



trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity Trumpet

February 2024



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God's Presence in Highs and Lows

Dear Friends in Christ,

February reminds me of nothing but cold weather, at first thought. Sometimes, we get a short burst of early spring weather to get the fish and fishermen all worked up. But winter is still in control. Yet this year brings us a roller-coaster ride of strong emotions tied to special days. In the church year, Epiphany gives way to the festival of Jesus at the Transfiguration up on the mountain. We join the three disciples in awe at the glimpse of Jesus in his glorified, too-bright-to-look-at state. And we know he is God – literally able to light up the world! He certainly breaks the darkness with his light. Then, on Valentine's Day, no less, Ash Wednesday pops up in the middle of the week, calling us to repent while ashes adorn our foreheads. We come down to the reality of our sinful nature and the sins we need to unload on the shoulders of our Savior. It's a dark day of contrition

for us – one that is also joyful as we eat and drink the body and blood of our Savior so that we become righteous. It reminds me of what Job said to God in the end, "therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6, ESV) Even Job lost his patience with God and sinned by demanding that God explain his suffering. In faith, Job repented, and God restored him to greater glory than before his testing. (Job 42:10-11) So maybe you can celebrate St. Valentine's Day on Fat Tuesday or earlier, because it always arrives to bring us cheer as we seek out people we love and demonstrate our feelings in thoughtful ways. (Many of these are rather fattening ways; so delaying your celebration until Lent is in full swing could interrupt a Lenten fast, if you are thinking of trying such a thing.) Still, we are expected to give and re-

ceive flowers, hearts, cards and candy, fine dining and tender conversation with the loves of our life, which aim to lift us to the heights of feeling good. Not very Lent-like. Finally, our governmental efficiency fills out the special days list with President's Day, commemorating Washington and all of the American presidents. With so many presidents to honor and remember, most people just see it as a holiday from school or work. We like months with long weekends! Personally, I'm rooting for a break from the cold and wet -- like we've had this week -- so that I can get outdoors and enjoy God's creation fishing, golfing, in some park, or playing disc golf. So, we have these high points and low points in February. In each one, God is present with us and for our benefit. Through cold and comfort, victory and struggle, God's omni-



presence heartens us. He seeks one thing from us, repentance of our sins in faith so that our loving relationship with him goes on ... forever and ever! Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Glenn

"therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." " And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." (Job 42: 6,10, 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 stay paused until it warms up and Pastor has time to get people excited about it again. Carol is looking for outreach and evangelism ideas. Note that the Prison

video service ministry is paused until OSP gets a new chaplain. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Education: Men Cooking Bible Study is restarting in February because everybody wants to eat pancakes and sausage together. Deep Dive Cell Group Bible Study is doing a new study on John's letters. Sunday Bible class continues a chapter by chapter study of Revelation. *Carol Niedfeldt*

Youth: no report. *Loretta Meyer*

Fellowship: The next church potluck will be for the Voter's meeting in March.

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

LWML: The January meeting was doing a craft with beads and enjoying devotion, time together and food. *Loretta Meyer*

Olive Branch Outreach

Pastor spent 3 weeks in the Synod's training – and learned the skills for doing arbitration. He has a new church conflict case in Missouri that is in prep-stage at this time.

Disc Golf: Things have been stalled for a while! 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: the old Altar guild storage cabinet was moved 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. A contractor is scheduled to redo all the roof penetrations – having already redone the kitchen vent hood.

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 3rd 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

Rev. Jason & Anna with their sons Johanes and Immanuel

Dear friends and family,

Anna Marie is pictured to the left at the outdoor water spigot where we hand-wash laundry on the property we rent. She recently dug out a draining ditch and hole in the fence so that there would not be standing water in which mosquitos could breed. We have to be on the lookout for malaria and other dangerous mosquito-born illnesses.

- Thank you for partnering with us in this work of the Lord among His people in Tanzania.

