

# Trinity Trumpeter



## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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

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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Foundation Lifetime Plan for Giving Course that I attended the last week in September in Denver, Colorado was eye opening. I did not know that **75% of LCMS clergy believe it is wrong to speak about money in church.** Scripture provides many references to money and giving.

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you. Deut. 16.17

For if there is first a willing mind, it (your offering to God) is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor 8.12

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Cor 16.2 (see also Lev 14.30)

**The Widow's Offering-** And he [Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. Mark 12:41-42

**Lay Up Treasures in Heaven -** “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24  
**Stewards by Identity**

It started in Creation. God formed us to be His stewards or managers. This was certainly true in terms of managing (working and protecting) the earth and everything in it (Gen 2:15). After man disobeyed the one prohibition that God gave, not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it became clear that humans have a problem living out their identity as stewards.

What God created as good became corrupted. Man had a desire to be like God and succumbed to the tempter's voice, “You can be like God.” The first Adam failed, and God acted to expel Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise. It might have seemed harsh, but God's infinite kindness was already at work. There was a blessing to fulfill. God's Word chronicles the journey He took as He faithfully loved His creation through the people who were given His promise.

We were created to be caretakers of all God made for our benefit. Christians are conduits of the Good News of salvation! “Rescued from eternal hardship, sorrow and death, the promised Messiah will be sent to deliver us,” Gen.3:15. This is the focal pivot for a full life.

## **The Ownership Issue**

Two common myths exist about charitable gift planning that often show up in people's worldview. This myth gives evidence of a two-story view of truth that misguides perceptions about the spiritual nature and shows itself in dualism or a conflicted understanding of truth.

The first myth is that charitable gift planning is only about money. In reality, such planning is more about relationships and the aspirations and goals of people. People will not continue to give if they do not have a satisfying relationship with the mission that they are being encouraged to support.

The second myth is that charitable gift planning is about manipulation. The distinction between effective charitable gift development and manipulation is largely a motivational issue. Leader manipulation or self-interest can thwart the effectiveness of the Gospel. A self-serving motivation must not prevail in Christian organizations. Read James 2:1-12.

Within our culture of dualism, we see two realms or rooms. In the upper room, people of faith see Jesus and His Holy Spirit planning eternal gifts for the Church. In a more temporal manner, the Church's services, including charitable gift planning, advances support for the eternal benefits that the Lord of the Church has already provided. The need of His people to receive such eternal gifts is supported as stewards plan their gifts generously, even as all have been given to live in a blessed and holy circle of life.

Those with a temporal worldview see through the lens of the lower room. In this room they understand gift planning as a secular matter, as a necessary nuisance extracting money from people and concerned only with selfish purposes. In this realm such planning should only be left to secular advisors.

People of every generation compartmentalize these perspectives and therefore fail to capitalize on the potential benefits or blessings from charitable gift planning done in the name of Christ. The false sense of economics fails to see and understand the greater economies that God has given the world in Christ.

A person's understanding of stewardship rests on the ownership issue. God's Word is clear. God is the Owner and His creation are stewards or managers. But sadly, a human worldview often sees it reversed.

St. Paul gave this crucial reminder to the Corinthian believers. "Since we are God's coworkers, we urge you not to let God's kindness be wasted on you," 2 Cor. 6:1.

When it comes to money and material possessions, too many of us, if we are completely honest, are owned by the things that we own. Like slaves serving an unrelenting master, we spend our lifetimes making money so we can buy stuff that grows old or breaks down and needs repair. And then we have to make more money to replace or repair all that stuff. But let me give you four simple, single-syllable words that will give you freedom—real financial freedom. These words aren't original with me, and quite frankly, they don't sound all that profound, but I've never come across four words in all my studies that can better free us from financial bondage. Here they are: God owns it all.

**Look closely at these verses.**

Exodus 19:5: "All the earth is Mine."

Deuteronomy 10:14: "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it."

Job 41:11: "Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine."

Psalms 24:1: "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, / the world, and all who live in it."

1 Corinthians 6:19: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

1 Corinthians 7:23: "You were bought with a price."

1 Timothy 6:7: "We have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."

Without our God, we would be bankrupt corpses. All that we have is His. We are born into this world with our hands empty, and we leave this world not only with empty hands but wearing clothing without pockets. When you stop to think about it, our souls have no pockets either. We take nothing with us. God owns it all.

By His infinite kindness, God has created us for a relationship with Him. He has bound Himself to us in Creation, even to the point of sending His Son to redeem us to be His holy people through the sacrifices of Christ, our Lord. God's stewards see themselves as conduits of His love.

