



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

August 2023



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Reconciling

Dear Friends in Christ,

Back in 2015, this church learned the difference between *reconciliation and conflict resolution* when a majority of the members attended a Bible study by that name. The people were so moved by it that they chose reconciliation as a service we would do for ourselves and the public as an outreach. They appreciated the change in their hearts and saw the need to share it.

In our sin-tainted world, we have a strange way of viewing the term “reconcile.” The dictionary’s first definition for the verb says “restore friendly relations between.” But then the explanatory example is to “settle” as in a quarrel. That’s leaves a lot of ground open for relationships to remain quite fractured. In reality, we *intend* that relationships are back to the way they were before ... or even better – perhaps having grown stronger through the struggle.

So how can it end up less than ideal?

- Think about a lawsuit settled by a judge. Does the losing party accept the judge’s ruling completely and things go back? Not very often. Usually the loser feels she got less than deserved and continues to blame the win-

ning party.

- What about an employer and a union in negotiations for a labor contract? When they settle on terms, do they treat each other openly and honestly? Two Christian persons develop a conflict between them. They each send a note forgiving the other. But they each refuse to ever speak to the other again. Does forgiven mean that their relationship is restored?

When I read about these examples it became clear that our society suffers from the devil’s lies about reconciling. These seem more like a truce than peace. We can do better than the result these examples portray. We can move to Biblical, godly reconciling that goes all the way to restoration. The guise we fall into goes back to Adam and Eve’s encounter with Satan. Blame, deception, lies and denial get in the way of true confession of each specific sin followed by declaration of forgiveness by the other person. When the other person knows their hurt is recognized and felt and regretted, then the path to full, restorative forgiveness is on its

way to happening.

Conversely, the apologies offered are often vague, insincere, incomplete ... even offered at a distance (like media). They usually get undermined by justifying words like “but, yet, when, or still” that take back the apology just offered. Like Adam’s example, “Yes, I’m sorry I ate the forbidden fruit, but she gave it to me. And you gave that woman to me.” Feeble. Blaming. Self-justifying!

Thankfully, when God was reconciling us to himself, he didn’t let our feeble confessions get in the way of our forgiveness. Our heavenly Father willingly sent his son to be born a human, to suffer and die and rise again all to reconcile the sins of the world., “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Cor. 5:19, ESV) When God reconciles with us, he treats us as if we never trespassed against him. Never! God forgives us completely and treats us with love like that of a dear father for a child. He trusts us as his messengers of reconciliation.



We have much work to do in order to improve our reconciling ways, dear brothers and sisters. Certainly, we would like to be more like Jesus. I encourage you to get back to the reconciling lifestyle we uncovered, which has become our brand, Trinity Life. In addition, we are re-starting the church here, so we should be inviting friends to come help us build this exciting new church based on our unique Christian lifestyle – not judgy, just forgiven. May God bless you to embrace confession and forgiveness in every relationship! Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Glenn

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Mt. 5:23–24, 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're working to buy surplus padded steel stacker chairs for His place if you hear about some being available. These can enable better interaction in His Place.

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, "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 picnic potluck for the July Voter's Meeting after church. Family Night is in September.

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

LWML: The July 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 purchasing new 54" zero-turn 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: Jerome is putting together a donated Altar guild storage cabinet for the new paraments. Our contractor plans to install gutter insert materials to redo a few sections on the NW side. Mowing has been stalled for 4 weeks as we've tried to repair mower problems and consumed our trustees available hours.

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 at 8:30 am
 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,

We're in our fifth week of intensive Kiswahili (Swahili) language school. The location of our language instruction is on a compound which employs many people who are deaf. Since Rev. Jason already knows American Sign Language, we got a book on Tanzanian Sign Language. We have three instructors teaching us Kiswahili: Steward, Upendo, and Naomi. We're still in transition as we are only here for six weeks before another transition to Mwanza. Lord-willing, we will be able to get settled in Mwanza and continue language learning.

In the peace of Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jason, Anna Marie, Johanes, and Immanuel Steffenson

Michael & Naomi and baby Ford Ersland

Dear friends and family,

It has been a while since our last letter and a lot has happened. We have had a major repair project on our water system the last few months.

It's important to be present for events in people's lives here. We're able to learn more about local customs, relationships, rhythms and seasons, daily tasks, and other local cultural activities by living here. This can contribute to the creative depth of the translation work.

Praise God that everything went well for meeting with a Ghanaian consultant to check several Wisdom books in May! We were also able to work with a translation manager and computer specialist for the Bible Society of Ghana, and they were very helpful.

Confident in Christ,

Michael and Naomi and baby Ford Ersland



BIRTHDAYS
August

6th Nicholas Valenta
6th Jason Billos
8th Regina Baumann
30th Jefferson Billos
31st Julie Atkinson



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BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS
August

1st Loretta Meyer
1st Peggy Cosgrove
8th Zachariah Edwards



ALTAR FLOWERS
August

Hannah & Teresa Reese



ANNIVERSARIES
August

Matt & Angel Richardson 8th
Howard & Nancy Ezell 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, 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

Mourning: for the family of Mike White, (fiancée of Kelsey Curtis, Granddaughter of Rick and Sheila Curtis)

Thanksgiving: For the long days of sunshine that give us a sunny disposition, for cool places we can get respite from the heat, for summer cookouts and tasty food, for God that loves us beyond our understanding, for pastors that give their time and energy so freely as they minister to us in our need, for wisdom to handle improvements to our church and buildings to improve them as tools for ministry, for reconciling hearts to confess our wrong and forgive offenses.

Enduring Cancer: Paul Holbrook, throat cancer (Reese family uncle) Linda Ketchum, cancer (friend of Karen McGee), Richard Kroeker, esophageal cancer, (Clayton friend), 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, Howard Ezell, rehab hospital with COPD and leg amputation, (Nancy Ezell's husband), Don Gleichman, health issues, for Richard Kroeker, chemo for cancer, (Clayton friend), for Ronnie Loman, chemo for cancer, for Jacky Lovelace, neck pain, for Jason Martin, home after heart valve and pacemaker surgery (Niedfeldt friend), Karen McGee, health issues, Teresa Reese, various pains, Charlie Riddles, cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), for Jennifer Mieritz, recovering from heel bone spur surgery, for Micah Niedfeldt, recovering after surgery for infection, (Don and Carol's son), for Tina K. Rose, home after stroke (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 August: All Teachers & Students.

Trinity Prayer Warriors

If you have a request for special prayers, please contact Karen Brown 918-569-7885 or email her at karenadbrown@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
Jerome Atkinson

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Yagher

August 2023

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Jerome Atkinson

GREETER
Don Niedfeldt

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-----|---|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i> | 4 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> |
| 6 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am</i> | 7 <i>Pastor at</i> | 8 <i>Pastor's Retreat</i> | 9 | 10 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i> | 11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 12 <i>Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast Bible Study at 8:30 am</i> |
| 13 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am</i> | 14 <i>Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm</i> | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i> | 18 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> |
| 20 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am</i> | 21 | 22 <i>Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due</i> | 23 | 24 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i> | 25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 26 <i>Pastor's Day Off LW/ML Meeting at 10:00 am</i> |
| 27 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i> | Altar Flowers for the Month Hannah & Teresa Reese | |

