

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# May 2019

## Preschool Rummage & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

### **NO FURNITURE OR ELECTRONICS**

**Bake sale donations** can be dropped off  
Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the church kitchen.

## Scholarship Applications

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting  
Scholarship Applications for the fall 2019  
Semester. Interested applicants may pick up  
an application in the church office. All  
applications must be submitted to the church  
office by noon on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Streator's Micro Pantry

Streator's Micro Pantry is located at  
Bulldog's Restaurant and sits right beside  
the business' drive-through and front  
entrance so the community can drop off or  
take food items from the small cabinet-sized  
pantry. The pantry will ensure anyone in  
need of food can get it 24 hours a day, seven  
days a week, no questions asked.  
"Take what you need, leave what you can."

## Thrivent Choice (R) Program

Thank you to all Thrivent Financial members  
who direct their Choice Dollars to  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. So far this year  
we have received over \$2700 through this  
program. We are grateful for the many  
blessings God has given to His people. Your  
gift will assist us in the ministry of spreading  
that Good News which is ours in Christ.

## Kroger Rewards Cards

Thank you to the 40 households participating in  
the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters  
who shopped the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter have contributed  
to the \$141.61 donation to Holy Trinity. This  
simple fundraiser is done by registering and  
scanning your Kroger Plus Card.

**How do I sign up? Information on page 6.**

## Amazon Smile

Mother's Day, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, is a major shopping  
holiday and a great time to increase Holy  
Trinity Lutheran Church's AmazonSmile  
donations. Find the perfect gift for Mother's  
Day at [smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2594985](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2594985), and  
AmazonSmile donates to Holy Trinity Lutheran  
Church.

## **Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz**

This is excerpted from *To Live with Christ* - daily devotions by Bo Giertz, Concordia Publishing House, 2008.

*"Apart from Me you can do nothing."* - John 15:5

Many think that being a true Christian means having certain opinions about God, and following certain Christian principles. Jesus teaches us something different.

You can be a Christian only by having such an intimate fellowship with Christ Himself that His life becomes yours. The branches on a tree live because the sap flows up through the trunk into the branches and throughout the tree. Only then can buds burst, leaves sprout, and blossoms bloom and bear fruit. But if the branches break or rot, so the flow of life from the trunk stops, then the foliage withers, the leaves fall, and there will be no fruit.

That's the way a Christian is. We depend upon Christ for our life. This isn't only a question of attitude and behavioral patterns. It's a question of a living faith that creates an intimate fellowship, a constant relationship with Christ Himself so His life flows in us with forgiveness, with a power that heals our wounds, and with a warmth that constantly allows us to act, driven by His love.

Therefore, we need, first and foremost, to be integrated, engrafted, and incorporated in Christ. This happens in Baptism. Maybe that connection has gotten weak. It can be restored. That's what to "remain in Christ" means. To remain in Christ is to believe. Faith is something invisible, but many of the characteristics of faith are noticeable and visible. Prayer belongs to faith, as does constantly returning to His Word, listening to it, and taking it to heart. That's the way sap from the vine flows into the branches. The words of Jesus are spirit and life. They're the blood of life that flows from Christ's heart to all His members. Where this happens, one can say with Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galations 2:20)

"What will heaven be like?"

C.S. Lewis writes a fable about the possible misconceptions of our questions.

"Picture a woman thrown into a dungeon. There she gives birth to and raises a son. He grows up seeing nothing but the dungeon walls, the straw on the floor, and a little patch of the sky seen through the grating, which is too high up to show anything except the sky. This unfortunate woman was an artist, and when they imprisoned her she managed to bring with her a drawing pad and a box of pencils.

As she never loses the hope of deliverance she is constantly teaching her son about that outer world which he has never seen. She does it very largely by drawing him pictures. With her pencil she attempts to show him what fields, rivers, mountains, cities and waves on a beach are like. He is a dutiful boy and he does his best to believe her when she tells him that the outer world is far more interesting and glorious than anything in the dungeon. At times he succeeds. On the whole he gets on tolerably well until, one day, he says something that gives his mother pause. For a minute or two they are at cross-purposes. Finally it dawns on her that he has, all these years, lived under a misconception.

