

Holy Trinity Ambassador July 2021



Results from the June 13th Election

Vice President:

Secretary: Val McCollum

Elders: Matt Brandenburg, Mike Peters,
Frank Sass

Parish Activities: Janet Hoekstra,
Tara Longmire, Linda Poundstone, Jan Roy

Church Properties: John Bedeker,
Steve Lightle

Education: Becky Brandenburg, Mary Moritz

New terms begin July 1.

We thank those who are completing
Their terms of service.

Some websites to check out:

Lutheran Ch. - Missouri Synod www.lcms.org

Concordia Pub. House - www.cph.org

Christian Radio:

www.piratechristianradio.com

www.kfuam.org

www.issuesetc.org

For singles, widowed, divorced:

www.inspiration-for-singles.com

A good blog:

www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith

Struggling with porn or media addictions:

www.setttingcaptivesfree.com

Our Preschool has a Facebook page.

Stop by and give it a like.

Some Aphorisms:

An **aphorism** is a concise, terse, laconic, or memorable expression of a general truth or principle.

Pray all the time. If necessary, use words.

God forgets the past. Imitate Him.

***Greed I've often regretted.
Generosity – never.***

***Don't ask God to do what you want.
Ask God to do what is right.***

Nails didn't hold God to a cross. Love did.

***You will never forgive anyone more than
God has already forgiven you.***

No one is useless to God. No one.

2021 Flowers, Candles & Radio Broadcast Sign-up Sheet

To provide the flowers, candles and radio broadcast for our Divine Service please sign up on the list located on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

Everybody is afraid of something. Most of us are afraid of a number of things. There are the "typical" fears like fear of heights, fear of flying, fear of spiders, fear of snakes. There's also fear of failure, fear of not being accepted, fear of being unable to do the job. We live in a very wealthy culture but people fear they will run out of money. Some fear that they will never get out of debt. We fear being alone, not being loved, missing out, getting old, being put in a nursing home, and of course - dying. There's always something to be afraid of. All of us are a mixture of rational and irrational fears. It never ends. If you do run out of things to be afraid of, watch the news. It's frightening - and it's intended to be - but that's a different topic for a different day.

Here is something to think about. The day is coming when all your fears will be gone. All of them. Your rational and irrational fears. When Jesus comes again in glory and He raises you from the dead, gives you a new body and He destroys death once and for all - then all fears will be gone. You might ask, "Why doesn't He do that now?" He has begun. Jesus has already started that process. There's a marvelous little sentence tucked away in 1 John 4 where John writes, ***"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."*** (1 John 4:18) That is how Jesus loves you! Perfectly! How do we know that? Through the cross and empty tomb. Perfect love casts out fear and Jesus has begun that process in you. He does that through His Word. It's through His Word that Jesus drove out demons, healed the sick, stilled the storm, and raised the dead. That Word has power - power to take away fear.

Jesus speaks to you through His Word. It is a Word that proclaims you are loved and forgiven in Jesus. It is Word that would remind you that perfect love drives out fear. His love for you is perfect. How do we know that? He died on the cross for you and rose from the dead to demonstrate His perfect love for the whole world and for you.

One of the earliest symbols for the church was a ship. It could have easily come from the episode on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus stills the storm and the ship does not sink. Some of the Lutheran immigrants to this country placed carvings of ships over their altars to remind them how God brought them safely across the sea.

Where we sit in church is called the "nave." That comes from the Latin word for "ship" - same origin as our English word "navy." The church is a ship and Christians are on board. But it's not all smooth sailing. Jesus told us that it would be this way. He specifically said that we would be surrounded by evil for as long as we live. There are and will be storms and challenges in our lives, our homes, our congregations.

Remember who is with you - the one who speaks His Word to you. He cares for you so much that He is in the midst of the storms with you. He is with you in the storms of life and also the storm of death. In the midst of the storm, He speaks. He speaks His Word of forgiveness and hope. He speaks His Word of life. His Word is so powerful that even the wind and the waves obey Him. That is the one who is in the boat with you. He has seen you through the storms of the past and He will see you through the storms yet to come. He is the one who sustains you through His Word.

"Who is this Man that even the wind and the sea have to listen to him?" You know the answer to that question and God's Holy Spirit will continue to give you the faith to believe it.

For the Record

Baptized

**Lily Ann Defenbaugh
June 5, 2021**

**Natalie Kay Spangler
June 13, 2021**

Christian Burial

**Bryan Donner
June 8, 2021**

Holy Trinity Website

www.holytrinitystreator.org

Please visit our church website for current information including the Ambassador and Preschool Newsletter. Listen to sermons On-line. Click the "Hear the Word" tab.

