



*"You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14*

There is an old saying, "I am somebody—because God don't make no junk." It turns out that uplifting saying applies not only to our egos, but also to our DNA!

For decades it has been commonly taught and widely believed that 99% of the human genome is irrelevant, so-called "junk DNA" supposedly left over from earlier stages of evolution. Though assumed to no longer have any function for modern humans, this vestigial "junk DNA" was said to linger on in our genome as irrefutable evidence that we gradually evolved from lower animals. For example, in 2007 Professor Philip Kitcher of Columbia University attacked divine creation by writing, "If you were designing the genomes of organisms, you would certainly not fill them up with junk."

This is typical of our human arrogance: We can't figure out what 99% of our DNA does, so it must be just "junk" that doesn't do anything—and even taken as proof that God is not our Creator. The Lord pronounces judgment on such human arrogance in 2 Peter 2:10-12: *"Presumptuous and arrogant, they are not afraid to insult the Lord's glory. . . they blaspheme in matters they do not understand."*

The supposed "fact" of "junk DNA" is still widely cited in many high school and college textbooks as "proof" of human evolution from lower animals. However, a fascinating article in *The Jerusalem Post* shows just how wrong such "experts"—and what they declare to be "fact"—can be!

## ***Don't Throw Away "Junk DNA"***

*The Jerusalem Post  
September 6, 2012*

*"Geneticists looking for the origin of inheritable diseases 'now have a new sandbox to play in,' said Shaare Zedek Medical Center's medical genetics director, Prof. Ephrat Levy-Lahad, following the discovery that so-called 'junk DNA' in the human genome has an important purpose after all.*

*"Instead of 99 percent of the genome being 'irrelevant filler'—as had been thought—and only the remaining 1% of the genome of 3 billion base pairs encoding for vital proteins, the 'junk DNA' serves as millions of DNA switches that power the human genome's operating system. It thus comprises a massive control panel; without these switches, genes would not work and mutations in these regions might lead to human disease.*

*"The locations of some four million switches were discovered and published recently in three journals: Nature, Genome Biology, and Genome Research by an international research team of hundreds of scientists led by the University of Washington in Seattle. The University of Washington's ENCODE project stands for 'ENCyclopedia Of DNA Elements.'*

*"The on/off switches controlling genes were encrypted within the remaining genome. Without these*

*switches, named 'regulatory DNA,' genes are inert. Researchers around the world have been focused on identifying regulatory DNA in order to understand how the genome works. . .*

*"Levy-Lahad told The Jerusalem Post that 'scientists haven't called the 99% "junk DNA" for years, because it became clear that it wasn't wasted. These parts of the DNA that don't encode for protein must have had a reason to be there, but geneticists didn't know the purpose. . . researchers are beginning to understand how genes are regulated—turned on and off. . .*

*"I would anticipate that many diseases that we don't understand well will become clearer. For example, there is a large inheritable component to Type II Diabetes, but [we] haven't yet found specific genes responsible for it,' the Shaare Zedek geneticist said. . .*

*"Autism also has a genetic component, and so do many other diseases. Now, with this discovery, we will have more places in the genome to look. . .'*

*"The ENCODE discovery, Levy-Lahad continued, 'will in the long term lead to better diagnostics and then to improved treatments and cures.' . .*

*"Our genome is simply alive with switches: millions of places that determine whether a gene is switched on or off,' says Ewan Birney of the European Bioinformatics Institute, the lead analysis coordinator. . .*

*"We found that a much bigger part of the genome—a surprising amount, in fact—is involved. . .'*

*"In many cases, you may have a good idea of which genes are involved in your disease, but you might not know which switches are involved. Sometimes these switches are very surprising. . .'* said Ian Dunham of EBI, who played a key role in coordinating the analysis. . .

*"ENCODE combined the efforts of 442 scientists in 32 labs in the UK, US, Spain, Singapore, and Japan. They generated and analyzed over 15 trillion bytes of raw data."*

This is a great scientific achievement and we should be grateful for the work of these researchers. Their discoveries may lead to major advances and yield great blessings in fighting disease.

And the very fact that it required so much human effort to understand even a tiny part of how our own bodies work—in fact have worked since God created us—should be a cause for humility! As Paul says in Romans 11:33-36: *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and how inscrutable His ways! . . . For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen."*

Rather than supposed proof of human evolution from lower animals, the marvel of human DNA which we are just barely beginning to understand is actually proof of *"the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"*

So, when it comes to you *and* your DNA, God don't make no junk!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

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June, 2021*

## Sermons for June



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](http://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.

June 6

*"Promises, Promises, Promises"*  
Genesis 3:15

June 13

*"The Commands of God"*  
Mark 7:8

June 20 (Father's Day)

*"Live For Him"*  
2 Corinthians 5:15

June 27

*"Remember the Sabbath"*  
Deuteronomy 5:12



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).

June 1 ..... Kelsey Davis  
June 1 ..... Sara Slack  
June 1 ..... Michele Prothe  
June 1 ..... Minna Meyer  
June 2 ..... David Koelsch  
June 4 ..... Arlin Prothe  
June 4 ..... Jamey Kaiser  
June 4 ..... Molly Eilts  
June 5 ..... Samantha Ferrell  
June 5 ..... Linda Prothe  
June 5 ..... Lance Stewart



On Mother's Day, May 9, we rejoiced to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Malcolm Wayne Brack, infant son of JeriLyne (Troyer) Brack and Alexander Brack. *"Let the little children come unto Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"* (Mark 10:14).