'But', she gasps, 'you didn't think that the real world was full of lines drawn in lead pencil?' 'What?' says the boy. 'No pencil marks there?' And instantly his whole notion of the outer world becomes a blank. For the lines, by which alone he was imagining it, have now been denied of it. He has no idea of that which will exclude and dispense with the lines, that of which the lines were merely a transposition - the waving treetops, the light dancing on the water, the colored three-dimensional realities which are not enclosed in lines but define their own shapes at every moment with a delicacy and multiplicity which no drawing could ever achieve.

(continued on next page)

The child will get the idea that the real world is somehow less visible than his mother's pictures. In reality it lacks lines because it is incomparably more visible.

So with us. 'We know now what we shall be'; but we may be sure we shall be more, not less, than we were on earth. Our natural experiences (sensory, emotional, imaginative) are only like a drawing, like penciled lines on flat paper. If they vanish in the risen life, they will vanish only as pencil lines vanish from the real landscape; not as a candle flame that is put out but as a candle flame which becomes invisible because someone has pulled up the blind, thrown open the curtains, and let in the blaze of the risen sun. (C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. New York: Macmillan 1949. Revised and Expanded Edition, 1980. 'Transposition')

## Church Council Meeting March 26, 2019

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

**Committee Reports:**

**-Treasurer:** Church had large expenditures in January and February.

**- Church Properties:** Schmitt submitted bid for repairs of the parsonage roof. Work will be done to avoid further damage. A portion of that expense has been covered by donation. Shield installers will be contacted to provide an estimate for a replacement panel for the damaged shield surrounding the south doors.

**- Education:** Work has begun on the 2019-2020 Preschool budget. DCFS license has been renewed. 41 students enrolled. 17 students have pre-registered for the 2019-2020 school year. McDonald's fundraiser is Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Rummage sale is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Graduation takes place May 20<sup>th</sup>. Little Caterpillars enrollment is 8 - 9 students.

**- Elders:** Volunteers to serve in April were assigned. Lenten service schedule was updated. Pastoral activities for 2/13 – 3/12/19 were reviewed.

**- New Business:** Pastor to form an Ad Hoc committee to review and propose revisions to the Church Constitution/Bylaws. Changes would be proposed to better serve the changing church environment with a look to the future. It is anticipated this work would be completed prior to the October Voters Meeting and implementation of accepted changes could begin in January of 2020. Motion approved to do this.

**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	

## Preschool

**Our Unit of study this month** will be Caterpillars to Butterflies and Flowers. During this month we will learn about life cycles, parts of flowers, and summer safety.

**Our Bible stories** will be “The first Pentecost” and “Philip and the Man from Africa”.  
Our memory verse for the month - “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go”  
Genesis 28:15

**A Big Thanks!** We would like to thank all of the people who have helped out with activities, fund raisers and field trips this year!

**Reminder: All tuition must be paid by May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> & May 16<sup>th</sup>** will be our last full days of classes. Thank you for a great year!

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** will be the all school class picnic between 10:30-12:00. Hope to see everyone there. Just a reminder all students need an adult with them at the picnic. Children will come with an adult at 10:30.

**Graduation is Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00am for all students that will be going on to kindergarten. Non-graduating students and parents are invited.

## **Remember**

Those Who Served  
Memorial Day, May 27<sup>th</sup>

### For The Record

#### **Received into membership:**

**- by transfer from St. Luke's Lutheran, Montgomery, IL:  
Janet Acosta and children,  
Donnie, Angelina, Rebekah, Isaiah,  
Cathy and Juanita.**

**- by Adult Instruction:  
Max Highland**

### **Serving in May**

#### Elders

Saturday – Toni Miles, Jack Zavada  
Sunday – Tim Kerestes, Frank Sass

#### Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle, Larry Runyon

#### Greeters

Jim & Linda Poundstone

#### Altar Guild

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