

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

SEPTEMBER
2022



"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."
(Jeremiah 3:15)

The calling of Pastors to serve congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and our sister conservative Lutheran bodies, is somewhat different and distinct from most other denominations.

On the one hand, we do not hold that our particular system is mandatory, or the procedures employed by other bodies are inherently wrong. But, on the other hand, we do consider our manner of calling Pastors to be fully in accord with the teachings of the New Testament, and in some ways to better reflect the Biblical model. Here are a few principles that we follow in our Synod's structure and for calling Pastors.

Congregations Are Supreme — We consider the only divinely mandated church structure to be the local congregation. There is simply nothing in the New Testament about a church structure beyond the local congregation, or a divinely appointed church leader beyond the local Pastor. For, wherever a greater "Church" is set forth in the New Testament, it is not referring to an earthly organization, but rather what the Apostles' Creed calls "the communion

of saints," also known as the "Invisible Church" — the worldwide spiritual fellowship of all believers, transcending all earthly boundaries such as denominations.

The word "synod" is actually a Greek term that means "to walk together." Our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is not divinely mandated, but a voluntary human organization, formed by the joining together of congregations that are inherently independent and supreme. So, our Synod is a "bottom up" rather than a "top down" organization, in some respects similar to the "federation" model of civil government, consisting of a voluntary coalition of independent and equal congregations. The Constitution of the LCMS puts it this way:

"In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers."

"In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned."

Congregations Pledge to Follow the Synod's Doctrine — The exception to the "federation" model and independence of the local congregation is doctrine. For, as a Christian congregation, we are first of all divinely obliged by God Himself to follow the

teachings of Scripture — and we most certainly do not have "independence" from Him and His Word in matters of doctrine!

Also, as part of joining the Synod, our congregation pledged to follow the teachings contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, an historic exposition of Scripture that sets forth the doctrinal position of the Lutheran Church. However, we make this commitment willingly, enthusiastically, and joyfully, because these teachings are based squarely and solely on Scripture. That is the meaning of 1 John 5:3: *"This is love for God: to obey His commands, and His commands are not burdensome."*

Our Congregation Has No "Boss" Except God Himself — In many, if not most, denominations there is a "bishop" or other regional or national leader who exercises control over local congregations. Sadly, more often than not this seems to be quite unhelpful, even dictatorial.

People outside our Synod often assume that our District Presidents or Synodical President must fill such an authoritarian role. However, like the Synod itself, they too are only advisory. We do not claim they serve by divine mandate but only by human arrangement, elected by a majority under our democratic system of church governance. Rather than dictatorially ruling over, they serve and assist the Synod's congregations in matters such as securing Pastors.

Their primary role is doctrinal oversight, since we have pledged ourselves to the Synod's doctrinal standard. So, if congregations, Pastors, or other church workers should stray from the right doctrine, these elected officeholders in our Synod are to fraternally admonish them and seek to steer them back to the doctrine that we have agreed together to follow.

As regards the term “bishop” it is completely misunderstood. The Greek word translated “bishop” means “overseer,” and in the New Testament “bishop” always refers simply to the Pastor of the local congregation. So, you could say that as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, I have been appointed by God to be the “Bishop of Block.” But, the New Testament knows nothing about a divinely appointed regional or national “bishop” over a collection of congregations or entire denomination.

The Only Earthly “Boss” of a Pastor Who Is Serving a Congregation Is the Congregation Itself — Jesus declares in Matthew 20:25-26: *“The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you.”* So, the District President or Synodical President is not the “boss” of the Pastor, for as brother Pastors they are equals. The exception, that we have voluntarily agreed to as members of the Synod, is their exercise of doctrinal oversight, but even this is carried out in a brotherly, not “bossy” manner.

Except for Assistant or Associate Pastors, where their Call specifies that they serve under the direction of a Senior Pastor, the only “boss” of a Pastor serving a congregation is the congregation itself. Ultimately, this is the whole congregation collectively, in

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the form of its Voters Assembly or similar governing body. Generally, between meetings of such a body oversight of the Pastor is delegated to an individual or group, such as the Congregational Chairman, Board of Elders, or Church Council.

