

Holy Trinity

Ambassador

October

2017

Quilting Circle

The Quilting Circle led by Susie Bedeker will resume on **Thursday, October 5th** from 9 -11 am. Every quilt we make we donate as a blessing to others. Members and non-members who are interested in sewing or quilting are welcome. For more information please call Susie at 672-0114.

Preschool Spaghetti Dinner Silent Auction and Bake Sale

Thursday, October 5th, 5-7 p.m.
Tickets: Adults: \$8, Children 10 and under: \$4
Carry out available for \$1 more.
Tickets available in church office, Board of Education members and preschool staff.

Preschool Nut Sale

Preschool Nut Sale is nearly over.
Thursday, October 5th is the order deadline.
Get your orders in today! Forms are located in the church office and on the stage. Please call the church office with any questions.

Preschool Fire Door

The installation of the fore doors project is nearly complete. We've received \$6,100 in donations. Thank you to all those who have given to these upgrades so we can continue providing quality Christian education to the Streater area preschool-aged children.

Voters Meeting

The Voters Meeting will follow the 9 a.m. service on **Sunday, October 15th**. The 2018 budget will be presented.

Celebrate Reformation Sunday

The Board of Parish Activities will be hosting a Reformation Brunch on **Sunday, October 29th** following the 9 a.m. service. Bring a dish to pass and join with us for some good food and fellowship.

Old #3 Committee Meeting

Old #3 Committee meeting will be held at Holy Trinity on **October 28th at 4 p.m.**

Projected Budget for 2018

Adopted by Church Council for presentation to the Voters Assembly on October 15th.

Category	2018	2017	+ / (-)
Elders	147,340	143,940	3,400
Education	1,400	1,550	(150)
Youth	500	500	0
Parish Act.	1,300	1,300	0
Church Prop.	70,000	70,000	0
Missions	23,000	20,000	3,000
Total	\$243,540	\$237,290	\$6,250

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Adapted from a blog article that appeared in the Federalist, Sep. 26, 2016 by Cheryl Magness. Used with permission.

A Good Example of Disillusionment

The story is “Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In the story, set in colonial Salem, the character for whom the story is named goes for a walk in the woods only to discover his fellow townspeople engaging in what appears to be a Satanic ritual. These are people Goodman Brown knows by day as morally upstanding, church-going folk.

The climactic moment in the story is Brown’s discovery that his very own wife, Faith, is also present as a new “convert” to the evil fellowship that has convened. He screams at her to “Look up to heaven, and resist the wicked one!” After that, the scene jumps to Brown’s return to the village the following morning. Had it all been a dream?

Ultimately that matters little, since Brown was from that time on “a stern, a sad, a darkly meditative, a distrustful, if not a desperate man” who “when he had lived long, and was borne to his grave” had “no hopeful verse upon his tombstone; for his dying hour was gloom.”

Ultimately, he discovers not only Faith but his minister and former Sunday school teacher at the gathering in the woods. No wonder his “dying hour was gloom.” Everyone he believed in shows themselves to be something other than what he thought. What does someone do with a discovery like that?

Four Things to Remember

1. People are a mess. That means everything they touch is a mess: families, churches, governments, and nations. It’s always been that way and will always be that way. Thank God we don’t put our ultimate hope in sinful humanity and its various institutions but in the one who created the world and all its inhabitants, who loves the world He created more than we can possibly

imagine, and who therefore made and carried out a plan for its redemption. His love and truth dwarf all our little messes.

2. Because people are a mess, they are going to let you down. Even the people you look up to most—parents, teachers, pastors, close friends—will let you down. When this happens, it doesn’t erase the things those people taught you. If you catch the parent who taught you not to use foul language dropping the f-bomb, it doesn’t make him a hypocrite—it just makes him a fallible human being. If the pastor who taught you the faith turns out to be a liar in his personal life, it doesn’t erase the truth that he taught you about God. Principles stand independent of people, and the failure of those people to perfectly carry them out does not nullify them.

3. If you decide, based on a betrayal, to become cynical and untrusting, you will ultimately hurt yourself more than anyone else. Yes, trusting and believing in another means opening yourself up to another betrayal, another hurt, another let-down. But it also opens you up to future good. If you give up on everyone because one person has disappointed, you guarantee for yourself a lifetime of disappointment.

