

Wednesday, April 28

## Thor Heyerdahl launches the Kon-Tiki

by Pr. Tim Madsen, for St. Laika's (<https://www.facebook.com/stlaikas>)

*Today is a feria day at Saint Laika's, no particular saint is remembered.*



One of earth's great mysteries is how it became populated. If migration originated "out of Africa" as the current theory holds, how did humanity spread across the planet? Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian ethnologist and explorer, believed that people from South America could have settled Polynesia in pre-Columbian times. Although most anthropologists as of 2010 had come to the conclusion they did not, in 2011, new genetic evidence was uncovered by Erik Thorsby that Easter Island inhabitants do have some South American DNA, lending credence to at least some of Heyerdahl's theses. His aim in mounting the Kon-Tiki expedition was to show, by using only the materials and technologies available to those people at the time, that there were no technical reasons to prevent them from having done so.

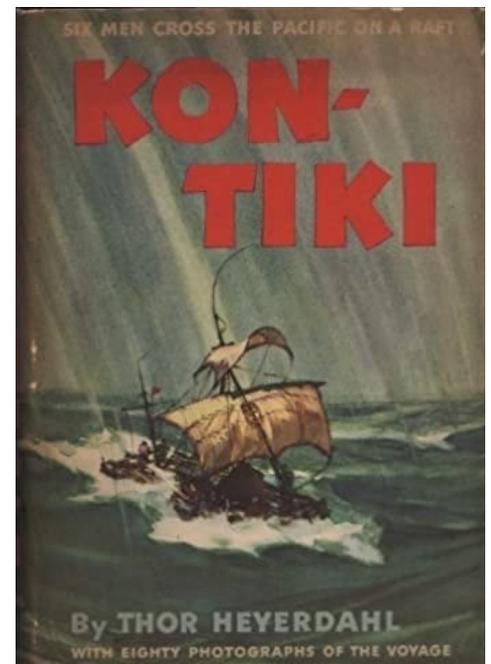
Heyerdahl and a small team went to Peru, where, with the help of dockyard facilities provided by the Peruvian authorities, they constructed the raft out of balsa logs and other native materials in an indigenous style as recorded in illustrations by Spanish conquistadores.

The trip began on the twenty-eighth of April, 1947. Heyerdahl and five companions sailed the raft for one hundred and one days over six thousand nine hundred kilometres (four thousand three hundred miles) across the Pacific Ocean before smashing into a reef at Raroia in the Tuamotu Islands on the seventh of August, 1947. The crew made successful landfall. After spending a number of days alone on the tiny islet, the crew were greeted by men from a village on a nearby island who arrived in canoes, having seen washed-up debris from the raft. The crew were taken back to the native village, where they were celebrated with traditional dances and other festivities. Finally, the crew were taken off Raroia to Tahiti by the French schooner Tamara, with the salvaged Kon-Tiki in tow.

After the destruction visited upon nations and peoples in World War II, Heyerdahl's expedition represented something noble and hopeful. His thesis was controversial, but people admired his willingness to follow his convictions for the advancement of human knowledge. The bravery of the small crew, kept many people following their progress via the small radio they carried on board. Thor Heyerdahl spent the rest of his life writing, researching and mounting expeditions. He died at age eighty-seven in 2002.

**Scripture.** In the eleventh chapter of "Genesis," at verse eight and nine, we read: "So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore, it was called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."

