



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

February 2023



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Loving with a Perfect Love

Dear Friends in Christ,

February is a complex season for many Christian people. It is a time of huge emotional swings, if you consider the high point of romantic love that comes on the 14th with St. Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras partying right after that; contrasted, no doubt, with the humility that comes on Ash Wednesday as the beginning of the six-week penitential season of Lent. So, get ready for the roller coaster ride of life that can challenge your emotional strength to shift so quickly. Or will it? Will the love of Christ Jesus break your self-interest attention barrier to get your attention?

The marketers of the all things associated with Valentine's Day are out to get your money – with the promise that you can buy love ... or at least some gratification from the person(s) you love. They're selling the dream of feeling loved, which we relish because of the endorphin rush we get from such emotions. So far, it's sounding

pretty good, as long as you don't get too jaded by being manipulated into spending more than you planned. Then there's Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras rose up from the "last fling" partying of Roman Catholics before the self-depriving rules that had to be followed for Lent. (Giving up something.) I haven't noticed much of that around here, but the outlandish, unbridled attitudes of Mardi Gras and "Carnival" in Brazil open the doors to rampant temptations to sin. Lustful love may enter the picture through those parties, but not many connect to true love in those circumstances. True love is the kind that lasts, that overcomes all fears, and every misstep by the person we love. True love is the kind that God has for you – the kind that moved him to sacrifice his only Son so that your sins could be removed. (It's also the love we promise in marriage and have for family.)

It's the love of Christ Jesus, who endured so much pain and sorrow to win your souls from the devil's grasp. Lent is set aside for us to appreciate the love of Christ to do this, while fully realizing that the punishment he took on himself was ours. That's an incredible love; and it gets even more amazing when you realize that he loved us first, before we ever loved him or did a single thing to please him. Thus, Lent reminds us of our sin and it reminds us of Jesus' perfect love.

John points out: "We love because he first loved us." God's perfect love forces out the fear of eternal punishment, removes our guilt and leaves us feeling only comfort and peace. When I look in your eyes and see how you act, the love you have for God is obvious. You love him right back for the love that he has for you. So, hang on for the loving ride of February! Love your God, as you feel loved by



him. Do your Lenten duty so that you'll feel his love. Do the romantic things for the ones you love. And watch out for the temptations that are ever-present in the world. God loves you and so do I! Love on!

Yours in Christ ,

Pastor Glenn

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:18-19, ESV)

MINISTRY NEWS

Stewardship: Please remember that all church expenses go on even if you worship remotely or miss entirely. You can still do an offering as your act or worship to God by sending your offering envelope/check to Attention: Julie Atkinson Trinity Lutheran Church, 190 E. State Hwy. 31, McAlester, OK 74501. It remains confidential as only Pastor handles the mail and Julie handles offerings. For the year, offerings are far below plan and burning through our bank balance.

Evangelism: We are making progress on our church tri-fold brochure to update it. We have to replace most of the content. Please pray for Carol and Pastor as they work on this.

Carol Niedfeldt

Education: Men Cooking Bible Study met in January starting a new class "How to Read the Bible" at 8:30 am. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study finished studying angels. Clayton Mis-

sion continues the study "A Clash of Kingdoms". *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: no report. *Loretta Meyer*

Fellowship: We had no event in January. Please make plans to attend the next fellowship event – a potluck meal during the 1st quarter Voter's Meeting, Sunday, March 26th.

Social Ministries: Don takes old Portals of Prayer booklets to nursing homes.

Don Niedfeldt

LWML: The January meeting was a trip to the Rea Drummond, Pioneer Woman, Mercantile in Pawhuska on the 28th. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

We are contemplating more advertising. There is a need right now with people stressed by so many things about each other leading to conflict.

Disc Golf: The club is collecting annual membership dues for 2023, which they split with the church. They plan to do a fundraiser tournament this year to raise more money for the club goal of buying a new zero-turn mower and adding the New eastern side 9 holes.

Trustees: The trustees have most outdoor projects are on hold till spring. Jerome finished running the cat 6 wiring and will be installing the last 2 cameras for the new 10-camera video security system. Our contractor plans on ordering gutter insert materials to redo a few sections on the NW side. The plan is to install them in March. An ice dam caused some wet carpet in Pastor's study on Jan. 25. It was dried and cleaned.

Cross Wall Project: We need to buy the wood, cut and stain it for the cross wall and install it. Also planned is painting the wall within it.

First Experience Entryway Remodel: We're contemplating whether another passage on a wall would help be a focal point from other directions.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS (See calendar page for dates)

Men Cooking Bible Study Breakfast 2nd Saturday 8:30 am
 Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study will resume Thursday February 16th
 Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays at 9:15 am
 Clayton Bible Study, 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4:00 pm

Michael & Naomi Ersland

Dear friends and family,

While there is little known from Scripture regarding Christmas, the most important themes come through loud and clear: Jesus is God incarnate as man. He came to save humans in a humble manner filled with pain and suffering. He came for all people. This is beautiful. It is translatable. It is an embodiment that every human can associate with, because regardless of whether people have donkeys, stables, shepherds, gold, or know where Bethlehem is located, they can relate to pregnancy and birth. The life of Jesus in Mary's womb is clear and celebrated, just like Elizabeth and Mary share in Luke 2:39-44. His transition of life outside the womb is a celebration as we see, touch, hear, and smell this baby.

