

Trinity Tribune: June 2026

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Wisdom: What Is It?”

Wisdom is not just intelligence. We all may know someone who is intellectually smart but who makes stupid decisions. Likewise, we may know people who are not “book-smart” but who know a lot about how the world works and how to react to people. Often they have gained this wisdom by *experience*. Experience is a great teacher, and we ought to learn from our successes and failures. This collection of experiences gives us wisdom to pass onto the next generation to help head them off before making common mistakes.

After all, it’s better to heed the warnings of parents or elders about the consequences of actions that you’re contemplating. If a young man is tempted to jump into a river from a rope swing, it’s better to learn from those who are more experienced what to avoid, lest he makes a mistake and injures himself. Elders may even share their wisdom in the form of stories, “Back in my day...!” Yes, times change, but consequences for actions rarely do.

Yes, wisdom certainly comes from one’s elders, but it can also come from one’s peers. It is important to watch the decisions that fellow students or friends make so you can either emulate them...or not. A young woman might watch a friend go head-over-heels for a guy, then find out weeks later that she is pregnant. Yes, being in love is a great feeling, but it is also important to guard one’s heart and actions during a time of passion.

Rarely does wisdom come from those younger than oneself, but it sometimes happens. If we’re comparing wisdom and intelligence, it’s often intelligence regarding technology (rather than wisdom) that travels from the young to the old. However, even older generations might be able to gain wisdom from those younger than them, and it would be foolish to presume that one is already completely wise: **“Be not wise in your own eyes”** (Prov 3:5).

There is no doubt that this sort of experience and observation play a role in our lives and are mentioned in the Bible, especially in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs 13:20 gives us a sense of this: **“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”** A mother warning her son to stay away from the “bad crowd at school” probably knows a thing or two from when she was his age. Or there is an observation of the lazy man: **“As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed”** (Prov 26:14).

However, this is not only how the Bible talks about wisdom. Proverbs encourages insight into God and His nature: **“The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous”** (15:29). This is summarized in the theme verse of Proverbs: **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction”** (1:7). In Proverbs, wisdom is an attribute of God. All true wisdom is godly wisdom, and any wisdom we possess is a result of God’s *gift* to us. When we see God working through our experiences to teach us, we recognize that He is the One who is all-wise, and we should seek wisdom from Him.

God fashioned this world by His wisdom: **“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens”** (Prov 3:19). Wisdom therefore is not merely a human attribute. Wisdom is God’s to use and grant: **“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding”** (Prov 2:6). Only when we understand that wisdom is God’s alone and that real human wisdom is a gift from God do the instructions of the book begin to make sense. You recognize they have the purpose of drawing you closer to God. This explains why the fear (respect) of God is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.

As you study Proverbs, you will begin to recognize that Wisdom is personified as a woman. This mirrors the grammatical feminine gender of the Hebrew word, but it is also intended to present an image of wisdom that is attractive to a young man—in contrast to the seduction and wiles of “Dame Folly.” If you dig deeper into Proverbs, though, it becomes clear that Solomon connects Wisdom to the Second Person of the Trinity, through whom all things were made (John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2). Wisdom was first “possessed” by the Father before the work of creation, as Wisdom claims: **“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old”** (Prov 8:22). St. Paul connects Jesus to Wisdom when he says, **“Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God”** (1 Cor 1:24, 30). To know Christ is to gain wisdom. To believe in Him is to start on the path of knowing Wisdom. Yes, even many unbelievers will gain a sort of wisdom that will help them in this life. But only believers in Christ will possess the Wisdom that will serve them in this life and the next, **“for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

June 1.....Kelsey Davis
June 1.....Sara Slack
June 1.....Michele Prothe
June 1.....Minna Meyer
June 2.....David Koelsch
June 3.....Fritz Carter
June 4.....Arlin Prothe
June 4.....Jamey Kaiser
June 4.....Molly Eilts
June 5.....Samantha Ferrell
June 5.....Linda Prothe
June 5.....Lance Stewart
June 6.....Rhonda Kerr
June 7.....Kendra Fuller
June 9.....Kendra Woodrow
June 9.....Jordan Menefee
June 10.....Madison Wood
June 10.....Chance Hager
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 20.....Paul Brack
June 20.....Judy Minden
June 20.....Sophia Woelmer
June 20.....Nikki Chilson
June 21.....Kim House
June 22.....Greg Brandt
June 22.....Beth Curry
June 24.....Tina Edwards
June 25.....Beth Herrs
June 25.....Rich Wood
June 26.....Kyia Fuller
June 26.....Donna Prothe
June 26.....Allison Colnar
June 27.....George Holtz
June 27.....Kynda Harshman

