

Holy Trinity Ambassador

August *2014*

Catechism Meeting for 6th and 7th grade students and parents

Monday, August 25th at 7 pm.
Meet in the church.

Sunday School and Bible Class

Resume Sunday, September 7th, at 10:15.
Please join us.

Some websites to check out:

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

www.lcms.org

Concordia Pub. House - www.cph.org

Pirate Christian Radio

www.piratechristianradio.com

For singles, widowed, divorced:

www.inspiration-for-singles.com

Some good blogs:

www.wmltblog.org

www.internetmonk.com

www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith

Internet Porn a problem for you or someone
you know? There is help. Check out:
www.settingcaptivesfree.com

Setting Captives Free exists to offer
Christ-centered Hope and Freedom to those in
the grip of sin through accountability to
Bible-based Truth resulting in the true
enjoyment of Life in and for the Glory of God.

Preschool

Open House and Registration

Thursday, August 7th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

This will provide an opportunity to
meet the teachers, see the classrooms and
playground area, find out class times,
and register your child.

Refreshments will be provided!

Preschool

Parent/Child Orientation Day

Friday, August 22nd between

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. In the Fellowship Hall

This is the time to see the classroom, take
pictures and pick up needed information.

Little Caterpillars

Early Learning Group

The purpose of this class is to foster an early
love of learning in a creative and structured
environment. It will help young children with
socialization and motor skills, as well as
expose them to the types of things they will
learn in preschool. This class provides a
structured way for parents/guardians to learn
with their child. We will meet on Thursday's
9:30 – 11am beginning Sept. 4 at Holy Trinity.
Cost is \$20 per month. For registration and
questions please call 815-672-2393.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Excerpted from *To Live with Christ* - daily devotions by Bo Giertz, Concordia Publishing House, 2008, p.594 - 595.

And great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:27

This is Jesus' description of the house that was built on sand. This is also a description of a life that's built on a foundation other than His Word. Those who build houses like that often believe they're building on solid ground. They stick to stark reality. They know what counts in this world - money, money, and more money - so they lay a solid ground of real assets. Their lives rest on that ground. They definitely haven't built any castles in the sand.

Yet this house will fall, and the fall will be great. Some of these houses fall apart during the owner's lifetime. Some of the houses stand year after year and everything would've gone as planned, if it were only a question of economy. However this passage is about a different kind of building, building a life, something that we received from God and will someday give back. *That's* the building that helplessly falls apart if you *hear* but don't *do*, or do neither one.

The rain fell, as Jesus tells us. It can really rain in Palestine. Wide and muddy rivers stream down the mountainsides, dragging gravel and dirt and throwing itself like a foaming river at everything that comes in its way. At times like these it's not safe and snug to be sitting inside a house and listening to the rain patter on the roof. Instead, anxious questions come. Is the wall going to cave in? Will the roof fall down on us?

That is the kind of house we're living in. You can try to pretend that it isn't so. You've taken care of your money, but the years go by and you can't help noticing that there are cracks in the house. You try to fix it. It works for a while with cosmetics, dying your hair, rejuvenating shots, and occupational therapy. Then, however, comes the tidal wave. Death makes its mark on the house. The poor soul crawls into a corner and refuses to believe that

it's finally over. The end comes, however, and yet it's not really over. A naked, wretched soul wanders toward the final reckoning. Here he meets another river more powerful than any other. It's the river of eternity "whose streams make glad the city of God" (Psalm 46:4). Now another storm is raging, the breath from the four winds that breathes upon these slain, that they may live (Ezekiel 37:9).

Everything that doesn't belong to Christ is swept away. However, everything that is born of the Spirit will rise up and sing and rejoice in the coming of the Lord. It turns out there's a dwelling place that isn't made by hand, a building that comes from God. It rests on the Rock, Jesus, and not even the gates of hell are too much for it.

"Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you."
(Psalm 25:20 ESV)

"In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me! Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!" (Psalm 31:1-2 ESV)

Educate your children

If you prefer school, sports, and other activities (which may be perfectly fine in and by themselves) over what is Christian-the Church service, Divine Liturgy, Lord's Supper- then you have lost your battle already. Do not expect that if the real trouble comes, you would be firm to endure.

Instruct your children at the earliest time possible before the world grabs them through increasingly sophisticated ways of mind control.

Christian education must be done within families. You can't just expect the pastor to do everything for you. Regular church attendance, reading of Scripture, singing hymns, praying, doing works of mercy are always good.

Taken from the *Lutheran Witness*, June/July 2014, p. 14.

Church Council Meeting

July 1, 2014

Present: J. Zavada, K. Varju, D. Gotch, R. Kochis, H. Drysdale, Pastor Gutz

Committee Reports:

Education: VBS was held 6/23-27. It went well. There were 25 students plus a wonderful group of helpers. The new format from 6:30-8 p.m. worked without recess and snack time. It concluded with an ice cream social which was well attended. Shay Lowe was appointed to fill the Board of Education vacancy for 1 year. Preschool enrollment for this fall is currently at 47. Teacher contracts have been signed and returned for next year. Tonya Carter is the new teacher. She worked as a substitute this year.