Pastors Are Divinely Called Through the Local Congregation

— The calling process is a bit of a paradox theologically. On the one hand, Scripture makes clear that Pastors are divinely appointed to their charges by God Himself, in passages such as Acts 20:28: *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which He bought with His own blood.”* Note that it is the Holy Spirit Himself who has made Pastors overseers and shepherds of their congregations.

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being a Pastor, he desires a noble task.”

1 Timothy 3:1

On the other hand, this appointment is made by human action through the Church, as seen from the selection of Matthias to replace Judas as an Apostle: *“So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, ‘Lord, You know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.’ Then they cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias, so he was added to the eleven Apostles”* (Acts 1:23-26).

In the selection of Matthias, lots were cast after a prayer invoking the Lord’s guidance, which would still be an acceptable way for a congregation to choose a Pastor. However, our system of voting is also found in the New Testament, if one looks carefully at the original Greek of Paul’s charge to Titus: *“The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished, and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you”* (Titus 1:5).

The Greek word translated “elders” in most English versions is one of several terms in the New Testament that actually all refer to the local Pastor of a Christian congregation. So, Paul is directing his assistant Titus to “appoint” Pastors for the congregations on the island of Crete.

At first glance, that sure looks like the system found in most denominations, where some denominational leader claims divine authority to appoint Pastors for congregations. However, the Greek word translated “appoint” actually means “to elect by a show of hands.”

It was the Greeks who pioneered democratic rule, and it is critical for a proper church governance structure to understand that democratic tradition is reflected in this term. Despite the rendering of every English version, Paul is *not* telling Titus to arbitrarily appoint on his own authority Pastors for the congregations in Crete. He is instructing Titus, much like a District President or Circuit Visitor in our calling process, to arrange for these congregations to hold Call Meetings, in which they will “elect by a show of hands” their own Pastors.

Congregations Have Autonomy to Choose a Pastor as Long as He Meets the Scriptural Requirements

— The Bible itself sets forth the requirements for Pastors, especially in 1 Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:6-9. The #1 requirement — too often overlooked — as a prerequisite that supersedes all others is pure doctrine: *“He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it”* (Titus 1:9).

Theologically, congregations retain autonomy to call any man to serve as their Pastor who meets these Scripturally mandated requirements. However, practically, as part of our “walking together” as a Synod, we collectively provide for the seminary education and certification of Pastors, who are considered qualified to serve at a congregation of the Synod. So, normally, an LCMS congregation will call a Pastor who is endorsed by and on the clerical roster of the LCMS.

Except when a congregation voluntarily requests to have a new seminary graduate assigned to them, as First Lutheran in Paola recently did, what we don't have in the LCMS is the situation found in many other denominations, where Pastors are assigned or "sent" by some denominational authority.

Our Synod went through a tumultuous time during the late 60's and early 70's with the rise of liberal leadership, culminating with about 5% of the Synod's membership splitting off, eventually becoming part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Unfortunately, during those sad days there were some unfaithful pastors and other leaders in the LCMS, who pushed the liberal agenda now destroying the ELCA. I can remember vividly riding home after a Call Meeting at my home congregation when I was a child in the 60's, and my father saying to my mother, "I think I have it figured out; you should call any Pastor they *don't* want you to call."

Praise the Lord, those dark days are behind us in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! Over the years I have heard from fellow ministers in other denominations many shocking stories of autocratic and actually abusive "bishops" and other denominational leaders. However, one of the great blessings we have to be thankful for today in the LCMS is godly, faithful Synodical leaders such as our Kansas District President, Rev. Justin Panzer, and Johnson-Miami County Circuit Visitor, Rev. Andy Keltner. Though their role is advisory, that advice is sound and worthy of careful consideration.

Lutheran Service Book includes this prayer for "Calling a Faithful Pastor":

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy Apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

August–September Sermon Series



Blessed Are

Revelation's Seven Beautiful Beatitudes

The word "beatitude" means a blessing that is pronounced, and the state of blessedness which results. When we hear the word "beatitude" we think first of the famous beatitudes which Jesus proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-11). However, there is another set of beatitudes in the Bible, "Revelation's Seven Beautiful Beatitudes," which we will meditate on for our sermons during August and September.