*Pastor Kohnke*

Next month "First Fruits Giving"

### **Ladies Tuesday Bible**

The woman's Bible study group will meet in the church again on November 2, @ 12:45. We will continue our Bible Study on Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah. It's never too late to join the study! Hope to see you there. Please let Shirley Holtzen know if you will be joining and she will get you a copy of the study. Ph. 531-289-0396



**Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Study with Pastor Holtzen. Starts at 9:00a.m. Horrendous events on earth! Fantastic glory and joy in heaven! Comfort for believers! Puzzling symbolism! Those are all found in the book of Revelation. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we will begin a study of Revelation.

**Monday Evening Bible study meets on Monday nights** at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall and on zoom!

**A Study Based on Scripture and the Augsburg Confession:** The Augsburg Confession, also known as the Augustan Confession or the Augustana from its Latin name, Confession Augustana, is the primary confession of faith of the Lutheran Church and one of the most important documents of the Protestant Reformation. The Augsburg Confession was written in both German and Latin and was presented by a number of German rulers and free-cities at the Diet of Augsburg on 25 June 1530.

The Holy Roman Emperor Charles V had called on the Princes and Free Territories in Germany to explain their religious convictions in an attempt to restore religious and political unity in the Holy Roman Empire and rally support against the Ottoman invasion in the 16th century Siege of Vienna. It is the fourth document contained in the Lutheran Book of Concord.

**Overview** The Augsburg Confession is just as relevant to the life of the Church today as it was during the sixteenth century Reformation.

Topic 1-	Confessing the Faith	11/1/2021
Topic 2-	Triune God	11/8/2021
Topic 3-	Sin	11/15/2021
Topic 4-	Jesus Christ	11/22/2021
Topic 5-	Ministry	11/29/2021

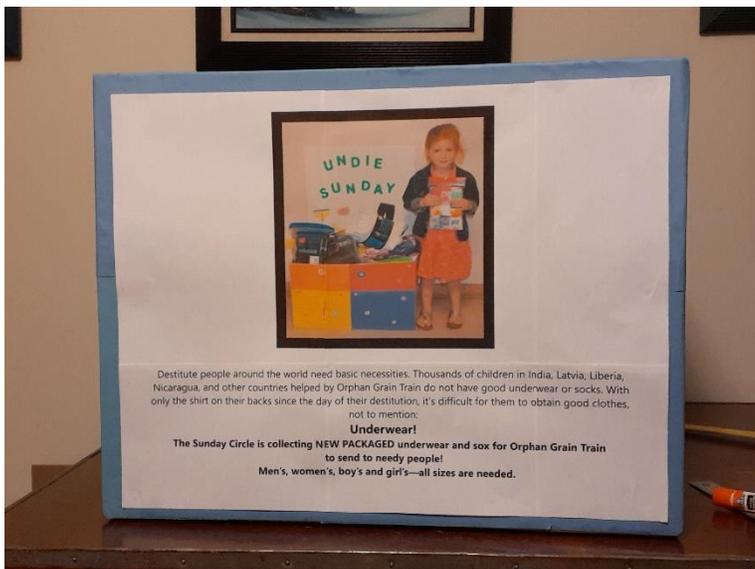
You have the option to attend in person at the Church or online using Zoom. Please use this link below to sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084aada82baaff2-astudy>

**Dinner Out:** on **November 21, 2021**? We have skipped November and December in the past, Karen will take a poll in church to determine if there are enough people wanting to go or wait till January. ☺

**Sunday Circle** will meet next on November 7, after church.

The Sunday Circle continues to make banners for the church. We hope you enjoyed the Joyful Joyful We adore Thee banner that has been hanging in the church since September. Our most recent banner is the Reformation banner Saved by Grace which will be in the church on Reformation Sunday. We are now in the process of creating two banners for Easter Sunday.

We have taken on a project called **Undie Sunday** for Orphan Grain Train. We are collecting **new packaged underwear and socks** in all sizes and for males or females. Look for the big blue collection box in the Narthex of the church starting Sunday, November 29 and going to Sunday, December 19th. Destitute people around the world need basic necessities. A cash donation can be given to Shirley Holtzen who will then purchase the underwear and socks for the big blue box.



**Mary & Martha League:** The next meeting is November 18, 1:30 pm.

A big THANK YOU goes to those of you who are donating to the Mite Box each month. So far this year we have collect \$684.31. Remember this money goes to support charitable activities in Nebraska and around the world.

We are still collecting the Best Choice barcode label from items you purchase at Russ's Market or Super Saver. These labels are turned in for money that we then donate to Lutheran Family Services each year. If you have any of these barcode labels you may give them to Mary Jo Colbert or put them in Mary and Martha League mail slot found in the Narthex.