4. The people who really, really matter will always be there for you. Unfortunately, they, too, may let you down in ways big and small because they, too, are sinful humans. But you will know your importance to them when they come to you and humbly lay their failure at your feet and ask you for your forgiveness. When they do that, forgive them. They’re struggling through this life, trying to make sense of it just like you are. Have compassion for them, and be kind.

We do well, always, to remember that in this life each of us is constantly tempted to compromise, for the sake of ease or expedience, those principles we claim to hold dear. When we fail, and when those we look up to fail, let us not lose faith in what remains true or in the God who made all truth. Instead, let us cling to our Faith even more tightly, and pray for each other as we head out into the wilderness.

Church Council Meeting

August 28, 2017

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

Treasurer's Report: On a monthly basis contributions are falling about \$200 under monthly expenses.

Church Properties: Streator Fire Chief inspected the work on the fire doors. Work meets requirements. Carpet cleaning is complete. Boy scouts assisted in putting rock around the cross project. Beds on south side of church have been filled with rock. Thank you to them for their assistance. Painting in girl's restroom is complete. Jerry called Simplex regarding the wiring for the doors.

Board of Education: Preschool enrollment is at 41. Approved revised budget reducing expenses for 2017/18 school year. Nut sale have begun. Spaghetti supper fund raiser will be in conjunction with the Open House October 5th.

Elders Report: Elders September service scheduled. Reviewed Pastors activities. Private baptisms took place. Committee reviewed budget for next year.

Parish Activities: Marsha Johnston presented information regarding activities. Pastor was presented with a gift for 25 years of service to Holy Trinity.

Old Business: Online giving is up and running. Several Preschool parents have expressed appreciation for this convenience.

The Good Samaritan Fund

Thank you to all who give to support our Good Samaritan Fund. We have provided \$1,500 in assistance by providing 60 Aldi gift certificates to those in need so far this year. Your support is appreciated and needed to enable us to continue to bless those in need.

Serving in October

Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis, Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Eric Harcharik, Frank Sass

Ushers

Bob Barr Jr.,

David Kochis, Pete Pastirik

Greeters

Marvin & Jeannette Viets

Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman

Sunday – Val McCollum

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

Bill Andree	Louise Novotney
Bryan Donner	John Repko
Ruth Harlow	Charles & Ruth Rinkenberger
Dirk Hoekstra	Mary Lou Rubis
Helen Kruger	George Tibbles
Donna Murphy	Anne Yednock

For the Record

Christian Baptism:

Alyssa Freitag – August 26, 2017

Wyatt Freitag – August 26, 2017

Preschool

Thank you for a great first month of school. September sure went fast.

Our Bible memory verse this month is: "He cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7.

Our Bible stories are: "Joseph Forgives his Brothers", "The Birth of Moses", "Crossing the Red Sea", "The Giving of the Law", and "The Battle of Jericho".

During the month of October we will talk about Dinosaurs and Autumn.

October 5th Open House and Spaghetti

Supper If you still need tickets for this event please let us know. (You do not need to stay for dinner to come to Open House) We will have a Bake Sale and Silent Auction with many exciting items. Please bring your family and friends out for a fun evening!

October is fire prevention month. Take time to practice your fire evacuation plan at home. Our children will take a trip to the Streator Fire Department on October 11 and 12. **Watch their bags for more information on this.**

We will have **fall pictures** taken on October 18th for M/W/F and October 19th for T/Th and Five day students. You will receive proofs to view and a list of available packages within a week of picture dates. Pictures will be delivered before Christmas break.

Fall Celebration will also be held on October 25 and 26 during class times. If you have signed up to help for this you will be getting a reminder soon. **We will not dress up for this event.**

Operation Christmas Child

Every gift is an opportunity to share the Gospel. It is a fantastic way to be involved in evangelism and discipleship of children around the World! Pack a shoebox to be sent to a child at Christmas. **See the display in the fellowship hall! Boxes need to be returned mid-November.**

Holy Trinity Website

Please visit our website for current information including the Ambassador, Preschool newsletter, Pastor's sermons and online giving.

www.holytrinitystreator.org

Also our Preschool has a Facebook page. Check it out.

Pray for All People

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

How Much Should I Give? What does God's Word Say?

