



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# Trinity Trumpet

October 2023



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## Reformation Meals, Lutheran Style

Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple is sitting at the dinner table, enjoying a quiet evening meal and conversation. One says to the other, “What did you do today?” The other replies, “Not much. How about you?” to which the first says, “Me neither. Typical day, isn’t it.” “Yep.”

It’s the end of the work day and neither person has done anything worthy of even sharing! Still the conversation is about tasks and acts of “doing.” Maybe this task orientation is about our need to feel we’re accomplishing something – working towards a goal. Perhaps there’s just something in us that likes to focus on doing and done things -- works. And then, there’s good works ...

Whether *good works* are required was controversial and new when the Lutheran perspective on the Reformation of the church launched like a rocket with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailing *The 95 Theses* for theo-

logical debate to the chapel door. The crux of his points is often summed up in his three “solas” (Latin for “only”) They are: 1) only through faith, 2) only by grace, and 3) only through Scripture. That contrasts the opposing position that held a person must display good works to be saved. Luther stood behind Eph. 2:8-9 that says salvation comes by grace through faith, not by works.

In no time, the Roman Catholic and Reformed churches lined up with the good works required camp, leaving Lutherans the leading group holding fast to salvation by faith alone through grace alone, as promised by scripture alone.

Around this region, I find many people that agree with both positions, as unfeasible as that might seem. We see the positions as opposed. Nonetheless, for us, we glorify Jesus in

believing that his salvific work on the cross is the only work required for us to be forgiven. That’s because we believe the scriptures that point to us being against God, unable to believe or even give assent to what he has done. Faith comes to us as a pure and free gift from the Holy Spirit. So, our feeling saved or having decided for Christ can only come *after* God’s saving grace has put faith in our hearts. It’s not dependent on us deciding. For Lutherans, this the heart of the Reformation we will celebrate at the end of this month. May we glorify God for his gracious gift of faith. For in that we have full assurance of forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation. Thank you, Martin Luther, for helping us see the sure way.

Reformation Sunday, this year will have a bonus celebration – the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church, McAlester/Krebs.



We’ll be thanking God for the 75 years of Lutheran worship ministry here with a special afternoon worship service. And in the Lutheran tradition, a free meal will be served after the service. We started this letter with a dinner conversation story and now we’re all set for recounting old stories of doing while making a new story. Now that’s something to talk about over dinner! Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Glenn

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9, 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 started the 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 seeking 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 met in Sept. 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 planning a church dinner after **Trinity Lutheran Church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary service on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**. Rev. Theimer will be preaching. Family Night is scheduled for Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. (OU/Texas game day). Reception for Pastor and Mrs. Theimer Saturday night, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8:30 pm at His Place.

**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 was a workshop at the Reese's home to make wire-wrapping jewelry led by Loretta. *Loretta Meyer*

**Olive Branch Outreach**

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

**Disc Golf:** A donor has pledged a weed eater, chain saw, and utility cart to replace the stolen items. There's a tournament Friday Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 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:** Still working on the donated Altar guild storage cabinet for the new paraments. Our contractor finally installed gutter insert materials to redo a few sections on the NW side and finish the project. Only the garage security camera remains unconnected. We bought a load of large gravel to fill in our many washout holes. His Place closet cleaned out, and carpet spot cleaned, and concrete floor painted. Ping pong tables repaired. His Place white board dismantled.

**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,

Currently, we are in the process of figuring out how to live in a new country. We have had a lot of help from our friends in the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Much of our efforts this year will be figuring out how to live in a new country. We need to relearn many of the little things that we already know how to do in the countries in which we grew up. We are figuring out how to get the boys set up for school, setting up a home, how to get food, how to pay bills, how to get around. Tanzanians have a different way of doing these things which fit with their location, culture, and history. *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 to live in Ghana? Why not work remotely with Zoom? There are several reasons why living with the Komba people has been so valuable: relationships with people can go deeper, language and culture learning can grow deeper and be applied more readily during translation work, and we are able to engage Scripture with people more easily by being physically present.

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



**BIRTHDAYS**  
October

15th Jonathan Ezell  
16th Kipp Opperman, Jr.  
17th Doug Hummel  
21st William (Bill) Borgelt  
21st Cameron Fields  
21st Don Niedfeldt  
29th Teresa Reese



Do not forget to  
 celebrate your  
 birthday

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**  
October

3rd Christopher Meyer  
12th Christopher Ezell  
13th Barbara Billos  
27th Connie Loman  
27th George Loman  
28th Randall Lopez



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
October



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
October  
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, 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) Brown, 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)

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

**Thanksgiving:** For the door offering money donated for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary expenses, for Loretta Meyer's Thrivent action team project to help with 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary expenses, for Don Gleichman, recovering after head injury from fall, for the gutter rework underway after such a long wait, for new floor paint in His Place, for the Hope4Life ministry starting last week, for repairs done to His Place front after windstorm damage

**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, home from hospital after a fall, lots of stitches in the head, Connie Loman, stent scheduled for 10-11; Ronnie Loman, recovering from chemo, 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, recent heart stints, Micah Niedfeldt, after foot surgery and afib, (Don and Carol's son), Hannah Reese, stent scheduled for 10-12; Teresa Reese, had surgery on 15th, Charlie Riddles, cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Carrie Ann Swain, chemo for cancer (Youth Director at Immanuel, Broken Arrow)

**For Strength:** Audrey Brown & family, Raven Jacobson, William Loman family, Lisa (Milton) Brown (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 October:** for all pastor's and Christian missionaries.

**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.

**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**  
Jerome Atkinson

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Loretta Meyer

# October 2023

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**  
Jerome Atkinson

**GREETER**  
Don Niedfeldt

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30am	2	3	4 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	5 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Pastor's Day Off Family Night at 6:00 pm
8 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	9 Columbus Day Indigenous People Day ↓ Pastor will be away on	10 ↑ Vacation	11	12 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Pastor's Day Off
15 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30am	16 Pastor will be away at District Conference at Shannee	17 Pastor will be away at District Conference at Shannee	18	19 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off Church Clean-Up Day 9am - 12pm
22 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	23	24 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	25	26 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 Pastor's Day Off LAWML Meeting at 10:00 am Rev. Theimer reception at His Place 7pm-8:30pm
29 Reformation Day Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30am 75th Anniversary Service at 4:00 pm Dinner is at 5:45 pm	30	31 Halloween	Altar Flowers for the Month			





