

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# April 2018

**No Saturday Service on March 31!**

## **Easter Sunday**

April 1<sup>st</sup> – 9 a.m. Divine Service

## **Easter Breakfast**

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

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## **Preschool Pizza Hut Night**

Please join us Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00.  
Tickets are Adults \$9, Children 10 & under \$6  
Call Holy Trinity for tickets at 815-672-6240.  
Can be purchased at the door!  
Proceeds will benefit fire safety doors  
for preschool.

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## **Preschool Rummage & Bake Sale** Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Items can be dropped off **after April 22<sup>nd</sup>**.  
Please place items on the stage.

## **NO FURNITURE OR ELECTRONICS**

Bake sale donations can be dropped off Friday,  
May 4<sup>th</sup> in the church kitchen.

**Gospel Duo Coming to Holy Trinity**

**Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**

Dave Anderson & Roger Walck will  
present an evening of Gospel music.  
No charge – a free will offering  
will be taken.

Check out their website at  
[www.thefellowship.com](http://www.thefellowship.com)

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## **Some websites to check out:**

Lutheran Ch. - Missouri Synod [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)  
Concordia Pub. House - [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)

Christian Radio:

[www.piratechristianradio.com](http://www.piratechristianradio.com)

[www.kfuoam.org](http://www.kfuoam.org)

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

For singles, widowed, divorced:

[www.inspiration-for-singles.com](http://www.inspiration-for-singles.com)

Some good blogs:

[www.wmltblog.org](http://www.wmltblog.org)

[www.internetmonk.com](http://www.internetmonk.com)

[www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith)

Struggling with porn or media addictions:

[www.settingcaptivesfree.com](http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com)

For Youth:

[www.worldvieweverlasting.com](http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com)

Our Preschool has a Facebook page. Stop by  
and like us. Check out our church's web page  
[www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)

## Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

What were your parents - especially your mother - thinking about you 12 months before you were born? NOTHING. 12 months before you were born - no one - including your parents - had any idea that you were to be a part of this world. They had no idea that a person like you would exist.

All kinds of things were happening in the world 12 months before you were born - good things and bad things. There were politicians who had all the answers. There were people taking advantage of others. There were people who were kind and considerate. Our perception is the world revolves around me. But not that long ago no one thought of you - except God. God knew there would be a you.

The psalmist writes, ***“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . . . My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven . . . Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book was written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.”*** (Psalm 139:13-16)

You had a birthday - a day of birth which you don’t remember. All of the sudden there was a you. You didn’t ask to be born. You didn’t ask for a certain name. We center our lives around what we want and what we think we need, forgetting that we had nothing to say about our being here in the first place.

But God knew all this. The God who made the heavens and the earth. He made you. And with God there are no accidents. God is the Giver of life. Whether it’s in our plans or not - it’s in God’s plans.

But there was a problem with you when you were born. Your parents soon discovered it. This new life that your mother gave birth to, this bundle of joy that they had all kinds of hope and dreams for - was very self-centered. You had a will of your own - a stubborn, rebellious, self-centered will. Sometimes parents talk about their child being “strong-willed.” There is no other kind.

That was never God’s intention. God did not create people so that they could go their own selfish ways. In your world - you are the most important person and everyone else in your world is thinking

the same thing about themselves. That selfish thinking brings no joy to God nor to the people that God has created. We imagine that our life would be better and happier if we had everything we wanted. That is a lie. It isn’t true. Following our sinful desires leads into self-destruction and all kinds of harmful things. That is our natural condition. This is how St. Paul expressed it to the Ephesians in Ephesians 2:1-3. Look it up!

So what does God do? This same God who gave you life; who knew that you would be a part of His creation; He planned to bring you out of your dead selfishness, and give you life. Because God is not only looking at this life - He’s looking at the life to come. ***“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*** Eph. 2:4–7

God makes you His child. You weren’t born that way. You had to be born a second time through Baptism. And now every time you hear and listen to His Word, He is deepening that connection that He has made with you. And He gives you something to do. One of the ways for you to get your mind off of yourself is to do something for someone else. God has put you here for His purpose to do the good works that He has prepared for you to do.

