

Holy Trinity Ambassador

November 2021



Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, Nov. 25th, at 9 a.m.

At Holy Trinity

Annual Cookie Drive!

Trinity Lutheran Church in Marseilles is once again sponsoring a cookie drive. These cookies will be given to the patients of local nursing homes and the other charitable organizations. These cookies are often the only cookies and gifts that are brought to these people at Christmas. **We will purchase and deliver the cookies.**

Donations to purchase cookies can be mailed to: Trinity Lutheran Church
621 Union Street,
Marseilles, IL 61341.

Cookies will be counted and packed Wednesday, December 1st at 10 a.m. They welcome extra help in packaging.



**Remember Our Veteran's
Veteran's Day - November 11th**



Preschool Nut Sale

The nut sale is over. Be watching for pick up information. Thank you for your orders!

Kroger Rewards Cards

Thank you to our 41 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters who shopped the 3rd quarter have contributed to the \$119.33 donation to Holy Trinity. Our total so far this year is \$368.14. This is done by registering and scanning your Kroger Plus Card. **How do I sign up? See last page of Ambassador.**

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Volunteers needed to ring bells from November 20th - December 24th. Volunteer hours are from

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Kroger's,

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Walgreen's

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Walmart.

Please call 815-672-2746 or email at:
Judy.Booze @ USC.salvationarmy.org with
days and times you're available.

Carpet Fund

We have received \$4,165 in donations so far.

The cost of replacement is estimated at \$25,000. Your generous gifts are much appreciated as we look forward to replacing the 40+ year old carpet in our sanctuary.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz
(Adapted from an article by Joy Pullman in *The Federalist*)

God Decides Not Covid

Blaming people for contracting a catchy virus has been one widely deployed COVID manipulation tactic. That has shifted into blaming people for dying of a catchy virus after they decided their risks from taking the vaccines outweighed their risks from catching the disease.

Shaming people for dying by accident is a bit twisted, but it might make sense if you believe life is over once a person stops breathing, and so cling to the illusion of human control over death to avoid the terror of acknowledging that's impossible.

Christian teaching stands opposed to this thinking. Christians believe that life and death belong entirely to God. There is nothing we can do to make our days on earth one second longer or shorter: *"For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's,"* says St. Paul in Romans 14:8.

For another thing, for Christians, death is good. Yes, death is also an evil — it's a result of sin. But, thanks be to God, Jesus Christ has redeemed even death. In His resurrection, Christ has transformed death into a portal to eternal life for Christians. What Satan meant for evil, God has transformed into good. The Christian faith makes it very clear that death, while sad to those left behind and a tragic consequence of human sin, is now *good* for all who believe in Christ. *"Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord,"* says 2 Corinthians 5:8. This is not an unclear teaching. It is repeated over and over again in God's Word. It flatly rejects the heathen idea that death is to be avoided at any cost.

Still today, our brothers and sisters are routinely martyred in countries like Communist China. In the Middle East, Christians are raped and ethnically cleansed to punish their beliefs. As the Apostle Paul proclaimed, *"Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* He, of course, himself went on to make good on that statement with a martyr's death.

The Path to Destruction Is Very, Very Popular

The Christian church has always faced a stronger prospect of suffering and death because *"the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many."* We are instructed to be, not driven by "consensus" and social comfort, but the truth as God has given it to us in His Word. *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you,"* Jesus says in John. *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."*

Christians are explicitly called to reject pagans' approval, advice, and beliefs for the sake of our souls: *"Enter by the narrow gate,"* Christ says in Matthew. *"For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."*

Where Is Hope in Crisis? Give Me Jesus!

In a time of crisis, what do people need most? Jesus. Not food, not water, not even health. First and foremost, we need Jesus. This is why it has been the historic practice of the Christian church for pastors to bring the Sacraments to the sick and dying. Our faithful fathers and mothers knew that, while God certainly works through doctors and scientists, the most important work, one that belongs utterly to Him, is the "medicine of immortality." Where else has Jesus promised to be? In his Word and Holy Communion. That's why we're commanded to *"not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is"* (Hebrews 10:25).

Repent Now. It is the Way of Life.

Sin destroys faith. Thanks be to God, there's a way out. It's the same as for Saint Peter, the coward Christ transformed into a lion. That way out is repentance! It is a turning away from ourselves to the only God who gives life to the dead in the name of Jesus!

Church Council Meeting

August 31, 2021

Present: M. Peters, B. Lentman, R. Kochis, L. Poundstone, V. McCollum and Pastor Gutz.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mike Peters gave a brief summary of the financial statement. Church financial position appears stable.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Church Properties: Classroom floors have been cleaned and waxed. Sandy Electric provided an estimate for replacing light bulbs in fellowship hall. Parking lot resurfacing has been completed.

Education: Preschool enrollment is 50 with a potential for 2 additional students. Shea Warfield has been hired to teach an added classroom as a result of increased enrollment. COVID-19 guidelines remain the same as the previous year. Nut and candy sale is currently in progress.

Elders: Pastoral activities for 7/14-8/10 were reviewed. Attendance at virtual Lutheran Havens meeting. Wednesday Bible Class taught in August. Met with confirmation class and parents. Provided continuing education for Preschool staff. Pastor will be gone the week of 9/16. Rev. Hillenbrand will conduct services 9/11 and 9/12. Volunteers for September were assigned. Discussion of COVID 19 protocols. No changes at this time.

Parish Activities: One cradle rolls was sent. Refreshments will be served at the October Voters Meeting. No 5th Sunday Fellowship Sundays at this time. No church picnic.

