

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas



From the
Pastor

Martin Luther Rewired Your Brain? Yep — And Your Whole Life Too!

When we think of the blessings that Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation brought to our world, we of course think first of the great *spiritual* blessings that as a result have filtered down to billions of people since. Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel and unlocking of the Scriptures gives spiritual comfort, strength, and guidance for life in this world, and most of all the surpassing blessing of eternal life. Daniel 12:3 promises that in heaven, *"Those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever,"* and surely Martin Luther will be one of the greatest lights in heavenly glory.

However, you may not realize the profound impact Martin Luther, and the Reformation that he launched, has had upon your entire life — even the very makeup of your brain! That is the fascinating conclusion of Dr. Joseph Henrich, Professor of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, in a recent fascinating article, *"Martin Luther Rewired Your Brain."*

Dr. Henrich begins by noting that Martin Luther was the first world leader to strongly emphasize teaching reading and writing to all people. In his famous sermon from 1530, "On Keeping Children in School," Luther said: *"The common people . . . ought at least to read [and] write . . . even women and children."* And in 1528 he organized in Saxony what is arguably the first public school system, instructing: *"The preachers are to exhort the people to send their children to school so that persons are educated for competent service both in Church and State."*

What Martin Luther did five centuries ago has made you and our society today "WIRED" — Western, Industrialized, Rich, Educated, and Democratic.

This was a priority for Luther because the general ignorance and illiteracy that was predominant during the "Dark Ages" — when even many clergy could not read and write! — had been the primary reason for the widespread loss of the Gospel and pure doctrine, which can only come from the Word of God. Instead, many false teachings had been introduced into the Church, which Luther had to battle against. So, Luther's foremost goal in advocating education was to give all Christians, not only clergy but also laity, the ability to read and study the Scriptures themselves.

As Dr. Henrich explains: *"When did people decide that everyone should learn to read? . . . the belief that every person should read and interpret the Bible for themselves began to rapidly diffuse across Europe with the eruption of the Protestant Reformation. . . Protestants came to believe that both*

boys and girls had to study the Bible for themselves to better know their God."

This is indeed the model for Christian knowledge given in the Bible itself: *"Now the Bereans . . . received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true"* (Acts 17:11).

Luther also extolled the other great benefits that widespread education would have for society. That is why, in addition to being the founder of public schools, Martin Luther — who was born only 15 years after the death of Gutenberg, his fellow German and inventor of the printing press — is also considered the father of the public library, admonishing the city officials of Germany in 1524: *"No cost nor pains should be spared to procure good libraries in suitable buildings. . . For if a knowledge of the Gospel and of every kind of learning is to be preserved, it must be embodied in books. . ."*

Other Protestants followed the example of the Lutherans, and Dr. Henrich notes that data shows within decades Protestant nations had much higher levels of literacy, and as a result greater prosperity and societal progress in many areas — what is known as the "Protestant Work Ethic."

From his standpoint as a Professor of Human Evolutionary Biology, Dr. Henrich observes that learning to read, particularly at a young age, actually physically "rewires" the human brain in many advantageous ways: *"As you learned to read, probably as a child, your brain reorganized itself to better accommodate your efforts, which had both functional and inadvertent consequences for your mind. . . Your brain has been altered, neurologically rewired."*

The results of this brain alteration, for you as an individual and collectively for society as a whole, can be summed up with the acronym: "WIRED." For,

Dr. Henrich says that what Martin Luther did five centuries ago to promote widespread education has not only "rewired" your brain, but has made you, and our society today: **Western, Industrialized, Rich, Educated, and Democratic.**"

So, all of Christendom and the entire world, even non-Christians, benefit in many different ways from the blessings brought about by the Lutheran Reformation. And over 500 years after that Reformation, we rejoice to be members of a Lutheran congregation and conservative Synod that still clings to the pure Gospel and true teachings of God's Word, restored to the Church by Martin Luther.

Pastor Kevin Vogts

PORTALS of PRAYER

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

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Published Monthly by

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Paola, Kansas 66071

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October, 2022



Kathryn Ellen-Kay Rakoski
Daughter of
Benjamin Michael Rakoski and
Kennedy Jo McMullin Rakoski

Born August 24, 2022
Baptized September 18, 2022

Macie Grace Garrison
Daughter of
Quentin Daniel Garrison and
Kaelah Macenzie McMullin Garrison

Born July 6, 2022
Baptized September 18, 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)

Sermons for October



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.

