



Trinity Trumpet

January-February 2018

Volume 28, Issue 1

Trinity Lutheran Church
and Learning Center
(ELDoNA affiliated)
1000 North Park Avenue,
Herrin, IL, 62948
Church Office 942-3401
School 942-4750



Service Schedule:

Sunday

Bible Study & 9 AM
Sunday School
Divine Service 10:15 AM

Wednesday

Catechesis 6:30 PM
Service 7:00 PM

Monday-Friday

Children's Matins 10:00 AM

Private Confession & Absolution

Wednesday 10:30-11:00 AM
Saturday 8:00-8:30 PM
or by appointment



Pastor Michael D Henson
Deacon Gary K. Harroun
www.eldona.org
www.trinitylh.org

Christ, Time-Space, and the Creation

I think it must be the annual Christmas Day reading of St. John, chapter 1 that gets my mind soaring this time of year with grandiose thoughts about Christ and the creation. Of course, the Word of God was written so that we might know the grace and truth of our salvation which came by the only Begotten Son of God. At just the right time, the Word was made flesh so that the One who led a perfect life might suffer and die as a sinless sacrifice for our sins. Through belief and baptism, we are born again and given the right of the children of God—forgiveness and eternal life.

However, St. John gives us the big picture. With the words “In the beginning...” St. John’s gospel teaches us that Jesus existed even before the beginning of creation described in Genesis one. The prophet Moses uses

these same words to begin the chronology of the six-day creation of the universe. Yes, Moses describes six normal days, in which each day has a morning and evening. Although the Scriptures are not intended to be a science book, where the Word does make declarations about this creation, it is always correct and true.

It is at this point that I begin to ponder and marvel at the creation of all things through Jesus. “All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made” (Jn 1:3). I marvel, because I can’t figure things out. How did the Lord make everything in six days? The regular alternation of morning and evening on days four through six are described in exactly the same way as in days one through three. How was there light and darkness before the creation of the Sun on the fourth day? I don’t really know.

As an amateur astronomer, I enjoy looking at the stars and reading about the discoveries of distant planets, etc. However,

the literature often does not agree with the Scriptural description of an earth which is less than 10,000 years old. The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second. The light-year is a unit of length used to express astronomical distances. A light-year is the distance that light travels in vacuum in one Julian year (365.25 days)--about 5.9 trillion miles. Our closest star, Alpha Centauri, is 4.22 light-years from Earth. Therefore, if Alpha Centauri would go out, we wouldn’t know it for 4.22 years. Put another way, when we look at the star Alpha Centauri, we are observing the light that left its surface over 4 years ago. Everything would nicely fit together if the farthest star from earth was about 10,000 light years away. However, the Hubble telescope recently set the record discovering galaxy MACS0647-JD at 13.3 billion light-years away. Needless to say, the numbers don’t agree

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The Learning Center

By Keely Gelso
ECLC Director

It's hard to believe I am typing 2018.....this year has flown by. We have so many things to be thankful for her at Trinity. We have had the best December, with the Christmas Play, sweet memoires were made with Gingerbreads with the Grands, Mrs. Laura's wonderful Polar Express and watching the children grow, play and learn about Jesus this year.

One special item this year, it is my 5th anniversary with Trinity. I am beyond blessed with Pastor Henson, the Board of Education, The Trinity Church Family, the teachers and staff and families for my time here. I have enjoyed it so. Each year we just improve. This graduation will be extra special, many of the infants when I started will be graduating and moving on to kindergarten. Bittersweet, but such a wonderful experience to

watch them grow. I look forward to seeing them grow even more through the years.

We have grown again here at Trinity and I finally have the rooms where I feel they are needed. We are now licensed for 85 children, we were licensed for 76. After having DCFS come out and look at the rooms which, I knew, many of which seemed larger than they were licensed for. We were able to adjust and move forward with some much-needed changes to the rooms.

Speaking of the Christmas play, I would like to thank Mrs. Karin Henson for coming several times a week and practicing with the children. They love Mrs. Henson and love going over to practice. This year Pastor made everyone a CD and sent that home for the children to be able to practice on their own. And I gotta say.....this might have been the best year yet. Mrs. Laura and Mrs. Jessica did a wonderful job working on it with the children every day. You could hear the sweet voices singing from the rooms in the hallway.



