

Holy Trinity Ambassador

May 2018

Gospel Duo Coming to Holy Trinity

Thursday, May 10th, 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

Preschool Rummage and Bake Sale Sat., May 5th, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Items for sale can be dropped off
and placed on the stage.

**NO electronics (TV's computers, etc.)
or furniture.**

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

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
Struggling with porn or media addictions:
www.settingcaptivesfree.com
For Youth:
www.worldvieweverlasting.com

Our Preschool has a Facebook page. Stop by
and like us. Check out our church's web page
www.holytrinitystreator.org

Remember
Those Who Served
Memorial Day, May 28th

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz
(Excerpted from, *Night Driving: Notes from a Prodigal Soul*, by Chad Bird. 2017)

Numbers are seductive. They woo us by promising us a firmer grip on our lives. Thanks to numbers, we can calculate the extent of our financial security as we tally up stocks, bonds, 401ks, and loose change, so that we might fear, love, and trust in what we've tucked away for a rainy day. Thanks to numbers, we can count calorie intake, measure steps on our Fitbits, and step onto the scale to add up how much closer we are to—or far we are from—conforming to some image of a model. Thanks to numbers, we can count how many worshipers are in the pews and how much money is in the offering plate, so hopefully we can stand up and pray, "Lord, I thank you that I am not like other churches...."

We're by nature counters. So long as we can add, subtract, multiply and divide something, *anything*, we have some measure of control and comparison.

We worship the God who turns his pencil over and uses the eraser. He has to work with nothing, with *ex nihilo*, with zero. So he erases us down. He puts crosses on our backs, scars on our hearts, and wounds all over our egos in order to shrink us down more and more, less and less, taking us closer and closer to the big fat zero. To nothing. Until all our numbers are gone. Until we've run out of numbers to add up and show that we may have fallen short of the glory of God, but we haven't fallen as far as *that guy*. Until we've run out of numbers to measure how much higher—or how much lower—in holiness we are than others. Until we can't find a single number to add up how good we are or how bad we are; how stupid or how smart we are; how many times we've got drunk or how many times we've stayed sober. Until all our numbers have been ground into powder at the foot of one cross, so that all we have left is zero. Until all we are is nothing.

And in that numberless state, in the holy zero, God dives in to do his work on us. He

does what he's been doing since the dawn of time: he creates out of nothing. A world from zilch. A promised baby from the womb of a 90-year-old. A rescuer from the pits of an Egyptian dungeon. A redeemer from the deserts of Sinai. A word-made-flesh inside the womb of a virgin. Not only something from nothing, but everything from nothing. God only knows how to work with zero. But when he works, all the numbers in the world can't add up how astonishing it is.

The Boy Who Loved Numbers

This boy counted everything. Socks in his drawer, peas on his plate, cars on the highway. He loved numbers. He loved to count. One day he asked his father, "Daddy, can God count?"

"Yes, son, God can count."

"What does he count?"

"He counts the hairs on our heads."

"Every hair?" the son asked.

"Yes, every hair," the father answered.

"What else does God count?"

The father said, "When we get sad, or hurt, and we cry, God counts our tears."

"Every tear?"

"Yes, every tear," the father answered.

The son thought a minute. Then he asked, "Is there anything God doesn't count?"

"Yes, there is one thing God does not count."

The son asked, "What does he not count?"

The father took his son's hand and led him down the hall. He pointed to the family's crucifix that hung on the wall. The father said to his son, "On the day Jesus died, God stopped counting our sins. He added them all up and gave them to Jesus. He will never count them again."

"Every sin?" the son asked.

"Yes," the father answered, "every single one."

Church Council Meeting March 27, 2018

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

Committee Reports:

-Treasurer: Church contributions are down for 2018. Expenses exceeded income. Somewhat due to snow removal. March appears to be doing well. Preschool showing good report.

- Church Properties: Closures on five doors have been replaced at a cost of \$1,915. Estimates sought for sealing and stripping the parking lot and replacement of air conditioner. No bids for parking lot. Bids expected for air conditioner.

- Education: Enrollment is at 45. There are 21 pre-registered for the fall. Bowl-A-Thon was held. Funds report available in April. Pizza Hut Fundraiser will be held April 18. Rummage sale - May 5. Caterpillar's current enrollment is 15. Two students moved to Preschool. Budget is to be presented to Church Council April 24. Sunday School will run through May. Wednesday School will run through March. VBS is tentatively scheduled for late summer.

