

Holy Trinity Ambassador

July 2022

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Confirmands

Nathan Lee Berry

Nathan was born December 14, 2009 in Streator, IL. He is the son of Shane and Jill Berry. He was baptized on January 3, 2010, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Tucker John Berry

Tucker was born October 30, 2007 in Streator, IL. He is the son of Shane and Jill Berry. He was baptized on November 11, 2007 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

Psalm 37:4-5 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Lydia Karen Chapman

Lydia was born July 31, 2009 in Dubuque, IA. She is the daughter of Cody and Holly Chapman. She was baptized on July 17, 2010 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Quincy, IL.

John 8:31-32 - Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Ezeriah Elijah James Gore

Ezeriah was born May 12, 2009 in Peru, IL. He is the son of Lana Gore and Adam Gore. He was baptized on May 31, 2009 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

John 15:5 - Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Jenna Elizabeth Moritz

Jenna was born February 27, 2009 in Pontiac, IL. She is the daughter of Jeff and Mary Moritz. She was baptized March 29, 2009, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Streator.

Revelation 2:10 - Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Confirmation is a rite of the Church and not a sacrament. It links the catechumens to their Baptism, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them. Baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the Lutheran custom outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV).

This rite emphasizes God's work in Baptism, the gift of faith, and the benefits of the Lord's Supper for all who believe in Christ and the words of His promises.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

(adapted from Rev. James Douthwaite, Vienna, VA)

We cannot judge by the size of the seed. Jesus said - that ***the kingdom of God . . . is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. Mark 4:30-32***

Big seeds do not always produce big plants. Little seeds do not always produce little plants. We might judge seeds that way. God does not. It is a pattern of His to bring glory out of something rather unglorious. Our God isn't locked in to getting what you expect. Rather He calls upon us to trust His working.

Maybe it's not as fast as we want, maybe not the way we want, but the Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing. The Church scatters the seed, proclaims the Word, but the growth and the harvest belong to the Lord.

His methods are not the same as ours. We may not even agree with them. Consider what He said through Ezekiel: ***I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish.*** That's the opposite of what we would do. Yet God knows what is necessary to grow His kingdom. When we're full of ourselves, He might bring us low; and then the low and weak and meek grow high and strong. Maybe He'll dry us up to give us life; to kill whatever in us is hindering the growth of His Word. All so that we have strong, deep roots NOT here in this world and life, but in Him and His life.

And God is doing it. Through all times and ages, movements and philosophies and the attacks of false religions, though Satan never rests, *the Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing.*

For, in fact, God has done it. He planted a seed *even smaller than a mustard seed* - the seed that caused His Son to become man in the womb of Mary. Nobody but a handful of people even noticed - or cared. He grew up. No one took much

notice and so they didn't write anything down. Even when He was crucified - just one of many executed by the Romans that brutal way - but *unlike* every other one in this way: that was God's Son on that one cross. He was not crucified against His will, but He laid down His life there for you, in your place. *And then He was planted into the ground . . .* Then the Word of God made flesh was raised by the Spirit of God and the kingdom of God grew. A plant so large that it has filled the earth. Believers, Christians, on every continent find rest in Him. And so the dry, dead tree of the cross God has made the lush green tree - the **tree of life** for all the world.

God always does what He speaks. His Spirit works through the Word that is proclaimed and scattered throughout the world. Those baptized by water and His Word really are made His sons and daughters - even if they reject that gift later and walk away from their Father and their Church family. His Word of absolution really does give the forgiveness it proclaims. That really is His Body and Blood that His Word makes so on the altar, *given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins*, to feed you the life that you need. *The Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working; the kingdom of God is growing.*

Be patient. Don't doubt. Don't be anxious. Keep sowing the seed, speaking the Word. That Word. About Jesus. About what He has done. The cross. For you. For all. For them. Not because we're good, but because we're not. Not to make you good, but to make you His child. Not to put you to work, but to give you rest, in His tree, in His kingdom.

Know that His Word is working in you too. Growing repentance, growing faith, growing His children. *The Word of God is working; the Spirit of God is working.* Not as you see, but as He has promised.

Church Council Meeting

May 31, 2022

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurers Report: Preschool is in a good financial position. Church April income was very good. The church remains on target with the budgeted figures.

Church Properties:

The gas has been turned off at Old #3. The yard has been cleaned up at Old #3.

Board of Education:

Registrations for 2022/23 are at 31 for September with the potential of 3 additional students in January. Sale of small bundt cakes went well. Over 2,000 cakes were sold with a profit of over \$3,000. School picnic was held May 18th. Graduation was held May 19th with 22 students graduating. Staff contracts have been signed. Staff job descriptions have been reviewed and revised.

Elders Report:

Pastoral activities for 4/13/-5/10/22 were reviewed. Volunteers for June were assigned. Pastor began catechism student questioning in preparation for Confirmation. Confirmation is scheduled for June 26th. Five young people to be confirmed. Pastor plans to attend the Lutheran Heritage Board of Directors meeting June 8th & 9th. Pastor and Sandy attended the District Convention May 12th -15th. Summer Bible Class will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning June 15th. The Elders discussed the openings on the board.

Parish Activities:

One cradle roll was sent. Two sympathy cards were sent. Board discussed the upcoming church picnic scheduled for June 12th.

Old Business:

Council discussed the lack of volunteers to fill board positions. Additional persons have volunteered for Altar Guild. Dick's Floor Covering came to look at removal of the altar rail prior to carpet installation. The contact list for the fire alarm system and the security system will be updated following the June election of officers and board members. Due to false fire alarms, Getz was contacted to

check the system. Sensors were cleaned. It was suggested that the system be replaced due to the age of the current system. The alarm company was contacted and came out to assess the need and provide information regarding newer systems. We are waiting for estimated on options available. Numbers from last year's attendance are needed to establish the number of members needed for a quorum for June voters meeting.

New Business: Pastor informed the council that the fence between the parsonage and the neighboring property needs to be replaced. John Bedeker will take this to the Board of church Properties for consideration.

Results from the June 12th Election

Vice President: Jack Zavada

Church Properties;

Bob Barr Jr.

John Burt

Vice President:

Billy Etenburn

Mike Peters

Education:

Susie Bedeker

Elders:

Colleen Kerestes

Randy Kochis

Tracy Stortz

Parish Activities:

Denise Burt

Michelle Lightle

Jan Roy

New terms begin July 1. We thank those who are completing their terms of service.

Together In Mission

Through TIM (Together in Mission) we have been supporting Rev. Jacob Gaugert for a number of years. Rev. Gaugert has ended his service on the missionary field.

Through TIM (Together In Mission) we are carrying over our support to Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff who is a theological educator in Riga, Latvia. He is married to Lindsay and they one son Carter. Be watching for more information about the Cundiffs!

Serving in July

Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis, Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Mike Peters, Frank Sass

Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,

Pete Pastirik

Altar Guild

Saturday – Susie Bedeker

Sunday – Gloria Sass

For the Record

Confirmed in Christ

June 26, 2022

Nathan Berry

Tucker Berry

Lydia Chapman

Ezeriah Gore

Jenna Moritz

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Marian Carpenter

Nancy Centko

Bob Cross

Laura Johnston (**Nancy Hepner**)

Roberta Koral

Tracy Morgan

Mary Lou Rubis

Carol Sass

George Tibbles

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff, Riga Latvia

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

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.