

Trinity Tribune: September 2026

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Cultivating the Imagination”

My thoughts continue to remain on Rally Day and teaching the faith to children. Sunday School primarily conveys to them the most important Bible stories. There is a good reason for this, and it is just as important for adults as it is for children: stories touch our imagination, teaching us lessons that would seem dull without the story.

With Labor Day also approaching, you may, for example, try to teach a child that there is a time to work and a time to play. You could make simple statements or demands, like 2 Thessalonians 3:10: **“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”** That may work for organizing life in a congregation, which St. Paul was trying to do, especially rebuking those who refused to work because they believed the Last Day was right around the corner.

However, there are stories out there to reinforce the general principle of working when it's time to work. A pagan story from Aesop's Fables might be the “Grasshopper and the Ant.” The grasshopper spends all summer fiddling, mocking the ant for gathering grain. Yet when the winter winds blow, he asks the ant for some food, but the ant refuses the request so that he may survive the winter. The grasshopper dies of hunger and cold.

Aesop's Fables (and fables in general) often have a closing lesson that should have been learned by the story. You probably recognize a few just by their morals:

- “Slow and steady wins the race.” (The Tortoise and the Hare)
- “Liars will not be believed, even when they tell the truth.” (The Boy who Cried Wolf)
- “No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.” (The Lion and the Mouse)
- “Better a poor but peaceful life than a rich life full of danger.” (The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse)
- “Necessity is the mother of invention.” (The Crow and the Pitcher)

The Bible also serves to reinforce lessons and morals through stories. There is deeper significance to these biblical stories because most of them really happened (except for Jesus's parables). If we look back on our lesson about Labor Day and hard work, we could look at some of these stories:

- Adam and Eve were placed in the perfect Garden of Eden. Even though everything was without sin, they were still told to **“work it and keep it”** (Gen 2:15).
- Joseph worked diligently in Potiphar's household and later in prison. God saw and rewarded his faith: **“Whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper”** (Gen 39:23).

- Ruth gleaned in foreign fields to support her mother-in-law. Boaz recognized her diligence and hard work
- The Proverbs use similar ant imagery to wake up the “slug-gard”—**“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise”** (Prov 6:6–6).
- Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents—the servants are entrusted with something and expected to work with it. The last servant buried his talent, exposing his belief that the master was cruel. While this parable is primarily about faith in God, it strongly illustrates the principle that works flow from a heart of faith in a good and gracious God, and we ought not be passive in our life.
- Jesus also tells the Parable of the Laborers, where the Master keeps calling and sending laborers into his vineyard. Again, while this is primarily a commentary on faith, faith is compared to work, and a willingness to work/believe at any moment is commended. The sluggard at work may also be a sluggard in faith.
- Finally, Paul himself demonstrates a willingness to work even as he preaches the gospel in impoverished settings, supporting his own ministry. He was a leatherworker and tent maker (Acts 18:3). He pointed this out in his messages to Corinth, Ephesus, and Thessalonica (2 Cor. 11:7–9; Acts 20:33–35; 2 Thess 3:7–9; 1 Thess. 2:9).

Knowing these stories in one's imagination helps make connections to everyday life. The story about Ruth is more than girl-meets-rich-guy. He noticed her work, charity, and faith. Joseph seemed to succeed for a time, but his faith and resistance to temptation led him to what seemed to be a worse end (prison) but ended up being the key to the Egyptian kingdom (interpreting the dream of a fellow prisoner, the cupbearer or Pharaoh).

There are stories for any moral teaching, especially in the Bible but also in other fables and fairy tales. They are instructive for all ages, not only our children. They provide images for our imagination, that we would want to imitate those in the stories.

But the Bible goes one step further than Aesop's Fables: it also gives us stories of faith that inspire us. David went up against Goliath with God's promises behind him. Ruth was a hard worker, yes, but she also said, **“Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”** (Ruth 1:16). King Hezekiah prayed, and God brought down the Assyrian Empire (Isa 37). This list goes on and on. You could say that *every* Bible story teaches us different aspects of faith—morals included.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

