



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# Trinity Trumpet

December 2023 & January 2024



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

## Prepared with Love

Dear Friends in Christ,

The holiday season is upon us and preparation for "one more thing" permeates our every moment. This week, we pulled many things together for Thanksgiving celebrations, festivities, special fundraiser banquets, football games, and especially, the official opening of the Christmas shopping season.

Rising above all the bustle and noise for us should be the Advent season -- the time of preparing for the birth of our dear Savior. At least, we acknowledge that life is supposed to work that way for the Christian. It is the voice of John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' from Mark 1:3. Some may ask what John's point was anyway? What are the straight paths?

Does Jesus need a superhighway to get somewhere?

So many questions and so little time ... Perhaps this letter reflects a little of the time pressure we experience this season? His message is so simple and clear, though.

Throughout the year since we last visited this time in the church, much has happened in our lives and in our church. Change is all over and somehow, we need to find a moment for some reflection on our year of spiritual life. The objective in the reflective time is to see the various paths our spiritual life has taken. The story will vary for each of us. Some may have grown closer to God through the trials that refine our hearts like silver in a furnace. Others may have drifted into

one or more less than righteous activities. In our church family, we rejoice that some are among us more often on Sunday mornings, while some have health challenges that are keeping them at home much of the time. So it seems -- our paths ebb and flow like the tides, even meandering like a lazy river. The call of John is the straight path to heaven -- a path very likely close to us in regular worship and devotion. And we certainly know that God loves us enough to send his son, to lower his son to take on human flesh and live among men. His loving sacrifice to do this to his son is beyond measure. It often follows that realizing the enormous grace bound up in God sending his son moves us to seek this



straight path more passionately. As your pastor, I feel humbled with the privilege to serve you this Advent and Christmas season. I pray that you might see the love Christ has for you reflected in me as we join together in the services and events of the season. I certainly see His love reflected in you!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Glenn

*"the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Mark 1:3-4, 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's spiritual discussion group with light meal in His Place following the weeknight mixed doubles disc golf mini will pause until Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> because people are too busy and it's cold outside. Carol is working on a devotion book for every family to use and give to someone as an outreach. Pray that they beat this newsletter into your hands. *Carol Niedfeldt*

**Education:** Men Cooking Bible Study is paused until we can generate

some new interest. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study is studying a self-guided lesson, "You Know God Loves you, Right?" Sunday Bible class continues a chapter by chapter study of Revelation. *Carol Niedfeldt*

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

**Fellowship:** The church dinner potluck for the Voter's meeting with hamburgers and hot dogs was tasty and the sides really topped it off.

**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 December meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> to decorate the Christmas tree and put up other seasonal décor. *Loretta Meyer*

**Olive Branch Outreach**

No cases active at this time.

**Disc Golf:** Glenn Morris plans to donate and install vinyl siding on the back of the garage. Church and disc golf guys are working to acquire thick plywood and get it installed on

the inside of the walls to armor them again hands tool-wielding thieves.

**Trustees:** the donated Altar guild storage cabinet for the new paraments is in use. We need to move the old one to the east side for re-purposing. Our gutter contractor is still chasing a small leak on the NW side. We need to use our load of large gravel to fill in our many washout holes by downspouts. His Place new wooden letters are being painted and pre-drilled for installation soon. A contractor is scheduled to redo all the roof penetrations – especially the kitchen vent hood. They were a problem from the beginning that we hope to fix in a long-lasting way.

**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,

Much of our work this year is figuring out how to live in a new country. This month's theme is "getting around." In a previous month's newsletter, I shared pictures of our walk to school. We walk and walk to get places. We purposely rented a house this first year in a location where we can walk to the boys' school, to the sokoni (market), and the kijiji (the downtown area) in order to be able to get the basic necessities. Besides walking, we take bajaji's and taxis. Also, the church here in Tanzania will send a Land Cruiser for us to borrow with a driver for longer distances. Pictured above is Anna Marie taking a turn in the back seat of the Land Cruiser with our luggage on a two-day return drive from the LCMS missionary conference in Rwanda.

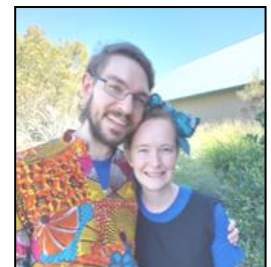
*In the peace of Christ Jesus, Pastor Jason, Anna Marie, Johanes, and Immanuel Steffenson*

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

Dear friends and family,

After we emptied the cistern; I realized the rubber sealant on the floor from the 90's was coming off. There were some substantial cracks going throughout the floor. Life switched into a crash course of cement and fixing cracks. Due to our remote location, resources are limited. I was also cautious about how things are done because I didn't want to make a mistake that would harm our family through the drinking water. God helped provide an answer to our situation, and our cistern is full.

