

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

## April 2024



### **Paid in Full**

Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His Holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death.

There is no sin that is not paid for in full, because there was nothing lacking in the perfection of Christ who was crucified. Just as there is no end to His righteousness, so too there can be no end to the forgiveness that was won with the shedding of His blood.

(Adapted from the Steadfast Lutheran Lenten Devotional)

### **Holy Trinity Website**

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

**Invite a Friend  
to Church!**

**(or an enemy or even  
someone you don't know)**

### **NOTHINGbundtCAKES\***

#### **A Sweet Way to Support Holy Trinity Lutheran Preschool**

Proceeds go to classroom materials

**Chocolate Chocolate Chip | Red Velvet  
White Chocolate Raspberry | Lemon | Confetti  
Classic Vanilla | Carrot | Snickerdoodle |  
Strawberries & Cream  
Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookie**

**Individual Bundtlet Cost: \$6.50**

**Orders by:  
Tuesday, April 30**

**Delivery on:  
Wednesday, May 08**

**Wouldn't it be great if we treated our  
Bibles like our cell phones?**

We acted like we could not live without it!  
We used it in case of emergency.  
We turn around to get it when we forget it.  
We gave them to our kids as gifts.  
We flipped through it several times a day.  
We used it when we traveled.



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

### **"I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body."**

Our bodies die. Does death separate us from the love of God in Christ? No. Does it separate us from one another? Yes. Even though Christ has conquered death, it is the final enemy that Christ has yet to completely destroy when He comes again in glory. The Christian Gospel looks forward and proclaims that hope. All is done, but there is more coming! Christ has completed His work, but He's not finished yet. What is that hope? The Christian hope is that when Christ comes again He will bring about the complete redemption of His creation. The final victory over sin and all sickness, and death will be swallowed up in the victorious return of the King. Every New Testament writing, page after page, is occupied and focused on this hope. The Biblical hope is that the day is coming when God's name will once again be hallowed throughout the creation and sickness and death will be done away with.

That hope is in our Bible and we confess it in the creeds. But often that hope is obscured or maybe even forgotten about. When you ask a Christian, what their hope and goal is their answer will probably be, "Dying and going to heaven." Now that is certainly true and there's nothing wrong with that, but there's more. There is the hope and promise - the assurance of the resurrection and restoration of the body.

Most of us like this life. We like to eat and drink. There are things we enjoy doing. There are many things we take delight in. That is good. Indeed, that is what we were made for. God made human beings and put us in a world that He created to enjoy and live in the fullness of His creation. It is a great thing to be human. God did not want you to be an angel or He would have made you an angel. He made you to be who you are. Our problem is not that we are human. God doesn't do away with our humanness. Human beings were made in the image of God. That's one of the reasons we value life. Every life is precious. Every human being is a reminder to Satan of the true God. That is why Satan seeks to destroy human life at any and every stage. Satan seeks to destroy our human-ness - including our bodies.

Sin separates us from God and brings death. Death brings the destruction of the body, even for Christians. And though it may appear now that Satan has power over our bodies, God is the ruler of His creation. God will not permit Satan to have that power. So when our Lord comes again in His glory, there will be a physical, bodily resurrection. When Christ comes again you will be fully human. You will be given a new body, a glorified body, but it will be a body! A human body. God will bring about a new creation unaffected by the ravages of sin and death.

John writes about this, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" (Rev. 21:3-4)

The history of this world is leading up to that great day and we are to look forward to it! The Word of God proclaims it. Until that day we are to look to that hope. In the meantime how shall I think about my dear Christian friends and relatives whose bodies now sleep in the grave? They are resting from their labors. They are with Christ, at peace, waiting for the last day and the final victory of God. That is enough. But it is not all. That is not the final victory that awaits us in Christ.

Christ has fully and completely redeemed us through His death and resurrection. He has forgiven us so completely that we do not need to fear the incredible day of His return, but rather we can long for it as the day of His great restoration for us and for all creation. After all we confess as Christians have for centuries, "I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting . . . I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." Amen.

