

# 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

Rev. Dr. Kevin J. Kohnke, Pastor: [TrinityWaltonPastor@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityWaltonPastor@gmail.com)

Laura Hametis, Secretary: [TrinityWaltonSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityWaltonSecretary@gmail.com)

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

VOLUME 4

December 2021

No. 12

### First-fruits Giving

One tree planted in paradise came with God’s instructions about its fruit for the first Adam. The second Adam came to restore paradise with another tree planted in desolation. God emptied Himself on that tree of the cross. We became heirs of His kingdom. St. Paul records it this way: “You know about the kindness (grace) of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor in order to make you rich through his poverty,” 2 Cor. 8:9.

God emptied Himself. This month of December we see this take place in our Scripture readings, as Jesus leaves His heavenly home and become one of us! Jesus takes on human flesh. He came to live under the law, to fulfill the law, to suffer, die and rise again so that we have forgiveness of all sins. We now have the blessings of His fullness! Those who see God have a purity of heart - the Spirit’s fruit that helps us to live according to God’s desire.

A closer look at our Savior’s teaching reveals His mastery and versatility in talking about spiritual first fruits, generosity and giving. He focused on the first commandment in a way that is full of grace and truth, even if seasoned with salt.

As one trusts and gives to God, God reveals Himself. This is not a cause-and-effect relationship but a resulting benefit of God’s grace. The more we trust His promises, the more we see Him.

The tithe proclaims God’s ownership and power in our life. Seeing God, we can live in a nurturing relationship of God’s economies, commissioned for His mission and empowered by His Spirit’s power. Generosity is a blessing that God gives to those who trust Him and take Him at His Word.

Encouraging people to think and talk about tithing and living in a first fruits-first commandment pattern helps others understand Christ’s kindness. This, in turn, strengthens faith, unites hearts and encourages gratitude. Those called by His Name, see themselves walking with the risen Lord.

Giving is a first-fruits endeavor. It is differentiated in examples given by God’s Word as tithes, offerings and alms. When we explore generosity in the Church, we look at the nature of giving considering the Creator of these gifts. We pay close attention to the way in which God’s covenant people, the Israelites, and the early Christians organized and fulfilled their caring and gift-gathering efforts to help others, regardless of their status. This giving differentiates Christians from many contemporary cultures who give to help themselves or benefit causes with quid pro quo.

It seems clear in the biblical pattern that a continuum exists in God's economies to combine current gifts (tithes and offerings) with special or project offerings culminating in testamentary (end of life) gifting. This pattern gave evidence to a balanced, whole life dimension of gratitude and generosity. Giving assets was as common as giving income. In other words, an unblemished animal represented earnings and the corpus or principal from which such a contribution was produced.

This was the biblical pattern for gift gathering in what the author refers to as 'agapethy' over 'philanthropy.' This is also part of the wisdom that we see in the "Year of Jubilee" that God instituted in the early history of Israel. Every 50 years, God's people were reminded of what true freedom was in their economic lives as debts were forgiven and the land was redeemed. God's economic pattern reflects the redemptive relationship He desired with His people. The standard testifying to belief was benchmarked by the first tenth, the tithe. This represented the first fruits of the heart of repentance manifested in the first and best produce in a person's life.

God is to be the first priority among all earthly priorities. God's people recognized that all of life belongs to and is thus dedicated to God. God's blueprint reminds people that God is the owner and we, as His people, are the managers or stewards. The Apostle Paul asks the believers in Corinth, "What do you have that wasn't given to you?" 1 Corinthians 4:7. Are we thinking, talking, walking and encouraging fellow disciples to bask in the first fruits of Christ?

Beyond the tithe, gifts are given as offerings and as alms for the poor, but also to commemorate special festivals and occasions.

The LCMS Foundation uses the tagline Lifetime Plan for Giving. A lifetime of giving is linked to gifts planned during life and testamentary transfers, all dedicated to God for holy purposes, stored and managed in temple treasuries for the good work of being a blessing to the nations. These elements can be enjoyed and celebrated. The precepts flow from God's heart through His covenant people to bless the world.

January 2022 - "What does this mean for us today?"

