



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# Trinity Trumpet

September 2023



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## Dreams of Restoring School Prayer

Dear Friends in Christ,

I started public school in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, having attended the Lutheran school up to that time. San Jacinto intermediate had about 600 kids! My homeroom teacher was Mr. Balucek, my guide in the huge new world. The school day began with a band student playing reveille on a cornet, another student leading the pledge of Allegiance, morning announcements, and closed with a student saying a prayer over the PA system. Student-led school prayer was a given in the 60s. Homeroom classes rotated weekly responsibility for the morning program. When our classes' turn came up, Mr. Balucek simply went down the row of kids, assigning the first to lead the pledge, the next to read announcements, and the third to say a prayer into the sound room microphone in the school office. Some kids might express fear when their assignment came up, but we were all shocked when Steve claimed he didn't know how to pray. Every other kid in our classroom of 26 kids raised their hands to the teacher's question, "Who

has ever said a prayer?" Poor Steve got the third degree from the kids and teacher as we all tried to figure out how a person got to be in the sixth grade without having ever prayed. In those days, most people had exposure to church or Sunday school. After all, it was only a few years after the immensely popular Bishop Fulton Sheen's TV show had gone away. Things were changing quickly, though, to protect kids like Steve from ever being embarrassed by Christians again. By the time I got to high school, prayer had been replaced by "a time for silent meditation." Today's school openings rarely even have a time set aside for silent meditation, much less prayer. Prayer is even rare opening football games, when it used to be the norm. It was when I moved here 19 years ago. Do we long for the good ole days when prayer was accepted, tolerated, and even encouraged? Yes! Yet, only our Christian political voice can overcome the Supreme Court

rulings that undermine our public prayer. A case already came down from them allowing a coach to pray with the team before a game. We pray that the right case might bring school prayer before the current, more conservative supreme court that might reverse the ruling and allow prayer in lots of public settings. Thank God for NASCAR or else people today wouldn't know what it is like to have public prayer before a sports event. Christian tradition guides us to pray before meals, journeys, events, beginnings and endings, along with many other times. In Acts 21, Paul is headed to Jerusalem for a confrontation with his opposition and stops at Tyre, where he visits with disciples. When Paul's group is leaving, the families all go to see them off and pray together. What a great time to pray and lay out a tradition for us! We have this great gift from God -- his promise to hear every prayer said by a believer. We know that prayer makes a difference in our lives and destinies because



of evidence in the Bible and in our own experience. My prayer is that you pray often. And I request that you pray for your pastor each day. It will make me a better pastor, while you become a more faithful steward of God's gift of prayer.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Glenn

*"When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home."  
(Acts 21:5-6, 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:** 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 resumed in August with the

class "Who am I?" by LHM. 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:** We're in planning stage for a church dinner after **Trinity Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary service on Oct. 29th**. Rev. Theimer will be preaching. Family Night has been rescheduled to Oct. 7th.

(OU/Texas weekend so we may adjust the time to later)

**Social Ministries:** Don N. takes old Portals of Prayer booklets to nursing homes. We got the schedule for the Local Service Coalition now so that he might attend the meetings and find out more things in the community that strengthen families. *Don Niedfeldt*

**LWML:** The September meeting is a workshop to make wire-wrapping jewelry led by Loretta. She is providing plyers and cutters and wire. Check with her for what else you might bring. *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 has purchased a new 54" zero-turn mower. The 60" Cub Cadet mower has been sold. The club is spending \$300 to harden the structure against breaks tearing down walls. A donor is giving a weed eater, chain saw, and utility cart to replace the stolen items. There's a tournament Friday Oct. 27th as part of the Octoberfest celebration in McAlester. They're planning a fundraiser tournament Dec. 2nd to raise more money for 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. The mower is repaired. Only the garage security camera remains unconnected. A donated dehumidifier is installed above the 3 sinks on the East side classroom and operating to lower the humidity.

**Cross Wall Project:** Currently progress on the cross wall is on hold.

**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 finished our initial Kiswahili language learning, we traveled from Iringa in the southern part of Tanzania where language school was located to Mwanza where we will live in the northern part of the country on Lake Victoria. Along the way, we stopped in Shinyanga to see Bishop Nzelu. This week we are staying on the Evangelical Lutheran Church compound in Mwanza as we searched for a place to live and make preparations for our boys to begin school next week.

