



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# Trinity Trumpet

July 2023



Watch Services on [Trinity McAlester YouTube page](#)

## Independence Day

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many countries celebrate some sort of holiday remembering their independence from being part of a larger nation. July 4<sup>th</sup> marks Independence Day for the United States of America. We celebrate that holiday so that we never forget the price paid in human life to secure that liberty. Our nation is founded on personal and national freedom from so many things. Freedom of religion is one of them that has gotten very confusing in its application in the last few years. We are absolutely free from a state-prescribed, world religion, such as Islam, in a number of countries. Yet, the level of oppression we Christians experience from government and other groups continues to grow. Some have felt like freedom of religion applies to any religion except Christianity. So, the USA is the flagship of what it means to be a free country: just ask Yakof Smirnoff, naturalized citizen formerly of the Soviet Union. His Branson theater

show is one of the most conservative, patriotic that I've ever seen! He has great freedom in this country compared to his old country. They were like slaves in many ways. If you've seen his act, you'd unquestionably agree we are free, not slaves to any person!

Yet, many Americans are slaves to the greatest evils – sin, death and the devil. Gladly, we believers are free from slavery to sin and the total control of lives by evil. This comment may seem harsh, but it is so true. The truth is understanding that the only *good thing* is pleasing God. So, anything that we might label as "good" done by an unbeliever is not truly "good," but done for selfish or evil reasons.

As Christians, we know the good that pleases God and can choose to do those things. That means we are independent of the total control and depravity of the evil one or our sinful nature. We can thoughtfully

choose to do the good and say no to the bad.

Our ability to choose the good comes at the highest price in human life every paid to free a people. The price was the life of Jesus Christ. "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us," 1 John 3.16a.

"Us" in this case refers to all people of the world, though only those who believe that he died for their sins receive God's forgiveness that gives them heaven as a free gift.

If you are following the line of reasoning here, we Christians have independence to act by choice because of Jesus conquering death on Easter – the human *independence day* from Satan and eternal death.

The final way to think of Independence Day is this: you can also remember your personal *independence day* in your Baptism, when your sins were washed away through the death and resurrection of Jesus. You are marked, dear Christian,



as a child of God, free from Satan's power to enslave you to his will. Free to reject your own sinful thoughts from within yourself. May God bless your holiday this July and beyond as you celebrate your independence as a believer in Jesus Christ – your life in the kingdom of God! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Glenn

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, 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.

**Evangelism:** Please pray for Carol, our leadership and Pastor as they work on developing a congregation led outreach program to replace Olive Branch. Pastor continues working on starting a spiritual discussion group with light meal in His Place following the weeknight mixed doubles disc golf mini. It will reach out to others besides disc golfers. We bought three 4-person tables and had one donated for the discussion group at His Place. We're working to buy surplus padded steel stacker chairs. These can enable better interaction in His Place and comfort in our church classes.

*Carol Niedfeldt*

**Education:** Men Cooking Bible Study in May will resume the class "Who am I?" by LHM in August. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study is studying a self-guided lesson, "All The Prayers in the Bible" Clayton Mission has paused the study "A Clash of Kingdoms".

*Carol Niedfeldt*

**Youth:** no report. *Loretta Meyer*

**Fellowship:** Our next event is a picnic potluck for the July Voter's Meeting after church.

**Social Ministries:** Don N. takes old Portals of Prayer booklets to nursing homes. We helped 3 families. Our friend Alex went through a tough time, but now has a good job and SNAP and Soonercare. *Don Niedfeldt*

**LWML:** The June meeting is working on personal projects. *Loretta Meyer*

**Olive Branch Outreach**

Pastor is coaching a family in a major conflict, but they are still not ready to act.

**Disc Golf:** The club is working hard to keep the grass mowed right now. They are shopping for deal on a new zero-turn mower or small tractor with front-end loader and detachable mower. They plan to do a fundraiser tournament October 28<sup>th</sup> to raise more

money for the club goal adding the new eastern side 9 holes.

**Trustees:** The trustees rebuilt the retaining wall for the message sign. Jerome is putting together a donated Altar guild storage cabinet for the new paraments. Jerome finished installing the last 2 cameras for the new 10-camera video security system. A new vent fan was installed in the ladies restroom and toilet support handles in the Men's room. Our contractor plans to install gutter insert materials to redo a few sections on the NW side. Trustees are planning a bi-weekly workday on Wednesdays to get some projects done. Mowing is a big chore right now.

