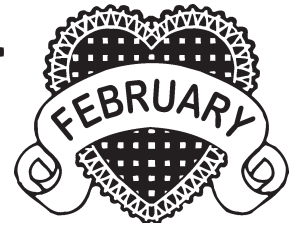


Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2021



Did you know that Valentine's Day is actually a Christian holy day? St. Valentine was a Christian martyr in the 3rd century renowned for his love of the Lord and his fellow man. In our time, Valentine's Day has become mostly a secular, non-religious holiday. But, it is still a good occasion to remember what true love—Christian love—is really all about. St. Paul describes this love which God has for us, and we as Christians will have for others, in his famous "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love is patient" — If God were not patient with us, He would long ago have brought destruction upon us because of our sins. But as 1 Peter 3:9 says, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." God is patient with you, and so you ought also be patient with others. As St. Paul says in Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

"Love is kind" — St. Paul says in Titus 3:4-5, "When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy." God showed His love for you in the greatest act of kindness ever: sending His Son to be your Savior. This divine kindness of God moves you to show love to others in your own acts of human kindness. As 1 John 4:11 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

"It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud" — More than anything, it is human pride that gets in the way of love. Because love takes compromise and so often, because of sinful pride, no

one is willing to make the first step. After Jesus washed the disciples feet he said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have love you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). Because of His love for us, Jesus humbled Himself, even to the point of dying for us. We must learn from Jesus to be like Him, gentle and humble in heart (Matthew 11:29).



"It is not rude" — Especially within marriage and family life, it is easy to begin taking others for granted, to forget the small kindnesses that make life together pleasant, to become inconsiderate and downright rude to those whom we claim to love most! St. Peter advises husbands to be considerate of their wives (1 Peter 3:7), and this goes for all family members. Don't take it for granted that your "loved ones" know you love them; show it in your everyday attitude and actions toward them.

"It is not self-seeking" — In our culture we are programed to "look out for #1"—ourselves. But St. Paul says in Philippians 2:3-5, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others above

yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

"It is not easily angered" — The Lord himself is "slow to anger, abounding in love" (Exodus 4:2). In the same way, we must "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger" and instead "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

"It keeps no record of wrongs" — Many marriages and other relationships crumble under the weight of remembered wrongs. But God forgives and forgets (Psalm 103:9-12), and in the same way we must "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).

"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth" — While Christian love does require that we be patient and forgiving, it does not mean that we must condone evil or tolerate such things as falsehood, abuse, or immorality. There are times, when for the sake of ourselves and others, we must speak out and condemn such wickedness. But even at these times, we dare not be motivated by anger, hatred or a desire for revenge. Rather, as St. Paul says, we must even then be "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

"It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" — The old adage says, "When all else fails, read the instructions." Even before all else fails in your relationships, read God's instructions on living a life of love. Because His love, when applied to your relationships according to His Word, does indeed never fail.

Pastor Kevin Vogts



Sermons for February

Complete videos of all our services, as well as audio and printed text of the sermon only, are available on our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/sermons. Printed copies of that day's sermon and several of the most recent sermons are also available in the Gathering Room.

February 7

"Healed for Service"

Mark 1:29-31

February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday)

"We Are Being Transformed"

2 Corinthians 3:18

February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

"Live from Jerusalem:

The Triumphal Entry"

Matthew 21:1-11

February 21

"God Is For Us"

Romans 8:31

February 24 (Lent Service II)

"Live from Jerusalem:

The Temple Courts"

Luke 19:21

February 28

"Jacob's Ladder"

Genesis 28:10-22

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

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

February, 2021



Lent Begins February 17

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Services that evening and each Wednesday throughout Lent will be at 7:00pm. (There will be no Lenten Suppers this year.)

The Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion and Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held on April 18 and 19 at 7:00pm.

The theme for this year's Lent services is "Live from Jerusalem" looking at places and events in the Lenten story. "Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . who endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2).

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.

February 7

Rev. David & Jennifer Preus

Dominican Republic

February 14

Rev. Jacob Gaugert

Togo

February 21

Rev. Jonathan & Anita Clausing

Tanzania

February 28

Cindy Wrucke

Czech Republic



Lent Devotional Booklets

Devotional booklets for Lent from Concordia Publishing House are available at the church. Titled "Return to the Lord" the devotions are based on Joel 2:13: "Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

Spend time daily reflecting this Lenten season how God is calling you back to Him, focusing on people in the Lenten story whom Christ called to follow Him.



FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

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.

February 2 Ashtin Armstrong

February 4 Jodie Wood

February 4 Leslie Vohs

February 6 Kerry Brandt

February 6 Tanna Jones

February 6 Glenn Minden

February 7 Stacey Elkinton

February 7 Tyler Allen

February 9 Daniel Wendte

February 10 Darrell Brandt

February 10 Terry Bunch

February 10 Kathy Gerken

February 11 Hannah Raines

February 12 James Haley

February 12 Mike Giager
 February 13 Valerie Gerken
 February 13 Logan Hendrickson
 February 18 Joey Stephens
 February 18 Stan Windler
 February 19 Debbie Windler
 February 20 Judy Kutz
 February 20 Angie Fickel
 February 20 Carolyn Warner
 February 21 Jeff Davis
 February 21 Marty Stutzman
 February 21 Jeri Brack
 February 25 Michelle Haley
 February 25 Curtis Hall
 February 25 Duane Rodewald
 February 26 Cate Minden
 February 27 Matthew Kriesel
 February 27 Reita Woodall
 February 28 Slina Prothe
 February 29 Austin Henry
 Feb 3 Bill & Kristina Elts (3)
 Feb 10 Curtis & Kristie Weaver (25)
 Feb 13 Jeff & Windy Davis (28)
 Feb 15 Curtis & Jamie Hall (18)
 Feb 19 Michael & Katie Taylor (16)
 Feb 21 Ron & Marcia Raines (32)
 Feb 22 Kevin & Denise Debrick (29)
 Feb 22 Rick & Jill Druse (24)