June 6 ..... Rhonda Kerr  
June 7 ..... Kendra Fuller  
June 9 ..... Kendra Woodrow  
June 10 ..... Madison Wood  
June 13 ..... Ed Reyelts  
June 13 ..... Augustus Prothe  
June 14 ..... Chris Carstens  
June 14 ..... Ethan Debrick  
June 14 ..... Leland Prothe  
June 15 ..... Kathy Hall  
June 15 ..... Kevin Prothe  
June 16 ..... Michelle Jones  
June 17 ..... Bailey Kaiser  
June 18 ..... Theresa Kettler  
June 19 ..... Richard Honn  
June 19 ..... Dale Moser  
June 19 ..... Annabelle Ducey  
June 20 ..... Paul Brack  
June 20 ..... Judy Minden  
June 21 ..... Kim House

June 21 ..... Jon Wendte  
 June 22 ..... Greg Brandt  
 June 22 ..... Beth Curry  
 June 22 ..... Vernon Prothe  
 June 22 ..... Jacob Vogts  
 June 24 ..... Tina Edwards  
 June 25 ..... Beth Herrs  
 June 25 ..... Rich Wood  
 June 26 ..... Kyia Fuller  
 June 26 ..... Donna Prothe  
 June 26 ..... Allison Wood  
 June 27 ..... George Holtz  
 June 27 ..... Kynda Harshman  
 June 29 ..... Devin Bruce  
 June 29 ..... Betty Cline  
 June 30 ..... Garry Block  
 June 3 .... Emerson & Wilda Bunch (65)  
 June 4 .... James & Rhonda Prothe (16)  
 June 8 .. Quentin & Kaelah Garrison (2)  
 June 8 ..... Jeff & Jamie Ennett (19)  
 June 9 ..... Dave & Phyllis Trickett (54)  
 June 10 ..... Chris & Lana Kettler (43)  
 June 10 ... Rolland & Betty Prothe (49)  
 June 11 ... Bruce & Gale Nowasell (33)  
 June 13 ..... Rick & Connie Holte (23)  
 June 14 ..... Jim & Sharon Prothe (41)  
 June 16 ..... Mike & Susan Schmitt (4)  
 June 16 ... Michael & Cindy Puckett (2)  
 June 18 . David & Lorranda Baldrige (16)  
 June 19 ..... Brian & Erin Meyer (17)  
 June 22 .... Clint & Michelle Haley (19)  
 June 25 .... George & Nancy Honn (33)  
 June 28 ... Loren & Barbara Herrs (52)

June 6  
*Rev. Gustavo & Rosana Lavia*  
 Spain

June 13  
*Rev. Walter & Robyn Steele*  
 Kenya

June 20  
*Courtney Zalmanoff*  
 Dominican Republic

June 27  
*Rev. Stephen & Maggie Oliver*  
 Taiwan



The quarterly issue of the devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer* for April thru June is available in the Gathering Room at church, in regular size, large print, and a medium "digest" size (same size as *Reader's Digest*). A great way to keep close to the Lord!



*Don E. Minden*

Born January 10, 1942  
 Entered Eternal Rest  
 June 4, 2021

Funeral Service at Trinity  
 and Christian Burial in  
 Trinity Lutheran Cemetery  
 June 10, 2021

*"Come unto Me, all you who  
 are weary and heavy laden,  
 and I will give you rest. . . you  
 will find rest for your souls."  
 Matthew 11:28-29*



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.

## COMMUNION



## SCHEDULE

We have resumed our summer schedule of Holy Communion, once per month on the first Sunday thru September. This year we will have Holy Communion at our outdoor service in the Shelter House on July 4, since we held Communion there recently and it worked well.



## Bible Class on Titus

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *"Titus: The Conduct of the Christian and the Life of the Church."* You are invited to join in Sundays at 9:00am in the basement Fellowship Hall!



New  
to Our  
Church

We rejoice to welcome into membership at Trinity Kynda Harshman, Beverly Helin, and Mark Minden, by transfer from First Lutheran Church, Paola. We welcome you into the Lord's family.

*"We receive you as fellow members of the Body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom"*  
(Rite for Receiving New Members)



The Trinity Youth are selling Trinity Lutheran Church T-shirts to help raise funds for the National Youth Gathering.

We have two colors for you to choose from. Please visit the counter in the Gathering Room to place your order. You can also place an order by emailing [tlc.block.kids@gmail.com](mailto:tlc.block.kids@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

## 50th Anniversary Card Shower

Rev. Roger & Laurie Schepmann are rejoicing to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Due to COVID, instead of an in-person gathering you are invited to participate in a card shower for them: 10720 South Appleridge Lane, Olathe, KS, 66061.



We rejoiced with Minna Rose Meyer, Lily Ann Rush, and Madison Taylor Wood and their families as they celebrated their Confirmation and received their First Communion on Trinity Sunday, May 30, preceeded by a Public Examination on May 28. *"Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live"* (Psalm 146:1-2).



We will celebrate Independence Day with our annual outdoor Service in the Shelter House on Sunday, July 4, at the regular time of 10:00am.

Pastor Vogts' message will be *"Let Freedom Ring!"* based on Leviticus 25:10, the verse inscribed on the Liberty Bell: *"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."*

The special order of worship will include favorite patriotic songs and Holy Communion.



## Community Garage Sale June 18 & 19

We are hosting a community garage sale at Trinity on the weekend of Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19.

Participants are welcome to retain their proceeds or may wish to donate a portion to our missions budget. We will hold the sale at the Shelter House and on the adjacent slab.

Go through your attics and garages and come join the fun! For more information please contact Gayle Plummer.