*In the peace of Christ Jesus, Pastor Jason, Anna Marie, Johanes, and Immanuel Steffenson*

### **Michael & Naomi and baby Ford Ersland**

Dear friends and family,

We have good news; our cistern leak is fixed and according to the water test it is basically good. We do need prayers for the rains to come. I (Naomi) would like to take time and answer some question you may have. Lets start with. Why do you need translation teams? Translation is more than translating word to word. For example, Michael did an analysis of Komba proverbs to aid in translating the book of Proverbs. He looked for patterns and discussed what made something a Komba proverb. The team then incorporated what they learned into the translation so when the book of Proverbs is read, it can be better understood in this context.

*Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi and baby Ford Ersland*



**BIRTHDAYS**  
September

2nd Veronica Moore  
12th Joyce Hendrickson  
12th Christopher Meyer  
16th Teresa Dove  
22nd Randall Lopez  
26th Seth Gleichman  
30th Squeakie Brown



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**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**  
September

6th Joseph Hutten  
7th Susan McGee  
12th Jefferson Billos  
13th Julie Atkinson  
15th Jason Billos  
22nd Angela Hutten  
25th Nicholas Valenta



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
September

Jerry & Karen Yagher for granddaughter Jillian's 13th Birthday



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
September

John & Darlys Hutten 22nd



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, Teresa Dove, in nursing home rehab after stroke, 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, Tina K. Rose, rehab after stroke (Zane Jacobson's friend), Esther Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law)

**Mourning:** the family of Howard Ezell (Nancy Ezell's husband); the family of Richard Kroecker (Clayton friend), the families and friends of people that died in the Lahaina, HI wildfire

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

**Thanksgiving:** For the return of college football for all the fun it brings, for slight relief from the excessive heat that we got early last week, for the Eagle Hill Disc Golf Club setting up funds to armor our storage building and replace the stolen equipment, for the upgraded version of our church membership management software, for the load of gravel to fill in the washed out places around the church

**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:** Don Gleichman, health issues, Ronnie Loman, after chemo for cancer, Jacky Lovelace, neck pain, Jason Martin, after heart valve and pacemaker surgery (Niedfeldt friend), Karen McGee, health issues, Jennifer Mieritz, after gall bladder and foot surgery, Don Niedfeldt, heart Cath last Friday, Micah Niedfeldt, after foot surgery, (Don and Carol's son), Teresa Reese, various pains, Charlie Riddles, cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin),

**For Strength:** Audrey Brown & family, Raven Jacobson, William Loman family, Lisa Milton (Clayton friends), Melissa Niedfeldt, Micah Niedfeldt, John Peasha Jr. family

**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 September:** for our American work force .

**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.

**Trinity Lutheran Church 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oct. 29th**

Please, everyone, plan to stay after the worship service on Sept. 10th for a planning meeting on celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation. Rev. Roger Theimer is set as our Preacher for a special afternoon worship service. We'll decide Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> whether to have a potluck with the planning meeting. Once we figure out what we want to do, then we can sort out who can work on the details of each part.

**Sunday Bible Class – Book of Revelation**

God has blessed the church with a vision given to John of heaven, of the love Jesus has for the church in its persecution, for a blessed future until he comes again, and a glimpse of heaven; all to encourage us in our Christian life of living in the now, but not yet paradise. We're aiming for one chapter a week. Come and see the decoded message of God's plan of salvation and love for his children. The coffee and pastries will be waiting!

**USHERS CAPTAIN**  
Don Niedfeldt

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Karen Yagher

# September 2023

**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;"> <b>Altar Flowers for the Month</b>                      Jerry &amp; Karen Yagher for                      granddaughter Jillian's                      13<sup>th</sup> Birthday                 </div>						
3 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast Bible Study at 8:30 am
10 Grandparent's Day Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Anniversary Planning Meeting after church	11 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	12 Pastor will be away at Tulsa Circuit Meeting	13	14 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 Pastor's Day Off
17 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	18	19	20	21 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 Pastor's Day Off LWML Meeting at 10:00 am
24 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30	25	26 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	27	28 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 Pastor's Day Off