Elders: Assignments were made for the month. Pastor attended the LCMS National Stewardship Conference. The organ at Old #3 will not be repaired. The elders have accepted the donation of an organ from Tim Kerestes. They have asked Mr. Meyer to inspect it for adjustments before installing it. In the meantime a portable keyboard is being used for services.

Old Business: Voter's Meeting held and the results published.

New Business: There were write in candidates for President with Mike Peters receiving the most votes. He has agreed to serve as Congregational President.

Next meeting is July 8, 2014.

Church Council Meeting

July 8, 2014

Present: M. Peters, J. Zavada, D. Gotch, H. Drysdale, P. Gotch, R. Kochis, J. Christensen, Pastor Gutz

Committee Reports:

Secretary's Report: Valerie McCollum appointed to serve the council secretary vacancy because Kim Varju has moved out of town.

Church Properties: Carpet cleaning will be done in the coming week in the church office, preschool office, entry mats, and area rugs in the preschool.

Education: Preschool budget for the 2014/15 fiscal year was presented and approved.

Elders: Assignments were made for August services.

Next meeting is August 26, 2014.

For the Record

Christian Burial:

Shirley Meyers, July 1, 2014

Marilyn Andree, July 30, 2014

Remember to pray for our shut-in members, those sick & hospitalized:

Bill Andree	Ruth Lehman
James Andree	Donna Murphy
Doris Dimmig	Lois Novak
Bryan Donner	Louise Novotney
Norma Garrett	Virginia O'Brien
Ruth Harlow	Betty Opremchak
Tom Kerestes	John Repko
Helen Kruger	

Serving in August

Elders

Saturday –Eric Harcharik, Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Tim Kerestes, Randy Kochis

Sunday, Old #3 – Randy Kochis

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Larry Runyon,
Steve and Nathan Lightle

Greeters

John & Betty Kochis

Altar Guild

Saturday – Travis & Renelda Quick

Sunday – Val McCollum

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Genesis 1:9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. (ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our blood pressure clinics are going well. Thank you so much for participating and allowing me to serve you. In noticing that a few blood pressures are on the low side (you know who you are), I thought this month we might talk about water. Growing up in Minnesota, water is one of my favorite things, but we'll save fishing for a different day!

On average, 60 percent of our bodies consist of water. Every system in your body depends on water. For example, water flushes toxins out of vital organs, carries nutrients to your cells and provides a moist environment for ear, nose and throat tissues. We lose the water in our systems through perspiration, breathing (yes, breathing), and other bodily functions. Lack of water can lead to dehydration, a condition that occurs when you don't have enough water in your body to carry out normal functions. Even mild dehydration can drain your energy and make you tired. (Mayo Clinic, 2014) We generally use the "8 by 8" rule to replenish the water our bodies need—8 eight ounce glasses of water per day. Keep in mind that specific disease processes (e.g., congestive heart failure, kidney failure) may limit the amount of fluid that can be taken in safely while protecting your heart. We will definitely discuss these topics in the future.

There can be problems with taking in enough water. Remember, fluid isn't necessarily a glass of water. For example, some people do not like water. My grandma would NEVER drink water. She used to say, "water is what you wash your feet with!" Remember, water is in other things--fruit, Jell-O, Kool aid, flavored water, broth (soup), juice, ice, sherbet. If you do not like "water," think of something you do like. For example for low-calorie flavor, add slices of your

favorite fruits such as melon, oranges, berries or even cucumber or mint to a pitcher of water and refrigerate for two hours (it's really good). Also, as we age, some of us lose the sensation of thirst. We just do not feel thirsty. You may have to trick yourself. Carry a glass, thermos, or bottle of your favorite beverage with you. Make it a habit to have it with you like your purse or wallet. If it is near, you will be more likely to take a drink now and then. A good trick--keep a glass of water next to you while you are watching television and start taking a drink during the commercials. It will soon become a habit.

What a wonderful pleasure it is to serve as your parish nurse. It has been about 24 years (I know, we're still "newbies") since I and my family joined Holy Trinity. Twenty-four years of raising children, working, going to school, getting the children through school, getting the children (and the husband) through confirmation, weddings, grandbabies, baptisms...all the blessings He gives us as part of our lives here. All this time we have known each other, but now, through this program, I have been given the gift of getting to *know* you through our health ministry. Romans 1:12 That is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. (ESV)

Our blood pressure clinics for August will be the 3rd and 17th. Hope to see you there.

Blessings and good thoughts,
Jackie Girard, RN, BSN, PN

Good Samaritan Fund

Aldi's food vouchers are in great need during the summer months because children are home. Holy Trinity has been able to bless 78 families with these vouchers. That is \$1,950.00 in supplying food to families since January. These vouchers can only be obtained with proper identification once every 12 months. Thank you for your generous giving allowing us to provide for those in need in our community.