- Elders: Elders determined who would serve for Lenten services and Holy Week. The church will be hosting a concert by 2 folk singers at some cost to congregation.

- Parish Activities: No cradle roll. Board will be setting up for Easter brunch on Saturday. Soup suppers were successful.

- Old Business: Mike Peters asked about information regarding Streater's Sesquicentennial and provided what information he had received.

- New Business: Jack Zavada distributed a list of persons whose terms on boards are expiring in June.

Preschool

Our Unit of study this month will be Insects. During this month we will learn about life cycles, parts of insects, and summer safety.

Our Bible stories will be "Philip and the man from Africa" and "God makes Saul a new creation"

Our memory verse for the month - "Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

Our totals from the fund raisers are: Bowl-a-thon \$727.75 and Pizza Hut profit was over \$700.00.

Thank you for all your help!

Thursday, May 3rd & Friday, May 4th end of the year parent/teacher conferences. Sign-up sheets are outside of each classroom.

Monday, May 19th & Tuesday, May 20th will be our last full days of classes. Thank you for a great year!

Wednesday, May 21st will be the all school class picnic between 10:30 and 12:00. Don't forget your sack lunch! Hope to see everyone there.

Graduation is Thursday, May 22nd at 9:00am for all morning and afternoon students that will be going on to kindergarten. Non-graduating students and parents are invited.

Big Thanks! We would like to thank all of the people who have helped out with activities and field trips this year.

HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

3 John 1:2, “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.” (ESV) The second week of May is National Nurses Week. There are so many nurses I am thankful for in my life—mentors, colleagues, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, professors—the list is never ending and changes every day. Nurses Week every year provides me a time of reflection and gratitude.

This year, I would like to thank and celebrate you. Without you, I could not do what I do. Philemon 1:7, “For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.” (ESV) Being a nurse is a calling, but a calling is fruitless without someone to serve.

Four years ago (April 29, 2014), I stood in front of our Church Council and presented a proposal for our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to begin a parish nurse program. I had prayed long and hard for the Lord to guide me in this path. It seemed so logical. This is what I know; this is what I have to give; I should be able to give this to serve my parish family. I just had to convince the Church Council. I must say I was and am much too old to be nervous, but nervous I was! I should have had more faith. God had led me. The Pastor, Church Council, and you have supported me.

So, for National Nurses Week 2018, God, Pastor Gutz, our Church Council, and especially you have my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for allowing me serve as your Parish Nurse. James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (ESV) Your support is a precious gift in my life.

Our blood pressure clinics for May will be the 6th and 20th. I always look forward to seeing you.

Blessings to you and yours,
Jackie

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

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

Serving in May

Elders

Saturday – Tony Miles, Jack Zavada
Sunday – Eric Harcharick, Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle,
Larry Runyon

Greeters

Jim & Linda Poundstone

Altar Guild

Saturday – Nickie Clark, Tracy Stortz
Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

+ Robert G. Kerestes +

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 Robert Kerestes.

Robert was born July 29, 1928, in Streator. He was the son of George and Anna Kerestes. Bob was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on August 12, 1928. He was confirmed on April 6, 1941. Bob married Joanne Ruddy on December 28, 1951. She preceded him in death August 29, 1994. On Wednesday, March 28, Bob at the age of 89 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Bob is survived by sons, Robert (Irene) Kerestes, of Helotes, Texas, and Michael (JoDee) Kerestes, of Boerne, Texas; daughter, Carol (Fred Struchtrup) Kerestes, of San Antonio, Texas; grandchildren, Jamie (Matt) Wren, Jeffrey Kerestes, Jessica Christians, Keven Kerestes, Tara Kerestes and Koby Kerestes; great-grandchildren, Camryn Wren, Jaxson Wren, Bryce Wren, Christian "Quint" Christians; and a brother Daniel (Ann) Kerestes, of Rochelle.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; and his brother, Melvin.

Bob graduated from Streator High School. He served in the Army. He retired from Owens-Illinois Glass Company after 45 years. After retirement, he worked part time for NAPA Auto Parts. Bob was an avid sports fan and enjoyed gardening. Robert was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

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 brother, Robert.

+ William D. Dovin +

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 William Dovin Sr.