Mrs. Laura and Ms. Erica transformed the school into the Polar Express. It was truly wonderful to see the whole hallway was lit with white lights and a whole train scene, everyone in Christmas Pj's and I got to be the train conductor (Tom Hanks role), bells with candy. Hot chocolate was served with marshmallows, whip cream and candy canes along with sugar cookies. Every child in this school except for infants and toddler sat in Mrs. Laura's room and watched the movie without a peep. It was without a doubt one of the best days here at Trinity. (see pictures on last page of newsletter.) Please make sure your check your child's

folder. Often important notes go out regarding changes here at Trinity. A recent letter about tuition changes for 2018 went out the first week of November. Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions about billing. Also, if you are wanting a statement for tax purposes please email me at eclcdirector@trinityh.org. I will only be doing electronic receipts this year. May you have a blessed 2018, Mrs. G

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own Trinity Web
Page!!!**



Time-Space, continued

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with a 10,000-year-old creation. That star is 1.33 million times farther away than it should be. A statistical error, I think not.

Some like the Pope have denied the Scriptures and capitulated to the theory of evolution. Yet, the teaching of a theistic evolution, completely overturns the unique creation of man in the image of God and the introduction of original sin due to the fall of Adam and Eve. Never mind that God's Word becomes error-filled and God Himself become a liar, unable to be trusted. Others have tried to force scientific observations and extrapolations to conform to theological convictions. Maybe God created the stars with a light stream already in route. I guess, it is possible—all things are possible with God—but that hypothesis goes well beyond what the Scriptures teach. I don't want science that fudges on the scientific method. When scientists propose an infinite number of alternate realities to

make the chance evolution of life possible, they might as well turn in their degree.

As theology and science are different fields with different methods and derived from different source materials, I don't have any great desire to meld them together. On the last day, with the revelation of all things, we will find that there was only one truth. Where the Scriptures have spoken, that truth will stand. Where science has correctly discovered the truth by means of the scientific method, these two will agree. Until then, let the chips fall where they may.

I confess, "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible." However, when it comes to scientific inquiry, we must say that the best that we can come up with is a universe that is 13.7 billion years old. It can't be right (according to God's Word), but let's be honest, given the scientific tools we presently have, that's the best we can do.

When I was in high school, I was taught that the solar system description of the atom, previously taught by

science as truth, was found to be wrong. J. J. Thomson, who discovered the electron in 1897, proposed the plum pudding model of the atom in 1904. Even that wasn't the last word. The discovery of the atomic nucleus and quantum physics have continued to change the description of atomic models. Each discovery helps to explain or describe some natural phenomenon. And, yet, usually the next discovery causes other problems or inconsistencies which don't fit the model. At present we have two partial theories to try and explain the universe: general relativity and quantum mechanics, and no unified theory to unite them.

I must say that Einstein's theory of general relativity has caused me some angst, because of its statements concerning the space-time continuum. At first, I was quite concerned about the describing gravity as the warping of space-time by mass and the energy in it. Just as I don't like the description of morals as subjective, I wasn't sure I could accept the subjective nature of space-time. According to Stephen Hawking's, A Brief

History of Time, "Time and space are now seen as dynamic quantities with each individual particle, or planet, having its own unique measure of time depending on where and how each is moving."

I had always considered the creation of matter by God as temporary with heaven and earth passing away. Why couldn't time also be of a temporary nature, too? For some reason that declaration bothered me, as it seemed to remove for me the last foundation or point of reference in this world. Archimedes of Syracuse (3rd century BC) in explaining the principle of the lever is quoted as saying, "Give me a place to stand, and I shall move the world." I liked having a place to stand. If there is no unique absolute time or place, then what will be the basis by which things are evaluated. Where would I stand?

At this point I was glad that the Triune God had called me to be a pastor and not a scientist. My source and norm for all truth is the enduring and foundational Word of God. St. Matthew 24:35 says, "Heaven