October 2
"Keep the Faith, Share the Faith"
2 Timothy 1:13-14

October 9
"Jesus Visits a Cemetery"
Luke 8:26-39

October 16 (Heritage Sunday)
"The Question of Faith and Works"
James 2:14-26

October 23
"An Amazing Transformation"
1 Timothy 1:12-17

October 30 (Reformation)
"His Great Love for Us"
Ephesians 2:1-10

October 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.

October 1 Mike Schmidt
October 1 Kimala Morton
October 1 Michele Minden
October 2 Ashley Peckman
October 2 Sharon Prothe
October 4 Kyle Minden
October 5 Mark Deering
October 8 Megan Stutzman
October 8 Brian Oberheide
October 9 Kyle Garrison
October 10 LeRoy Thoden
October 10 Lennon Jonas
October 11 Shelby Barrett
October 11 Kegan Warring
October 12 Ray England
October 13 Vicky Boyer
October 13 Aaron Mueller
October 13 Hazel Prothe
October 15 Pam Peckman
October 15 Jay Warring
October 16 Ariel Alcorn
October 16 Erica Peckman
October 17 Dylan Fanning
October 17 Tony Hubbard
October 17 Julie Kellogg
October 18 Carter Zajic
October 19 Betty Prothe
October 19 Joe Stephens
October 20 Khrystin Davis
October 20 David Minden
October 23 Brett Golubski
October 23 Kaelah Garrison
October 23 Hannah Allcorn

October 24 Payton Bruce
 October 26 Charlie Peckman
 October 26 Dalton Russell
 October 26 Garrett Russell
 October 27 Kolby Fanning
 October 27 Lloyd Peckman
 October 27 Kayla Shappell
 October 30 Chris Kettler
 October 30 Rose Peckman
 October 30 David Prothe
 October 30 Jai Jenkins
 October 31 Nina Gerken
 Oct 7 Scott & Nancy Golubski (33)
 Oct 17 Joe & Anisha O'Barto (24)
 Oct 17 ... Darrel & Brigitte Rodewald (41)
 Oct 19 Kyle & Pam Minden (31)
 Oct 25 Mark & Diana Deering (19)
 Oct 30 Les & Beth Prothe (29)
 Oct 31 Dale & Linda Prothe (45)

Trinity's 14th Annual



Sunday, October 30, 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Shelter House

Food 🍎 Games 🍎 Crafts

*Everyone Is Invited to Offer Trunk or Treat
 from Your Car, Truck, or Other Vehicle!*
 (Please Have Your Setup Completed by 3:30pm)

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!



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.

October 2

Rev. Jeancarlos Ramirez
 Peru
 (See Article Page 5)

October 9

Shara Osiro
 Kenya

October 16

Rev. Joel & Deaconess Clarion Fritsche
 Dominican Republic
 (See Article Page 5)

October 23

Rev. Rafael Flores
 Chile
 (See Article Page 5)

October 30

Rev. Sergio & Lilian Fritzier
 Dominican Republic
 (See Article Page 5)



The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held Sunday, October 16 at 7:00pm. Included on the agenda will be election of church officers for 2022, the upcoming pastoral vacancy and call process, officer reports, setting the mission budget, designating Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings, and any other business presented.

In order to prepare for this meeting the Church Council will meet Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00pm.



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.

October 2

Nancy Golubski

October 9

Twin Valley 4-H

October 16

Brigitte Rodewald
 40th Wedding Anniversary

October 23
Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner

October 30
Stan & Sondra Loftiss



**Oberammergau
Presentation
October 23**

Following the Chili & Chicken Noodle Dinner on Sunday, October 23, Pastor Vogts will be giving a presentation for those who wish to remain on the trip that he and Terry recently took to Eastern Europe, Austria, and Germany, with the highlight being the Passion Play at Oberammergau, and also sharing the mission work being done by our Synod's many missionaries in that area—including in Ukraine and even Russia!



Heritage Sunday October 16

Everyone enjoyed so much worshipping with *The Lutheran Hymnal* of 1941 for our 150th Anniversary that we made it an annual tradition! This year our "Heritage Sunday" will be next Sunday, October 16. All hymns and liturgy that Sunday will be from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, with the order of service the familiar "Page 15."

The liturgy and hymns will all be printed in the bulletin, but we'll also have copies of *The Lutheran Hymnal* available for those who desire the familiar feel of holding a hymnal, or if you have one you received for Confirmation, or perhaps you inherited from your parents or grandparents, you're encouraged to bring it along!