2021 Lent Sermon Series

Wednesday Evenings, 7:00pm
 Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17

February 17 – Ash Wednesday
 “The Triumphal Entry”

March 17 – Lent Service V
 “The Humiliations”

February 24 – Lent Service II
 “The Temple Courts”

March 24 – Lent Service VI
 “The Way of Sorrows”

March 3 – Lent Service III
 “The Garden of Gethsemane”

April 1– Maundy Thursday
 “The Upper Room”

March 10 – Lent Service IV
 “The Trials”

April 2 – Good Friday
 “The Place of the Skull”



Bible Class on Titus

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is “*Titus: The Conduct of the Christian and the Life of the Church.*”

Titus was a young man who assisted the Apostle Paul in his missionary efforts, becoming so close to Paul that the childless Apostle came to consider Titus “*my true son in our common faith*” (Titus 1:4). Though one of the shortest books in the Bible, this personal letter from Paul to Titus is rich in practical advice, both for the individual Christian and the Church.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the basement Fellowship Hall!



Voters Assembly Summary

Because some are unable to attend the Voters Assembly at this time due to the virus, this summary is provided for your information. Full minutes will be approved at the next Voters Assembly.

Meeting was called to order on January 24, 2021 by Chairman Windler, with Pastor Vogts offering opening devotions. Roll was answered by 22 members; there were no new member requests.

Financial reports by the home treasurer, missions treasurer, and steward fund were given.

The elders report centered on status of electronic media delivery system, including best way to get audio/visual of services to members without internet access.

Pastor Vogts reported on his worship, education, visitation, and administration efforts up to the first quarter of 2021.

Trustees reported on numerous items, including the AED being hung in the north hall, and the forthcoming sign work east of the church.

Reports were heard from the Endowment Committee, Board of Education, and Blocktoberfest.

New business items addressed included approval to follow direction of Synodical office to push back conventions one year, directing Ash Wednesday and Lenten cash offerings to missions, directing Good Friday cash offering to Lutheran Heritage, and exploring possible improvements/upgrades to the barn north of the church.

Salary reviews for church secretary and Pastor were approved. In recognition of Pastors efforts over the current course of the pandemic, a \$100 gift card (or other suitable item) was approved. Forming of an Outreach Committee will move forward, with volunteers being requested.



Glenn H. Block

February 26, 1938–January 24, 2021

Lela E. (Flake) Sands

November 11, 1918–January 26, 2021

Leonard Lee Windler

November 8, 1930–January 29, 2021

Hazel Pauline (Holtz) Prothe

October 13, 1921–February 2, 2021

Erlene Ora Reid Nall

Mother of Shemene Peckman
August 17, 1945–February 4, 2021

*"Come to Me, all you who are
weary and heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28



Kansas District Prayer Emphasis

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, the Kansas District of our Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod will kick off a 50-day prayer emphasis for Lent and Easter, *"Together We Pray,"* which will include daily scripture verses and prayers thru April 7.

You'll find the prayers on the District's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kslscms), or they are shared each day on our congregation's page (www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock). You'll also find a booklet with all the prayers on the district website (kslscms.org). Take a minute or two each day to join your fellow LCMS Kansans in prayer, confident He will hear us!

Coronavirus: Nothing New About Disease ... Or the Need for the Gospel

Rev. Dr. Mark Wood

Director of LCMS Witness & Outreach

There's really nothing new about the new coronavirus. Human history is filled with instances of epidemics, plagues, and pandemics. The Bible speaks about plagues and widespread diseases in accounts of the past and in accounts of our future. Deadly disease is nothing new. Neither is the greater threat to mankind.

In Revelation 9, we read about the horrible destruction that will one day ravage the earth. The figurative language of this chapter has caused many people to speculate about the exact nature of the three plagues discussed there. Whatever they may be (and it's very unlikely that they are coronaviruses), verses 20 and 21 make it clear that mankind faces a far greater problem than these plagues.

While the world around us is fixated on COVID-19, how to respond to it, and the fears of contracting it, there is something that is a far greater threat to them than

they realize. Many people in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and even our families are more concerned about a disease with a 1-2% mortality rate than a condition with a 100% mortality rate—a condition that every one of them has already contracted.

We know that this greater problem is sin. We also know that handwashing, antiseptic wipes, microbe-trapping face masks, and isolation cannot spare any of us from the deadly consequences of sin. Only the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ can save us.

People's concern over COVID-19 is an opportunity for us to engage them in conversations about our mortality and the certainty of death. It is an opening for us to speak God's Word into a situation that can only be answered by God's Word. In the face of the COVID-19 threat, with all its fears and uncertainties, we can shine as people who have certain hope and faith.

Our response to COVID-19 should show the people around us that we live in faith, not fear, and that we are filled with hope. Our hope is not in science, technology, or medicine. Our hope is in the One who has given us these good gifts and the greater gifts of life and salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. Your response to the COVID-19 threat should include making good use of the *"reason and senses"* and all that God has given us *"for this body and life"* (Luther's Small Catechism).

By all means, follow the sound advice of medical professionals and public health officials to protect yourself and your loved ones from this virus. But do not fear. You are God's own child washed in the waters of Holy Baptism, cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and filled with hope.

As you deal with the challenges of a widespread disease, remember also to share Good News with *"anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Through your faithful witness during a public health crisis, it is possible that people in your life will repent and receive the healing that only Jesus can provide. It's true: There's nothing new about the new coronavirus. But, in COVID-19, there is a new opportunity for us to bring Good News to our dying world.