+ Shirley M. Meyers +

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Shirley Meyers.

Shirley was born August 27, 1936, in Lostant. She was the daughter of Samuel and Edith (Hartzell) Stehl. Shirley was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. She was confirmed. She married Albert Meyers on August 11, 1956. On Friday, June 27, Shirley at the age of 77 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Albert Meyers, of Streator; two daughters, Yvonne Meyers and Kay Meyers, of Streator; two sons, Sam (Rosie) Meyers, of Indianapolis and Paul (Jacqueene) Meyers, of Minonk; grandchildren, Janette and Lynette Washington, Buddy Ahlstrom, Philip Meyers, and Luke, Rebekah, Hannah, Leah and Abigail Meyers.

Shirley graduated from Hopkins High School in Granville, in 1954, and Illinois Valley Community College. Shirley taught guitar for many years and was a member of the former Illinois Guitar League. She was a member Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord for our sister Shirley.

+ Marilyn Andree +

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Marilyn Andree.

Mrs. Andree was born August 16, 1932, in Joliet. She was the daughter of William and Louise Gehrke. Marilyn was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. She was confirmed. She married William Andree on September 3, 1950. On Friday, July 25, Marilyn at the age of 82 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Bill; children, Karen (Gary) Watts, of Oswego, Denise (Roger) Lucas, of Blackstone, Sandy (Will) Barbier, of Ottawa, Bruce (Kendra) Andree, of Champaign and Craig Andree, of Chicago. Surviving grandchildren are Jennifer Watts, Greg Lucas, Zachary Watts, Becky Lucas, Chase Andree and Lane Barbier. Surviving great-grandchildren are Blake and Logan Lucas, and Lucas Simmons. Also surviving are two sisters, Gail Papesh and Nancy Pohlman; brothers-in-law, Robert Johnston and Gordon Seil; and numerous nieces and nephews. Marilyn was preceded in death by an infant son, Tommy; her parents; three brothers; two sisters; a brother-in-law; a niece; and a nephew.

Marilyn was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord for our sister Marilyn.

Wednesday Bible Study

Began July 30th, 7 p.m.

We are studying 1 John.

The class will go for 5 weeks.

Please join us.

Cross Memorial Garden Final Update

First, I would like to thank all that have donated to the Cross Memorial Garden. All of the donations collected have been greatly appreciated.

We have made a lot of progress in these last few months. All the rocks and gravel are put in. The pavers are installed and also all of the plants. Watering hoses and fixtures are also installed along with a new outlet and cover for lighting. Low voltage lighting has been installed and my part of the project is completed.

I appreciate the opportunity to do this project for the church and I thank everyone that has donated to this project. We have collected approximately \$1900. A little more than 550 hours were spent on this project and approximately \$2700 was spent to get to this stage. We still are in need of donations to balance the budget on this project and help continue improving the Cross Memorial Garden and court yard. There are more future plans to this garden but more funds are needed to continue improving it.

I thank everyone that has donated their time to make this project possible. Charles Schultz has donated a massive amount of time and expertise to help make this project possible. I could not have completed this project without all your support. Charles Schultz will continue the next phases of this project as more funds are raised. I have loved every bit of this project and would like to continue to help improve the Cross Memorial Garden and courtyard in the future.

Yours in Scouting,

Brian Reynolds

What do you do when persecution strikes?

1) The devil is behind all and every persecution. Accordingly, our fight is not with flesh and blood. It must be thought of in spiritual categories. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). Abide with the Lord and His gifts by all means possible. Come to church where His gifts are administered.

2) When a non-Christian government targets the Church for an attack, it may (among other things) attempt to infiltrate the Church to bring another gospel and so change a church body from inside. Have your ears open to hear the true voice of your Shepherd. Be nurtured in Scripture and the confessions of the Church so that you may "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1).

3) Make sure you know at least some Scripture verses by heart. It will help you pray and find consolation if you are left alone and have no Bible around. Also, remember the stories of those who served as an example in faith, both in ancient and recent times.

4) Pray. Christ hated sin, but He loved sinners. At the time of death, He prayed for His executioners (Luke 23:34), and the first Christian martyr, Stephen, did likewise (Acts 7:60).

5) Do not trust the promises and reassurances of people who are enemies of the faith. Satan is the cause of persecution, and Satan is a liar. We should do our best to show our non-believing neighbors that Christians are loving and kind, but it would not hurt remembering that Christians will never come out right in the eyes of the world anyway.

6) Think about relocation. I do hope that it will never become such a situation in the United States that Christians will have to move to preserve their faith, but we must never exclude any possibilities. Be flexible. It is better to be in a place where you have freedom of worship even when it results in deterioration of your social status and economic prosperity.

Taken from the *Lutheran Witness*, June/July 2014, p. 14.