**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 will resume in August  
 Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study Thursdays at 1:00 pm  
 Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays at 9:15 am  
 Clayton Bible Study on pause till further notice

### Rev. Jason & Anna with their sons Johaness and Immanuel

Dear friends and family,

The South East of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) has been showing great determination and grit in carrying out each step to get the seminary buildings built and the seminary started. Please Pray For:

- Safe traveling and health for getting on the plane for deployment to Tanzania.



### Michael and Naomi Ersland are excited to serve in Ghana with Lutheran Bible Translators

From chiefs to babies, colleagues, pastors, men, women, and children, they have all ridden in the truck as we go to meetings, come back from church, head to a yam festival, or return from a meeting with a bishop. The truck has carried many people. Sometimes it seems like we would like our own privacy, but we also realize that this is an extension of our ministry and we are happy to bring people along on our long trips to the regional capital or short journey back from church in

the village, to take someone to the hospital or to bring us back home with our newborn.

Prayer Request:

- Praise God that the truck has been a blessing to our family and to other people in the community.

Confident in Christ,

Michael and Naomi Ersland



**BIRTHDAYS**  
July

1st Sue Borgelt  
27th Loretta Meyer  
28th Jacky Lovelace  
30th Christina Wacker



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**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**  
July

1st Lee Moore  
10th Maggie Steidley-Defrange  
16th Don Gleichman  
28th Sarah Steidley



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
July

Pastor Glenn for  
Loretta's Birthday



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
July

None



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, Teresa Reese, various pains, Esther Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law)

**Mourning:** the family of Curtis Jacobson, the family of Patricia Herman, (disc golf friend Shannan Wilcox's mom)

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

**Thanksgiving:** For small tables ordered for His Place to support the spiritual discussion outreach program, for confidential news that our LCEF grant will be approved, for safety for most of us from the severe storm that did so much damage in Tulsa, for air conditioning to keep us comfortable in the heat-wave, for sufficient funds to operate the ministries here, for the LCEF building loan and mission grants, and credit union that serve our ministries.

**Enduring Cancer:** Paul Holbrook, throat cancer (Reese family uncle) Linda Ketchum, cancer (friend of Karen McGee), Ronnie Loman, melanoma, Charlie Riddles, cancer (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Kelly Richardson, bladder cancer (Matt's brother),

**Special Healing Needs:** Teresa Dove, in nursing home rehab after stroke, Don Gleichman, breathing difficulties, Teresa Reese, various pains, Charlie Riddles, cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), for Jennifer Mieritz, recovering from heel bone spur surgery, for Tina K. Rose, in the hospital (Zane Jacobson's friend)

**For Strength:** Audrey Brown & family, Raven Jacobson, Jason Alexander Luvenburgh & family, (toddler grandson of Harold Dunlap), Donnie & Lisa Milton (Clayton friends), Melissa Niedfeldt, Micah Niedfeldt, 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 July:** For Persecuted Christians Throughout the World.

**Trinity Prayer Warriors**

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

**Seeking a Volunteer Food Preparer**

Pastor's new outreach is a weekly spiritual discussion group that will meet Tuesday evenings in His Place. The primary people we hope will attend are disc golf mixed doubles that will play a game before our event. We have mission funds to cover the cost of grocery ingredients for appetizers or a light meal while people engage in spiritual discussion led by Pastor. The funding will last 10-15 weeks so cook is not a forever commitment and can be shared among several persons. We have 4 married couples plus singles that pair up to play as a team.

**USHERS CAPTAIN**  
Don Niedfeldt

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Karen Yagher

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**  
Matt Richardson

**GREETER**  
Don Niedfeldt

# July 2023

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 Loretta's Birthday                 </div>						
2 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	3	4 Independence Day  Pastor will be on	5 Vacation	6 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 Pastor's Day Off
9 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	10 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	11	12	13 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 Pastor's Day Off
16 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	17	18 Elder's Meeting 10:00 am	19	20 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 Pastor's Day Off LW/ML Meeting at 10:00 am
23 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 Voter's Meeting after Church during our Picnic Potluck	24	25 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	26	27 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	28 Pastor's Day Off	29 Pastor's Day Off
30 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	31					