Church Council Meeting May 25, 2021

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurers Report: Pre-School is ahead compared to last year. Church income for April was positive. Income ahead of expenses.

Church Properties:

Seal-A-Lots bid was accepted for the resurfacing of the parking lot. The project will begin June 21st. John Bedeker will contact the city regarding patching the street prior to the resurfacing project beginning. Preschool floors need re-waxing and polishing.

Board of Education:

One member resigned in April. Before and After School program was discontinued in April per DCFS regulations. Pre-registration for the 21-22 school year is at 45 students. Graduation is May 27th. Staff's last day is May 28th.

Elders Report:

Pastoral activities for 4/18/2021-5/11/21 were reviewed. Confirmation of 6 young persons was May 23rd. Pastor attended the quarterly meeting of Lutheran Heritage May 3rd and 4th. Elders to serve in June were assigned. Discussed COVID-19 guidelines and are considering a time frame for modifying or lifting current procedures.

Parish Activities:

Sympathy cards were sent. Refreshments will be served at the June Voters Meeting. Dave Gotch moved to accept the report. Barb Lentman seconded Motion carried.

Old Business:

Things are in place for the election June 13th.

Serving in July

Elders

Saturday – Jack Zavada
Sunday – Eric Harcharik, Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,
Pete Pastirik

Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman
Sunday – Altar Guild members

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Marian Carpenter

Peggy Etenburn

Marilyn Gruenbaum (Gloria Sass)

Ruth Harlow

Roberta Koral

Tracy Morgan

Ken Murphy

George Plesko

John Repko

Ruth Rinkenberger

Mary Lou Rubis

George Tibbles

Missionary Jacob Gaugert
Lutheran Heritage Foundation

If you have placed a name on the prayer list please keep the Church Office updated on their status.

Remember Our Missions

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) and
Together in Mission (TIM)

Your mission offering support
these two outreaches.

LHF supports the translation of Lutheran
materials into other languages for use
by pastors and missionaries.

TIM supports Rev. Jacob Gaugert
who is a Theological Educator in Africa.

+ Bryan E. Donner +

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 Bryan Donner.

Bryan was born July 24, 1959, in Gibson City, IL. He was the son of Ivan and Phyllis (Schlickman) Donner. Bryan was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism in 1973. He married Kimberly Kovach on July 31, 1999. On Wednesday, June 2, Bryan at the age of 61 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Kimberly Donner of Streator; a daughter, Allie (David) Ruff of Gridley; sons, Doug (Samantha) Donner of El Paso, Max (Erin) Donner of Mahomet and Benjamin Donner of Streator; grandchildren, Ava Jo and Kate Ruff; Emma and Harrison Donner; and Miles and Millie Donner; his parents, Ivan and Phyllis Donner of East Moline; sisters, Chris (Joe) Lavin of Moline and Prudie Donner of South Lake Tahoe, California; his mother-in-law, Marilyn Kovach.

He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, William Kovach.

Bryan was born and raised in Gibson City. He attended grade school there and graduated from Gibson City High School. He was a car salesman for his career working at both Dempsey Dodge in Dwight and Dale's Dodge in Streator. He was also a former member of the Streator Elk's Club, Streator Eagle's Club and the Streator Moose Lodge. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends in the Gibson City and Fooseland area. Bryan was known as a jokester, political pundit, weatherman, loving husband, father and grandfather. 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, Bryan.

Joyfully Healthy

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, "I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man." (ESV) Make time to laugh, make time to smile, make time to enjoy the gifts He has given us.

Research supports the benefits of being happy. The Mayo Clinic states, "Laughter isn't just a quick pick-me-up, though. It's also good for you over the long term. Laughter may:

- **Improve your immune system.** Negative thoughts manifest into chemical reactions that can affect your body by bringing more stress into your system and decreasing your immunity. In contrast, positive thoughts can actually release neuropeptides that help fight stress and potentially more-serious illnesses.
- **Relieve pain.** Laughter may ease pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers.
- **Increase personal satisfaction.** Laughter can also make it easier to cope with difficult situations. It also helps you connect with other people.
- **Improve your mood.** Many people experience depression, sometimes due to chronic illnesses. Laughter can help lessen your depression and anxiety and may make you feel happier."

Proverbs 17:22, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (ESV)

Adapted from a July 2016 article by our retired parish nurse, Jacqueline Girard.