We are also collecting Super Saver and Russ's receipts that are dated since September 1 of 2021 and going to May of 2022. These receipts are sent to Trinity Lincoln in exchange for Best Choice barcodes from them.

We have located a lockable filing cabinet thanks to Candy Kohnke for the donation. This cabinet will keep our archival records dating back to the beginning of our society when your mothers, grandmothers or great grandmothers were members.



## Orphan Grain Train Mission

Several members of Trinity have been volunteering at Orphan Grain Train one morning a month since September sorting clothing donations and packing boxes. Thank you for the many donations of clothing that we took in October. There is much need in the United States and around the world so please continue to clean out those closets. We welcome others who would like to volunteer. We meet at the church at 8:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and we work from 9:00 - 11:30.



## Our Mission Dollars at Work

Our \$500 Mission Dollars for November goes to: Armed Forces Ministry of the LCMS.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains — active and reserve — their families and the veteran population. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains; sponsors annual training for all chaplains; and maintains close, pastoral relationships with chaplains after endorsement, offering counsel, training and advice throughout their entire careers.



## November Birthdays

11/1 Rev. Kevin Kohnke  
11/3 Greg Pavey  
11/4 Lance Maahs  
11/5 Kristi Refior  
11/6 John Page  
11/10 Lucas Bruss, Karen Luebke, Dick Heinke  
11/10 Emah Maahs, Kilee Oetjen, Wauneta Peterson  
11/11 Madelyn Kuska, Moses Grant  
11/15 Terry Overbeck  
11/16 Greg Retzlaff  
11/21 James Rodney  
11/22 Rev. Merlin Holtzen  
11/24 Tali Harding  
11/27 Steve Haack  
11/28 Willa Oetjen  
11/29 Shelby Bruss



### Anniversaries

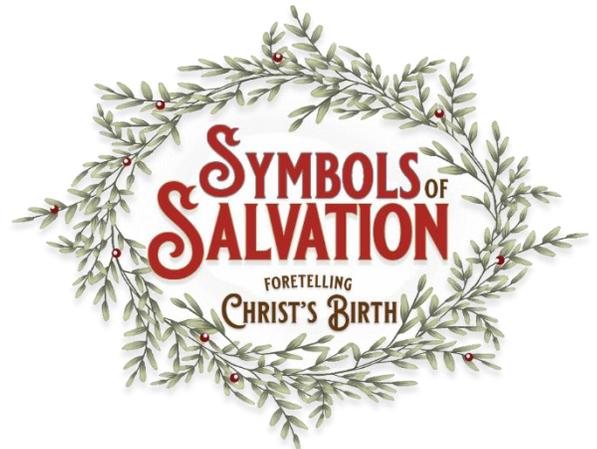
11/1/1963 Mervin & Margene Meyer  
11/11/2000 Nathan & Jill Rink  
11/29/1969 Rev. Merlin & Shirley Holtzen

## Alberts Joke of the month and one from your church secretary.



## Christmas Services

Erin Singh is working with the Sunday school kids for the Children's Christmas Eve Service. Please let her know if your kids will be available for the program. Christmas Eve is on a Friday. Children's Service will be at 5:30, Candle light service at 7:00. Christmas day will be at 10:00 on Saturday morning.



# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study 7:00 pm	2 Woman's Bible Study 12:45 Fellowship Hall	3	4	5	6 Set your clocks back one hour!
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends!!! 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service All Saints Day Observed 11:15 Sunday Circle	8 Bible Study 7:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13 Elder's Meeting 7:00 am
14 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service	15 Bible Study 7:00 pm	16	17 Orphan Grain Train- Work Day	18 1:30 p.m. Mary & Martha League	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service Dinner Out??	22 Bible Study 7:00 pm	23	24 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.	25 	26	27
28 First Sunday in Advent 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service Mite Box Sunday	29 Bible Study 7:00 pm	30				

**Those serving in November, 2021 Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

**Elders**

7<sup>th</sup> Tracy Refior, Tim Holtzen  
14<sup>th</sup> Steve Cartagena, Roger Pearson  
21<sup>st</sup> Hank Oetjen, Tracy Refior  
28<sup>th</sup> Alan Retzlaff, Tim Holtzen

**Altar Guild**

7<sup>th</sup> Becky Nisley, Laura Hametis  
14<sup>th</sup> Sandy Kemper, Allison Kemper  
21<sup>st</sup> Margene Meyer Kristi Refior  
28<sup>th</sup> Candy Kohnke, Shirley Retzlaff

**Acolyte**

7<sup>th</sup> Knoxly May  
14<sup>th</sup> Willa Oetjen  
21<sup>st</sup> Ruby Oetjen  
28<sup>th</sup> Lydia Oetjen

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