

Holy Trinity Ambassador

January 2015

Good Samaritan Fund Donations

Thank You to all who helped support the Good Samaritan Fund this past year. This past year we provided \$3,475 in assistance by providing 139 Aldi's gift certificates to those in need. Those requesting assistance must present picture identification and demonstrate need. Thank you to all those who gave donations to the Good Samaritan fund.

2015 Mission Projects

In addition to our support of our District and Synod we continue support of our 2 mission projects: TIM and LHF.

TIM stands for "Together In Mission." This program is set up through our Synod to directly sponsor a particular missionary. We are currently helping to fund a missionary Rev. Jacob Gaugert who is a teaching pastors in Togo, West Africa..

Our 2nd mission project - LHF - stands for "Lutheran Heritage Foundation." This group works to translate specifically Lutheran materials - such as the Small Catechism - into other languages for use by missionaries and Lutherans in foreign countries. They work with materials designed for both children and adults.

We are hoping to contribute \$7,500 to each of these mission projects during 2015.

KFUO radio is the station owned and operated by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, based in St.Louis, Missouri. You can listen to their programming on the web at www.KFUOam.org

On Wednesday morning, January 7, you can hear Pastor Gutz give a "sermonette" during the Matins service from 9:05 - 9:30 a.m. CST. This is part of the "His Time morning show." Pastor Gutz is also scheduled to lead a "live" Bible study on Romans 1:1-17. Tune in and see what it's about. Check it out: www.kfuoam.org

Altar Guild Meeting

Join us Saturday, Jan. 10, at noon. A light lunch will be provided. New volunteers are welcome - both men and women.

What do Lutherans Believe?

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:15 as we are refreshed and reminded of the truth of God's Word.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

If you're not dead yet there is still time repent.

New year. New you? New year. Same old you? Yes. With a turn of the calendar many are looking for a new start, a new beginning, and this year is going to be different attitude.

Go for it. Set some goals. Eat more nutritiously - less fried foods, more fruits and vegetables. Exercise. Get more rest. Turn off the TV. Take a break from the computer. Go for a walk. Repent.

Yes. Repent.

Our God is a God of new beginnings, second chances, and fresh starts. He is a God of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Why? Because we mess up, fail, are selfish, and have goofed up priorities - in other words - we are sinners.

So why not set a goal to sin less? Go for it. If that is something human beings could pull off don't you think they would have discovered it long ago?

What sinners need - what you need - is forgiveness, a second chance, a fresh start. That is given to you in Jesus Christ. It is not based on your trying hard or putting forth an extra good effort. It is found in Jesus Christ who comes to us. Thanks be to God.

What causes the angels in heaven to rejoice? There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7)

So add to your New Year's list of resolutions this one: Repent. Confess to God your sins and believe that in Jesus Christ they are forgiven. There is much joy to be received in this.

Making the Divine Service a priority will help you keep your goal of repenting. It is part of what we do. God names us and claims us. We confess and He forgives.

It's going to be a great year!

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	Ruth Rinkenberger

Serving in January

Elders

Saturday – Tony Miles, Jack Zavada
Sunday – Dave Gotch, Randy Kochis

Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., Ron Freitag
David Kochis, Pete Pastirik

Greeters

Jim & Linda Poundstone

Altar Guild

Saturday – Lori Welch
Sunday – TBA

**A Christian's life is
a window through which
others can see Jesus.**

Private Confession and Absolution

Confessional Hours are held quarterly or by appointment. The next scheduled date is Saturday, January 17, from 8 - 9 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Pastor is available for those who desire to make private confession and hear the promise of God's forgiveness personally. This is a voluntary and historic practice of the Lutheran Church. If you have any questions or concerns please call Pastor Gutz. You can check out the format on page 292 of Lutheran Service Book.

Preschool Nut Sale

We have some extra nuts and candy available for sale after services in the fellowship hall or church office Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – noon. Thank you.

Thursday Quilting

The Thursday morning quilting circle will resume on January 8th, 2015, 9-11 a.m. More hands are always welcome.

