



# Trinity Trumpeter



## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

5315 S 162nd St. Walton, NE 68461

[www.TrinityWalton.org](http://www.TrinityWalton.org)

Church Office: 402-782-6515

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Mission statement: "To make disciples of all people through a faithful ministry of Word and Sacrament."

VOLUME 2

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### December – Why go to Church every Sunday – part Three

Why go to church every Sunday? Third, because the weekly gathering is a practical link teaching individuals how to navigate life "out there." Your congregation has a role as a "mediating institution." In recent decades, two contradictory trends have weakened the local congregation. On one hand, there is hyper-individualism, "man turned in on himself," the self-idolatry of our culture. On the other hand- and this goes against American's rampant individualism-people have grown to rely upon centralized institutions, like government and big business, to fix their needs. Institutions in the middle, like congregations, have been weakened. Social commentator Yuval Levin describes it well.

Individualism tends to weaken mediating power centers that stand between the individual and the nation as a whole-from families to local communities (including local governments), (and) religious institutions .... In their place, it strengthens individuals, on the one hand, and a central government, on the other, since such a government is most able to treat individuals equally by treating them all impersonally. For this reason, a hyper-individualist culture is likely to be governed by a hyper-centralized government, and each is likely to exacerbate the worst inclinations of the other.'

That is part of the reason why church attendance is down. Society has influenced people to look within themselves for truth and direction, and when things are not going well, to look to an impersonal Big Brother. In "Christian America" the congregation had a mediating role between the individual and the world "out there." Your local congregation can reclaim, consciously and in publicity, that mediating role. For example, Bethany Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, describes itself as "A Belonging Place and a Launching Base." That captures the mediating role your congregation can serve.

Peter sees the congregations throughout Asia Minor as mediating institutions, gatherings to help individual believers conduct themselves with holiness "out there." He gave guidance on how to live in a non-Christian society that was often unfriendly, even to the point of shunning Christians. The recipients of his letter were not subject to an empire-wide persecution. There were sporadic, localized persecutions, and Peter may have written when Nero was blaming and punishing Christians for the fire of Rome in 64, but even that was localized. Writing from Rome, Peter had information about what the young churches were experiencing in Asia Minor. He teaches individuals how to navigate situations where there can be hostility against the faith. He counsels submission to people in power, to government (2:17-18), to masters (2: 18-25), to believing wives of non-believing husbands (3: 1-6), to believing husbands to honor their wives as

co-heirs "of the grace of life" (3:7), and to all in general (3:8-12). The last thing that Peter wanted was for his hearers to misunderstand Christian liberty and thereby add to the jeopardy of the fledgling church. Instead, he counsels his hearers to live out their vocations with submission to people in power and good works imitating Christ and for the sake of his mission. "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evil-doers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (2: 11-12).

To be an effective mediating institution, the quality of congregational life should be inviting. Since pressure from peers to give up or compromise Christian faith was intense in Peter's day, and because media and popular opinion are insidiously persuasive in our own time, winsome congregational life in all aspects-worship, socializing, and good works in the community-attracts and helps keep believers in the fold. John Barclay has shown that St. Paul desired his congregations to have different value systems than those of the culture.

The gift of God in Christ is articulated as an unconditioned gift in its creation of a community that neither mirrors nor endorses the regnant systems of value .... Paul makes clear that the truth of the good news is entirely lost if it is not enacted in creative social relations that are apt to challenge central features of their cultural environment. The relationship between "theology" and "social practice" is thus mutually constitutive: it is the Christ-event that gives meaning and shape to communal practice, while it is in social practice that the nature of the Christ-event is, or is not, realized.

Similarly, Peter urged his hearers to make their congregations different from everything else experienced during the week.

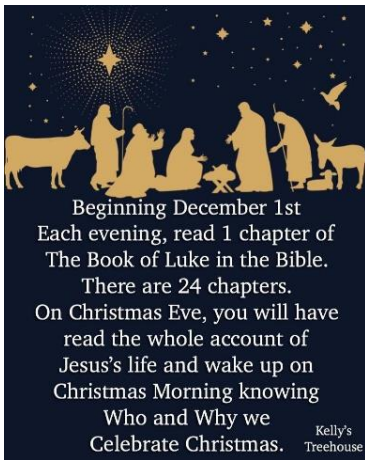
Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Pt 4:8-11).

Worshipping every Sunday informs lives of vocation in the world. This mediating role is an important function in our Christian witness to contemporary America. Levin writes:

The ultimate soul-forming institutions in a free society are frequently religious institutions. Traditional religion offers a direct challenge to the ethic of the age of fracture. Religious commitments command us to a mixture of responsibility, sympathy, lawfulness, and righteousness that align our wants with our duties. They help form us to be free.

