



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

January 2025



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Epiphany Brings in a New Year!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Mark your calendars and aim to come. On Monday, January 6th, at 7:00 pm, you're invited to a special Epiphany worship service at First Lutheran, Muskogee. It's hosted by First, Muskogee, First Tahlequah, Good Shepherd, Eufaula, Trinity McAlester and Trinity Okmulgee with four pastors participating in the worship service.

In the early church, the highest festival day was Epiphany. Easter came in second and Christmas was added later. Does this surprise you? We seldom contemplate how the various festival days of the church years came to be celebrated. It's not surprising when you consider that all of them came after Jesus ascended to his glory. Festival days are part of the natural development of the church. So what is the special place we hold for Epiphany? It is the official recognition of the Christ child, Jesus, coming into the world as a child of Israel and David and the whole line of ancestors including Abraham and going back to Adam. The eighth day circumcision celebrated the arrival of every Hebrew

boy as a member of the chosen nation -- God's own people.

The mysterious birth of the Son of God as a son of man marks the end of the long wait for him. Since Adam, and especially since Abraham, the chosen nation expected each male child to be the one. Now, He has arrived as a human child of God even while he is the Son of God. As the angel told Joseph, "He will save his people from their sins." Forgiveness of sins as our church emphasis is strangely unique among the 80-odd churches in the area. Who else has that in their slogan? What a joy that a number of new people have made worshipping with us a priority in the past year, though others shifted to attending less often. We saw some amazing things in 2024: Pastor took a sabbatical and we came to know Pastor Rostek, His Place got a free new heat pump system and electrical service entrance after presumed lightning strike damage, we got an insurance check for the hail damaged garage roof, a rid-

ing mower was donated along with a push mower, a new computer was purchased for the balcony media system, a new robot vacuum was donated, church stone walls got power-washed to brighten up things, and many small things improved. In ministry: Hope4Life outreach spring and fall sessions reached a dozen new people, His Place His Time Bible study is prospering, Family nights happened, and Pastor's 20 year ordination celebration was great. In the world: a republican got elected president of the USA promising change and prosperity, the economy improved so that interest rates have started down, completed McAlester highway construction makes the crossings work better.

The new year brings opportunity to develop an alignment of our church with Good Shepherd, Eufaula towards cooperative ministry and we pray that new Lutherans come into our community and join us. We pray God's blessing to prosper all the ministries we touch in 2025, that the number in



God's kingdom would grow through them. It takes us personally stepping out of our closed lives to make new baptized friends, who we can disciple for Christ. So let us begin this New Year appropriately focused on our newborn state -- that we are children of God, baptized into righteousness and bound for heaven. With this foundational thought firmly planted in our mind, we can approach the year with the power of Christ. We can approach the year with the humility of Christian servanthood. And, we can approach the year prepared in the salvation of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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: New 2025 offering envelopes are out. 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. Hope4Life plans to proceed in January without formal disc golf, but still with food. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: no active youth in the congregation.
Loretta Meyer

Fellowship: We need to schedule the next Family Night.

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 Dec. meeting at Cowabunga making ceramics. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

Pastor has no currently active cases.

Disc Golf: The Disc Golf club plans a fundraiser tournament on Eagle Hill Course Jan. 11. 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. The current one will be moved to 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. Jerome's repairs on the gutter and vent penetration leaks held in recent hard rain.

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 will resume Jan. 9th at its regular time
Hope 4 Life will pause till further notice
Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sundays at 9:15 am

Michael & Naomi and family

Dear friends and family,

We are asking if you would have somewhere our family might be able to stay during the first half of 2025. Please feel free to reach out to us.

Our first choice is to be in the Omaha, Kansas City, Topeka, or Wichita areas. However, we are open to other possibilities as well.

LBT has advised us to stay in our own place so that we can have our own space for processing and grieving our leaving Ghana and growing and preparing for our next placement. We also are wondering if someone may have a vehicle we could borrow for any period of time during our stay in the US (whether it would work for a portion of our stay or for our entire stay, which may be about 12-14 months). Please feel free to send us an email if you have ideas or could help us out with either the sabbatical housing or vehicle situations. Michael-Naomi.Ersland@lbt.org.

Please continue to pray for us as we work through the process of determining where we are going for a next placement. We continue to trust God in his timing. Again and again God has provided. Thank you for walking with us and for your prayers and encouragement.

May the God who created you, died for you, and rose again for you continue to bless and keep you in His Word.

Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi and family



BIRTHDAYS
January



2nd Maggie Steidley-Defrange
8th Vicki Lyles
8th Warnie Pritchett
11th Jace Yagher
22nd Connie Loman

Prayers to our God
 are always heard

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS
January

1st Joyce Hendrickson
10th Cameron Fields
10th Connor Fields
26th Seth Gleichman
30th Jay Henson



ALTAR FLOWERS
January

Hannah & Teresa Reese
For the New Year



ANNIVERSARIES

January
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, 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 mild December weather allowing us to attend church services on Sundays and special days, for a year of income that kept us making progress toward our goals, for the saints gone before us to heaven, for the angels that watch over us – particularly the children, for all those that worked to prepare this worship setting and service for us, for house and home, for clothing and shoes, for having the things we need.

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, Collin Coats, recovering from GI bleed (Pastor's godson), 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, lung tumor removed by surgery was stage 4 melanoma, Karen McGee, health issues, Loretta Meyer, physical therapy for heel pain, Angela Pritchett, chronic RA and other medical issues, Warnie Pritchett, anxiety disorder, 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 January: Sanctity of Life.

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.

His Place Rental's Needed

It costs us about \$250 a month to cover insurance and utilities for this building. Your diligent help to seek out new renters for meetings, parties or family gatherings will help us keep that building as a ministry for outreach. Our Bible study groups and Family Night events hinge on this resource. Orange flyers are in the entryway with prices and policies. Pastor is the default rental manager to contact. You can help by telling your friends so that we get new rentals.

USHERS CAPTAIN
Don Niedfeldt

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Yagher

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Jerome Atkinson

GREETER
Don Niedfeldt

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Altar Flowers for the Month Hannah & Teresa Reese A New Year </div>						
5 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	6 Epiphany Service at 1st Lutheran In Muskogee at 7:00 pm	7	8	9 His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 Pastor's Day Off
12 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	13 Church Council Meeting at 2:00 pm	14 Pastor will be away at Tulsa Circuit Meeting	15	16 His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 Pastor's Day Off
19 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	20 Inauguration Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	22	23 His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 Pastor's Day Off Disc Golf Tournament LW/M Meeting at 10:00 am
26 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	27	28	29	30 His Place His Time Bible Study 11:30 am	31 Pastor's Day Off	