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January 2018

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Children's Matins 10 AM - 10:30 AM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Elder-Tony Stretch(995-1379); Altar Guild-Kim Miller and Claire Stretch; Church Cleaning-Jan 7/14 Harroun, Jan 21/28 Grunert</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Circumcision of Jesus</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>ECLC Closed</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 AM PCA</p> <p>6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart</p> <p>7:00 PM Catechesis Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Epiphany of Our Lord</p> <p>6:00 PM Undecorating</p> <p>7:00 PM Divine Service (with Burning of Tree)</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Epiphany One</p> <p>8:00 AM Matins</p> <p>Baptism of our Lord</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>4:00 PM ELDoNA Phone Conference for Pastors</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM Board of Education</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 AM PCA</p> <p>6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart</p> <p>7:00 PM Catechesis Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 PM Private Confession & Absolution</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Epiphany 2</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>Learn-by-Heart Recitation of Holy Baptism</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Eldona Colloquium (Fort Wayne, IN)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 AM PCA</p> <p>6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart</p> <p>7:00 PM Catechesis Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>The Confession of Saint Peter</p> <p>10:30 AM Divine Service</p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies Missionary Society</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Game Night</p> <p>St. Henry of Finland, Martyr</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 PM Private Confession & Absolution</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Transfiguration of Our Lord</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Divine Service</p> <p>Learn-by-Heart Certificate for Holy Baptism</p> <p>Council Meeting #1 After Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM Elders' Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Saint Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</p> <p>10:30 AM Divine Service</p> <p>10:30 AM PCA</p> <p>6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart</p> <p>7:00 PM Catechesis Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>The Conversion of Saint Paul</p> <p>10:30 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Saint Titus, Pastor and Confessor</p> <p>10:30 AM Divine Service</p> <p>6:00 PM Game</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 PM Private Confession & Absolution</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Septuagesima</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:30 AM PCA</p> <p>6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart</p> <p>7:00 PM Catechesis Service</p>	<p>Acolytes: Sat(6) Crucifer/Gospel Book-Sarah Miller, acolytes- Tom Weber and Sadie Henson, Sun(7) Crucifer/Gospel Book-Sadie Henson, acolytes-Dylan Dunaway and Luke Phillips, Sun(14) Luke Phillips, Sun(21) Crucifer/Gospel Book-Tom Weber, Acolytes-Luke Phillips and Sarah Miller, Sun(28) Dylan Dunaway</p>		

February 2018

MONDAY - FRIDAY
Children's Matins 10 AM - 10:30 AM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Presentation of Our 10:30 AM Divine Service Groundhog Day	3 8:00 PM Private Confession & Absolution
4 Sexagesima 9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 10:15 AM Divine Service	5	6	7 10:30 AM PCA 6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart 7:00 PM Catechesis Service	8	9	10 Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor
11 Quinquagesima 9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 10:15 AM Divine Service <i>Learn-by-Heart Recitation of Confession/Office of the Keys</i>	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 6:00 PM Board of Education	14 Ash Wednesday 10:30 AM PCA 6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart 7:00 PM Divine Service (No Catechesis) <i>St. Valentine's Day</i>	15 7:00 PM Ladies Missionary Society	16 Philipp Melancthon, Confessor	17 ECLC Walkthrough 8:00 PM Private Confession & Absolution
18 Invocabit (Lent 1) 9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class <i>Certificate for Confession/Office of the Keys</i> 10:15 AM Divine Service	19 President's Day	20	21 Ember Wednesday 7:00 AM Matins 10:30 AM PCA 6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart 7:00 PM Catechesis Service	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Ember Friday 7:00 AM Matins	24 Ember Saturday 7:00 AM Matins Saint Matthias, Apostle 7:00 PM Vespers
25 Reminscere (Lent 2) 9:00 AM Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 10:15 AM Divine Service	26 David Chytraeus, Doctor and Confessor 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	27	28 10:30 AM PCA 6:30 PM Learn-By-Heart 7:00 PM Catechesis Service	Acolytes: Sun(4) Sarah Miller, Sun(11) Luke Phillips, Ash Wed(14) Victoria Turner, Sun(18) Sadie Henson, Sun(25) Colton Weber Elder-Keith Zimmerman(983-8458); Altar Guild-LeeAnn Byrne; Church Cleaning-Feb 4/11 Field, Larry, Feb 18/25 Field, Bob		

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Time-Space

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and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

That same Word teaches me that my Lord came into our space-time continuum. And yet, Jesus is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. But the beginning and end of what? Time? The Word, who was before John (1:15), “became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Through the Word of God creates faith in Jesus Christ and gives us a place to stand.

Romans 5:1-2,
“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we

have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” As we complete this 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I am reminded of Luther who said, “Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

Standing fast in His grace until the Lord calls me home, I will continue

to ponder my Savior and His wonderful creation for a time. Hebrews 1:10-12, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”

--MDH

