

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# March 2024



## Lent Services – 6 p.m.

“Living Under the Cross”

March 6 – “Living Under the Cross  
and my possessions”

March 13 – “Living Under the Cross  
and my time”

March 20 – “Living Under the Cross  
and my body”

*Please set aside time to join us  
on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.*

## Holy Week Schedule

March 24 - Palm Sunday – 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – 7 p.m.

Good Friday - 7 p.m. (HTLC)

No Holy Saturday Service

March 31 Easter Sunday – 9 a.m.  
Brunch potluck following



## Daylight Savings Time Begins

Turn Clocks forward  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday p.m. – 1 Hour

## Lenten Food Drive

Please leave canned and non-perishable  
items on the stage in the fellowship hall.  
Items will go to the Streatorland Food Pantry  
at the end of Lent.

## Holy Trinity Website

Please visit our website for current  
information including the Ambassador and  
Preschool Newsletter. **Listen to sermons  
including Wednesday Lenten Services  
on-line.** Click the “Hear the Word” tab.

[www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)

## WSPL Radio

**Sunday Worship Broadcast**  
can be heard on 98.5 FM 10-11 a.m.

## **For God So Loved the World**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave  
his only Son, that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have eternal life. For  
God did not send his Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but in order that the  
world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

## **Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz**

The Swedish Lutheran novelist Bo Giertz cites three things that help us to have faith in the work of Christ for our salvation: the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and . . . failure.

### **The Word of God**

First, the Word of God. Jesus expounded "everything that is written about the Son of Man" (Luke 18:31). What was already written is still clearly described for us. It is described anew when the Word is proclaimed and Christ is painted before our eyes as crucified, like Paul says. It is this that happens perpetually anew in our church. . . . It does not happen for a person in dreams or visions, not with the imagination or the help of mood alterations. One does it by listening to this word, reading this word, anchoring it in the heart. It can never be said too often that this is the basis for all faith, the premise for all Christendom. Wherever one stands, however one believes or doubts, so this is the condition for moving forward: one must use God's Word. It is the first means of help.

### **The Holy Spirit**

But the disciples didn't understand the Word, even when Jesus Himself was proclaiming it. They—and we—need the Holy Spirit that is brought with the Word. Just as Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man—who could not see Jesus—He opens our eyes, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who works on us through the Word. God's Spirit dwells in the Word, He who is sent into the world to witness about Jesus and glorify Jesus. Therefore the same power lives in the Word, a power that can judge and expose and penetrate so that all is revealed. A power that can make the blind see so that they see Jesus and comprehend the blessed mystery that Jesus is their Savior who suffers in their place.

### **Failure**

But even then, the disciples did not fully and personally grasp what Jesus was doing for them. Other times when Jesus talked about His death and resurrection, Peter rebuked Him, insisting that he would never let this happen (Matthew 16:21-23) and that he would follow Jesus to the very end (Luke 22:33). When He asked them if they could really drink His cup, they boldly answered, "We can." But they could not. It did not go as they thought. When Jesus drank the cup at Gethsemane, they slept. When He was arrested, they ran away. When He was judged and flogged and mocked, they denied Him. So came the great failure, the great distress: the distress of Good Friday and the bitter tears over the burial and betrayal. But strangely enough, through this failure, their eyes were opened. When Jesus was then victorious, when He forgave and built them up again, then they did not doubt for a moment that He bore our sins on the tree of the cross. Until we are convicted by our failure to keep the Law, we will not cling to the Gospel. When you feel unworthy and a failure, thank your God, for this is the Spirit's work: that you see your sin, and now you belong to those who are grasped by the Spirit. Christianity is not about moral improvement. It is about substitution. Jesus, God's One and Only Son, takes our place for us and for our salvation. Then Jesus puts us in His place.

## **The Example of Christ**

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:5-7



## **Church Council Meeting**

January 30, 2024

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurers Report:** Review of November and December financial reports were reviewed.

Preschool and church finances are in good shape, ending the year on a positive outlook.

**Church Properties:** Continue to work on railing project for front doors of the church, replacement of front doors, chimney and windows. Getting estimates has been difficult. Snow plow bill has been received.

**Board of Education:** PS Enrollment is 21. Nut sales sold out in December. Evaluation for preschool staff were done. Board of Ed is proceeding with DCFS Licensure Exemption. Preschool budget was submitted for 2024/2025 school year.

**Board of Elders:** New members were received, Dawn Darnell and Eli Koral. Elders volunteered to serve at Lenten services. Pastor's term on the Board of Directors for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation concluded December 2023.

**Parish Activities:** cradle rolls and cards were sent for the various holidays and occasions.

**New Business:** The church phone system is over 20 years old and outdated and parts no longer available. The internet at the church is DSL, which is also outdated and will not be compatible with a new system. Will need to look at fiber optics. Pastor will get pricing and recommendations for phone and internet services.

### **Final Words**

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.