**Prayer.** *Almighty God, with your blessing the human race scattered across the face of the earth, filling the world with life. We bless you for those such as Thor Heyerdahl, who study the past and search for deeper understandings. Help us to ponder the human journey across time, with awe and wonder; through Jesus Christ our saviour and lord. Amen.*



**We are holding Gathered Worship at our usual time of 10:30 AM:** We will continue to livestream our service. If you would like Home Communion, please email or call the church. Our ZOOM Worship login, "Worship and Meetings" can be found at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167890638?pwd=eHptd21KN01Vc0QyS2pSNVU4U3hUQT09>

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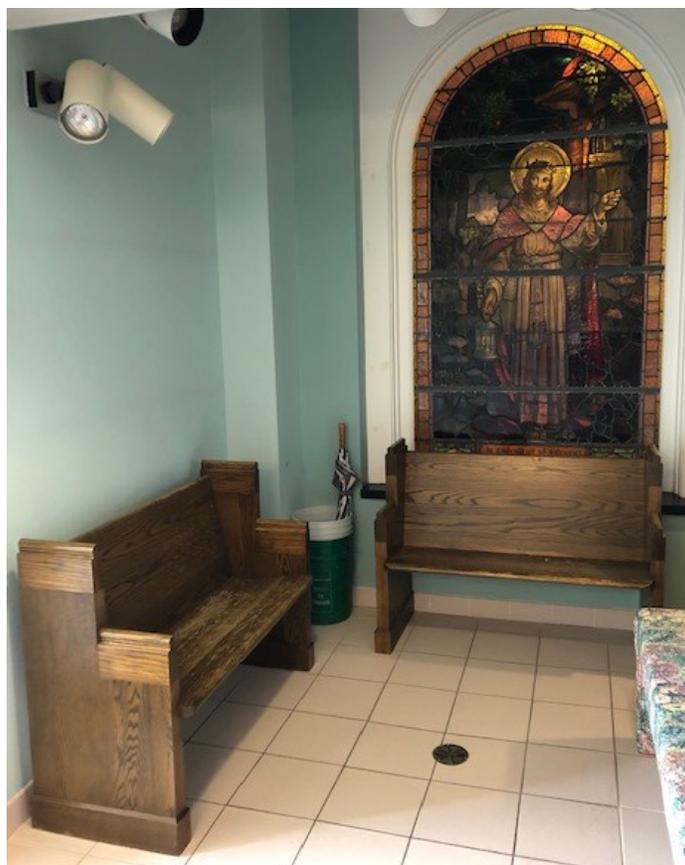
Wednesday Exegesis continues to offer in-person and Zoom, using Pr. Dan's account:

**ID# 460 550 4086 Passcode: 600776**

Both of these accounts can be found at <https://zoom.us/>. You will need to download the app to your computer, phone or device. Then, to join our Zoom meeting simply go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4605504086> If you are using dial-up, find your local number at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fei59xzihG>. To watch the recording of Sunday's service go to Trinity's YouTube Channel [here](#).



The little nook to the left of the entranceway in the narthex is becoming a beautiful resting place with a strong nod to the traditional church buildings of our youth. We now have two pews from the former Resurrection Church on Doat Street in Buffalo! Stay tuned for more new-old developments! Pictured below is one of two benches that have been in the narthex for several decades now. **If you know of a good next use for them, please let us know. They are free for the asking!**



*From Pastor Tim's article on page 1:* "After the destruction visited upon nations and peoples in World War II, Heyerdahl's expedition represented something noble and hopeful. His thesis was controversial, but people admired his willingness to follow his convictions for the advancement of human knowledge. **Prayer.** Almighty God, with your blessing the human race scattered across the face of the earth, filling the world with life. We bless you for those such as Thor Heyerdahl, who study the past and search for deeper understandings. **Help us to ponder the human journey across time, with awe and wonder; through Jesus Christ our saviour and lord. Amen.**"

It is sometimes difficult to look at the spread of humanity, and even Christianity, across time and space *with awe and wonder* instead of regret at violence and "babel". But awe and wonder are indeed what we are called to look with, as well as hope and joy. The human race is deeply flawed and always and everywhere makes a mess of things in many ways. But the human race is also created in the image and likeness of our God and is capable, by his grace, of spreading truth, goodness and love.

It is good to make a habit of looking for the "evidence" of that spread of truth, goodness and love, both in our human history and in our present day. We encourage ourselves this way that God is alive and active in humanity, and that, even though violence and babel exist, mercy, grace and love will triumph now, in the end and forever.

*Suellen*