God's Word helps us with these practical questions. St. Paul writes, "*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper.*" (1 Corinthians 16:2 ESV)

And "*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:7-11 ESV)

These verses give us 4 guidelines for Christian giving:

1. Voluntarily and Cheerfully. Giving is to be done voluntarily, not under compulsion, and cheerfully, not grudgingly.

2. First Fruits. Giving should be from the first fruits of our labor. Our giving is what we do on the *first* day of the week before our other expenses come due.

3. Proportionally. Giving is to be proportional, "as each one of you may prosper." Giving is not to be an arbitrarily, but rather is to be in accordance with how God has prospered us. Each of us should intentionally determine to set aside a certain proportion (percentage) of our income for Christ's Church each week.

4. Faithfully. God graciously promises to give us all that we need for this body and life. Therefore, we should give in faith, trusting that God will provide for all our needs – though not necessarily our wants! After all, if we can trust the Lord with our eternal salvation, can we not trust Him to provide our daily bread?

Faithfully Give a Voluntary, Generous First Fruits Proportion of your income.

- **Receive God's gifts.** If you have not been faithfully attending worship to hear God's Word, receive His forgiveness, and partake of His body and blood for the eternal benefit of your soul, then by all means repent and come receive the gifts of our Lord Jesus! God does not want your money – He wants you, all of you.

- **Consider what the Church does.** The Church is called to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel to all who will hear it and administering the Sacraments to the faithful. You are a part of God's Church on earth. As you have been blessed by being a part of the Church, support it that it might be a blessing to others.

- **Examine yourself.** Consider what God says about supporting the work of the Church and examine your own giving. Are you: a) giving of your first fruits – that is, does your offering come out of your paycheck first, not just what's left over; b) giving voluntarily and cheerfully; c) giving systematically and proportionally in a generous way; d) relying on God's promise to provide for you? If not, then repent and trust in God's provision; for God gave the life of His Son on the cross to forgive you all your sins – He will certainly not abandon you in your physical needs. Trust His Word and heed it.

- **Decide on your proportion.** Consider what proportion of your income you will give faithfully, proportionally, generously, and cheerfully. Although the New Testament does not command a proportion, many Christians have used a tithe (10%) as a helpful guideline.

A guide that many Christians have found helpful: Give away 10% - Save 10% - Live off of 80%. It's simple. Work at keeping Jesus first and everything else falls in place.

HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

2 Corinthians 12:10, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (ESV) The first week of October is Mental Illness Awareness Week. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) states "1 in 5 people will experience a mental health condition in their life" and "75% of all chronic mental health conditions begin by the age of 24." From my perspective as a health care provider, frequently, the stigma of mental illness can be worse than the disease itself.

One of my great aunts was truly one of the gentlest and kindest souls I have ever known, and schizophrenic. Her auditory and visual hallucinations happened to be children (interesting, as she never had children of her own). They would encourage her to cheat when we were playing cards, and she would scold them! It never occurred to my brother and I that there was something "wrong" with our aunt. She just saw and heard things we didn't. And it was okay, she was ours, and we loved her. She went through her illness at a time of less understanding and knowledge of mental illness (including her husband). When she would get better, her husband would quit buying her medication as "she doesn't need them anymore." Without her medication, the hallucinations would become overwhelming, and she would hide. Many times, my grandmother (her big sister) would have to go find her. The lack of understanding regarding medications and treatment resulted in a lifelong cycle of time at home and time at the state hospital.

Like many people with mental illness, our aunt isolated herself. As a farm wife during that time, it was easy to do. Awkward, uncomfortable, and uncertain, she rarely went into town. However, with us, the family that loved her for herself, she was funny, kind, and

relaxed. Whether due to lack of treatment, or fear of social interaction, many of our homeless population suffer from mental illness. "An estimated 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness and an estimated 46% live with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders" (NAMI). If you, or someone you know, suffers from mental illness, please seek treatment. As with any disease, there are treatments available.

With any disease, including mental illness, remember the examples and teachings of Jesus in your interaction. Ephesians 4:1-3, "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (ESV)

Our blood pressure clinics for October will be the 15th and 29th. I look forward to seeing you.

Blessings and good thoughts,
Jackie

Final Instructions and Benediction

Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:13-18