These three reasons-there are more-for going to church every Sunday do not minimize our traditional reason for worship, the baptized gathering around Word and Sacrament. In truth, these reasons elevate the importance of the Means of Grace in the context of the twenty-first century. If we are perplexed why people are coming to church less often, we might be looking at things through a twentieth century, "Christian America" lens, when in fact we are blessed with new times and new opportunities. Your congregation has always been important, but in these new times it's more important than ever. Let's teach our people the benefits of weekly church attendance!

*Dale A. Meyer*  
*President - St. Louis Seminary*



**Ladies Tuesday Bible study** will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and they will be having their annual Christmas Lunch at Greenfields at 12:45pm.

**Sunday Morning Bible** Pastor Holtzen with the continuation of the Stories of the Old Testament Bible study!

Part 2 of the Martin Luther Bible study will pick back up in January.  
Day and time TBD!

### Our Mission Dollars at Work

The Nebraska District, through its office in Seward, equips and encourages the District's 243 congregations and their members. It also supports ministries in Nebraska to specific communities, such as ethnic and campus ministries. Together, the District Office staff equips and encourages pastors and church workers, assists congregations in exploring new opportunities for outreach, provides resources to the District's Lutheran schools, assists congregations and members with estate and planned giving, and plans faith formation events and conferences. While the staff serves with joy and dedication, they serve from a building that is facing limits in accessibility, technology, and overall usability for the ministry needs of today.



**Sunday Circle group:** Our meetings are on the first Sunday of the month after church service. New members are always welcome! The annual Cookie walk will be at 11:00am on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to donate Christmas Goodies, please have them in the church kitchen by 9:00 on Sunday Morning. The Church will be open on Saturday for the Dinner with Friends event noon-?? Please place your cookies on the table in the church Library on Saturday. Proceeds will go to the Sunday Circle to be used to create new banners for the Church and to fund other charitable projects.



#### Angel Tree

Sunday Circle is asking for your help. Be an angel to someone in need. Fresh start is a transitional home for homeless women. You can make their Christmas special and show

God's love by selecting an angel from the tree in the narthex, buying the gift and returning it to church on or before December 8. We have gift ideas for 11 residents, most of the ideas are around \$10, as well as ideas for stocking stuffers

"Fresh Start is a transitional shelter that empowers homeless women to change their lives by recognizing and utilizing their strengths to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency! Fresh Start, Inc. is a non-profit agency located in Lincoln, Nebraska. When women are homeless, there are many contributing factors. When women are on the path back home, Fresh Start is there to contribute to their success. Fresh Start is more than a shelter, it's a goals program designed to support women who are working diligently to improve their lives." Their website is [freshstarthome.org](http://freshstarthome.org)

**Mary & Martha League:** Will not meet in December. But would like to share a poem with you!

If You Look for Me at Christmas  
Author Unknown

If you look for me at Christmas,  
you won't need a special star;  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations,  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.

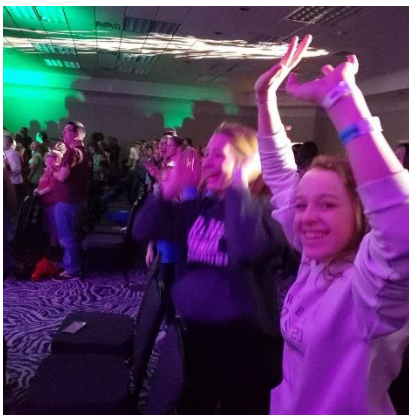
But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do,  
and listen to your heart, you'll find,  
I'm waiting there for you.



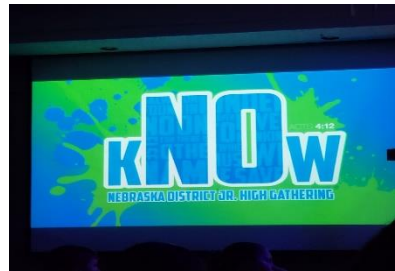
You're the one I want to be with,  
you're the reason that I came,  
and you'll find Me in the stillness,  
as I'm whispering your name. ~~Love Jesus

## **Youth Group**

Had a great time at the Kearney Retreat. They thank the congregation for their support!



Their next event will be a Christmas party on December 8<sup>th</sup> in the church youth room. 6-8pm



**Dinner Out:** in December has been changed to Dinner IN! The congregation is invited to another Birthday Party! Marvin Kemper will be 80 on December 10<sup>th</sup> and Nathaniel will be 26 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Kemper family would like you to join them in the celebration! December 15<sup>th</sup>, after church. Please sign up in the Narthex by December 8<sup>th</sup>, if you will be joining the party. Lunch will be provided. No gifts please.

