

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# June 2016

**Old #3 Summer Church Service**  
**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.**

**Regular service times at Holy Trinity**  
**Sat. 5 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.**  
Please join us.

**Summer Bible Study**  
Wed. evenings beginning June 8, 7 - 8 p.m.  
“Character Matters:  
A Bible study on the role of character and  
ethics in the life of the Christian.”  
We will meet for 5 sessions. Please join us.

**Voter’s Meeting**  
Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.

Subjects to be addressed: Election of officers and board members. Balloting will begin at the close of the 9 a.m. worship service. If you cannot attend, absentee ballots are available in the church office.

**VBS 2016 – Evenings!**  
**Barnyard Roundup**

For children completing  
one year of preschool - 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 – 8 p.m.**

Pre-registration is free through Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Register by calling the church office at 815-672-2393 or by filling out a registration form found in the Announcer.  
After June 17<sup>th</sup> registration is \$5/family.  
See you there!

Monetary donations to help pay for crafts and additional items are being accepted. Your prayers are appreciated for our VBS. Ask God to bring children to hear about Jesus, our Lord and Savior and to provide willing helpers, eager to share His love in Jesus.

**Church Potluck Picnic**  
Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at noon.  
Meat and drink will be provided, please bring a covered dish to share and lawn chairs.  
Please join us!

## Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

Sometimes the task is so overwhelming that you don't know where to start. You've got that closet that needs to get cleaned out but you keep putting it off. You just don't know where to start. So you put it off. You keep procrastinating because every time you think about it - it overwhelms you. Or maybe you need to have surgery but the whole idea of the process overwhelms you so you put it off and try not to think about it. What do you do when you don't know what to do or don't know where to start?

After our Lord's ascension into heaven, we find the disciples in a similar predicament. Their task did not involve cleaning out a closet or having surgery. They were given a task that was overwhelming. Jesus had commissioned them to spread the Gospel to the whole world!

Keep in mind who Jesus was talking to - he's talking to the 11 remaining disciples. Several of them were commercial fishermen, one was formerly a tax collector and the rest we don't know much about. None had formal academic or theological training. None had a background in marketing or advertising - skills important to get a message out. In fact this group of men had not shown much promise as disciples. They had a track record of being cowardly. They often did not understand the message of Jesus. They didn't always get along. Yet Jesus tells them that they were going to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. That's a big assignment. That would be overwhelming. Where do you start? How do you begin to do that?

Jesus did not leave his followers to figure things out on their own. He sent them a Helper - the Holy Spirit, as He had promised. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples in a vivid way as foretold in the Old Testament. After that day the Word of God began to spread in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the world. God helped those untrained, often cowardly disciples do

the impossible. On that Pentecost day God brought people from many different nations to hear the preaching and teaching of God's Word in their own language. The disciple didn't personally go to all the different nations. God brought the nations to them and the Word of God began to spread. That message has not only crossed borders of nations, it has been passed through time so that centuries later we are still hearing the message of the apostles in our own language.

You have a Helper in the Holy Spirit. We don't experience the rushing winds, and tongues of fire like the disciples did on that first Pentecost but that same Holy Spirit is still working through the Word of God to be our Helper.

When it comes to matters of faith we cannot figure things out. "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him." the catechism teaches us. I believe that by my own will, I cannot believe. So what does God do? He sends and gives us His Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith. In the same way, He calls, gathers, and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one, true faith."

The challenges of being a Christian can be overwhelming. The media, the culture, and our own sinfulness work against us in so many ways. We get anxious about what will happen to our young people and how will they manage to live as God would have them live in a culture like ours. What will happen to our churches? We are not left alone. We have been given a Helper in the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit continues to work through the Word of God. He continues to work through Baptism. He continues to work through the Lord's Supper. He continues to be our Helper. He even prays for us when we don't know how or what to pray. We have the assurance that as we abide in the Word of God - He the Helper - the Holy Spirit abides and continues to work among us. Rest in His promises.

## **Church Council Meeting**

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Present:** M. Peters, J. Zavada, V. McCollum, D. Gotch, S. Lowe, M. Johnston, R. Kochis, J. Christensen, and Pastor Gutz

### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Preschool doing well. Church contributions up and expenses down.

**-Church Properties:** Special Voter's Meeting scheduled for May 1 to vote on roof replacement. Don Oliver is repainting doors on the church. Don Oliver bid for steel doors on gym. Ad is being run for a custodian. New garage opener to be installed.

**-Education:** Preschool enrollment is 58. Fall registration is 38. Bowl a Thon went well. Rummage sale brought in \$800. May 20 will be school picnic. VBS - June 20-24.

**-Elders:** Elders determined who would serve in June. Pictorial Directory photographs to be taken June 16, 17, 18. Volunteers secured to assist with the pictorial directory. Old #3 summer services are waiting to secure an organist. Adult Information class being held Saturdays following Divine Service. Confirmation will be May 29. Fire alarm issues have been resolved. Pastor attended SELC conference 4/18 – 4/20.