### **Serving in March**

#### **Elders**

Saturday – Randy Kochis, Jack Zavada

Sunday – Mike Peters

#### **Ushers**

John Burt, Rob Downey

#### **Altar Guild**

Saturday – Susie Bedeker

Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

### **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**

Sally Libby (Carol Sass)

Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)

**Lance Moritz**

Matt Murray (Karen Downey)

**Mary Lou Rubis**

**Larry Runyon**

**Carol Sass**

**George Tibbles**

Elle Wilkinson (Marilyn Howell)

Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff and family, Riga Latvia

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



## Preschool

### **Our theme: Jungle and Weather.**

In Science we will learn about magnets, vibration, weather and the water cycle. In Math we will talk about opposites and positional words. In Social Studies we will learn about the many animals that live in Africa. Dear friends in Christ,

### **Our Bible stories this month will be;**

“A Woman Anoints Jesus”

“Jesus in Gethsemane”

“The Crucifixion”

“Easter Morning”

### **Our Bible memory verse - “My mouth is filled with your praise.” Psalm 71:8**

This month we will celebrate Lutheran Schools. Lutheran schools share the life-changing message of Jesus' love with 274,000 students in 1,376 Early Childhood Centers, 871 Elementary Schools and 88 High Schools. There are many Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Colleges across the world as well that are not included in that number. We are very pleased to help the children in our school gain a love for and excitement about learning. “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 1:9

### **Dates to Remember**

March 19 - No School - Election Day

March 29 - April 7 - Easter Break



Preschool  
News

The Cundiffs  
in Latvia



We are off and running! The spring semester of Academic Year 2023-2024 has begun for the

students of Riga Luther Academy. Over the past year and a half, Lindsay and I have worked closely with the other faculty of the Academy and the Latvian administration to put together a program and a system that is workable. The work of putting together a school is no small feat. Our advantage in Riga is the ability to draw upon and build upon the existing structure of the Latvian language program.

That said, much of the English program has been rebuilt and customized to meet the needs of the students. One of our most significant (and perennial) challenges is getting books into the hands of students. This semester, I am teaching three classes for the Academy. I am doing this in addition to taking a full load of classes to make progress on my Ph.D. Please continue to pray for the work of the Riga Luther Academy and all of her students who will serve churches in many different countries.

Many people ask us about winter darkness in Latvia. During the winter, around the time of the winter solstice (December 21st), the country gets a mere 6 hours and 43 minutes of sunlight per day (sunrise at 9:00 am and sunset at 3:43 pm. As I (Lindsay) write this – on February 2nd – we are already back up to 8 hours and 32 minutes of sunlight daily.

Many people in Latvia use vitamin D supplements to help with mood during this time of year. This does leave us yearning for the long, long days of summer, which leads to our upcoming Home Service time in the United States! We will depart for the States around the second week of June and stay until the end of July. Quintin is currently scheduled for two separate weeks of Ph.D. intensives at Fort Wayne, but we are working to meet with as many people and congregations as possible during the rest of the time!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Our students and all the missionaries.

**PRAISE GOD FOR:** The hard work of our Luterana Akadēmija administration and faculty.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Cundiff, Lindsay, and Carter.

## 1890 Cornerstone Time Capsule Document - October 19, 1890

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Streator Building code officer, Joe Scarbeary, stopped by Holy Trinity. They were tearing down the old church on Illinois street that our congregation built. It was our place of worship from 1890 into the early 1950's. It had changed hands multiple times through the years and was most recently converted into apartment housing. The building was not maintained and was no longer safe for residents. It was being leveled. A time capsule had been placed into the cornerstone. Joe presented it. It contained several newspapers both in Slovak and English, an instruction pamphlet of Lutheran teaching in Slovak, and a handwritten letter. All from October of 1890. Considering their age the documents are in fairly good shape. They were folded up and tucked into a small space in the cornerstone.

The handwritten letter in Slovak had excellent penmanship. For the next several months I contacted many people searching for a translator. I made phone calls, emails, texts, sent pictures. Copies were made and shown to potential translators. I crossed paths with many interesting folks but the result was the same - no progress.

Mrs. Karen Downey, our current council secretary, shared the letter with her boss's wife, Mrs. Pat Supergan. Mrs. Supergan is of Eastern European background and has language skills. The letter contained words no longer in use, making translation challenging. Mrs. Supergan reached out to the T.G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago. One of the teachers, Kristyna Horackova, took it on as a class project. At the end of November last year, she provided us with her translation. Here it is:

### *In remembrance*

*The history of this founding church is ethnic, but it honest reminds us of the noblest of Christian virtues, such as of love, acceptance, and loyalty. A long history has taught us that if our church is to flourish and be empowered, it must be built and strengthened here. As soon as the idea of establishing a church here was conceived, those who wanted to began to work for it, and had to undergo struggles and endure adversities. At the same time, with God's help, they overcame all the obstacle that could have hindered this work of God. Today in love and unity, the concord stands here rock solid. May God grant that faith, love and hope will continue to unity us. May the Almighty God stretch out His right hand of protection over us, and bless the work we are doing, to his glory and to the praise and salvation of us and our children.*

