



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MISSOURI SYNOD

# Trinity Trumpet

September 2024



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

## Jesus Is About Second Chances

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know about you, but I have a hard time imagining how absolutely despised tax collectors were in Jesus' day. We may feel that way about the IRS of our US government, but we generally don't relate it personally to the persons that work there. After all, they are just employees. But then, so was Matthew, the tax collector, who became a disciple, apostle and evangelist. One big difference was his employer, the *occupying* Roman government. Collecting taxes from me that benefit me in some way is onerous, but tolerable. Collecting taxes for the enemy that daily oppresses everyone and takes the money back to its home is deplorable. That was Matthew, the tax collector.

Jesus gave Matthew a simple imperative, "Follow me." So he did. No fanfare,

but a dinner for Jesus came later with other tax collectors and known sinners present. The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with sinners and criticized him for associating with such people. *"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Mat. 9:12-13, ESV)

Matthew got acceptance and forgiveness for his past sins from Jesus. After such an unrighteous life, we would call this a "second chance." He also became the writer of a Gospel that carries his name. One could say Matthew "wrote the book" on Jesus' life. His eyewitness account of Jesus means so much to those of us that

never met Jesus face-to-face, yet still believe. Jesus could have chosen someone with a better reputation and better religious training, but he chose a least likely candidate to be a disciple in this man.

If Jesus can use the likes of Matthew for such a pivotal role in the Christian church founded upon his teaching, then he can certainly use you and me. Jesus gives us chance-after-chance to repent because we need that many chances. We sin, repent of it, then sin again. Each time, we are driven by guilt to the loving arms of our Savior, Christ Jesus, where the imperative to "follow me" rings in our ears. Jesus always gives us the "second chance" to amend our evil ways and get back to god-pleasing ways.



Thankfully, my God is dedicated to "second chances" for the children he loves. May we have the gratefulness of Matthew to fully appreciate our loving, forgiving God. May our response be to love our neighbor as ourselves and forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Glenn

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Mt.13:44-46, 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. Carol is looking for outreach and evangelism ideas. Note that the Prison video service ministry is paused until we can connect with new OSP chaplain and get it restarted.

*Carol Niedfeldt*

**Education:** Men Cooking Bible Study in August. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study is paused, but

working plans to restart. Sunday Bible class is studying the Gospel of John.

*Carol Niedfeldt*

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

**Fellowship:** Family Night is scheduled for Saturday, September 21. The menu is taco bar.

**Social Ministries:** Don N. takes old Portals of Prayer booklets to Shared Blessings. Don attends the Local Service Coalition to find out things in the community that strengthen families, while sharing our Olive Branch outreach. The food pantry is well stocked so invite some poor, hungry friends to use it.

*Don Niedfeldt*

**LWML:** in August, the LWML didn't meet because Loretta was out of town for several weeks. *Loretta Meyer*

**Olive Branch Outreach**

Pastor has no currently active cases. The local volunteer Southeast early settlement has a new director in McAlester for the five-county region.

**Disc Golf:** Course mowing is in full swing, but August heat didn't really slow that need. 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 against hand tool-wielding thieves.

**Trustees:** We need to use our load of large gravel to fill in our many washout holes by downspouts. A new microwave/ electric oven was installed in his place to replace the old double oven with the broken glass door. The church filed an insurance claim on roofs for church, his place and the garage with accompanying damage and is working with the contractor on solutions for them.

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



### BIBLE STUDY GROUPS (See calendar page for dates)

Men Cooking Bible Study Breakfast 2nd Saturday at 9:00 am  
 Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study will resume in September  
 Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays at 9:15 am

### **Rev. Jason & Anna with their sons Johanes and Immanuel**

Dear friends and family,

The Steffenson Family is currently preparing for redeployment back to Tanzania. After being medically evacuated in March. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers as we continue to piece life back together in the mercy of the Lord and develop strategies for redeployment.

*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 give thanks to God for the birth He provided Ford through his baptism. He is a child of God and we rest assured that he is in God's hands. We are making plans to return to Gbintiri within the upcoming weeks. We have been blessed to be with family here in Accra during this transition in our lives. Thank you for praying for us during this time. Prayers have certainly been offered and heard. We thank our creator.

May God be with you and your congregations!

*Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi and family*

**BIRTHDAYS**  
September

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



Prayers for our members

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**  
September

7th Susan McGee  
12th Jefferson Billos  
13th Julie Ann Atkinson  
15th Jason Billos  
25th Nicholas Valenta



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
September



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
September  
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:** Squeakie Brown, Primary lateral sclerosis, Sheila Curtis health issues, Teresa Dove, in nursing home rehab, Harold Dunlap, health issues, Tina Hile, health issues (former member), Chris Meyer, head and neck pain, Rick Meyer, Parkinson's (Pastor's brother), Lisa (Milton) Brown, COPD & heart blockages, Teresa Reese, various pains

**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.

**Mourning:** for the family of Edward Moeller, (Loretta's uncle), for the family of Rev. Jerry Burnside, (1st Assy. of God pastor),

**Thanksgiving:** For Squeakie Brown, acceptable biopsy results, Pastor Glenn, completing occupational therapy for shoulder injury, for Rev. John Huss, after successful stem cell transplant,

**Enduring Cancer:** Shirley Ashford, (friend of Karen McGee, Paul Holbrook, throat cancer (Reese family uncle), Rev. John Huss, brain cancer, Linda Ketchum, cancer (friend of Karen McGee), Ronnie Loman, melanoma, Charlie Riddles, cancer (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Carrie Ann Swain, end stage cancer (Youth Director at Immanuel, Broken Arrow)

**Special Healing Needs:** Kathy Brakenseik, health issues (friend of Karen McGee), Jenny Holbrook, chemo for cancer, (Reese's aunt), Rev. John Huss, recovering after stem cell transplant for brain cancer, Karen McGee, health issues, Charlie Riddles, seeking more cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Teresa Sablatura, home doing PT and OT after brain tumor surgery (Loretta's sister), Carrie Ann Swain, immunotherapy 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

**In War Times:** for Ukraine vs. Russia, for Israel vs. various enemies, for various civil wars in African countries

**Prayer Focus for the Month of September:** 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 karenbrown@hotmail.com. Also call Pastor Glenn 918-916-4469 cell.

**USHERS CAPTAIN**  
Don Niedfeldt

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Karen Yagher

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**  
Jerome Atkinson

**GREETER**  
Don Niedfeldt

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Pastor's Day Off
8 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	9	10 Pastor will be away at Circuit Meeting	11 Patriot Day	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast at 9:00 am
15 Grandparent's Day Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	16 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	17	18	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off Family Night 6pm - 9pm
22 Autumn begins Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	23	24 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	25	26	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 Pastor's Day Off LW/ML Meeting at 10:00 am
29 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Altar Flowers for the Month</b> Jerry &amp; Karen Yagher for Granddaughter Jillian's 14th and Grandson Jasper's 9th Birthdays</p> </div>				





