

# Trinity Tribune: October

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church  
Paola, Kansas

## “The Difference between Good and Easy?”

Why do people do what is evil? Not many people *like* being the bad guy or following him. And yet, history tells us that they *do*. Hitler, Stalin, and Mao were not your “ordinary” bad guys who committed serial murders or burglaries. They persuaded thousands of people to follow them and do their will. In the end, millions of people died in Polish concentration camps, in Siberia, and by famine.

The difference for our day-to-day life is often not between good and evil, or right and wrong, but between good and what is *easy*. It was easy for Germans to do Hitler’s will because they “were just doing what they were told.” It was easy for the Russian citizens to follow the Soviet government who was shipping off dissidents, because at least they weren’t shipping *you* off to the gulags...yet.

We might like to think that we would be the ones to stand up to evil, but to be honest, we should first be prepared against that which is easy. Why is this? Well, it is the devil’s first temptation for each of us. We like being comfortable, and we like the *status quo*.

It was Satan’s first temptation to Jesus: to turn stones into bread (Matt 4:3). Jesus was hungry after forty days of fasting, and Satan knew he had the power to change stones into bread. Why didn’t he? It would have been easy! But Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4).

Jesus spurned what was easy because it was also wrong. The Holy Spirit had led him into the wilderness (Matt 4:1), and it would be God who would determine when his time of testing was over. During his temptation, Jesus points us to what is more important than what is easy: following God and his Word.

God has not promised us an easy life, at least on earth. For one, we are beset by sin and struggle with our sinful nature. It is easy to give in to it. St. Paul recognized this struggle:

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (Romans 7:18–20)

We can look at the Ten Commandments and the other exhortations of Scripture and notice that *easy* and *wrong* are often connected. It is easy to skip or sleep in during church. It is easy to mouth off to one’s parents. It is easy for a girl to give in to a guy and give him what he wants. It is easy to steal from your

employer if you don’t think he will notice. It is easy to say rude things and ruin someone’s reputation before you know the facts. The list could go on and on. The Ten Commandments were not given because they would be easy for us to follow. On the contrary, God’s Law strikes against what would be easy for our human nature.

False doctrine is often easy. The church in America has often gotten pressure from the culture to give up its doctrine and to appeal to the wider culture. Unfortunately, many churches have given in, catering to American “tolerance” instead of holding to Biblical teachings. Jesus also says, “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many” (Matt 7:13).

On the other hand, what is good is often (but not always) hard. It can be hard to forgive someone who has wronged you. It can be hard to exercise self-control and restrain your mind and the members of your body from sin. It can seem hard to explain the Bible’s doctrine to someone unfamiliar with it. Eating the Lord’s Supper unworthily will lead to judgment. Homosexual thoughts and actions are sin. Women ought not be pastors. There are biblical reasons for all these, and it is good to study those, but “God-talk” (theology) is not in the business of explaining away the Bible in favor of cultural preferences.

It can also seem hard to share the gospel. What if I don’t have all the answers? What if they already attend a church? What if bringing up Jesus causes a rift in our relationship? Maybe you have many more concerns on your mind. What is good may not be easy, but we also know that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in these hard but good things (Luke 12:12).

What has God made easy for us and continues to make easy in our lives spiritually? Salvation and faith, knowing that God cares for you through all the ups and downs of this life. Jesus says, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt 11:29–30). Don’t turn what is easy into something hard! Faith trusts in God like a little child trusts in her parents.

Jesus has done *everything* necessary for your salvation. He paid for you, and he even creates the faith in your hearts to trust in Him. He works to remove doubt and anything that stands in the way of His love. In this life, what is wrong is often what is easy. But before God, faith and trust in Him are good *and* easy.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Woelmer



### Birthdays

- 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 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 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
- October 31 ..... Stan Loftiss

### Anniversaries

- October 7 ..... Scott and Nancy Golubski (34)
- October 17 ..... Joe and Anisha O’Barto (25)
- October 17 ..... Darrel and Brigitte Rodewald (42)
- October 19 ..... Kyle and Pam Minden (32)
- October 24 ..... Kevin and Donna Erwin (42)
- October 25 ..... Mark and Diana Deering (20)
- October 30 ..... Les and Beth Prothe (30)
- October 31 ..... Dale and Linda Prothe (46)

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### **BIBLE STUDY ON ESTHER: “For Such a Time As This”**

God raised up Esther to save her people in a time of great danger. She is an example for both men and women of how God uses us in our various vocations to protect the ones around us.

Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

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### **COFFEE HOUR**

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2023 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

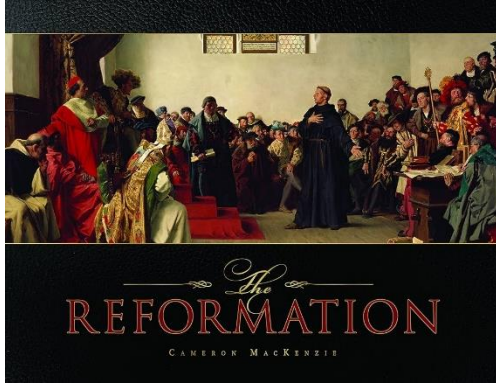
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### **VOTERS MEETING**

Voters are invited to attend the annual voters meeting on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is the one voters meeting of the year that does not occur after service; it will be at 7:00 p.m. Council will meet the Tuesday prior, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

## LUTHERAN RESOURCES

October is a “Lutheran Heritage” month because we get to celebrate Reformation Day on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It’s the day in 1517 when Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. If you would like to visualize this era, Dr. Cameron MacKenzie has written a book that is richly illustrated. It tells the history of the Reformation, beginning with Martin Luther and continues through the other reformers. This book serves as a great “coffee table” book. You can find it from CPH for \$32.99.



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## NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at North Pointe, and then go to Medicalodge around 2:15 for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It’s great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help but we could use your help too!

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## YOUTH GROUP

Our September Youth Night was postponed to October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will meet around the bonfire in the shelter house area. Then, we will have our next Youth Night on the last Sunday of the month, October 29<sup>th</sup>. It will probably be in the youth room. Pastor is teaching on the book of Esther, as we get ready to see it in Branson in November. We’ll end the evening with games and fellowship.

## TRUNK OR TREAT!

With Blocktoberfest in the rearview, it’s time to plan our annual Trunk or Treat! This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year! We’ve settled on a date of **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm**. Please save the date and invite family and friends to join us.

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## SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE “QUEEN ESTHER”

The youth group is planning a trip to Branson to see “Queen Esther” on November 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be arriving the previous night and leaving on Sunday, but you're invited to join them for the Saturday showing! See the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. Please indicate on the sheet if you would like to travel with others in a van or bus; group transportation will depend on those interested. It may result in an additional, shared charge. Currently the group price per adult for the showing is ~\$60.80 (not including tax); children 3-12 are \$29. Sign-ups will close on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

