

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# October 2018

## Quilting Circle

The Quilting Circle led by Susie Bedeker will resume on **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 Nut Sale

Preschool Nut Sale is nearly over. **Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.**

## Old #3 Committee Meeting

Old #3 Committee meeting will be held at Holy Trinity on **October 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.**

## Reformation Day Worship

A service of the Word  
**Old#3 at noon**  
**Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Join us to rejoice in God's Word.

## Voters Meeting

The Voters Meeting will follow the 9 a.m. service on **Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.** The 2019 budget will be presented.

### Projected Budget for 2019

Adopted by Church Council for presentation to the Voters Assembly on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
Elders	148,600	147,340	1,260.00
Education	1,325	1,400	(75.00)
Youth	500	500	-
Parish Act.	1,300	1,300	-
Church Prop.	68,000	70,000	(2,000)
Missions	23,000	23,000	-
Total	\$242,725	\$243,540	(815.00)

## Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Bring up the topic of the devil, demonic possession, exorcism, and people's ears perk up. We're curious about these topics. You are no match for Satan. You're not. He's stronger than you. He's smarter than you. He knows the Bible better than you. He knows human nature better than you. If you think you are strong enough to deal with the devil you are kidding yourself. You are setting yourself up for destruction. You are a sheep. Nobody uses sheep to guard anything. Why not? Because they can't. You are a sheep and a sheep is no match for Satan.

Satan wants to destroy you. He doesn't just want you to do bad things. He wants to destroy you for eternity. The apostle Peter reminds us, "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." Satan works best if you are unaware of that.

The devil would like you to believe that your struggle is really against other people. If you're conservative, then it's the liberals. If you're a Republican, then it's the Democrats. If someone has treated you wrongly, they're the enemy. We believe that our enemies are the other people that make life difficult, challenging and frustrating for us. Satan uses this as a clever distraction technique. St. Paul reminds us, ***"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."*** (6:12)

These words describe our enemy. Our enemy is NOT other people. Our enemy is the invisible, unseen spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly realms. So how are we - who are sheep - going to defend ourselves against an enemy that we can't even see?

God provides us with everything we need. We are to be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might when we put on the full armor of God. What is that exactly?

Paul tells us. He describes the armor of a Roman soldier equipped for defending. This soldier is equipped with a belt, breastplate, shoes designed to help the soldier stand his ground, a shield, a helmet, and a sword. All of this armor is designed to be defensive. This armor was used by the soldier whose task was to stand and hold his position. Even the sword - it is the short sword that every Roman soldier carried, was a defensive weapon. All of the equipment Paul describes is defensive, protective equipment.

Paul writes, ***"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. . . . Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."***

There is no mention about fighting the devil or doing battle against demons. The command is to stand. Hold your ground. Let your armor do its job in protecting you.

If we are sheep and Satan is trying to devour us and we're supposed to stand, then who's doing the fighting?

Jesus is. Jesus has done the fighting. Jesus has done what we could never do. He has redeemed us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. He did that by taking all that the devil threw at Him - every offense, every slander, every disobedience - He let it kill Him upon the cross and then He rose from the dead to show His power over sin, death, and the devil. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. Hebrews 2:14 - 15: "He himself, (Jesus), partook of flesh and blood, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil - and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to slavery."

Jesus both supplies and is for us the armor of God. He is the Truth that we wear as a belt. He is the one who makes us righteous. He gives us the Gospel of peace for our footwear. He provides us with the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation and

His Word is the double edged sword that penetrates even to dividing soul and Spirit.

Equipped with Jesus, you stand firm. The devil cannot touch you. Jesus overcomes the devil with the breath of His mouth. Jesus uses His indestructible Word to guard and protect His sheep. d.

So what is Satan most interested in doing? Keeping you separated from God's Word and its power. When you abide in the Word of Jesus and His Word abides in you, Satan is rendered powerless. But when he gets you to doubt God's Word, or think that you really don't need it, or that you're doing just fine without it - he is setting you up for destruction.

As a Christian, as a baptized Child of the Living God, the demons are afraid of you. Because you are a son - a daughter - a child of the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Make the sign of the cross. Speak the name of Jesus. It is a power which is much greater and more comforting than we realize.

Put on the full armor of God - that invisible armor of abiding in His Word - so that you can stand against that invisible enemy. Use what you have been given.

### **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)

## **Church Council Meeting**

August 28, 2018

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Preschool is receiving tuition payment for the current year. Church expenses are within budget amounts.

**Board of Education:** Preschool enrollment is at 43. Nut sales have begun. Crisis Intervention and Safety Plan Handbook is being reviewed. Little Caterpillars have 13 enrolled. Dinner and a Show was very well attended.

**Elders Report:** Elders September service scheduled. Reviewed Pastors activities. Board discussed 2019 budget.

**Parish Activities:** Three cradle rolls were sent. September 30<sup>th</sup> is the next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship Sunday. Discussed 2019 budget.

**Old Business:** Faucets were replaced in classroom hallway restrooms.

**New Business:** Next Church Council meeting will include review of the proposed budget and approval to present proposed budget to the congregation.

## **The Good Samaritan Fund**

Thank you to all who give to support our Good Samaritan Fund. We have provided \$1,200 in assistance by providing 48 Aldi gift cards to those in need so far this year. Your support is appreciated and needed to enable us to continue to bless those in need.