William was born June 27, 1938, in Streator. He was the son of John and Sophie (Elias) Dovin. Bill was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Bill married Leona Hewitt on July 21, 1962 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator. She survives in Streator. On Friday, April 13, Bill at the age of 79 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Bill is also survived by sons, William (Kellie) Dovin Jr., of Streator, and Brian (Cheryl) Dovin, of Grand Ridge; a daughter, Beth Ann "Betsy" Kuehn, of Wenona; nine grandchildren, Breanne (Cody) Donahue, Bethany, Brooke, Brittney and Shelby Dovin, Collin, Connor, Caden and Camrie Kuehn; two great-grandchildren, Weston Donahue and Caroline Knottek; five stepgrandchildren and three stepgreat-grandchildren; many special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Faith Dovin; a sister, Patricia Stimac; and brothers, John and Daniel Dovin.

Born and raised in Streator, he attended St. Stephen's Grade School and graduated from Streator High School in the Class of 1956. He lived in Streator his entire lifetime. He worked at Anthony Company and Meyer Sherman as a machinist and in 1984 began Dovin Machine Shop with his son, Bill Dovin Jr. In 1972, Soph started with the Streator Fire Department and served as a firefighter, retiring as a captain in 2002. He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

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 brother, William.

The Rescue Story

On August 13, 1993, while returning from a mission in the Russian Far East town of Lavrentiya, a charter missionary plane with seven on board lost one engine at 7,000 feet and the other, 9 minutes later, at 3,500 feet. The plane fell 3,500 feet in 3 1/2 minutes and plowed into the Bering Sea at 90 MPH.

It took the seven on board this flight about one minute to get out of the aircraft; one minute later the plane sank.

On board were: Dave and Barb Anderson from Phoenix, Arizona, keyboardist Cary Dietsche from Amery, Wisconsin, singer/songwriter Don Wharton from Nashville, Tennessee, soundman/roadie Brian Brasher from St. Louis, Missouri, passenger Pam Swedberg from Kenai, Alaska, and pilot Dave Cochran from Soldotna, Alaska.

The group found themselves in 3'-5' swells, 2 1/2 miles west of Sledge Island; 22 1/2 miles west of Nome, Alaska; about 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

The water temperature was about 36F degrees. (Life expectancy is between 5 and 15 minutes in 36-degree water).

They had no life-jackets or a raft but they did hang on to 5-gallon gas cans which were inside the plane, being brought back to Alaska empty to be filled for possible future humanitarian and missionary flights back to the Russian Far East.

Anchorage Air Traffic Controllers heard the pilot's distress calls as each engine quit. After several minutes they were able to contact a Bering Air flight in the area, asking the pilot if he had "seen anything" as he flew along the same route as the ill-fated missionary plane. His recorded response was, "eight minutes ago we thought we saw the tail of a whale; it could have been the tail of a plane!"

Returning to the approximate crash area, he circled for a number of minutes, and, just before giving up, a passenger said, "go around one more time; I think I saw something". Shortly afterwards they reported that some people appeared to be still alive, splashing in the water. The crash victims were spotted twenty minutes after the crash.

Twenty more minutes went by before two helicopters came from Nome...neither of which was equipped to rescue anyone from anything!

For twenty-five minutes these helicopter pilots lowered their aircraft down to and into the swells of Norton Sound. The men aboard had to get out of the helicopters and reach out to totally helpless people and try, with incredible commitment, to get them into the helicopters one and two at a time. They were placed on the top of Sledge Island--760' above the water--and then the helicopters returned to the ocean to rescue another person or two.

Dave Anderson, Cary Dietsche, and Dave Cochran were in the water about 45 minutes. Don Wharton, Barb Anderson, and Pam Swedberg were in the water about 55 minutes. Brian Brasher was in the water 65 minutes.

As Dave Miles, Barb Anderson's rescuer, reached out to her he hung on to the helicopter with one hand and making contact with Barb with the other. Once he held her arm, he could not get her into the aircraft because the fibre-filled coat she was wearing weighed 50 lbs (wet). So he put her neck between his knees, twisted his feet around her body, and told the pilot to "take off". The pilot took off and Barb dangled by her neck for 2 1/2 miles and then 150 feet from Sledge Island, she fell from his grasp, back into the water the second time. Dave Miles risked his life to save her the second time!

Eventually all seven missionaries were placed on the top of Sledge Island and were, along with their rescuers, repositioned in the two helicopters and flown to the Nome airport where ambulances were waiting to take them to the Norton Sound Regional Medical Center.

Barbara Anderson's rescuer, Dave Miles, was the only Canadian in history to receive the American "Medal of Heroism", the highest award the US Government gives to a civilian for heroism.

This story has been told in a book and video called, "The Rescue".

Dave Anderson will be performing at Holy Trinity on Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m.