## **Church Council Meeting**

February 24, 2024

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

**Treasurers Report:** Review of January financial reports, both Preschool and Church. Preschool donations up from last year.

**Church Properties:** Old #3 large fallen trees were taken care of by Brian Kerestes and Dan Reynolds. Continue to work on obtaining bids for front doors of the church and masonry repairs. Discussion about fire blanket and extinguishers.

**Board of Education:** PS enrollment is 21. Evaluation of staff was completed. Staff is doing an exemplary job as well as record keeping by the director. DCFS made annual visit, preschool is compliant except for radon testing. Sandy Gutz is having Sunday school classes for the next 5-6 weeks during Lent for preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

**Elders Report:** Pastoral activities were reviewed along with annual statistics. Altar Guild met and scheduled for 2024. Pastor to support 2 shut-ins from Zion Lutheran, Wenona while they are in pastoral vacancy. Elders scheduled for Lenten services. March schedule for Elder volunteers were assigned. Pastor reminded us to make regular Bible reading part of our life in 2024 and Portals of Prayers is a helpful resource.

**Parish Activities:** No cradle rolls or shut-in birthdays this month 1 card sent to new member. Planned meals for Wednesday Lenten services and Easter morning breakfast.

**Old Business:** The 2023 mission fund goal was addressed. Shortfall plus additional gift was discussed. Motion made to cover shortfall plus an additional \$1,000 to our two mission projects the Cundiff's in Latvia plus LHF. Phone system will have an update for the March meeting.

### **New Business:**

Motion to approve Pastor to establish a 403b fund for payroll deductions of pre-tax dollars to a retirement plan at no cost to the church.

## **For the Record**

### **New Members**

Robert Britenstine received February 5  
Heather Ensign received March 3

## **Serving in April**

### **Elders**

Saturday – Jack Zavada  
Sunday – Frank Sass, James Warwick

### **Ushers**

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,

### **Altar Guild**

Saturday – Kim Donner  
Sunday – Val McCollum

## **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.



Serve the Lord  
with Gladness

## Preschool

**Our Unit of Study** this month will be about Space. We will talk about planets and stars, air and gravity and space travel.

**Our Bible stories** this month will be –

"Jesus feeds the Disciples"

"The Ascension"

"Pentecost"

"Peter and John heal a crippled man"

**Our Bible verse is** - "Christ died for our sins, He was buried, He was raised on the third day." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

**Registration** continues for the fall. If you know of anyone interested in Holy Trinity Lutheran Pre-School please have them call to speak with me. The registration fee is \$35.00 and is non-refundable.

**Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser:** Cakes are \$6:50 each. Orders must be turned in on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Delivery date is May 8<sup>th</sup>. More information about pick up times will be sent soon.

**Easter Break will be** Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Classes resume on** Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** April 29<sup>th</sup>

(No School)

Our Preschool has a Facebook page. Stop by and like us. Check out our church's web page [www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)

## **Final Words**

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.

2 Peter 3:18



Dear friends in Christ,

The missionaries here in Riga are moving forward with plans to bolster the English language mission work going on in the city. We have previously been holding services twice a month, but we have added 5th Sundays now and are looking to expand further. In order to truly plant a congregation, consistency is key.

These English services are becoming an important element of ministry and outreach, and we want to be more intentional about expanding it. I recently heard from a young man earlier this year who had stopped in for worship while he was traveling; he went home and has become more engaged with our faith and has gotten involved in a mission effort that the LCMS is starting in his home country as well. Further, after our Easter Sunday service, I was approached by a young man who is here for medical school asking to learn more about our faith and desiring to grow as he is able to worship with us in English. Please continue to pray for the outreach of the mission here in Riga, not only with our students at the Academy, but also through the English services as well.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Cundiff, Lindsay, and Carter

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Our family, as we prepare for Home Service in June and July of this summer.

The Lawson family, who is currently on Home Service.

Lutera Akadēmija faculty, staff, and students as they continue through the spring semester.

Rev. Dr. David Preus, as he takes the helm as Regional Director of Eurasia.

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

Lindsay's admission into the RN-to-BSN program at UNMC, where she will begin online courses in August.

