

Holy Trinity Ambassador

March 2018

Lent Services – 6 p.m.

“The Seven Deadly Sins”

March 7th - “Anger”

March 14th - “Envy”

March 21st - “Sloth”

There is a soup supper available before worship on Wednesdays, from 5-5:30 p.m.

Please set aside time to join us.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

March 29th – 7 p.m. Divine Service

Good Friday

March 30th – noon worship at Old #3
7 p.m. worship at Holy Trinity

No worship on Sat., March 31st

Easter Sunday

April 1st – 9 a.m. Divine Service

**Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 10th
Turn Clocks forward 1 Hour**

Holy Trinity Spring Cleaning

Join us for spring cleaning!

Old #3 Church – Sat, March 17, 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Sanctuary – Sat, March 24, 9 a.m.

Please bring bucket and cleaning cloth.

Many hands make light work.

Easter Breakfast

Potluck Easter breakfast will be offered after the service. Tableware and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to share. Come join us for a wonderful time of fellowship. Help cleaning things up afterwards would be much appreciated!

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Each of us could make a list of things that make us feel insecure. Each list would be unique but there would be similarities. Thanks in part to marketing, we are insecure about our appearance. We wish we were taller, shorter, or weighed less. We think life would be better if we were younger, older, or our ears weren't so big.

We get insecure about relationships. Are we friends or not? Why did they say that? What did they mean? No one wants to be lonely or be left out.

We get insecure about our stuff or lack of stuff. If I just had certain things - a different job, more money, a different place to live - then I would be happy and content. Trying to satisfy that insecurity can lead people to spend money they don't have.

There is a kernel of truth to all of those things we think will bring us security. They do give a certain measure of security - for a while. An excellent read about the issue of security/insecurity is Ecclesiastes. The security earthly things provide are temporary. True earthly security is a myth.

So how about God? Can we be secure about God? We haven't always done what we should. We've made mistakes, at times big ones. We have regrets that we cannot undo.

What does God think about me? That question might be on your list of insecurities. God has done something about that insecurity. St. Paul writes, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:1-2) Notice how Paul states it in the past tense. It's done. Complete. Accomplished.

With those words Paul states the present reality. God is not angry at you. God is not in a mood to punish you for something you have done. You have no reason to be afraid of God. The reality of that seems too

good to be true - even for those who are lifelong Christians. Why? Because we know ourselves. We know that we have done things that are wrong and have failed to do things that are right. How then can we have peace with God?

St. Paul tells us, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the **ungodly**. . . But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:6-9)

Security for having peace with God is not found in ourselves. Look to yourself for security and it's never enough. God directs us to look to Christ. Any time we hope to find peace with God in ourselves - we come up short. God directs us to look to Christ and there see and hear and believe the truth of the security that is found in Him. That Good News is so different from anything we have ever experienced we need to hear it again and again and again.

When bad things happen to us, they are not a sign of God's lack of love nor His anger. Rather God can use those events to develop in us endurance, character, and hope. (Rom. 5:3-4) How can God do that? He can do that because He's God.

God desires to remind you of that truth. He will bring security for your insecurity and certainty for your uncertainties. Hear His Word, meditate upon His promises, and He will amaze you with the power of His grace and mercy.

Food Drive

The Board of Parish Activities food drive will run through the Lenten Season. Donations will be donated to the food pantry. Place all non-perishable food items on the stage. Thank you in advance for your donations

Church Council Meeting

January 30th, 2018

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurers Report: Church ended the year in the black. Preschool expenses and income are staying even. Fund raisers making this possible.

Church Properties: State Fire Marshall inspected fire doors. A crash bar and latch has been installed and approved. The additional cost of \$700. Knox Box has been installed. Streator Fire Department has the key. Tristen Geary has offered to replace the fences, landscape timbers and refurbish the benches in Trinity Park as his Eagle Scout Project. He has raised about \$800 for this project to date.

Board of Education: Enrollment is 44. Fire door compliance completion discussed. DCSF notified. Risk Management updated to include procedures with the fire doors. Letters of intent to be reviewed and modified if needed. Bowl-A-Thon proposed for February. Trip to Hawaii was Jan. 30th & 31st. Streator Police Department donated materials for snow man project and assisted students with construction.

Elders: Pastoral activities reviewed. Elders service in February were scheduled. Both Old #3 Christmas Eve services were well attended.

Parish Activities: 6 cradle rolls in January. The committee will be serving soup prior to Lenten Services. Easter Brunch will be held after services April 1. Next 5th Sunday of the month occurs in April.

Old Business: Edna Bazik offered to represent Holy Trinity at the District Convention as the lay delegate. Council approved.

I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1

Serving in March

Elders

Saturday – Tony Miles, Jack Zavada

Sunday – Dave Gotch, Mark Lowe

Ushers

John Burt,

Rob Downey, Dan Reynolds

Greeters

Steve & Michelle Lightle

Altar Guild

Saturday – Jeff & Nancy McMullens

Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

Preschool

Our theme this month will be **Jungle and Weather**. We will take a pretend trip to Africa later this month. In Science we will learn about magnets, vibration, weather and the water cycle. In Math we will talk about opposites and positional words. In Social Studies we will learn about the many animals that live in Africa.