June 29 Devin Bruce
June 29 Betty Cline
June 30 Garry Block

Anniversaries

June 3Emerson and Wilda Bunch (70)
June 4 James and Rhonda Prothe (21)
June 8Quentin and Kaelah Garrison (7)
June 8 Jeff and Jamie Ennett (24)
June 10 Chris and Lana Kettler (48)
June 10 Rolland and Betty Prothe (54)
June 11Bruce and Gale Nowasell (39)
June 12Ben and Kennedy Rakoski (5)
June 13Rick and Connie Holte (28)
June 14 Jim and Sharon Prothe (46)
June 15 Stan and Sondra Loftiss (13)
June 16Mike and Susan Schmitt (9)
June 16Michael and Cindy Puckett (7)
June 18David and Lorranda Baldrige (21)
June 19Brian and Erin Meyer (22)
June 22 Clint and Michelle Haley (24)
June 25 Chancie and Carrie Minden (4)
June 30Charlie and Cheyenne Peckman (8)

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 2026 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: "Wisdom Literature"

What is "Wisdom"? Our next series of books will be the Wisdom Literature books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Come to hear what wisdom is and how we can learn from her regarding faith and life. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

LADIES AID ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Ladies Aid group is working diligently on several quilts for upcoming celebrations. We are planning an Ice Cream Social at the Shelter House at 6:00 on Sunday, June 14th. At this event we will raffle 3 quilts of different sizes made of Patriotic materials to help celebrate our country's 250th birthday. We will also have a food drive for the Osawatomie Food Pantry. School will be out and we feel a need to help support families and help however the pantry needs us to. We are considering buying ground beef to help this pantry. We continue to work on projects for Blocktoberfest in September and the Chili/Chicken Noodle Dinner this Fall. We will have walker bags and various quilt sizes for these events. Thank you to all of you for your support!

"LOOKING AHEAD" BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am in the Heritage Room. Join us to study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a "sneak peek" of what you will hear on Sunday.

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, **June 14th**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at Country Club Estates, and then go to Homestead 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!

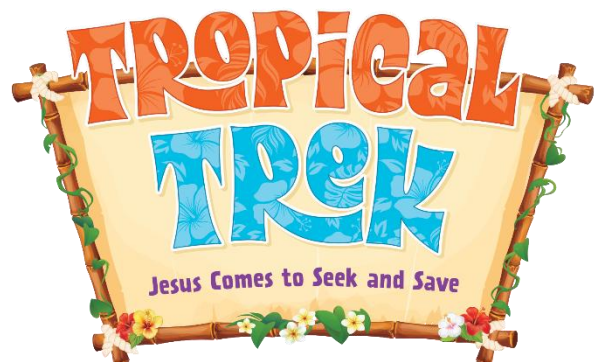
OUTDOOR WORSHIP JULY 5TH

We will celebrate Independence Day with an outdoor service in the Shelter House on Sunday, July 5th, at 10:00 a.m. The special order of worship will include favorite patriotic songs. Bring your lawn chairs as we give thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed on our nation!



VBS June 15–18

Trinity is joining First Lutheran, Paola for Vacation Bible School this year. You are invited to come enjoy the party, "Celebrate the Savior!" Come learn God's promises to you as we celebrate God's work in our lives. Join the fun Monday thru Friday, June 15-18, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. Held at First Lutheran Church, 401 East Pankishaw Street, Paola. Sign up for children or volunteers at <https://vbsmate.com/events/FirstLutheranChurchPaolaKS/31956>.



News from the Clausing Family

April Newsletter

An Angel, A Woman, and a Word

In his Easter Sunday sermon at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Himo, Rev. Jonathan Mkiramweni pointed out that both Jesus' birth and His resurrection were announced by angels to women named Mary with a single Swahili word: *Usiogope* (oo-see-oh-GOHpay). "Don't be afraid." Gabriel said it to the virgin mother of our Lord, and an angel said it to the two Marys outside Jesus' empty tomb. Don't be afraid. The word encapsulates our response to Jesus' work. He defeated death, and now that our Lord has made short work of that great enemy, He will certainly also deliver us from all lesser fears. Christ is risen! Usiogope!

On Easter Sunday my sons Ethan and Eric and I also had the privilege of accompanying the hymns with our trumpets while Elijah played the keyboard. Brass bands are commonly heard on festive occasions in Tanzania, but this was the first time the parish in Himo had brass accompaniment for worship. The music was so well received that we've been asked to play again this coming Sunday.



While Swahili is the nationally unifying language of Tanzania, there are more than 100 other indigenous tribal languages that are also spoken in the various regions of the country. Many of my current students are from the Maasai tribe and do much of their teaching and preaching in Kimaasai, their mother tongue. After sending a request to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for catechisms and other books in Kimaasai, they were delighted to receive a large shipment (above) this past week.