Old Business: Mike Peters presented an estimate for Church carpet replacement provided by Dick's Floor Covering. Discussion followed. Randy Kochis moved to establish a fund to finance carpeting the church. Mike Peters will arrange a virtual meeting with LCMS Foundation.

Church Council Meeting

September 28, 2021

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Preschool is in much better financial position than this time last year. The Church showed a positive balance for August. Income and expenses are at a break-even point for the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Church Properties: The bulbs in the Fellowship Hall have been replaced.

Board of Education: Enrollment is 51. DCFS licensure renewal is due in March. Preparation for his has begun. Towel dispensers have been replaced in preschool restrooms. Don Luke replaced a ceiling light ballast. Pastor is exploring the cost of an additional camera for the third Preschool entrance and replacement of the recording device. Candy and nut sale ends October 7. Parents of students assisted in a playground clean-up day.

Elders: Pastoral activities for 8/11-9/14 were reviewed. Sunday and Tuesday Bible classes have resumed. Sunday morning confirmation class has resumed. Leading devotions for Preschool staff. Leading Preschool Bible study on a rotating basis with teachers. Nursing home visits vary. Volunteers for October were assigned. Reviewed budget proposal and approved.

Parish Activities: Two cradle rolls sent. Refreshments will be served at the October Voters Meeting. Review and approved budget proposal.

Old Business: Each board chairperson reviewed their board's budget proposal explaining proposed changes. Council discussed the need for salary increases and janitorial services.



Voters Meeting

October 17, 2021

Results of Oct. 17 Voters Meeting.

32 voters approved the 2021 budget unanimously. Thanks to all who participated and to the Board of Parish Activities for providing refreshments.

Serving in November

Elders

Saturday – Jack Zavada
Sunday – Eric Harcharik, Mike Peters

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle,

Altar Guild

Saturday – Susie Bedeker
Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Marian Carpenter

Peggy Etenburn

Ruth Harlow

Roberta Koral

Lance Moritz

Ken Murphy

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.

**Turn clocks back 1 hour Saturday,
November 6th.**

Preschool

The theme for the month of November will be Farm and Harvest. In math we will learn how to sort by color, shape and size. In Science we will talk about simple machines and tools. In Language we will use our imagination to develop stories and learn how to sequence story cards. In social Studies we will learn about buying and selling.

Our November Bible Stories:

“The Battle of Jericho”

“David the singing shepherd”

“David and Goliath”

“Daniel and the Lions”

Bible Memory Verse - “Lord teach us to pray.”
Luke 11:1

Nut Sales have ended. We'll let you know when they're ready for pick up.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, Nov. 22nd & Tuesday, Nov. 23rd.

Thanksgiving will be here soon. Please enjoy this time with family and reflect on God's blessings in your life.

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 22 & 23 No School – P/T Conferences

Nov. 24-26 No School – Thanksgiving Break

For the Record

Christian Funeral:

John Repko

October 23, 2021

Joan Crouch

October 11, 2021

Baptized:

Loretta Jo Wiseman

October 23, 2021

+ John R. "Jack" Repko +

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 John Repko.

John was born July 16, 1929, in Streator, IL. He was the son of John and Pearl (Brown) Repko. John was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on August 4, 1929. He was confirmed on April 2, 1944. John married Eleanor Olsen on January 16, 1953 at Zion Lutheran Church in Ottawa. She preceded him in death on May 18, 1994. On Saturday, October 2, John at the age of 92 years fell asleep in Jesus.

John is survived by daughters, Jacqueline (Dan) Boone of Edwardsburg, Michigan, Rebecca (Tom) Kelly of Cornell and Suzanne (Tom) Melvin of Streator; a son, Timothy (Sarah) Repko of Marseilles; grandchildren, Philip (Mikie) Kelly, Patrick (Seely Sayre) Kelly, John (Kelly Schiefelbein) Repko, Leah Repko, Eleanor Bland, Addison Bland, Sarah Melvin and Isaac Melvin; great grandchildren, Maverick and Eleanora Kelly; a sister, Marilyn Mallory of Florida; a brother, Richard (Marylee) Repko of Channahon; nieces and nephews also survive.

John was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

He was born and raised in Streator. He attended Streator Grade School and Streator High School. He served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. He was truck driver through the years working for EK Motor Services, American Transport and Koubenec Trucking.

John belonged to the Leslie G. Woods American Legion Post 217 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1492. He was a member of the Teamsters Union. 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, John.

+ Joan Crouch +

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 Joan Crouch.

Joan was born August 3, 1933, in Charleston, West Virginia. Joan was the daughter of Russell and Thelma (Hemmings) Hambrick. Joan married Eugene Crouch on April 19, 1962. Joan was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism and confirmed on March 16, 1975. He preceded her in death on September 26, 2000. On Wednesday, October 6, 2021 Joan at the age of 88 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Joan is survived by a grandson, Gaylan Koester Crouch, stepdaughter, Jacque Hozie, step granddaughter, Julie Denney, several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, sister, Donna Cobb of Virginia and sister-in-law, Juanita Hambrick of Arizona.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sons, Michael and David Crouch and brother, Jerry Hambrick.

Joan attended grade school and high school in Charleston, West Virginia. She worked at Owens Illinois Glass and Food Expo, both in Streator.

She was a member of the Streator American Legion Auxiliary, Streator VFW Auxiliary and Republic Women's Club. She was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

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 sister Joan.

I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die,
yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and
believes in me shall never die. John 11:25-26

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Kroger Fundraiser Program

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

Here is the link and instructions:

Simply register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- **Holy Trinity's number is SG181.**
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thank you,

Suzy,
Parish Secretary