

Holy Trinity Ambassador

June 2019

Summer Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Information for the Announcer must be received by Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Voter's Meeting

Sunday, June 9th at 10:15 a.m.

Election of officers and board members.

Balloting will begin at the close of the 9 a.m. worship service. A recommendation from the Church Council along with estimates **for repairing entrance/sidewalk in front of west entrance will be presented.** This is a non-budgeted item that exceeds \$3000 and needs the approval of the Voters to go forward.

Church Potluck Picnic

Sunday, June 9th,
At Noon - Indoors! Fellowship Hall!
Meat and drink will be provided, please bring a covered dish to share.
Please join us!

Constitution/By-Law Committee

Constitution/By-Law committee will meet the first Monday in June, July, and August at 11 a.m. We will be working at revising our By-Laws to better suit our current and future congregational set up.

Old #3 Church Service Sunday, June 23rd at 7:30 a.m.

In addition to our regular services at Holy Trinity
Sat. 5 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.
Please join us.

Thank You

Thanks to Greg Lentman for trimming up the bushes and opening the exhaust vent; to John Bedeker for grating our service drive; to our Church Properties men for putting up the side fans in church. It is a blessing to many!

Voters Meeting Sunday, June 9th at 10:15 a.m.

Vice President:
(vote for 1)
Jack Zavada*

Secretary:
(vote 1)
Val McCollum*

Elders:
(vote for 4)
Eric Harcharik *
Tony Miles*
Travis Quick
Jack Zavada*

Parish Activities:
(vote for 3)
Marsha Johnston*
Renelda Quick
Jan Roy

Church Properties:
(vote for 4)
Bob Barr Jr*
John Bedeker*
Steve Kotches*
Mark Kovach*

Education:
Becky Brandenburg*

Incumbents *

Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

“A Helper”

You don't know where to start. The task is overwhelming. You've got that junk closet - the catch-all place in the basement - that corner of the garage that's a mess. You don't know where to start. You put it off. You procrastinate because whenever you think about it - it overwhelms you. Maybe the task is something bigger than cleaning. Maybe you need surgery but the whole idea overwhelms you so you put it off. You try not to think about it. What do you do?

After our Lord's ascension, the disciples are in a similar predicament. Their task did not involve cleaning out a closet or a garage or having surgery. They were given a task that was overwhelming. Jesus commissioned them to spread the Gospel to the whole world!

Remember who Jesus was talking to - he's speaking with the 11 remaining disciples. Several of them were commercial fishermen, one was a former tax collector and the rest we don't know much about. None had formal academic or theological training. None had a background in marketing or advertising. In fact this group had not shown much promise as disciples. They had a track record of being cowardly. They often did not understand the message of Jesus. They didn't always get along. Yet Jesus tells them that they were going to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. That's a big assignment. That would be overwhelming. Where do you start? How do you begin?

Jesus did not leave his followers to figure things out on their own. He sent them a Helper - the Holy Spirit, as He had promised. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out in a vivid way as foretold in the Old Testament. After that day the Word of God began to spread in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the world. God helped those untrained, often cowardly disciples do the impossible. On Pentecost day God brought people from many different nations to hear the preaching and teaching of God's Word in their own language. The disciple didn't personally go to all the different nations. God brought the nations to

them and the Word of God began to spread. That message not only crossed borders of nations, it has been passed along through time so that centuries later we are still hearing the message of the apostles in our own language.

You have a Helper in the Holy Spirit. We don't experience the same phenomena the disciples did on that first Pentecost, but that same Holy Spirit is still working through the Word of God to be our Helper.

When it comes to matters of faith we cannot figure things out. "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, "the Small Catechism teaches us. I believe that by my own will, I cannot believe. So what does God do? He sends and gives His Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith. In the same way, He calls, gathers, and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one, true faith."

The challenges of being a Christian can be overwhelming. The media, the culture, and our own sinfulness work against us in many ways. We get anxious about what will happen to our young people and how they will manage. What will happen to our churches? We are not left alone. We have been given a Helper in the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit continues to work through the Word of God. He continues to work through Baptism. He continues to work through the Lord's Supper. He continues to be our Helper. He even prays for us when we don't know how or what to pray. We have the assurance that as we abide in the Word of God - He the Helper - the Holy Spirit abides and continues to work among us. Rest in His promises.