- Pray for successful literacy day events in Komba communities raising grassroot support for Komba classes.
- Pray for a successful completion of team checking Jeremiah and Lamentations before the end of the year.
- How may we pray for you?
- Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

Confident in Christ,
Michael, Naomi, Ford,
Ersland



BIRTHDAYS
February

2nd Annie Miller
5th Carol Niedfeldt
18th Rick Curtis
19th John Clark
20th Karen Yagher
21st Hannah Reese
28th Joshua Billos



Prayer to Remember

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS
February

15th Darlys Hutten
18th Aaron Phipps
18th Audrey Phipps
27th Brenda Phipps



ALTAR FLOWERS
February

Pastor Glenn for
St. Valentine's Day



ANNIVERSARIES
February

Randall & Roberta Lopez 26th



Please contact Pastor and Karen Brown when a name can be removed or changed to another category

LORD: We Implore You to Hear Our Prayers

For Healing of Chronic Ills: Squeaky Brown, Primary lateral sclerosis, Sheila Curtis health issues, Harold Dunlap, health issues, Darlys Hutten, cancer & health issues, Chris Meyer, head and neck pain, Rick Meyer, Parkinson's, (Pastor's brother), Lisa Milton, COPD & heart blockages, Laura Moore (Primus & Veronica Moore's daughter-in-law), Teresa Reese, neck pain, Esther Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law

In War Times: for Ukraine striving to defend their country; for our enemy Russia and its leader waging war

Thanksgiving: For the City of McAlester's proclamation honoring Primus Moore this Tuesday night at the City Council meeting, for the warm weather limiting snow impact, for Gerry Valenta back home from the hospital, for those helping with carpet drying after leak from ice dam on church gutter,

Enduring Cancer: Rev. Barrie Henke, inoperable colon cancer (former OK District President), Paul Holbrook, throat cancer (Reese family uncle) Curtis Jacobson, cancer, Linda Ketchum, cancer (friend of Karen McGee), Ronnie Loman, melanoma, Marlys Melchert, cancer (Julie Atkinson's sister), Charlie Riddles, cancer (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Roger Stainbrook, cancer, Kelly Richardson, bladder cancer (Matt's brother)

Special Healing Needs: David Brown, hospitalized for high BP, Squeaky Brown, primary lateral sclerosis, Harold Dunlap, frequent falls, Rev. Barrie Henke, (stage 4) colon cancer chemo (former OK District President), Curtis Jacobson, in hospice care, Troy Johnson, pending artery blockage surgery, (Neidfeldt's neighbor), Lisa Milton, shingles, Teresa Reese, various pains, Kelly Richardson, bladder cancer spreading (Matt's brother) Charlie Riddles, cancer surgery & treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Roger Stainbrook, cancer treatment, Gerry Valenta, home from hospital & back in hospice care,

For Strength: Audrey Brown & family, Curtis Jacobson family, Raven Jacobson, Jason Alexander Luvenburgh & family, (toddler grandson of Harold Dunlap), Donnie & Lisa Milton (Clayton friends), Primus Moore family, John Peasha Jr. family

Serving in or with the Military: Cole Jackson (Connie Loman & Teresa Dove's cousin), Teddy Stevens (Audrey Brown's brother)

For Transformation: That we are feeling empowered by the Holy Spirit to keep inviting the lost to church so that God might save them and equip his kingdom workers at Trinity as evangelists.

Prayer Focus for the Month of February: Spiritual Renewal of our Inactive Members

Trinity Prayer Warriors

If you have a request for special prayers, please contact Karen Brown 918-569-7885 or email her at karensdbrown@hotmail.com. Also call Pastor Glenn 918-916-4469 cell.

Ash Wednesday begins Lenten Season

Mark your calendars for our annual Ash Wednesday communion service on February 22 @ 7:00 pm. We'll have the requisite imposition of ashes on the forehead to kick off the penitential season of lent. Following that is five mid-week Lenten services that also start at 7:00 pm. We're still working on those services so watch for the announcement of a theme.

USHERS CAPTAIN
Jerome Atkinson

February 2023

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Yagher

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Jerome Atkinson

GREETER
Don Niedfeldt

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Altar Flowers for the Month Pastor Glenn for St. Valentine's Day </div>						
5 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Clayton Study/ Service at 4:00 pm	6	7	8	9 Church Council Meeting at 5:30 pm	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast at 8:30 am
12 Lincoln's Birthday Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	13	14 St. Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 Pastor's Day Off
19 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Clayton Study/ Service at 4:00 pm	20 Washington's Birthday President's Day	21 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events are Due	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 Pastor's Day Off LW/ML Meeting at 10:00 am
26 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30	27	28				

