

Holy Trinity Ambassador

July 2015

Results from the June 14th Election

Vice President: Jack Zavada

Secretary: Val McCollum

Elders: Dave Gotch, Frank Sass, Tim Welch

Parish Activities: Pat Gotch,
Marsha Johnston, Lora Landrum

Education: Shea Lowe, Mary Moritz

Church Properties: Bob Barr, John Bedeker,
Steve Kotches, Mark Kovach

New terms begin July 1.

We thank those who are completing
their terms of service.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to everyone who helped with VBS this year. The Word of God goes forth! Our VBS offerings are going to support our mission projects of LHF and TIM.

Old #3 Service

There will be an Old #3 Service on Sunday, July 12th at 7:30 a.m., in addition to the 9 a.m. service.

Remember Our Missions

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) and
Together in Mission (TIM)

Your mission offering support these two outreaches. TIM giving supports Rev. Jacob Gaugert who is teaching at the Lutheran seminary in Dapaong, Togo. LHF supports the translation of Lutheran materials into other languages for use by pastors and missionaries.

Summer Bible Study

Wednesday evening Bible Study begins July 8th at 7 p.m. We will examine the book of Ecclesiastes with the theme, "Learning to be Content." Please join us to grow in God's Word.

The Good Samaritan Fund

The generous giving of Holy Trinity parishioners has provided 26 families with Aldi food vouchers this year. It is a blessing to them and they appreciate receiving them.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz
(Excerpted from a sermon by my colleague,
Rev. James Douthwaite, Vienna, VA)

“Seeds of the Kingdom”

We cannot judge by the size of the seed. Jesus said - that ***the kingdom of God . . . is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. Mark 4:30-32***

Big seeds do not always produce big plants. Little seeds do not always produce little plants. We might judge seeds that way. God does not. In fact, it is a pattern of His to bring glory out of something rather unglorious. Our God is so creative He isn't locked in to getting what you expect. Rather He calls upon us to trust His working.

Maybe it's not as fast as we want, maybe not the way we want, but the Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing. The Church scatters the seed, proclaims the Word, but the growth and the harvest belong to the Lord.

His methods are not the same as ours. We may not even agree with them. Consider what He said through Ezekiel: ***I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish.*** That's the opposite of what we would do. Yet God knows what is necessary to grow His kingdom. When we're high and full of ourselves, He might bring us low; and then the low and weak and meek grow high and strong. Maybe He'll dry us up to give us life; to kill whatever in us is hindering the growth of His Word. All so that we have strong, deep roots NOT here in this world and life, but in Him and His life.

And God is doing it. Through all times and ages, movements and philosophies, though Satan never rests, ***the Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing.***

For, in fact, God has done it. He planted a seed *even smaller than a mustard seed* - the seed that caused His Son to become man in the womb of Mary. Nobody but a handful of people even noticed - or cared. He grew up. No one took much notice and so they didn't write anything down. When He was crucified - just one of thousands executed by the Romans that brutal way - but *unlike* every other one in this way: that was God's Son on that one cross. He was not crucified against His will, but He laid down His life there for you, in your place. *And then He was planted into the ground . . .* Then the Word of God made flesh was raised by the Spirit of God and the kingdom of God grew - a plant so large that it has filled the earth. Believers, Christians, on every continent find rest in Him. The dry, dead tree of the cross God has made the lush green tree - the **tree of life** for all the world.

God always does what He speaks. His Spirit works through the Word that is proclaimed and scattered throughout the world. Those baptized by water and His Word really are made His sons and daughters - even if they reject that gift later and walk away from their Father and their Church family. His Word of absolution really does give the forgiveness it proclaims. That really is His Body and Blood that His Word makes so on the altar, *given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins*, to feed you the life that you need. ***The Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing.***

Be patient. Don't be anxious. Keep sowing the seed, speaking the Word. That Word. About Jesus. About what He has done. The cross. For you. For all. For them. Not because we're good, but because we're not. Not to make you good, but to make you His child. Not to put you to work, but to give you rest, in His tree, in His kingdom.

Know that His Word is working in you too. Growing repentance, growing faith, growing His children. ***The Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working.*** Not as you see, but as He has promised.

Church Council Meeting

May 26, 2015

Present: M. Peters, J. Zavada,
V. McCollum, D. Gotch, P. Gotch, R. Kochis,
J. Christensen and Pastor Gutz

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Preschool in good financial position. Church was in a break even position for March. Expenses are leveling off.

Church Properties:

Larry Birge, due to some health issues has resigned as janitor. Ryan Luke will fill in. Brian Reynolds will do mowing. Floors need to be scrubbed and waxed. Energy Specialists replaced the valves for heating system in preschool rooms. Gutters will be replaced on the parsonage. Church doors and doors to the Preschool need to be painted.

-Elders: Assignments were made for June. June 21st will be Confirmation. Digital recordings are being done. Adult Bible Class is ending last Sunday in May. Pastor will be attending meeting of Lutheran Heritage June 15 and attending continuing education in St. Louis June 28-30. Voter's meeting and church picnic will be held June 14.

-Parish Activities: Cradle Roll had 2 mailings. No Mother Daughter Banquet due to low attendance.

-Old Business: Karen Downey will assist with internal audit.

