

Holy Trinity Ambassador

November 2023



Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m.

at Holy Trinity



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.



Kroger Rewards Cards

Thank you to our 44 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters who shopped the 3rd quarter have contributed to the \$110.74 donation to Holy Trinity. Our total so far this year is **\$335.22**. 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 18th - December 24th.

Volunteer hours are:

9 a.m. - 7 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.

On November 20th the "Register to Ring" website will be open. Through that portal you can look at available times, dates and sign up on line to ring bells.

Trust in the LORD with All Your Heart

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz.

In 1923 there was no you. 100 years ago there was no you. You did not exist. You were not a spirit baby waiting in heaven to come to earth. You were not another creature somewhere on this planet. You did not exist. There was no you . . . and . . . the world was getting along fine without you. God wanted there to be a you. So at a certain point in history - which you had no control over, nor any input about - you were conceived and you were born. You did nothing. You were given the gift of life. Prior to that there was no you.

Now there is a you. You are. You exist. Now even after your body dies, that's not the end of you. God - who made you - wants you to be with Him for all eternity. In fact, for that purpose you were made. God gives that to you as a gift.

Jesus says the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. The king sends servants to personally invite people. The response? They don't come. They have excuses. Too busy. Other things to do. Can't bother with that. Not only do they not accept the invitation they rough up the servants who were bringing the personal invitation. The king is angry - and rightfully so. There's no reason for people to behave that way. He has them punished and then sends out more servants to invite whomever they can find - good, bad, rich, poor - doesn't matter. The king has everything ready and he will have the wedding hall filled with guests. He will have that. He's the king.

Heaven is compared to a wedding banquet - a marvelous feast. God wants you at His banquet feast in heaven. He wants you there. The pastor is one of God's servants who brings you the good news of that invitation. You might think God is mad at you, or that He doesn't care about you, or maybe that He has no control. The truth is He invites you to His heavenly banquet for the simple reason that He wants you there. If He didn't want you there He wouldn't invite you. Nobody is putting pressure on God to invite you to heaven.

God invites you to the wedding feast. God wants you there. And He has done everything possible for you to be there. He issues you an invitation. He calls you by name in your baptism. He makes you a part of His family. You belong to Him. You might think, "I'm not good enough. I don't belong. He must have me mixed up with someone else." No. He knows all that and He still wants you there. He even gives you the wedding garment to wear. In the book of Revelation when John is given a glimpse of the people in heaven, one of the elders asked him, ***"Who are these people, clothed in white robes and where did they come from?"*** ***And John said to him, "Sir you know."*** ***And the elder replied, "These are one coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*** (Rev.7:14)

God provides what you need to get into heaven. God provides it. No one is getting into heaven on their own merits. For one - you don't have enough merits and secondly it's not necessary. All the merits are provided in Jesus Christ. Why would anyone not want to go? Why would anyone not want to go to the heavenly banquet feast especially when God has made all the preparations?

That's a question only unbelief can answer. Unbelief says, "I don't think or believe that God either wants me there, or has made it possible for me to be there."

God is having a wedding banquet. It will take place with or without you. You are on the invitation list. And He's not going to cross you off. With a play on words we could even say you, "You won't be crossed off - because the cross got you on." You are "crossed on" the list.

Don't overthink it. Don't wonder why you and not someone else. Rejoice and receive what God has done for you in Jesus Christ. 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' And he added, "These are the true words of God." (Rev. 19:7-9)

Church Council Meeting

September 26, 2023

Present: J. Zavada, M. Peters, D. Gotch, R. Kochis, D. Burt, J. Burt, S. Bedeker, and Pastor Gutz.

Treasurer's Report: Preschool's finances are stable. Church income for the month was positive with a positive financial picture for the year-to-date, this is due in large part to the bequest from the Marian Carpenter estate.

Church Properties: The contract to paint the outside metal doors was awarded. Research is taking place for possible replacement of original wooden doors at the main entrance to the church. Screens at Old #3 were repaired and replaced.

Board of Education: Enrollment in the preschool is 17 students: 6 – 5 day; 6 – 3 day; and 5 – 2 day. One 3 day student will start in October. Nut sale will end October 6.

Elders: Reviewed Pastor's August activities. Bible classes have resumed, along with catechism instructions. Pastor led an in-service training for the preschool staff. Pastor will speak at a Marriage Retreat at Trinity Lutheran Church in El Paso, IL November 3. He was invited to be lead presenter at conference for Lutheran pastor's wives, in Norfolk, NE in April 2024. Thanksgiving service will be Wed., November 22, at 6 p.m.

