



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

December 2024



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A Birthday without Cake and Ice Cream!?!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you suppose that the disciples celebrated Jesus' birthday with him while they were his companions? We can only imagine because we don't know. It does seem reasonable to expect that they might have partied with him on that day. Yet, Scripture is silent on this point.

The church had little to say about the significance of Jesus' birthday as a celebration until hundreds of years after he died. That's when a well-intentioned bishop instigated the birthday celebration of Christmas. Yet, in the church year, it comes as more of a rehearsal for the miraculous events of his hum-

ble birth. It savors the fulfillment of so many prophecies in the coming of the little child. Joy in the church is expressed in joyous song, reverent holiness, and downright awe.

In time, our culture has come to omit the points emphasized by the church in favor of secularized merriment and gifting inspired by the giving clergyman, Saint Nicholas. More recently, sensitivity to non-Christians seeks to eliminate any reference to Jesus, favoring the holiday season and holiday tree – which greatly offend even the nominal Christians of the world.

It's time, then, to make the next move ... to reinstall the birthday of Jesus, the Christ, in our families. Maybe we families need to have birthday cake and ice cream. Maybe we need to sing the Happy Birthday song to Jesus. Once the party is started, we can move on to the churchly songs ... Away in a Manger, and O Little Town of Bethlehem. A reading from Luke 2 fits as well.

Even if you're not ready to start a new family tradition, I hope this little journey of possibility thinking has been fun. I know that any excuse to eat cake and ice cream is good



enough for me. God's blessings to you and yours this Christmas season! And do enjoy a Happy New Year when it comes time for that party.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Glenn

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:11–12, ESV)

MINISTRY NEWS

Stewardship: We concluded the stewardship sermon series Nov. 24th. 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 of 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 Celebrate Recovery meeting as a congregation led outreach program to replace Olive Branch. Carol is looking for outreach and evangelism ideas. The Prison video service ministry at OSP has restarted. Hope4Life spiritual discussion group resumes next year.

Carol Niedfeldt

Education: Men Cooking Bible Study is paused for the holidays. His

Place His Time Bible Study is well attended on Thursdays at 11:30 am in His Place and includes food. Sunday Bible class is back to studying the Gospel of John after 3 weeks of stewardship themed studies. Hope4Life plans to proceed in January without formal disc golf, but still with food. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: no report. *Loretta Meyer*

Fellowship: The Family Night on Saturday, Nov. 16th had 15 people, including two ladies from Hope House that enjoyed the church connection and all the fun. Five disc golfers signed the attendance sheet and planned to return, but didn't.

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. The food pantry is well stocked so invite some poor, hungry friends to use it.

Youth: no active youth in the congregation.

Don Niedfeldt

LWML: We enjoyed the Nov. meeting craft making shower curtain ring wreaths Christmas tree ornaments. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

Pastor has no currently active cases.

Disc Golf: The Disc Golf club will have a fundraiser tournament on Eagle Hill Course Jan. 11th. Glenn Morris was elected club president and Sherman Alberson as VP. Pastor remains treasurer. Disc golf guys are hoping to work on the new 9 project this winter and to cut down lots of dead trees.

Trustees: A new computer for the balcony media use has arrived. That one will replace the old, slow office machine. We'll move all systems to Windows 11. We need to use our load of large gravel to fill in our many washout holes by downspouts. The church gave up on a rejected insurance claim on steel roofs for the church. Jerome did repairs that we hope will hold gutter and vent penetration leaks for the winter.

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

His Place His Time Bible Study every Thursday at 11:30 am

Hope 4 Life will pause after Tuesday November 19th at 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays at 9:15 am

Rev. Jason & Anna with their sons Johanes and Immanuel

Dear friends and family,

Lord-willing, the role which Reverend Jason will carry out in Italy will be two fold. First, P. Jason will remotely teach the biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew) for the online program at Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia. This seminary is training pastors across Europe and parts of Asia. In addition to teaching, P. Jason will work alongside P. Tyler McMiller in catechizing and organizing Christians across Italy and possibly into other European countries. Anna Marie, Johanes, and Immanuel will also begin Italian instruction in St. Louis in preparation for our transition to Italy.