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

Michael & Naomi and baby Ford Ersland

Dear friends and family,

Since we talked last, the rain clouds we were hoping for came over the land. Rain and wind swept over the earth. In our home, we felt safe, comfortable, and excited that our empty cistern was getting filled from the downpour. We realized, and our joy for water in our cistern turned to sorrow upon discovering the destruction in our region. We all have experienced trauma. How we deal with it is a different story. Trauma—it "is a wound of the heart and mind that causes deep suffering." It enters our lives, and we are never the same again. Our host family had flooding, the church collapsed from the water, crops of peanuts freshly picked and piled in fields were swept away.

- Pray for a local community that has been experiencing much trauma.
- May God help everyone in the area to be present with them and to grieve with them.

Confident in Christ, Michael and Naomi and baby Ford Ersland



BIRTHDAYS

February

- 5th Carol Niedfeldt
- 18th Rick Curtis
- 20th Karen Yagher
- 21st Hannah Reese



RETURN TO PAGES 10-11

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

February

- 18th Aaron Phipps
- 18th Audrey Phipps
- 27th Brenda Phipps



ALTAR FLOWERS

February

*Pastor Glenn
For Valentine's Day*



ANNIVERSARIES

February

Randall & Roberta Lopez 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, Harold Dunlap, health issues, Tina Hile, health issues (former member), Chris Meyer, head and neck pain, Rick Meyer, Parkinson's, (Pastor's brother), Micah Niedfeldt, afib, (Don and Carol's son), Lisa (Milton) Brown, COPD & heart blockages, Teresa Reese, various pains, Esther Valenta, health issues (Linda Valenta's mother-in-law),

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.

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

Thanksgiving: For the warmth and sunshine last week to lift our spirits, for Audrey Brown, starting back to work after hospitalization, for weed killer applied to parking area for sandburs and weeds, for Carol Niedfeldt's 75th birthday, for technology workers that try to keep us safe from online criminals, for small business retail owners that support our community, for ice cream and chocolate and donuts, for the poetry of the Psalms to comfort us.

Enduring Cancer: 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: Sheila Curtis, healing after eye surgery, Don Gleichman, CHF, Jenny Holbrook, health issues, (Reese's aunt), Rev. John Huss, chemo for brain cancer, Karen McGee, health issues, Charlie Riddles, seeking more cancer treatment (Bill Borgelt's cousin), 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.

Prayer Focus for the Month of February: Spiritual Renewal of our Inactive Members.

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.

Lenten Series and Theme

Lent begins Wednesday, February 14th and our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:30 pm. The theme for our midweek services this year is "Calling Us Home." Each Wednesday we'll delve into 1 Peter and learn truths that are both challenging and comforting for this journey we are on, the journey to our true home in heaven. Join us!

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14	Communion worship*	6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Feb. 21-Mar. 20	Midweek worship	6:30 pm
Alternate Wednesdays, Feb. 21	Soup & salad	5:30 pm
Wednesday, Mar. 6	Soup & salad	5:30 pm
Wednesday, Mar. 20	Soup & salad	5:30 pm
Palm Sunday, Mar. 24	worship	10:30 am
Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28	worship	6:30 pm
Good Friday, Mar. 29	worship	6:30 pm
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31	breakfast potluck	9:15 am
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31	worship	10:30 am

* With imposition of ashes

USHERS CAPTAIN
Jerome Atkinson

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Yagher

COMMUNION ASSISTANT
Jerome Atkinson

GREETER
Don Niedfeldt

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	5	6	7	8 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 Pastor's Day Off
11 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	12	13 Pastor will be away at Tulsa Circuit Meeting	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Communion Worship Service at 6:30 pm	15 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 Pastor's Day Off Men Cooking Breakfast 8:30 am
18 Bible Study 9:15 am Communion Worship 10:30 am	19 Presidents' Day	20 Newsletter Article & Calendar Events Due	21 Lent Midweek Soup & Salad Meal at 5:30 pm Worship Service at 6:30 pm	22 Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 Pastor's Day Off LWML Meeting at 10:00 am
25 Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30	26	27	28 Lent Midweek Worship Service at 6:30 pm	29 Leap Day Deep Dive Bible Study at 1:00 pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Altar Flowers for the Month Pastor Glenn For Valentine's Day </div>	