*The name of the found of this church are preacher Horak, church administrator. Andrew Kolesarik, Tomas Cziznar, Janos Rubiscak, Janos Katuscak, George Rubis, Janos Tamasito, Janos Plesko, Michael Pala, Andrew Zaleha, Andrew Zdovin, Tomas Cigan Janos Kakuscak.*

*Curatorial and Contruction Committee Gesry Dzuris, Andrew Alarko, Janos Dzuris, Janos Stach, Janos Bakalar, Andrew Mital.*

*George Rubiscak  
Jonas Kolesar  
George Tamasko  
George Daniel  
John Babey  
Joseph Mraz  
John Kozley Jr.  
John Marcis  
Andrew Kozley  
Michael Hanko  
John Drap  
Andrew Roycak  
Adam Stynar  
Michael V. ...*

*John Hazer  
Al Kascak  
Andrew Kdovin Sr.  
John Sabo  
George Plesko  
John Kozely  
John Rabatin  
John Saholik  
Andrew Kdovin  
George Lorinc  
Andrew Valko  
George Bakalar  
George Hyduk  
Tom Novotney*

*Andrew Havara  
John Tamasko Sr.  
John Tamasko Jr.  
Andrew Marko  
John Novak  
Andrew Novak  
Andrew Bakalar  
John . . .  
George Babey  
Andrew Zelar  
John Vagasky  
Michael Mital  
John Zay. . .  
John Molitoris*

*Andrew Gocs  
John Palya  
George Zapro. . .  
George Havir  
George Vercimak  
John Bakalar I  
John Lvac  
John Kasgndkly  
John Valko  
Eugene Droppa  
Mike Pohlod  
Andrew Sabol  
John Vysrni*

## **How Christianity Invented the Hospital by Dr. Glenn Sunshine**

Far from being an otherworldly religion, Christianity teaches both the importance and goodness of life in this world. In fact, from Jesus' healing ministry to the work of modern missionary doctors, a consistent feature of the work of the Church in the world has been to care for the sick and needy, and not just point them to the life to come.

The early Church understood Jesus' ministry to be a paradigm for their own work. So, just as Jesus set believers free from their bondage to sin, early Christians purchased slaves specifically to free them. Whereas Jesus used miraculous power to heal people from physical effects of the Fall, Christians used more ordinary tools to care for the sick and disabled. These activities are not merely good deeds in themselves but serve to advance the Kingdom. Though the Gospel is a message and must be proclaimed, the early Church saw works of mercy and preaching of the Gospel as two sides of the same coin.

The first major epidemic faced by the Church was the Antonine Plague (A.D. 166-189). In fear of their lives, the Romans threw the sick out of their homes to die in the streets. Galen, the most prominent physician of the age, knew he could neither heal its victims nor protect himself. So, he fled Rome to stay at his country estate.

Recognizing that all persons were made in the image of God and that Jesus came to make all things new, body and soul, many Christians ran the other direction. They fought the Fall by tending to the sick, at risk (and often at the cost) of their own lives.

Since even basic nursing care can make a significant difference during an epidemic, Christian action saved lives. Their courage and self-sacrifice contributed to the rapid growth of Christianity. For example, when Irenaeus arrived in Lyon from Asia Minor, there were very few Christians. By the time the plague ended, there were 200,000 believers in Lyon.

The Plague of Cyprian, which took place the following century, was named after the bishop of Carthage who documented the epidemic. Dionysius of Alexandria, also a bishop, described what happened this way:

*At the first onset of the disease, they pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treating unburied corpses as dirt... But most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ.*

From the earliest centuries, Christians embraced the medical theories and practices of the day. Contrary to stereotypes, the early Church did not attribute illness to demons, though they did recognize demonization as a real phenomenon. The real difference between Christians and physicians of the day was the willingness to risk death in order to treat the sick, convinced that if they died it would only mean a transition to a better life. The physicians, on the other hand, fled.

Christians also founded the first hospitals in history. By the late fourth century, there were hospitals in both the eastern and western halves of the empire. By the Central Middle Ages, hospitals and leprosaria (leprosy hospitals) could be found throughout most of the Christian world. When universities began granting medical degrees during the period, church-affiliated institutions continued to provide much of the care.

By the 18th century, the medical field had become increasingly professionalized and separate from the clergy. Though monasteries still provided care for the poor, and nursing was almost entirely in the hands of sisters and nuns, professional physicians increasingly handled medical issues for those who could afford to pay. Clergy attended to the dying and contributed to discussions of medical ethics but had few other responsibilities for the sick.

However, medicine was an integral part of the modern mission movement of the 19th century. Because Christianity has always affirmed the importance of the body, hospitals soon followed wherever missionaries went. This is another way the Church has been essential throughout history.