Parish Activities: The board will provide refreshments at the Voters Meeting. A Brunch Potluck will be held Sunday, October 29 following the 9 a.m. service to celebrate the Reformation. The board will refresh the children's activity bags stored in the narthex.

Old Business: Discussion held regarding refurbishing or replacing the wooden doors. Hand rails by the west entrance were suggested. Security system lock on the front office door has been completed.

New Business: Reviewed and discussed the 2024 budget. A revision was made. Three items will be on the ballot for the Voters meeting: the 2024 budget; a proposal to change the bylaw raising the limit on Church Council nonbudgeted items from \$3,000 to \$5,000; and a proposal to seal coat the parking lot in 2024.

Voters Meeting

October 15, 2023

Results of Oct. 15 Voters Meeting.

35 voters approved the 2024 budget, the by-law change and the capital improvement expense for resealing of parking lot.

For the Record

New Membership

Sarah Hill
September 23, 2023

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Eileen Andree

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)

Bob Cross

Sylvia Held

Laura Johnston (Nancy Hepner)

John Kennedy (Judy Kerestes)

John Kochis

Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)

Matt Murray (Karen Downey)

Lance Moritz

Tracy Morgan

Mary Lou Rubis

Larry Runyon

Carol Sass

George Tibbles

Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

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

Serving in November

Elders

Sunday – Matthew Brandenburg,
Tim Kerestes

Saturday – Randy Kochis

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle

Altar Guild

Saturday – Sandy Gutz

Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

The Lord's Faithfulness Endures Forever

Psalm 117

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures
forever.

Praise the Lord!

Preschool

The theme for the month of November will be
Farm, Harvest and Thanksgiving.

Bible Stories will be: The Twelve Spies
Report,
The Tabernacle is Built, Gideon Wins the
Battle,
David the Singing Shepherd.

Bible memory verse - "Lord, teach us to
pray." Luke 11:1

Parent/Teacher conferences will be on
November 20th.
Watch for more information on this.

Dates to Remember:

November 20 - No School P/T Conf.

November 21-26 - No School

Thanksgiving Break

Turn clocks back 1 hour
Saturday, November 4th.



Remember Our Veteran's

Veteran's Day – November 10th



Now Thank We All
OUR GOD

Dear friends in Christ,

Jesus tells us that there will be signs accompanying the end. In Matthew 24, He says there will be false prophets, wars, rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes. Truly, these signs have been visible in our world for a long time. Christians know that our world is ending. Much of the concern of the Church in the United States is regarding the false prophets, who are rightly quite troubling and are indeed an issue in many other parts of the world. In truth, the majority of the false prophets found in many of the countries that I have contacts in have been influenced by the false teachings coming out of places in the US.



Of course, in Europe, there is also the ever-present concern about the continuing war between Russia and Ukraine. People don't know if the fight will escalate or if it will come to a conclusion soon. There is no shortage of experts and opinion makers who will give their thoughts on the situation. Do not fear for us, though, as Latvia remains quite safe.

But what about natural disasters? These are frightening because they are not driven by people. A false teacher can be ignored. A war zone can be avoided. But what happens when the earth itself brings destruction upon us? This is truly a fearsome thing. And it is something that has touched the lives of our students at Luther Academy.

September 2023 saw the Cundiff family in celebration. The Latvian version of Father's Day (not altogether different than the US version except for the date) rolled around on Sunday, September 10th, so we took Quintin out for some BBQ, which was really tasty!

Many celebrations happened during our brief return to the States in September, too, for Quintin to begin his PhD studies in Fort Wayne.

Lindsay completed the last step to have her nursing license endorsed in South Dakota. Once that is done, she will be able to enroll in an online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, likely at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, as she will only need to complete 20 more credits!

We celebrated family as we made very quick stops in our hometowns and met up with parents, grandparents, siblings, and other beloved extended family.

We would have loved to see and converse with so many more people during our trek through the Midwest, but we simply did not have time, as we had to rush to complete our business in multiple states and make it to Quintin's classes in Indiana. Fear not, though, as the Cundiff family will likely be on home service next summer, and we will be able to meet with more of you!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The students, instructors, and staff of Lutera Akadēmija as we continue the Fall Semester.

Our students dealing with civil/political unrest and natural disasters in their home countries.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

Safe travels for the entire Cundiff family during September and October.

The connections between the LCMS and the Latvian Lutheran Church body for the sake of the English stream of Lutera Akadēmija.

Our generous donors and prayer warriors, and the steadfast workers of Mission Central and Mission Advancement, without whom this mission would be impossible.

Pastor Cundiff