For the Record

Baptized:
Morgan Marie Bedeker
June 14th

Gwendolyn Rae Chapman
June 28th

Confirmed in Christ:
Skyler Bedeker
Benjamin Donner
Lance Moritz
Elle Muntz
June 21st

Christian Burial:
Lillian Novak
June 11th

Thomas Kerestes
June 19th

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

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

Serving in July

Elders
Saturday – Eric Harcharik, Jeff McMullen
Sunday – Dave Gotch, Mark Lowe

Ushers
Bob Barr Jr., Larry Runyon,
David Kochis, Pete Pastirik

Greeters
Janet Hoekstra, Ruth Murray

Altar Guild
Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman
Sunday – Travis & Renelda Quick

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Confirmands 2015

Confirmation is a custom of the Church and not a sacrament. It links the catechumens to their Baptism, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them. Luther strongly urges in both catechisms that those who are unwilling to learn, at the very least, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer should not be admitted to the Lord's Supper. Baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the Lutheran custom outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV). Confirmation declares of a catechumen that he or she is a Christian who has been baptized, confesses the faith, and is in communion with Christ and His Church. The reception of catechumens to the Lord's Table assumes that ongoing catechesis is the way of life for the faithful Christian. This rite emphasizes God's work in Baptism, the gift of faith, and the benefits of the Lord's Supper for all who believe in Christ and the words of His testaments.

**"Train up a child in the way
he should go; even when he
is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6**

Skyler Cherice Bedeker

Skyler was born on November 5, 2001 in Streator, IL. She is the daughter of Marty (Amber) Bedeker and Tia Thompson. She was baptized April 3, 2005, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

John 15:5 – I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Benjamin Edward Donner

Benjamin was born on June 27, 2002 in Streator, IL. He is the son of Bryan and Kimberly Donner. He was baptized July 28, 2002, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

Psalms 37:4-5 – Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act.

Lance Thomas Moritz

Lance was born on January 18, 2002 in Pontiac, IL. He is the son of Jeffrey and Mary Moritz. He was baptized January 18, 2002, at St. James Hospital, Pontiac.

Revelation 2:10 – Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Elle Rene Muntz

Elle was born on June 30, 2002 in Streator, IL. She is the daughter of Terry and Shelly Muntz. She was baptized July 14, 2002, at St. Stephen's Church, Streator.

Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

+ Lillian G. Novak +

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 Lillian Novak.

Lillian was born May 23, 1925, in London, England. She was the daughter of David and Lillian Neal. Lillian was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Lillian was an English war bride. She married Melvin "Mel" Novak, February 11, 1950, in Streator. He preceded her in death September 16, 1999. On Friday, June 5, Lillian at the age of 90 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Lillian is survived by one daughter, Mary Lynn (John) Farnetti, New Lenox; two sons, Mark (Diane) Novak, Rochester, and David Novak, Bel Air, Md.; five grandchildren, Anthony (Alexis) Farnetti, Rockford, Andrew (Chloe) Farnetti, Melbourne, Australia, Taylor Farnetti, New Lenox, and Christina Novak and Lindsey Novak, both of Rochester; and two brothers, Harry (Marge) Neal and Ron Neal, both of Devon, England. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one sister and two brothers.

Lillian attended school in England. She was a survivor of the Battle of Briton, having lost everything she had and most of her friends during the Bombing of London. Going to work at 14 during the war, she worked at factories making pistons for airplanes and sewing soldiers' uniforms until the factories were destroyed during the bombing. Lillian was a U.S. Citizen since 1955. She had been employed at Lipton Tea Co., Bruce Township, the La Salle County Treasurer's Office, and was a former County Board member. She was the past President of the Republican Women. She enjoyed playing bingo and cards. Lillian was a member 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 Lillian.

+ George Thomas Kerestes +

"Tom" grew up in Streator. Over 30 years ago he was involved in a car accident that rendered him a paraplegic. His mind was unaffected by the accident. He retained his independence by living in his own home and employing caretakers. He was a very positive person who was determined to make the best of his situation. Tom has been on our "shut-in" list for years and received communion at home. He didn't want any public notice or attention to his death. On Saturday, June 13, Thomas at the age of 58 years fell asleep in Jesus.

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,

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (ESV).

Our family has been enjoying being outside and in the swimming pool during this hot weather. Our little two year old Lucy calls it "shimming," and does want to get out of the pool. The sun feels so warm and bright after months of dark and cold. Unfortunately, the sun is not always good for our "temples." Think of the sun blistering the paint on our homes. Our skin is certainly more sensitive than paint! If we do not exercise caution, our skin can become damaged with severe consequences. So many in our community are active in farming and spend long hours in the sun.

The Skin Cancer Foundation states: Each year there are more new cases of skin cancer than the combined incidence of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung and colon.

Over the past three decades, more people have had skin cancer than all other cancers combined.

About 90 percent of nonmelanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

The Skin Cancer Foundation Prevention Guidelines include:

- **Seek the shade**, especially between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- **Do not burn.**
- **Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths.**
- **Cover up** with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses (Audrey Hepburn made this a classic look!).
- **Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen** with an SPF of 15 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a

water-resistant, broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

- **Apply 1 ounce** (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.

- **Keep newborns out of the sun.**

Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.

The Skin Cancer Foundation is a valuable resource for information on the different types of skin cancer, prevention, and treatment. Their website is <http://www.skincancer.org/>

All things in moderation. The sun provides many good things. Warmth makes our joints feel better (the older I get, the more this is true). Sunshine lifts our mood (an actual scientific fact). Our gardens grow. Our flowers bloom. Sunshine is one of His blessings to be appreciated but not abused. Common sense is also one of His blessings. I will admit I have been more concerned with protecting the children and grandchildren than protecting myself, but will try to do better. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (ESV).

Enjoy His blessings, dear friends—there are so many. Sunshine is only one of them.

Blood pressure clinics for July will be the 12th and 26th. As always, I look forward to seeing you there.

Blessings and good thoughts,
Jackie

Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:5-7