*Paster Kohnke*



## What's going on at Church?

"Hey, Rosanne, what is going on at Church, **the parking lot is full of cars?**" "Oh, Margene, did you not read the bulletin? Christian Heritage is having their 2nd annual Light the Night drive through event **December 4th, 9th, 10th, & 11th**. Trinity has again graciously allowed the staff and volunteers of Christian Heritage to use our parking lot." "Margene you can read all about the event at [www.lightthenightforkids.org](http://www.lightthenightforkids.org)

*Editors note: Rosanne and Margene are fictional characters and are not meant to represent anyone you know.... or maybe....*



**Help needed: Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** the church will be decorated for Christmas after the Divine Service. Can you take a few minutes out of your busy schedule and make plans to stay and help? It all comes down on Sunday, January 9, 2022. (Note: We try and undecorate on the Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord, January 6<sup>th</sup>.)

### Ladies Tuesday Bible

The woman's Bible study group will meet in the church again on December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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. will continue 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! **Monday Night Bible Study** has completed the first five lessons of the Augsburg Confession Bible study. The study resumes with lesson six on January 31, 2022. Then another break for Lent and we will finish in the spring with lessons 11-15. 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> if you want to join the study for lessons six to ten.

Topic 6- Marriage	01/31/2022	Topic 11- Confession	04/18/2022
Topic 7- Baptism	02/07/2022	Topic 12- The Mass & Church Ceremonies	04/25/2022
Topic 8- The Lord's Supper	02/14/2022	Topic 13- Free Will	05/02/2022
Topic 9- Good Works	02/21/2022	Topic 14- Church Authority	05/09/2022
Topic 10- The Church	02/28/2022	Topic 15- Civil Government	05/16/2022

### *Break for Lent*

**Dinner Out:** Will resume in January. If you have a place, you would like the group to go to...please share this location with Karen Luebke.

**Sunday Circle** will meet next on December 5, after church.

Undie Sunday for Orphan Grain Train is happening right now. 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.

Don't forget the Cookie walk on December 12th in the Fellowship Hall after church. Anyone wishing to donate Christmas Goodies should have them in the Church kitchen by 9:00 am on Sunday Dec. 12th. The Church will be open from 2:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturday Dec. 11th to accept early donations. Please leave your donation in the Kitchen. Proceeds will go to the Sunday Circle to be used to create new banners for the Church and to fund other charitable projects.

**Mary & Martha League:** The next meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm.

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. This year we have received \$90.00 for your labels. Combine this with the \$100 from the Mary and Martha League, we will be sending them a total of \$190.

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.

The Mary and Martha League will be holding their December 16th meeting in the home of Mary Jo Colbert. We will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with a Christmas Lunch.



### **Our Mission Dollars at Work**

Our \$500 Mission Dollars for November goes to: The Nebraska District

NEBRASKA DISTRICT QUICK FACTS: 99,398 baptized members 238 congregations

Which of the following would you say is true in your community?

- A Everyone in my community is in church on Sunday mornings
- B Almost everyone in my community is in church on Sunday mornings
- C Everyone I know goes to church on Sunday mornings
- D Almost no one in my community is in church on Sunday mornings

Only 39% of adults in Nebraska go to any church each week, and only 33% of baptized LCMS members attend worship services on an average Sunday.



## 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, Opal Harper  
12/17 Knoxley May  
12/13 Ashley May  
12/15 Tim Holtzen, Ted Oehlert  
12/18 Landry Maahs  
12/22 Ginny Keagy  
12/24 Derrick Rexroth



### Anniversaries

12/3/1977 David & Kathy May  
12/4/1977 Gordon & Jule Maahs  
12/18/2011 Joshua & Ashley May  
12/27/2020 Andrew & Mary Haase  
12/30/1962 David & Ginny Keagy  
12/31/2012 Matthew & Erin Singh

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

**This hit home for me.**

**When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries. 🛠️ . When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries. Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C....compassion; some need D...direction. And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light. 💕**