2015 Flower, Candle & Radio Broadcast Sign-up Sheet

To provide the flowers, candles and radio broadcast for our Divine Service please sign up on the list located on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Caterpillars

Little Caterpillars Early Learning Group has openings. The program meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00. This program is for children from toddler age to preschool. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call the **Church office at 815-672-2393.**

Preschool

Registration forms for the 2015/2016 school year are being sent home this month. Please fill them out and return them with the registration fee as soon as possible so that you can have first choice for next year. Registration fee will be listed on the form. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling their child with us, please have them call Mrs. Luke.

Our theme this month will be Animals of cold regions, how animals adapt in winter and hibernation. We will take a special trip later this month to Alaska to see the animals, ski and have snack at the lodge.

Our January Bible stories will be – “A star leads the way”, “Jesus in the temple”, “The Baptism of Jesus” and “Jesus calls the Disciples”. Bible memory verse - January – “I am the way, the truth and the life” John 14:6

Dates to Remember

No School - January 19 - Martin Luther King

Some websites to check out:

Lutheran Ch. - Missouri Synod www.lcms.org
Concordia Pub. House - www.cph.org

Christian Radio

www.piratechristianradio.com
www.kfuoam.org
www.issuesetc.org

For singles, widowed, divorced:

www.inspiration-for-singles.com

Some good blogs:

www.wmltblog.org
www.internetmonk.com
www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith

For Youth: www.worldvieweverlasting.com

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

Our Preschool has a Facebook page. Stop by and like us. Check out our church's web page www.holytrinitystreator.org

HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Luke 10:23: "Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.'" (ESV)

January is National Glaucoma

Awareness Month. Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve from increased pressure within the eye and can result in vision loss and blindness. However, with early detection and treatment, you can often protect your eyes against serious vision loss. Glaucoma is more prevalent as we get older. However, it is not uncommon at all ages. Have your eyes checked regularly by an ophthalmologist. Glaucoma can be treated with eye drops, pills, laser surgery, traditional surgery or a combination of these methods. The goal of any treatment is to prevent loss of vision, as vision loss from glaucoma is irreversible. The good news is that glaucoma can be managed if detected early, and that with medical and/or surgical treatment, most people with glaucoma will not lose their sight. The most common treatment is eye drops.

Your Parish Nurse had an adventure with eye drops when she lost the sight in her left eye. My grandson thinks it is hysterical that I can play peek-a-boo with only one hand now! I found that I had great difficulty putting eye drops in effectively. For those of you using eye drops, I will share a tip I learned to get them in your eyes instead of all over your face. First (and very important), wash your hands with soap and water. Then, lie down on a flat surface (sofa or bed....I don't know about you, but it is getting harder for me to get up from the floor.). Then, set the eye drop bottle on the bridge of your nose with the bottle tip hovering over the inside corner of your eye (keep your chin up a little bit). Lastly, drop in the prescribed number of drops. Using this method, even if your aim is a little off, the drops will roll right into your eye.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for the days to get longer again. It helps to remember John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (ESV) We are so blessed that His light shines on us at all times!

The Key to Youth Remaining Active in the Church

The Holy Grail for helping youth remain religiously active as young adults has been at home all along: Parents.

Mothers and fathers who practice what they preach and preach what they practice are far and away the major influence related to adolescents keeping the faith into their 20s, according to new findings from a landmark study of youth and religion. Just 1 percent of teens ages 15 to 17 raised by parents who attached little importance to religion were highly religious in their mid- to late 20s.

In contrast, 82 percent of children raised by parents who talked about faith at home, attached great importance to their beliefs and were active in their congregations were themselves religiously active as young adults, according to data from the latest wave of the [National Study of Youth and Religion](#).

The connection is "nearly deterministic," said University of Notre Dame Sociologist Christian Smith, lead researcher for the study. Other factors such as youth ministry or clergy or service projects or religious schools pale in comparison.

"No other conceivable causal influence ... comes remotely close to matching the influence of parents on the religious faith and practices of youth," Smith said in a recent talk sharing the findings at Yale Divinity School. "Parents just dominate."