September 1 Noel Wendte
September 2 Gladys Prothe
September 3 Shane Honn
September 3 Rebecca Hurst
September 3 Ron Raines
September 4 Lance Belsanti
September 4 Mary Ann Maisch
September 4 Steve Windler
September 5 Dena Kaiser
September 6 Emerson Bunch
September 6 David Gatlin
September 6 Les Jones
September 6 Gay Stubbs
September 7 Cindy Puckett
September 7 Teri Minden
September 8 Tore Smithhisler
September 8 Lloyd Ohlmeier
September 8 Lincoln Wolf
September 10 John Henry
September 10 Evan Kettler
September 10 Nickolas Davis
September 10 Armani Penrice
September 11 Connie Barnett
September 11 Gary Peckman
September 11 Carol Wray
September 11 Lexi Golubski
September 12 Casey Maisch
September 12 Pam Thompson
September 13 Sally Wood
September 14 Hannah Menefee
September 15 Aaron Prothe
September 16 Conni Holte
September 18 Skyler Prothe
September 18 Liam Simonson
September 18 Josslyn Fuller
September 19 Rolland Prothe
September 20 Theo Lee
September 21 Katie Lindsey
September 21 Barrett Miller
September 22 Sarah Reyelts
September 22 Jackson Lester
September 23 Karen Brack
September 23 Weston Davis
September 23 Lindsey Ramsey
September 23 Amanda West

September 24 Dawson Bruce
September 24 Kevin Debrick
September 25 Jennifer Boydston
September 25 Olivia Mitchell
September 25 Thea Woelmer
September 25 Charlotte Woelmer
September 27 Scott Golubski
September 27 Geraldine Holtz
September 27 Ryan Holloman
September 27 Leslie Thoden
September 27 Lainey Hager
September 28 Kaiden Armstrong
September 29 Kathy Korsten
September 29 Mary Shay
September 30 Gale Nowasell

Anniversaries

September 7 Brett and Lexi Golubski (2)
September 8 Jamey and Dena Kaiser (19)
September 9 Joshua and Brianna Woelmer (9)
September 11 James and Shannon Fanning (27)
September 12 Karl and Cindy Karrow (34)
September 12 Devon and Emily Wolf (11)
September 17 Kerry and Carole Brandt (43)
September 18 Paul and Kathy Haley (50)
September 19 Randy and Helen Maisch (29)
September 21 Ryan and Tamara Mitchell (30)
September 25 Kelly and Valerie Gerken (50)
September 28 Gary and Rose Peckman (41)

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!

"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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir begins on Wednesday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. Join us as we "make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1).

COMMUNION CHANGES

Due to the outdoor service on September 20th and a shortage of elders that day, we have decided to move Communion to the following Sunday, September 27th, instead.

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, **September 20th**. 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!

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



BLOCKTOBERFEST SEPTEMBER 19

Ach du lieber! It's almost time for our thirteenth annual Blocktoberfest! Held at the Shelter House on Saturday, September 19, from 11:00 to 6:00, this year's Blocktoberfest will again feature lots of free fun activities and delicious food. Keep an eye (or ear) out for Heartland Revival, playing from 11:00 – 12:30!

And, on Sunday, September 20, we will also hold our annual "Blocktoberfest Outdoor Service" in the Shelter House at our regular worship time of 10:00 a.m.

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

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.



QUILT RAFFLE

The Ladies Aid are preparing to sell raffle tickets for quilts starting Sunday, September 6th. The display will be set up in the Gathering Room with separate boxes for each quilt for you to place your ticket in the box of your quilt choice. There will be drawings for quilts at Blocktoberfest September 19th and Chili/Chicken Noodle dinner scheduled for Heritage Sunday, October 18th. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

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.

News from the Clausing Family *Sabbatical!*

LCMS International Mission offers its missionaries the opportunity to take a sabbatical after every seven years of service on the field. My family and I have been in Africa for over ten years, and from now through late fall, I'm happy to be taking advantage of this opportunity. During my sabbatical I'll send out a newsletter every three months instead of every month. In other words, after this June newsletter, the next newsletter you'll receive will be a mid-sabbatical newsletter in September. Then our regular monthly newsletters will resume in December. Don't be concerned when you don't hear from us in July, August, October, or November; I'm just on sabbatical!

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to a texting group for getting prayer requests, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room, or speak with Pastor or Susan Schmitt.



CLEAN-UP DAY

Join us September 12 around the Shelter House to do a clean-up of the area before Blocktoberfest! We will be spreading mulch, trimming limbs, pulling weeds, cleaning the stoves and refrigerators, checking over the kiddie train, and taking last minute inventory of supplies on that day, and the week prior. Many hands make light work!

LUTHERAN LINKS

LCMS: www.lcms.org
LCMS Kansas District: www.kslcms.org
Lutherans for Life: www.lutheransforlife.org
The Lutheran Hour: www.lutheranhour.org
Issues, Etc. (Talk Radio): www.issuesetc.org
KFUO Radio: www.kfu.org

Trinity Tribune

Published Monthly by

Trinity Lutheran Church
34868 Block Road
Paola, KS 66071

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Pastor
Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344
Pastor's Cell: 785-893-3960

Website: trinitylcms.org
facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock
trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com

Pastor's email: joshua.woelmer@gmail.com