New Bible Class on "God's Grace in Galatians"

On Sunday, October 16, we will begin a new study in Adult Bible Class on God's Grace in Galatians. So many vital teachings of our faith are packed into this brief epistle! And it was in this biblical book that Martin Luther found much of the Scriptural support for the Reformation.

Everyone is invited to join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Heritage Room to learn the Good News of God's Grace in Galatians!



Reformation Sunday October 30

This year Reformation Day on October 31, the date Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517, falls on a Monday. We will observe Reformation Sunday on October 30, with a special order of service featuring hymns and portions of the liturgy all written by Martin Luther. The message will be "His Great Love for Us" based on Ephesians 2:1-10, and there will be a very special, fun children's sermon surprise!

Pastor's Retirement

Retirement Celebration December 4

Trinity will be holding a retirement celebration on Sunday, December 4 for Pastor Vogts, who is retiring at the end of the year, both from nine years of service to our congregation, and from 36 years of active service as a Pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The worship service will include the rite of "Farewell and Godspeed for a Pastor Entering Retirement," administered by Rev. Paul Helmer, a retired Pastor from Gardner who was Pastor Vogts' Greek professor at St. John's College and ordained him in 1986, and whose father Rev. Martin Helmer baptized Pastor Vogts in 1960. Following the service there will be a free catered dinner and reception in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee met on October 2 to begin the process of filling out forms for the pre-call process. One of the first steps is to determine those characteristics of a Pastor that are the most important to our church. We are seeking your input on these characteristics in the form of a survey.

Copies of the survey can be picked up after church in the church office. You can leave your completed survey in the designated spot in the office also. An online version is also available by going to the web address www.surveymonkey.com/r/tlc-pastor.

All surveys should be completed by October 30th. For any questions, please see one of the Call Committee members, Elders, or Chairman Greg Windler.

MISSION NEWS

Fostering a Lutheran Identity in Latin America

On May 27, 2022 three pastors and 12 deaconesses graduated from *Centro de Misericordia y Seminario Concordia el Reformador* (Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center) in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. The graduates will serve the church throughout Latin America as they head to Peru, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Venezuela and other nations.

“God takes you in many ways. . . I never thought I would be a pastor. But God led me here out of my country to learn the truth so that I can return to my home country to tell them the truth,” said the Rev. Jeancarlos Ramírez, who graduated from Concordia after four years of residential education. Ramírez, who will serve the church in his native city of Lima, Peru, especially looks forward to bringing the Gospel to children and families. “Everything you learn in seminary — it’s important to think about how to communicate that to kids, to people who don’t know. . . We don’t change the truth but learn how to share it with kids so that they can understand.”



New graduate Rev. Jeancarlos Ramírez shakes hands with the Rev. Joel Fritsche, LCMS missionary and director of Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic. Looking on is Rev. Sergio Fritzler of Argentina, who serves as a professor.



Trinity's Annual

Chicken Noodle & Chili Dinner and Bazaar

Sunday, October 23, 11:00am

All Invited—Everyone Welcome!

Come Enjoy the Fun, Food, and Fellowship!

Concordia forms pastors to spread the Gospel, plant Lutheran churches and show mercy. It also trains deaconesses to serve alongside pastors to show the mercy of God in Christ to those who are in need and facing difficulties.



In addition to three new pastors twelve new deaconesses graduated.

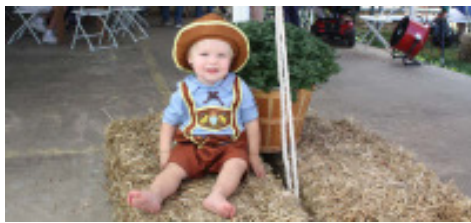
Deaconess Danelle Putnam, an LCMS missionary and associate coordinator of the deaconess program at Concordia, noted that most of the graduating deaconesses will not be paid. They see their service to the church and others as their reward. “The three-year program here consists of nine main core courses that train the women and instruct them in the Bible and Lutheran doctrine. We also have fieldwork that the women do to give them practice in caring for people, in reaching out to their neighbor.”

“The deaconess works alongside the pastor in different areas like Christian education and mercy work” Putnam explained.

The graduates leave Concordia to serve the church throughout South and Central America. Rev. Rafael Flores looks forward to serving in his native Chile, where the church has few pastors. When asked what he learned while studying at Concordia, he replied, “Without a doubt, the mercy and love of God . . . the most important thing is now to show mercy toward others.”



Seminarians Josue Ventura and Hector Paneque receive their copies of the new Spanish-language edition of *Lutheran Service Book*.



Trinity's Ninth
Blocktoberfest
More Pictures Online
www.trinitycms.org/photos