## December Birthdays

12/1 Gordon Maahs  
12/6 David Keagy  
12/7 Shirley Holtzen  
12/8 Jasi Maahs, Joshua May  
12/10 Barbie Bruss, Marvin Kemper  
12/11 Amber Lemke  
12/12 Knoxley May  
12/13 Ashley May  
12/15 Tim Holtzen, Ted Oehlert  
12/18 Landry Maahs  
12/22 Genny Keagy  
12/24 Derrick Rexroth



### Anniversaries

12/3/1977 David & Kathy May  
12/4/1977 Gordon & Jule Maahs  
12/18/2011 Joshua & Ashley May  
12/30/1962 David & Ginny Keagy  
12/31/2012 Matthew & Erin Singh



**Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands:** Meetings held the second Wednesday of the month @ 10:30 November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Dinner with Friends ~~~Remember Pearl Harbor Day**  
December 7, 1941

Honoring our local veterans!

Please bring a photo or memento of your loved ones who have served, past or present.

We will be serving a wonderful homemade meal while sharing friendship and memories.

Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner with Friends  
December 7, 2019

Meal served at noon.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
5315 S. 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Walton

RSVP: Please call or Text Deborah Rocker by November 30<sup>th</sup>  
402-499-6522



## Behind the Scenes:

Several members have made some large donations to our church.

A special thank you to:

**Joyce Oetjen and Dave & Ginny Keagy** for a monetary donation to the Sunday School. New bells and cases were bought to replace the missing bells.

**Terri & Nancy Klopfenstein** have donated a portable sound system. The set includes three microphones with stands. As well as three music stands.

## Alberts Joke of the month!

### From your Secretary!

**Did you know this?** The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. -Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love. -The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation..... -Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. -The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. -The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** ♡ yes, I said **MERRY CHRISTmas** because Christmas is not without **CHRIST!**

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12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

**Thank YOU!** Erin Singh would like to thank you all for the cards and prayers. "I am on the mend and doing much better!"

## Bible Trivia

**November Answers: The Biblical Greenhouse:** 1. A gourd (Jonah 4:6), 2 Leah (Genesis 30:14-16), 3. Jacob (Genesis 30:37-39), 4. A broom tree (1 Kings 19:4) 5. A Wormwood (Proverbs 5:4; Amos 5:7) 6. Mustard (Matthew 13:31) 7. Song of Solomon (2:1), 8. Behemoth (Job 40:15-22) 9. Son of Solomon (2:3) 10. A sycamore (Luke 19:1-4), 11. The palm (Psalm 92:12, Jeremiah 10:5), 12. Gopherwood (Genesis 6:14), 13. The Passover (Exodus 12:8), 14. Manna (Exodus 12:8)

### UP on the Roof

1. When Samson pulled the building down, how many people had been sitting on the rooftop?
2. Who had a vision of unclean animals while he prayed on a housetop?
3. In the days of Ezra, what did some of the Jews build on their rooftops?
4. Who prophesied judgment on the people of Jerusalem because they burned incense to idols on their roofs?
5. Who hid two Israelite spies up on her rooftop among stalks of flax?
6. What king saw his nude neighbor on a rooftop?
7. Who had intercourse on a rooftop with all his father's concubines?
8. What was the ailment of the and who was let down through a roof in Capernaum so he could be healed by Jesus?
9. Who slept on Samuel's roof when he visited with him?

Be the first to submit the correct answers to the church secretary and receive a prize!  
Clues will be given in the Sunday bulletin sometime during the month of December.

### Looking ahead to 2020!

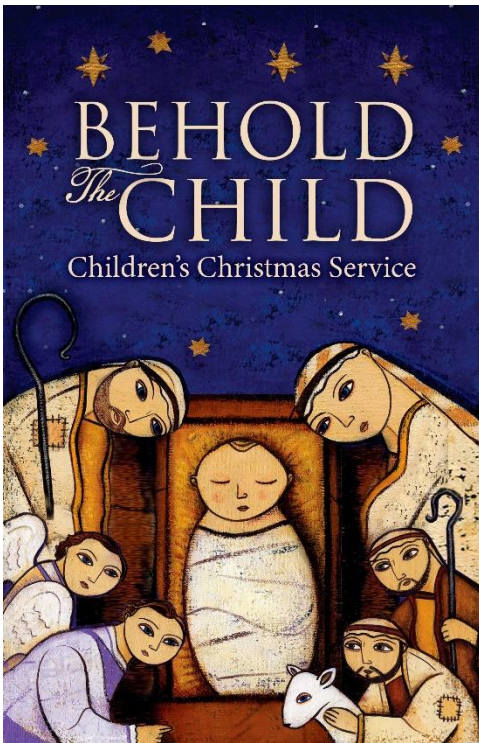
**Voters Meeting Dates for 2020! January 26<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**VBS will be the first week in June. 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Our theme for 2020 is Rainforest Explorers. We plan to have an outing to the Omaha zoo the following weekend.**