## How to catch Santa



1. Set your bait

Pushken.com



2. Hide

Pushken.com



3. Don't eat the bait

Pushken.com



4. Don't do it

Pushken.com



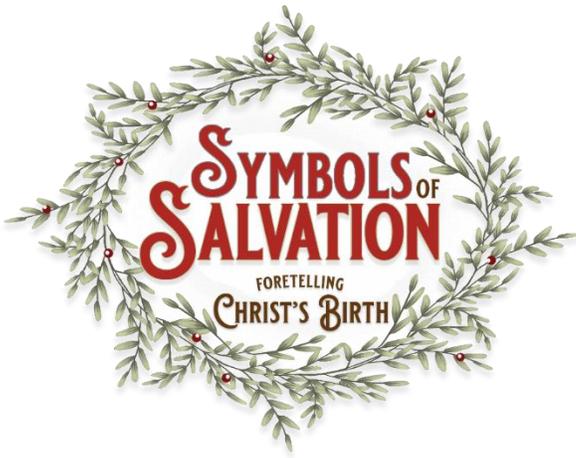
5. Stop!!

Pushken.com



6. You ruined it

Pushken.com



**Our Advent & Christmas Service series is  
Symbols of Salvation Foretelling Christ's Birth.**

December 1, "You Shall Defeat Them as One Man"

Text: Judges 6:11-24; 7:2-4

December 8, "The Lord Sets up His Tent Among Us"

Text: Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

December 15, "You Shall Defeat Them as One Man"

Text: Judges 6:11-24; 7:2-9

**There will be a Children's Message each week.**

## **Christmas Services**

December 24, 2021

5:30 p.m. Children's Service -

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service -

Symbols of Salvation Foretelling Christ's Birth.

"The Nativity of our Lord" Text Luke 2:1-20

**There will be a Children's Message**

December 25, 2021

10:00 a.m. Divine Service-

"A Rather Unusual Christmas Letter" Text: Luke 2:1-20

**There will be a Children's Message**

We have all received a Christmas letter from a family member or friend. Have you ever received a Christmas letter with eternal significance? Come hear this Unusual Christmas Letter.

December 26<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday after Christmas we gather at 10:00 a.m. for the Divine Service.

Theme: "**Patient and Faithful Contentedness**" Text: Luke 2:22-40 Learn again of Simion and why he would joyfully sing, "Lord, now let Thou Thy servant depart in peace."

January 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Second Sunday After Christmas we gather at 10:00 a.m. for the Divine Service

Theme: "**Regularity brings Results**" Text: Luke 2:41-52. Hmm... if you are of a certain age or beyond the word *regularity* has a special meaning. Where is this sermon going????

**The installation of church officers will take place on Sunday,  
January 2, 2022 If you were elected at the October 2021  
Voters' Meeting please plan to be installed.**

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  7 p.m. Advent Service	2	3	4
5 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service 11:15 Sunday Circle	6	7  Woman's Bible Study 12:45 Fellowship Hall	8  7 p.m. Advent Service	9	10	11  Elder's Meeting 7:00 am @HyVee 70 <sup>th</sup> & Pioneer
12 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service <u>Decorate the Church for Christmas</u>	13	14	15 Orphan Grain Train-Work Day  7 p.m. Advent Service	16  1:30 p.m. Mary & Martha League	17	18
19  9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service	20	21	22  NO Advent Service	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Children's Service 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service w/ Communion	25 Christmas Day  10:00 Divine Service w/Communion
26  9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Divine Service Mite Box Sunday	27	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve	

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

**Elders**

5<sup>th</sup> Steve Cartagena, Roger Pearson  
12<sup>th</sup> Alan Retzlaff, Tim Holtzen  
19<sup>th</sup> Hank Oetjen, Roger Pearson  
26<sup>th</sup> Tracy Refior, Alan Retzlaff

**Acolyte**

5<sup>th</sup> Knoxly May  
12<sup>th</sup> Willa Oetjen  
19<sup>th</sup> Ruby Oetjen  
26<sup>th</sup> Lydia Oetjen

**Altar Guild**

5<sup>th</sup> Deb Pavey, Laura Hametis  
12<sup>th</sup> Erin Singh, Megan Rexroth  
19<sup>th</sup> Laura Hametis, Becky Nisley  
26<sup>th</sup> Sandy Kemper, TBD



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