May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in *believing*,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.
Romans 15:13

Church Council Meeting

April 30th, 2019

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

Committee Reports:

Treasurers Report: Church income and expenses were break even for March.

-Church Properties: Alley on east side of church needs repair. John Bedeker to grade. Two additional bids for concrete work have been received. Work on parsonage to begin when weather permits.

-Education: Preschool has 41 students enrolled. 29 students have pre-registered for 2019/2020 school year. May 17 is end of year picnic. May 20 is graduation. Preschool and Caterpillar proposed budgets were presented for Church Council approval.

-Elders: Volunteers to serve Holy Week and in May were assigned. Pastoral activities were reviewed. Confirmation to take place in the fall.

-Parish Activities: Two cradle rolls prepared. One baptism. Easter breakfast was attendance was 55-60. Lenten soup suppers attendance was 20-25. 5th Sunday Fellowship was attended by 42 persons. Committee discussed the church picnic.

-Old Business: Pastor has assembled an Ad-Hoc committee to review the church constitution. Ballots for the June Voters Meeting will be published in the Announcer. Not all vacancies have been filled.

Amazon Smile

Father's Day, on June 16th, is a major shopping holiday and a great time to increase Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's AmazonSmile donations. Find the perfect gift for Father's Day at smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2594985, and AmazonSmile donates to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Serving in June

Elders

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

Ushers

John Burt, Rob Downey,
Dan Reynolds,

Greeters

Janet Hoekstra, Ruth Murray

Altar Guild

Saturday – Jeff & Nancy McMullen
Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

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,

Proverbs 15:30, "The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones." (ESV) I don't know about you, but I love May. When you read this, it will be June, but I'll talk about May anyway. Spring--new flower blooms, lilacs (my favorite), fresh-cut grass, humming birds, orioles this year (finally--can't tell you what I've gone through to make them hang around our yard), all the things we love about Spring are finally here. For me, every year, I go to Minnesota the last week of May to our cabin on Island Lake. It is the time every year I take time to renew/refresh my spirit, my heart, my faith, my "little kid." I sit on the dock at the lake with a line in the water not caring if a fish bites or not. The water shifts, the early morning sun makes diamonds on the water, the loons fish better than I do, I am at peace. I would wish for all of you one place where you feel this. Colossians 3:15, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." (ESV) I am thankful every year for this time.

Reality check; we prepare for this trip. Minnesota is notorious for ticks (disgusting little creatures), and we have our fair share at the cabin. They love me, but don't care so much for Tim (doesn't seem fair). We all know we have ticks here in Illinois too. Lyme disease caused by ticks is not to be taken lightly. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called *erythema migrans*. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Untreated Lyme disease can produce a wide range of symptoms, depending on the stage of infection. These include fever, rash, facial paralysis, and arthritis. Seek medical attention if you observe any of these symptoms and have had a tick bite, live in an area known for Lyme disease, or have

recently traveled to an area where Lyme disease occurs (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin). Prevention/cautions: While outside, wear light-colored clothing to help spot ticks easily and tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants, walk in the center of trails and avoid areas with high grass. Frequently check for ticks on clothing and on skin. Bathe or shower within two hours of being outdoors in wooded or grassy areas, or as soon as possible. At the end of each day, do a full-body tick check on yourself, children and pets. The CDC also recommends tumble drying clothes worn outside on high for 10 minutes to kill any ticks present. Check pets every day if they are allowed outdoors, as pets can bring ticks into the home. Early stages of Lyme disease are usually marked with fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and swollen lymph nodes. These flu-like symptoms can seem like other diseases, meaning patients and doctors may not test for it. In 60 percent to 80 percent of cases, however, a "bull's-eye" or red rash appears on the skin. This rash may be on the bite site or other locations on the body and will expand over time. Sounds like fun, right?! Just follow common sense and watch for ticks. Remember, you farmers, there are ticks in the fields near trees.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12, "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." (ESV)

We will have our Parish Nurse Clinic (a.k.a. blood pressure checks) on June 16th and 30th. Hope to see you there (and will advise safe tick removal).

Blessings to you and yours,
Jackie