<https://rainforestexplorers.cph.org/>

**Would you like to be an Usher? A member of the Alter guild? Now is the time to sign up. Please let Tim Holtzen know if you would like to be an usher. Talk with Laura Hametis if you would like to join the Alter guild.**

**Be on the look in your mailbox in the narthex, or in your email. Laura is still trying to get information in the computer. We have everyone's birthdays, but we are missing the year! We also need baptismal and confirmation dates for some. She will leave you a note in your mailbox or email you! Thank you in advance!**



## Advent & Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 for the Children's service.

Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. There will be two Saturday morning rehearsals December 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-11am

Candle Light Service will be at 7:00pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Day will be 10:00am with Communion.

Choir Rehearsals will be Wednesday after the Advent Services. December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Dinner will be at 6:00pm, Services @ 7:00

The Choir will sing *Oh Holy Night*.

**Celebrate Christmas Concert ~ December 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 6pm ~ Hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church  
1800 S. 84th St. Lincoln, NE ~ Cost is \$5 ~ 5th grade and under are free!**

Join us for the Lincoln Circuit LCMS Celebrate Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8th at 6pm!

This will be a fun Christmas concert for the whole family to help us focus on Jesus this season.

The musical smorgasbord will feature the Lincoln Lutheran High School Brass Ensemble, a mass children and adult choir, string quartet, vocal ensemble, and 15-piece orchestra. The 8 Christmas carol congregational sing-a-longs will be accompanied by the brass ensemble and orchestra. This is a must-see event to get you in the Christmas spirit!

Purchase tickets at the door of the church or online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-celebration-of-christmas-concert-tickets-78503418839>



Looking for a Trip Coordinator for this this event!  
Would you be interested? Please talk with Pastor if you would like to help out!!

**Alaska Mission Trip:** Alaska in the summer of 2020! Learn more at <https://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org/>  
Or follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/alaskamissionforchrist/> on Facebook you will see lots of pictures of the mission teams and the variety of ages represented.



# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10 am Divine Service 11:15am Sunday Circle	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:45pm: Ladies Bible Study, Lunch out!	<b>4</b> Advent Meal 6:00 Service 7:00 Choir Practice 8:00	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Dinner With Friends Noon-??
<b>8</b> 9 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10 am Divine Service 11am Cookie Walk Decorate Church Youth Event 6-8pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 am Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands Advent Meal 6:00 Service 7:00 Choir Practice 8:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30 am Elder's Meeting Christmas Eve Children's Rehearsal 9-11am
<b>15</b> 9 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Mom's Food Pantry Dinner Out	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Advent Meal 6:00 Service 7:00 Choir Practice 8:00	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> Christmas Eve Children's Rehearsal 9-11am
<b>22</b> 9 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10 am Divine Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Children's Service 5:30pm Candle Light 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Divine Service 10:00am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10 am Divine Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve				

**Acolytes, Ushers, and Altar Guild servers** please send an email to Tim Holtzen as he is setting up an email reminder for those who serve. Thank you! [tah@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:tah@nebrwesleyan.edu)

**Those serving in December 2019 Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

**Elders**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Alan Retzlaff, Tracy Refior  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Tim Holtzen, Steve Cartagena  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Hank Oetjen, Alan Retzlaff  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Roger Pearson, Tim Holtzen  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Steve Cartagena Tracy Refior

**Altar Guild**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Erin Singh, Megan Rexroth  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Shirley Retzlaff, Deb Pavey  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Kristi Refior, Allison Kemper  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Margene Meyer, Rosanne McClarnon  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Lori Cartagena, Betty Hodtwalker

**Ushers**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Jakob Kemper, Mark Moerer  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Jakob Kemper, Randy Schroeder  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Kirk Nisley, Carl Siefert  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Deb Rocker, Carl Siefert  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Ethan Kemper, Matt Broening

**Acolytes**

**1<sup>st</sup>** Sophia & Grayson May  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Emma & Madison Rink  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Ruby Oetjen, Marin Maahs  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Shannon Moerer, Emma Rink  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Grayson & Sophia May

**Ushers for Advent Services:** **4<sup>th</sup>:** John Page, Delbert Eickhoff, **11<sup>th</sup>** Andrew Haase, Josh May, **18<sup>th</sup>** Deb Pfeifer, Roland Meyer, **Christmas Eve:** Joyce Oetjen, Matt Broening, **Christmas Day:** Jeff Plager, Nate Rink

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**5315 S. 162<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Walton, NE 68461-9695**