**-Parish Activities:** Two cradle rolls were prepared. Discussed nominations for the board.

### **Scholarship Applications**

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting Scholarship Applications for the fall 2016 Semester. Interested applicants may pick up an application in the church office. All applications must be submitted to the church office by noon on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Special Voter's Meeting**

May 1, 2016

**Council Members Present:** M. Peters, J. Zavada, V. McCollum, S. Lowe, M. Johnston, R. Kochis, J. Christensen.

Pastor Gutz opened with prayer. Mike Peters explained the reason for calling the special meeting. Jerry Christensen presented the proposal for new roofing for the southwest side of church. Tomkat Roofing will be doing the work. Questions were addressed regarding type of roofing and warranty. 47 yes votes were cast unanimously approving the expenditure.

### **Voter's Meeting** Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.

**Subject to be addressed:** Election of officers and board members. Balloting will begin at the close of the 9 a.m. worship service. If you cannot attend, absentee ballots are available in the church office.

#### **Nominees for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Election:**

<b>President:</b> (vote for 1)	<b>Church Properties:</b> (vote for 4)
Mike Peters*	John Burt
<b>Treasurer:</b> (vote 1)	Jerry Christensen
Dave Gotch*	Steve Lightle
	Jerry Wiseman

<b>Elders:</b> (vote for 4)	<b>Education:</b> (vote for 3)
Eric Harcharik*	Marcia Campbell
Tim Kerestes*	Heather Drysdale*
Tony Miles	Barb Lentman
Jack Zavada*	Tara Longmire*

<b>Parish Activities:</b> (vote for 3)	<b>incumbents *</b>
Colleen Kerestes	
Debbie Kovach*	
Laureen Young*	

## **Summer Office Schedule**

Starting in June, the church office will be open Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. The office will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All information for the Announcer must be received by 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

## **Life Touch Church Directory Memories for a lifetime**

**Life Touch Picture Session Sign has begun.** Please schedule your family portrait session. Appointments available June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign up early for better selection.

**Feed the Need Plastics Bags** are given out at the sign up table. Place nonperishable food items in bag and bring to your photo session. The food will be donated to Streatorland Food Pantry and you will receive a \$5 coupon for your photo purchase.

**Lifetouch** will give a \$5 cash contribution per family portrait session to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Submitted family portraits** available for those unable to photograph at our location. These pictures need to be vertical and smaller than 5x7 works best. **Important:** Hard copy pictures **will not** be returned. Portraits taken by another professional photography company will require a **Copyright release**.

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

Bill Andree	Louise Novotney
James Andree	Virginia O'Brien
Bryan Donner	John Repko
Ruth Harlow	Charles Rinkenberger
Jim Kerestes	Ruth Rinkenberger
Helen Kruger	George Tibbles
Ruth Lehman	Anne Yednock
Donna Murphy	

## **Serving in June**

### Elders

Saturday – Jack Zavada  
Sunday – Tim Kerestes, Tim Welch

### Ushers

Rob Downey, Ruth Murray,  
Dan Reynolds, Brian Reynolds

### Greeters

John & Betty Kochis

### Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman  
Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Confirmands 2016**

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**

### **Shelby Elizabeth Dovin**

Shelby was born on January 31, 2003 in Peoria, IL. She is the daughter of William Jr. and Kellie Dovin. She was baptized February 2, 2003 at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, IL.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

### **Abigail Fay Gutz**

Abigail was born on October 9, 2002 in Streator, IL. She is the daughter of Pastor John and Sandra Gutz. She was baptized October 20, 2002, 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 Miles Phillips**

Benjamin was born on October 9, 2002 in Ottawa, IL. He is the son of Steven and Virginia Phillips. He was baptized April 27, 2003, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, in Streator.

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

## HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (ESV) We have God’s permission to celebrate His gifts, and I love to celebrate! Truly one of His greatest blessings for us in the United States is freedom of persecution for our beliefs, and the ability to celebrate our freedom. While it is appropriate to celebrate our independence often, we have chosen July 4<sup>th</sup> as the BIG day. Bring on the fireworks (with more than a little home-town pride, Streator still has the best show around)! With celebration comes that ugly word—responsibility. Fireworks bring out the little kid in all of us, but we must act responsibly when using them at home. Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (ESV) Our children watch us when we “play” with fireworks and should learn safety with celebration.

Let’s segue to burns. Unfortunately, burns can be the result of accidental and misuse of fireworks. There are four types of burns:

- first-degree burns: red, nonblistered skin
- second-degree burns: blisters and some thickening of the skin
- third-degree burns: widespread thickness with a white, leathery appearance
- fourth-degree burns. This type of burn includes all of the symptoms of a third-degree burn and also extends beyond the skin into tendons and bones

First and second-degree burns are usually treated with home care. Healing time may be quicker the sooner you treat the burn.

Treatments for a first-degree burn include: soaking the wound in cool water for five minutes or longer; taking acetaminophen or ibuprofen for pain relief; applying lidocaine (an

anesthetic) with aloe vera gel or cream to soothe the skin; using an antibiotic ointment and loose gauze to protect the affected area. Seek emergency medical treatment if the burn (of any degree) affects a widespread area. Third and fourth-degree burns require 911 intervention.

Psalm 16:9 “Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.” (ESV) Be safe, my friends, but enjoy the celebration.

Our blood pressure clinics for June will be the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

Blessings and good thoughts,  
Jackie

## Encouragement and Prayer

**Philippians 4:4-8**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. 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. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.