August 7 — Revelation's First Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 1:3 — "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

August 14 — Revelation's Second Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 14:13 — "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'"

August 21 — Revelation's Third Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 16:15 — "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

August 28 — Revelation's Fourth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 19:9 — "Then the angel said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

September 4 — Revelation's Fifth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 20:6 — "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them."

September 11 — Revelation's Sixth Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:7 — "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

September 25 — Revelation's Seventh Beautiful Beatitude

Revelation 22:14 — "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."



Call Process Update

In view of the pending retirement of Pastor Vogts at the end of the year, Rev. Justin Panzer, President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Rev. Andy Keltner, Johnson-Miami County Circuit Visitor, met with the congregation on the evening of Tuesday, August 30 to discuss the process for calling a new Pastor.

On Sunday, September 11 a special Voters Assembly following the worship service considered a Vacancy Pastor and salary, survey information for members, forming a Call Committee, and a Retirement Celebration Committee

Everyone is asked to please pray for God's guidance as we start Trinity's Call process.



September 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.

- Sept 1 Noel Wendte
- Sept 2 Mary Ann Green
- Sept 2 Gladys Prothe
- Sept 3 Shane Honn
- Sept 3 Rebecca Hurst
- Sept 3 Ron Raines
- Sept 4 Lance Belsanti
- Sept 4 Mary Ann Maisch
- Sept 4 Steve Windler
- Sept 4 Sarah Vogts
- Sept 5 Dena Kaiser

- Sept 6 Emerson Bunch
- Sept 6 David Gatlin
- Sept 6 Les Jones
- Sept 6 Gay Stubbs
- Sept 7 Cindy Puckett
- Sept 7 Teri Minden
- Sept 8 Tore Smithhisler
- Sept 8 Lloyd Ohlmeier
- Sept 10 John Henry
- Sept 10 Evan Kettler
- Sept 10 Nickolas Davis
- Sept 11 Connie Barnett
- Sept 11 Gary Peckman
- Sept 11 Kristie Weaver
- Sept 11 Carol Wray
- Sept 12 Casey Maisch
- Sept 12 Pam Thompson
- Sept 12 Lincoln Wolf
- Sept 13 Donald Smithhisler
- Sept 13 Sally Wood
- Sept 15 Aaron Prothe
- Sept 16 Conni Holte
- Sept 18 Grant Haley
- Sept 18 Skyler Prothe
- Sept 18 Liam Simonson
- Sept 18 Josslyn Fuller
- Sept 19 Rolland Prothe
- Sept 21 Katie Lindsey
- Sept 22 Sarah Reyelts
- Sept 22 Jackson Lester
- Sept 23 Karen Brack
- Sept 23 Weston Davis
- Sept 23 Lindsey Ramsey
- Sept 23 Amanda West
- Sept 24 Dawson Bruce
- Sept 24 Kevin Debrick
- Sept 25 Jennifer Boydston
- Sept 25 Olivia Mitchell
- Sept 27 Scott Golubski
- Sept 27 Geraldine Holtz
- Sept 27 Ryan Holloman
- Sept 27 Leslie Thoden
- Sept 28 Kaiden Armstrong
- Sept 28 Margie Monthey
- Sept 29 Kathy Korsten
- Sept 29 Mary Shay
- Sept 30 Gale Nowasell
- Sept 7 Jason & Sacred Davis (26)
- Sept 8 Jamey & Dena Kaiser (15)
- Sept 11 James & Shannon Fanning (23)
- Sept 12 Karl & Cindy Karrow (30)
- Sept 13 . Johnny & Sharon Grother (58)
- Sept 15 Ray & Janet England (60)
- Sept 17 Kerry & Carole Brandt (39)
- Sept 18 Paul & Kathy Haley (46)
- Sept 19 Randy & Helen Maisch (25)
- Sept 21 .. Ryan & Tamara Mitchell (26)
- Sept 25 Kelly & Valerie Gerken (46)
- Sept 28 Gary & Rose Peckman (37)



Phillip W. Oberheide

Born January 26, 1956

Entered Eternal Rest August 8, 2022

"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

PORTALS of PRAYER

The quarterly issue of the devotional booklet *Portals of Prayer* for July thru September is available at the church, in regular size, medium, and large print, with the new quarter for October thru December available at the end of the month. A great way to keep close to the Lord!