***“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*** Eph. 2:10

So what has God has planned for you to do? It starts with your family. You are to be a faithful son, daughter, parent, spouse, worker, retired person, and neighbor. Jesus said that when you do something for someone else you’re actually doing it for Him. That’s why you’re here.

## Church Council Meeting

February 27, 2018

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Treasurers Report:** Capital Improvements fund shows a good balance due to no projects last fiscal year. Preschool is in good condition. Fund raisers and reduction in spending making this possible.

**Church Properties:** DCFS approved the fire doors. Estimates will be obtained for sealing and stripping the parking lot and for replacement of air conditioners for classrooms.

**Board of Education:** Enrollment stands at 45. Registrations for next year were sent in January. 10 students are registered for the fall.

Teacher/Aide evaluations to be completed. DCFS visit went well. Trip to Hawaii was enjoyed by all. Streator Police Department donated materials for snow man project. They assisted students with construction. Caterpillars has 17 enrolled. Some of those have registered for preschool next fall. Sunday school is averaging 3 students in Pre K – 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 6 students 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday School has 11 students. VBS was discussed.

**Elders Report:** Committee reviewed pastoral activities. Elder duties for March and Lenten services were assigned. Request for a concert from a Lutheran folk singing group was approved. Concert will take place May 10.

**Parish Activities:** One cradle roll was done. Finalized schedule for soup supper during Lent. Finalized plans for Easter brunch. Will be sending Easter Cards to shut-ins. Food drive is taking place during Lent.

### Hope for Hurting Singles

We have a published author at Holy Trinity. Mr. Jack Zavada has a new book titled, ***“Hope for Hurting Singles.”***

We have several copies in the church office - \$10.99.

### Serving in April

#### Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis, Jeff McMullen  
Sunday – Tim Kerestes, Mark Lowe,  
Frank Sass

#### Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,  
Pete Pastirik

#### Greeters

Mark & Deb Kovach

#### Altar Guild

Saturday – Susie Bedeker  
Sunday – Val McCollum

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

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

## HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." (ESV) April is Alcohol Awareness Month. In an article in "Newsweek" (6/13/15), David Main stated, "Iowa and Illinois round out the top five binge-drinking states, making the Midwest the most common place to go overboard on alcohol." The Foundation for Alcoholism Research states, "One of the dilemmas on labeling alcoholism is that there is no medical test to determine whether a person is an alcoholic or predisposed to alcoholism."

One of the assessment tools commonly used for alcohol abuse asks several questions (e.g., How often do you have a drink containing alcohol? How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?). The answers are scored (Never, Monthly or less, 2-4 times a month, 2-3 times a week, 4 or more times a week), and the total gives an indication of a person's risk for alcohol addiction. It is important to remember that this is just a tool, and tools are best used by experts. If alcohol is a concern, there are options. Discuss the situation with your health care provider. He/she should be able to discuss treatment options with you. If you are not comfortable with this suggestion, try attending an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting.

A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole. The second and third steps are "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity; and Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him." As Christians, this should sound very familiar. 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your

ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (ESV) Active, long-term participation in AA has proven to be effective in the treatment of alcoholism. It is free and anonymous. It has been around since 1939. That must count for something!

As I write this, we are approaching Holy Week (definitely a favorite season). 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." (ESV) Our blessings, as Christians, are many, and I am grateful.

Our blood pressure clinics for April will be the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. I always look forward to seeing you.

Blessings to you and yours,

Jackie

### Preschool

**Our Unit of study** will be about Space. We will talk about planets and stars, air and gravity and space travel.

**Our Bible stories** will be - "Thomas sees the risen Savior", "Jesus goes back to heaven" and "The first Pentecost".

**Our Bible verse is** - "Christ died for our sins, He was buried, He was raised on the third day." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

**Registration** continues for the fall. Spaces are filling quickly! If you know of anyone interested in please have them call. The registration fee is \$35.00 and is non-refundable.

**Pizza Hut Night** on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Parent/Teacher conferences** are May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school on either day.