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 hope to take a sabbatical in the spring. After this, we plan to travel to see who we can in the summer and fall of 2025. Please pray for us as we finalize our time in Ghana, make plans for our sabbatical, and plan for and make visits. This will all include a lot of travel and transition. Our Sabbatical will be a structured, planned out time to heal and recover from aspects of life and ministry during this past season of life and placement. It is also supposed to be a time to reflect on how we can continue serving by using the gifts God has given us. As we begin to plan this out, we are looking for a place to stay and for a vehicle. *Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi and family*



BIRTHDAYS
December

8th Connor Fields
10th Karen Brown
11th Nancy Ezell
12th Karen McGee
23rd George Loman



Prayers for our members
 and families

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS
December

1st Jerry Yagher
2nd Pastor Glenn Meyer
11th John Hutten
11th Kipp Opperman, Jr.
12th Jacky Lovelace
25th Nancy Ezell



ALTAR FLOWERS
December

For
Joshua Meyer's Birthday



ANNIVERSARIES
December

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, assisted living, Harold Dunlap, health issues, Tina Hile, health issues (former member), Chris Meyer, TMJ, 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.

Thanksgiving: For the LWM ladies that put up the Christmas tree, for the altar guild volunteers that put up the Advent wreath, for new banners adorning walls, for good food and family time on Thanksgiving, for the new media computer for the balcony, for holiday band programs starting next week, for the singers in the Community Choir giving their time to practice every week, for midweek advent services to help prepare our hearts for the Savior.

World peace: war in Ukraine and the middle East, threats connected to that in many other places, for strife and fear in times of intense electioneering, for culture conflicts around lifestyles and morality

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: Squeaky Brown, broken leg, Don Niedfeldt, foot infection, Kathy Brakenseik, health issues (friend of Karen McGee), Jenny Holbrook, chemo for cancer, (Reese's aunt), Rev. John Huss, stem cell transplant for brain cancer, Ronnie Loman, after cancerous lung tumor surgery, Karen McGee, health issues, Loretta Meyer, boot therapy for foot, Charlie Riddles, seeking more cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), Carrie Ann Swain, immunotherapy for cancer (Youth Director at Immanuel, Broken Arrow), for all those suffering from colds and flu.

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

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 karensdbrown@hotmail.com. Also call Pastor Glenn 918-916-4469 cell.

Advent and Christmas Eve Theme and Schedule

My midweek series for Advent and Christmas Eve employs a section in Isaiah – Chapter 40:1–11. For Advent grandeur, majesty, and supreme artistry, no section in Isaiah comes close to these verses. Their soaring language and unforgettable imagery are tightly woven into the fabric of the season's hymnody, liturgy, and devotional literature. An inspiring time awaits us as we sing anew, "Savior of the Nations Come" to conclude each service.

Midweek Advent services will be:

Wednesday, Dec. 11	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 18.	6:30 pm

Christmas Eve candlelight service

Sunday, Dec. 24 th	5:00 pm.
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USHERS CAPTAIN
Jerome Atkinson

ALTAR GUILD
Loretta Meyer

December 2024

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Jerome Atkinson

GREETER
Don Niedfeldt

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	2	3 Decorating the Church for Christmas at 10am. Then go to lunch.	4 Advent Midweek Service 6:30 pm	5 Enfauila Midweek Service 10:00 am His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Pearl Harbor Day Pastor's Day Off LWM Meeting at 11am at Conabunga on Choctaw Street
8 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	9 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	10 Pastor will be away at Circuit Meeting	11 Advent Midweek Service 6:30 pm	12 Enfauila Midweek Service 10:00 am His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am McAlester Parade 6:30 pm	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Pastor's Day Off Community Choir Concert at 7:00 pm Arch Thompson
15 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Voter's Meeting after church	16	17 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	18 Advent Midweek Service 6:30 pm	19 Enfauila Midweek Service 10:00 am His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off Winter Begins
22 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 5pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	30	31 New Years Eve	<i>Pastor Glenn & Loretta will be on Vacation</i>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Altar Flowers for the Month For Josh Meyer's Birthday</p> </div>						