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



**BIRTHDAYS**  
**Dec. & Jan.**

8th Connor Fields  
10th Karen Brown  
11th Nancy Ezell  
12th Karen McGee  
23rd George Loman  
2nd Maggie Steidley-Defrange  
11th Jace Yagher  
22nd Connie Loman



Don't Forget to Pray for  
 our Members

**BAPTISMAL**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

**December & January**  
1st Jerry Yagher  
2nd Pastor Glenn Meyer  
12th Jacky Lovelace  
25th Nancy Ezell  
1st Joyce Hendrickson  
10th Cameron Fields  
10th Connor Fields  
26th Seth Gleichman



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
**December**

*Pastor Glenn & Loretta*  
*In honor of Josh's birthday*



**ANNIVERSARIES**

**December & January**  
Don & Carol Niedfeldt 14th  
Joshua & Jennifer Meyer 17th  
Richard & Sheila Curtis 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, 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, Esther Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law),

**Mourning:** the family of Darlys Hutten

**In War Times:** for Ukraine vs. Russia, for Israel vs. Hamas (Gaza strip), civil war in Sudan (home to 2 Lutheran church bodies)

**Thanksgiving:** For all the blessings to sustain our bodies and lives, for Jenn Mieritz' successful foot surgery last week, for gentle rain to water the plants, for the beautiful Christmas lights decorating the city and many yards/houses, for the food Gods puts on our table, for the signs of Advent that help us prepare for the coming birth of Jesus Christ celebration

**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), Carrie Ann Swain, end stage cancer (Youth Director at Immanuel, Broken Arrow)

**Special Healing Needs:** Audrey Brown, stage 4 liver disease, Sheila Curtis, new health issues, Don Gleichman, health issues, Rev. John Huss chemo after brain tumor surgery, Connie Loman, after heart cath; Ronnie Loman, recovering from chemo, Jason Martin, after heart valve and pacemaker surgery (Niedfeldt friend), Karen McGee, health issues, Jenn Mieritz, after foot surgery, Don Niedfeldt, scheduled for heart procedure this week, Micah Niedfeldt, after foot surgery and afib, (Don and Carol's son), 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 December:** for World Peace.

**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.

**Advent and Christmas Eve Schedule**

This year's Advent and Christmas theme is based on the hymn's first line "Lo, He Comes on Clouds Descending." Readings from 1 Thessalonians shaped the sermons that will come on the Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve. Midweek sermons will follow the gospel readings from the 3-year lectionary of the day.

Midweek Advent services will be:

Wednesday, Dec. 6            7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 13.        7:00 pm

Christmas Eve candlelight service Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>    5:00 pm

**December Sunday Morning Bible Class:**  
**The Second Coming of Christ**  
 Adult Bible Study Goals

- Integrate preaching and teaching
- Encourage study and reflection during the week
- Move from information to transformation
- Create a warm and loving learning environment
- Invite friends

The sermons during Advent will be based on 1 Thessalonians. In it he repeatedly mentions Christ’s Second Coming (see 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–10). It makes sense, then, to take up some of the more confusing ideas related to the end of the world. Here is the schedule:

- Advent 1** – What about the Rapture?
- Advent 2** – Christian Funerals in Light of the Last Day
- Advent 3** – A Renewed Heaven and Earth
- Advent 4** – Is Hell for Real?

**Voters Assembly Meeting & Potluck, Sunday, December 10**

The final regular Voter’s Meeting of the year is Sunday Dec. 10 after the worship service. Voting for next year’s Church Council is the main agenda item. Also, after the service is a **potluck meal** with the pork medallions from the anniversary dinner as the main course.

**Election Coming Sunday, Dec. 10!**

This may be the year for you to get involved and serve the church in one of these positions. If you are serving now, please consider that you have learned what needs to be done. Please keep on doing it so that we have the value of your experience in our programs. We really need a secretary to do minutes and manage records. A trustee to manage the list of projects would take that burden off of Pastor.

**2024 COUNCIL POSITIONS**

(Election Voter’s Meeting Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>) **Nominated**    Currently serving

<b>Elder1(not up for election)</b>	<b>Jerome Atkinson</b>	<b>Jerome Atkinson</b>
<b>Elder2 (up for election)</b>		<b>vacant</b>
<b>Elder3(not election)</b>		<b>vacant</b>
<b>President</b>		Jerome Atkinson
<b>Vice President</b>		vacant
<b>Secretary</b>		vacant
<b>Financial Secretary</b>		Julie Atkinson
<b>Treasurer</b>		Teresa Reese
<b>Education</b>		Carol Niedfeldt
<b>Evangelism</b>		Carol Niedfeldt
<b>Fellowship</b>		Vacant
<b>Social Ministries</b>		Don Niedfeldt
<b>Stewardship</b>		Vacant
<b>Youth</b>		Loretta Meyer
<b>Trustee</b>		vacant

**USHERS CAPTAIN**  
Jerome Atkinson

# December 2023

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Loretta Meyer

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**  
Jerome Atkinson

**GREETER**  
Don Niedfeldt

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	4 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	5	6 Advent Midweek Service at 7:00 pm	7 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 Pastor's Day Off
10 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am Voter's Meeting after church	11	12	13 Advent Midweek Service at 7:00 pm	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 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	20	21 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 Pastor's Day Off
24 Christmas Eve Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Pastor on Vacation	27	28 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 Pastor's Day Off
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Altar Flowers for the Month</b>            Pastor Glenn &amp; Loretta            In honor of Josh's Birthday         </div>						

**USHERS CAPTAIN**  
Don Niedfeldt

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Karen Yagher

# January 2024

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**  
Jerome Atkinson

**GREETER**  
Don Niedfeldt

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>
7 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am</i>	8 <i>Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm</i>	9	10	11 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i>	12 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast at 8:30 am</i>
14 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am</i>	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	16	17	18 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i>	19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>
21 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am</i>	22	23	24 <i>Newsletter Article &amp; Calendar Events Due</i>	25 <i>Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm</i>	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off LWML Meeting at 10:00 am</i>
28 <i>Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30</i>	29 <i>Pastor will be away at Lent Workshop</i>	30 <i>Pastor will be away at Lent Workshop</i>	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <b>Altar Flowers for the Month</b> </div>		