Our Bible stories this month will be “Jesus rides into Jerusalem”, “The Lord’s Supper” & “Jesus in Gethsemane”, “Jesus on trial” & “Jesus is crucified”, and “The first Easter”.

Our Bible memory verse - “My mouth is filled with Your praise.” Psalm 71:8

This month we will celebrate Lutheran Schools. Lutheran schools share the life-changing message of Jesus’ love with 274,000 students in 1,376 Early Childhood Centers, 871 Elementary Schools and 88 High Schools. There are many Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Colleges across the world as well that are not included in that number. We are very pleased to help the children in our school gain a love for and excitement about learning. **“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Cor. 1:9**

No School - March 30, Good Friday

Easter break - April 2nd through April 6th

Teaching at a Lutheran School in Alaska! By Megan McMullen

(Megan is the daughter of Jeff and Nancy McMullen. She graduated from Streator High School in 2009)

I can't believe how fast my third year teaching in Anchorage, Alaska has gone. As I take the chance to sit back and think about the many blessings I have received through teaching in a private Lutheran school I am so thankful to the many people who have kept me in their prayers and continued to reach out to me as I spread the word of God to many children who don't attend church outside of school.

Starting the second year of teaching a new family started to attend Anchor Lutheran. I quickly learned that the boy in my 4th grade class knew nothing about God or even that Jesus died on the cross. He constantly wanted to participate but not knowing anything his answers were that of a child who was experiencing Christ for the first time. I finally had to ask him in the nicest way possible to just sit back and listen to the Bible stories we were studying. Finally, about two weeks later he started to raise his hand again. I gave him a chance on a semi-difficult question and he spewed out the exact answer and more than I could have imagined a boy who knew nothing about God to answer with. That was just the start of being able to witness the Holy Spirit working through this young man.

My student would come to school each morning and tell me that his little brother ruined the ending of another Bible story by sharing what happened at home the night before. About a month into school he started to ask about Baptism and the importance of it. After explaining to him why God commands us to be baptized he shared that he wanted to be baptized. I encouraged him to talk with his parents and let me know what they had to say. Since Anchor Lutheran School is a mission school most of my students are not baptized. I eventually had a Pastor come in and give my kids a baptism class. I was able to finally sit down and talk with my student's parents about letting him be baptized. They expressed that

they would love for it to happen and that his younger brother would also be baptized on the same day. My student and his brother were baptized at the end of the school year last year. During the summer I received a text from his mother letting me know that the boys say their prayers each night and constantly talk about their baptism and how important that day is to them.

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

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

Preschool Fire Door Fund

We have received \$12,837.20 in donations towards the fire door fund. The project cost is \$14,800. Thank you to all those who have given so we can continue to provide quality Christian education to the Streator area preschool-aged children.

HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Revelation 21:4, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (ESV). In May 2016, I brought you with me to visit one of my veteran patients. One of the first black volunteers in the Marine Corps, he gave me the opportunity to shake the hand of history. Recently, it was time to say good-bye to this patient who became, not only a patient, but a dear friend. My friend was a Christian, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and (always) a Marine. He leaves a void in the hearts of all that knew him, but we are comforted that he is with our Father. Proverbs 14:13, “Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief” (ESV). My friend was able to live his last years as he wished, at home with his beloved family. They meant everything to him.

This brings me to our discussion for this month. Goals of Care. As my friend was able to live as he wished, I would also wish this for you. While this is a new initiative in the VA (my “outside” job), it has always been a priority in the nursing profession. As we care for patients, nurses seek out a patient’s concept of wellness. It is unique to every patient. It is important to discuss these choices with your physician (provider). Part of this discussion with your provider will include whether or not you wish to have do not resuscitate status (DNR) when you reach end of life.

Remember, you are in charge of this discussion with your provider. While it is important what you want your DNR status to be, this is a goals of care discussion, not a goals of death discussion. We will all die when the Lord chooses our time. We want our providers to be aware of how we want to live until that time. Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (ESV).

Here are some thoughts for you to consider and share with your provider:

- What is important to me? –spending time with family, traveling, reading, pain control?—this is your personal priority list.
- If needed, who will care for me? –if I cannot care for myself, what options will I consider—a willing family member, a nursing home, a paid caregiver, a community care home?
- How well controlled do I want my health? –how many pills am I willing to take, how well controlled (at the expense of my sweet tooth) do I want my diabetes, how much swelling am I willing to tolerate to decrease trips to the bathroom, how can I safely smoke while on oxygen?—trust me, these are all legitimate questions, just be sure you also discuss the consequences with your provider.
- Do I want to be a DNR? –As we age, the outcome of CPR becomes less and less successful. Please discuss in depth with your provider when making this decision.

I truly believe that our Lord wishes us to enjoy this life (look at all the blessings he has given us to enjoy). Take charge of your health, with the support and participation of your provider, and live your life to be happy.

Our blood pressure clinics for March will be the 11th and 25th (Mother Nature willing). I always look forward to seeing you.

Blessings to you and yours,
Jackie