



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

June 2023



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Spiritual Growing Season and Faithfulness

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summertime traditionally starts when school is out. We are there! And suddenly the rain stopped a little, the ground is drying up and the grass will be growing more slowly. In fact, the winter rye grass is dying fast.

In God's church, the season we begin in early summer is Pentecost. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth and spiritual renewal. It is the longest season in the church year and the Church council is planning how to move forward with a program where all members have a role in reaching out to the un-churched. What if we string these thoughts together? We might see a lesson in the making:

1. a place where growing has slowed
2. a time of renewal to work on growing, and
3. that we, the people, are the stewards of God's love empowered to help people into faithful relationship

with God and his people. Can we apply this to Trinity Lutheran, the congregation? Perhaps ... especially if we look to John 15: 5-6 to see Jesus and his model for growth in the church. It speaks of new growth *after* a pruning described in verse 2 of John 15 – a loss many can feel in our church family. Each Sunday, we're hoping to see growth in attendance and offerings – significant growth. Yet, we see more buds than new branches loaded with fruit.

Jesus gives us direction in verse 5: "abide in me and I in you." He means that we need to stay close to him -- be faithful -- to bear fruit, as in Galatians 5:22 (ESV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."

He will bless us if we stay close to Jesus and follow his will with our work in His kingdom – the church. The desired fruit

is more souls in God's kingdom, visible in our pews, and more mature believers -- together known in the kingdom of God as "making disciples."

Moreover, we know that our faithfulness to God pleases him and means we are doing our very best to be making disciples.

Still, we lament God's judgment upon those that have cut themselves off from the vine by neglecting worship and fellowship. This matches prophecy of those that reject him, their hearts are hardened to God and His people.

They are not able to see God's will for them any longer. "So, [God says] because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:16, ESV)

For the faithful who keep the Lord's Day for worship to the best of their ability, serving as *stewards of his love*, "We



ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV). May we be always humble to examine our hearts and our behavior toward God, repent of our failings, and seek renewal in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Glenn

"[Jesus says] "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." (John 15:5-6, 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: We on hold our church tri-fold brochure to update it as we consider ministry future shapes in McAlester and Clayton. Please pray for Carol and Pastor as they work on this. Pastor continues working on starting a spiritual discussion group with light meal in His Place following the weeknight mixed doubles disc golf mini. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Education: Men Cooking Bible Study in May started the class "Who am I?" by LHM will resume in August. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible

Study is studying a self-guided lesson, "You Know God Loves you, Right?" Clayton Mission has paused the study "A Clash of Kingdoms". *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: no report. *Loretta Meyer*

Fellowship: Our last event was a breakfast before the Easter service.

Social Ministries: Don N. takes old Portals of Prayer booklets to nursing homes. We helped 3 families. *Don Niedfeldt*

LWML: The May meeting was working on personal projects in progress. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

We have settled into the new direction of Pastor as our only reconciler. This limit means we have to find a new outreach for the congregation to do.

Disc Golf: The club tournament scheduled for Memorial weekend Saturday had 82 golfers - a record high. 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 28th to raise more money for

the club goal adding the new eastern side 9 holes.

Trustees: The trustees filled asphalt patch in driveway holes, repaired siding, and knocked down a few rocks in the parking area. Jerome is putting together a donated Altar guild storage cabinet for the new parameters. Jerome will be installing the last 2 cameras for the new 10-camera video security system. A new vent fan will be installed in the ladies restroom. 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. We are picking paint for the cross wall.

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 Johanes and Immanuel

Dear friends and family,

Steffenson Family Update. We have our flight date! Lord-willing, we will board an airplane to move to Tanzania on June 16th. Since we have limited space and weight for what to bring, we are packing very carefully. Pictured above is the boy's legos stuffed into shoes to pack in order to save space. We are bringing only what we can get in our suitcases. Please pray for a smooth deployment and especially that our birth certificates arrive before we leave our apartment in the U.S. Please pray for:

- Our birth certificates arriving before we leave our apartment.
- Closing up our apartment and packing.
- 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 with a truck



You were all very generous and that allowed me to purchase this truck. The years have passed, and it continues to be a blessing. We haven't been stressed though, because you have joined us by prayerfully and monetarily investing in the ministry here. Thank you! Through you, this truck has been and continues to be a blessing to not just our family, but also to other people here. We pray that it will continue to be that way.

- Pray that God will keep the vehicle running well, passengers safe, and everyone and everything on the road safe as we drive so that we don't have any accidents.
- How may we pray for you?
- Please let us know so that we may be praying for you!

BIRTHDAYS

June

- 1st Jim Lyles
- 10th Travis Cosgrove
- 14th Jimmy Potter
- 23rd Don Gleichman
- 25th Andrew Womack
- 26th Jerry Yagher



Prayers to Remember
 our
 members

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

June

- 1st Karen McGee
- 20th Jimmy Potter



ALTAR FLOWERS

June

- Jerry & Karen Yagher's son
- Justin's 40th Birthday



ANNIVERSARIES

June

- Ronnie & Connie Loman 16th
- Glenn & Loretta Meyer 21st
- Squeakie & Karen Brown 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, various pains, 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 Harold Dunlap, home from hospital and recovered from UTI, for driveway hole patching done this week by volunteers, for siding repaired on His Place, For Pastor Schultz's availability to fill our pulpit and lead Bible class next week, for the computers and other electronics that enable our worship service, for a little dryer weather to enjoy the outdoors, for recreation at the Oklahoma parks

Enduring Cancer: Paul Holbrook, throat cancer (Reese family uncle) Curtis Jacobson, cancer, 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, Curtis Jacobson, in hospice care, Teresa Reese, various pains, Charlie Riddles, cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), for Jennifer Mieritz, recovering from heel bone spur surgery

For Strength: Audrey Brown & family, Curtis Jacobson 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 June: Strengthening of Families.

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.