In Christian Sympathy

David Minden

October 20, 1973 — April 8, 2026

"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act." Psalm 37:5

KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides essential scholarships for K-12 students attending Lutheran schools in the LCMS Kansas District. As an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) under the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program, KLSSF enables donors to support Christ-centered education while receiving a 75% Kansas state income tax credit on eligible contributions. Your gift can directly transform a child's educational journey. Visit www.klssf.org to donate and learn more. Join us in expanding access to Lutheran education and strengthening its mission across Kansas.





SHELTER HOUSE ONLINE RESERVATIONS

As we approach the summer months, a reminder that we have an online reservation system for the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It automatically shows which dates and times are open up to one year in advance, and it is easy to make your reservations online. Go to our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/shelter. You will also find there the rules for Shelter House usage. If you do not have access to a computer to make your reservation, you can simply call or speak to Greg Windler or Pastor Woelmer, and they will make the reservation for you.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

We will be starting up an Adult Instruction Class on June 16 for adults who are interested in learning more about Lutheran teaching and perhaps joining our congregation. It will run for ten weeks. Join us in the Heritage Room from 7–8 p.m.

SUMMER CATECHISM CLASS

Pastor has started planning for catechism this summer with a mix of middle- and high-school aged youth. We will not be having Confirmation this spring but rather later in the summer, likely in August. We currently have twelve youth signed up!

PASTOR'S VACATION

Pastor and his family will be on vacation in Wisconsin from June 1-9. If there are any pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Andy Keltner from Louisburg, 913-837-0303.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you have a Thrivent account (or know someone else who does), don't forget to periodically check the account for Thrivent Choice Dollars; you are able to donate them to church or to various charities of your choice. If someone you know is not able to check online easily, feel free to help them see what might be sitting in their account, ready to be designated!

AUBURN PHARMACY CAPS

Please save your Auburn Pharmacy caps; Trinity earns 25 cents for every specially marked cap collected from Auburn Pharmacy and submitted! There are 4 submission periods per year with an opportunity to earn up to \$2500 per period! There is a box in the gathering room for collection.

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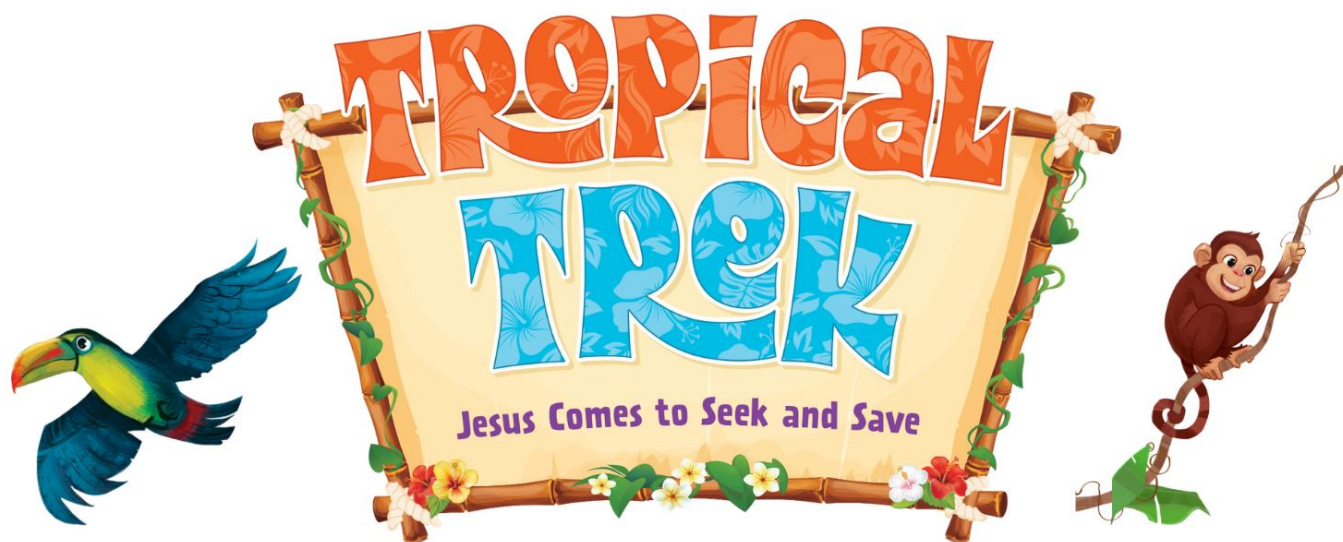
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Vacation Bible School

First Lutheran Church, Paola



June 15-18

9:00 to 11:30 am

Children invited!
Pre-K through 4th grade

Volunteers needed!
Crafts, Games, Guides,
Snacks, and so forth