## Preschool

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

**Our Bible memory verse** this month is:

Mathew 22:37 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart.”

**Our Bible stories** are “Joseph forgives his brothers”, “The birth of Moses”, “Crossing the Red Sea”, “The Giving of the Law”, “Battle of Jericho”.

During the month of October we will talk about farms, farm animals and fruits and vegetables. In math we will talk about same and different. In science we will compare fruits and vegetables. In language we will identify pictures of farm animals and talk about different types of farms. In social studies we will talk about buying and selling items that we grow.

As a part of this unit we will have a fall celebration in place of Halloween parties. Please look for a note about this coming home soon...

**Fire prevention month:** we will take a trip to the Streator Fire Department. A note about the date and times will be coming home soon.

**School pictures** will be taken on October 17 for M/W/F and Five day students and October 18 for the T/Th students. You will receive proofs to view and a list of available packages within a week of picture dates. More information will be sent home when this gets closer.

### Dates to Remember

Oct. 5 - No School Teacher’s Institute

Oct. 8 - No School Columbus Day

### Serving in October

#### Elders

Sunday – Matt Brandenburg,  
Eric Harcharik, Tim Kerestes  
Saturday – Randy Kochis, Jeff McMullen

#### Ushers

Bob Barr Jr.,  
David Kochis, Pete Pastirik

#### Greeters

Janet Hoekstra, Ruth Murray

#### Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman  
Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

### 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
George Plesko	

## HOLY TRINITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

Jacqueline Girard, RN, MSN, PN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Psalm 95:2, "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (ESV) In our family, music is like breathing—we cannot image life without it. My gramma and my mother were both church organists. Tim's gramma played the fiddle, banjo, and guitar. Both our dads played the guitar, as does Tim. Our children all play piano and sing like angels. From gospel to opera to bluegrass to blues and jazz (goodness, don't forget show tunes!), we love music. A favorite memory: When Abbi was about three years old, we were on a car trip listening to opera (Pavarotti most likely). From the backseat, little Abbi said, "Mommy, this music makes my ears smile."

So, over our coffee this morning, we were discussing if music can be considered healthy. No surprise; it is! Jill Suttie, Psy.D., reviewed health factors related to music in Greater Good Magazine (January 20, 2015). She discussed that ongoing research has found that music reduces stress and anxiety, decreases pain, may improve immune functioning, may aid in memory, and music helps us exercise. From Harvard Health Publishing (July, 2011), "Today's doctors tell us that music can enhance the function of neural networks, slow the heart rate, lower blood pressure, reduce levels of stress hormones and inflammatory cytokines, and provide some relief to patients undergoing surgery, as well as heart attack and stroke victims." How awesome that we have something completely non-invasive, without side effects, and readily available. And, "it will make your ears smile!"

My prescription is, listen to our choir, enjoy our hymns, take a break from the news and switch to music. As His children, we were the only species given this gift. Psalm 105:2, "Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!" (ESV)

Our blood pressure clinics for October will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I always look forward to seeing you.  
Blessings to you and yours,

Jackie

### The Parents Who Drugged Us...

The other day I was in an old farmhouse in the adjoining country and someone asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied that I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the minister, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds. I was drug to the homes of neighbors to help mow the yard, repair the clothesline, and if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, my dad would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin: and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us.  
-Anonymous

## **You Can't Do It All**

But That Never Stops You From Trying.

Emails. Phone calls. Stops to chat. Sports after school. Grab dinner when you can. Is it 9 o'clock already? You had wanted to watch TV. But man, are you exhausted. Where did all the time go?

We live our days starving for time. The average person now receives more messages in one day than a person two hundred years ago would have received in a lifetime. We are bombarded with requests.

Every text, every phone call, every email is a demand for our attention, for our energy.

For our life.

Ticking away....

Solomon knew this well. "All streams run into the sea." His wonderful Ecclesiastes encourage us to acknowledge fully the meaninglessness of life, to refuse the vanity of believing that our purpose in living is to make everlasting contributions to this age.

But it is St. Paul who best sums up our plight with his exhortation in Ephesians 5:

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

The power to change the world does not live within us. We won't by our own reason or strength bring an end to the fact that there is both a time to heal and a time to kill, a time to break down and a time to build up (ECCL., 3:3). But even as we understand the frailty of our condition, we do not despair.

To walk wisely is to know that all that you build and all that you do and all that you say is but a castle made of sand. The waves of time will come in and wipe it all away. But there is another foundation on which we rest. Jesus of Nazareth and His undying words are the rock of wisdom that is higher than I (CF PS. 61). The days are indeed flush with evil, but the fullness of time is still very, very good. One last breath. On the cross.

"Father, forgive... ."

Yes, we should manage our time. Yes, we should turn down the noise. Yes, we should put our hands to more valuable tasks. But the most valuable task of all is to remember that our times and our lives will surely perish with their use. Hoarding them will be to no effect. But losing them under grace, we find in Jesus Christ another meaning. Only gift. Only giving. In Him, there is no vanity at all.

*The Lutheran Witness*  
September 2018

### **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

### **Holy Trinity Website**

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

**[www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)**