Baptism

Lennox Lee Wolf

Son of John Devon Wolf and Emily Suzanne Prothe Wolf

Born July 13, 2022

Baptized August 7, 2022

"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)



Blocktoberfest September 17

Ach du lieber! It's time for our ninth Blocktoberfest! Held on the grounds at Trinity on Saturday, September 17, from noon to 6:00pm.

This year's Blocktoberfest will again feature lots of free fun activities and delicious food. And on Sunday, September 18 we will also hold our annual "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House at our regular worship time of 10:00am.

We look forward to another wunderbar year celebrating our German heritage—and having fun!



Thank you to all those hosting Coffee Hour following our worship services. The signup sheet is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Drinks are provided so you only need to bring snacks. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

September 4
Sally & Madison Wood

September 11
Gayle Plummer

September 18
Blocktoberfest Committee BBQ

September 25
Linda Prothe

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.

September 4
Rev. Gary Schuschke
Germany

September 11
Rev. Herb & Markie Burch
Belize

September 18
Benjamin & Rebecca Helge
Czech Republic

September 25
Rev. Gary & Stephanie Schulte
Burkina Faso

Sermons for September



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.

September 4
*"Revelation's Fifth
Beautiful Beatitude"*
Revelation 20:6

September 11
*"Revelation's Sixth
Beautiful Beatitude"*
Revelation 22:7

September 18 (Blocktoberfest)
"Ransom for Many"
Matthew 20:28

September 25
*"Revelation's Seventh
Beautiful Beatitude"*
Revelation 22:14



It is a joy for the Trinity Choir to sing for God and you! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings starting this month at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited to help make a joyful noise to the Lord—come join the fun and fellowship!

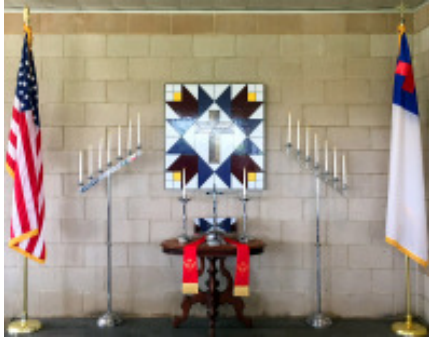


Adult Bible Class "Rabboni: Women Who Encountered Jesus"

We are most familiar with the male Disciples of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. However, the Gospels also emphasize that Jesus had many female followers, who feature prominently in the New Testament, but are sometimes overlooked.

So far in this study we have considered the Virgin Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, the Woman Healed of a Flow of Blood, the Woman at the Well, and the Woman with a Possessed Daughter. In September we are considering the Women from Galilee and Women of Jerusalem, and Salome and "The Other Mary."

All are invited and encouraged to join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room.



Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service & BBQ

On Sunday morning, September 18, we will again have our "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House, at our regular worship time of 10:00am.

The message will be "*Ransom for Many*" based on Matthew 20:28. Following the service there will again be a free BBQ lunch provided for everyone by the Blocktoberfest Committee.

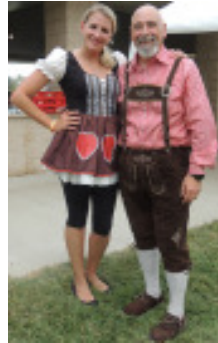
(Due to the outdoor service, there will not be Holy Communion on September 18, as normally scheduled for the third Sunday of the month.)

Confirmation Begins

Confirmation Class for children in 7th & 8th Grades will begin Wednesday, September 21, at 6:00pm. Pastor Vogts will be teaching Confirmation Class as usual thru the end of 2022, and then following his retirement the Vacancy Pastor will continue with the classes.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is coming up on Saturday, September 24, from 5:00pm 9:00pm at the Osawatomie High School Track. Our "Block Walkers" team will be participating again and we would love to invite everyone to join us! If interested, sign up online at www.relayforlife.org/miamicoks. Once on the website, click "Join This Relay." See Lori Schlegel or Dena Kaiser for any questions.



Trinity's Ninth Blocktoberfest



**Saturday, September 17
Noon–6:00pm**



**Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service
Sunday, September 18, 10:00am
In the Shelter House**

Come Join the Blocktoberfest Fun for the Whole Family!

For Schedule & Events Check www.trinitylcms.org/blocktoberfest

