

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# June 2024



## Voter's Meeting

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.

Election of officers and board members.  
Approval of updating phone system.  
Balloting will begin at the close of the 9 a.m.  
worship service.

## Summer Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Information for the Announcer must be  
received by Wednesday, 10 a.m.

### **Ballot for Voters Meeting**

**President:** Jack Zavada

**Vice President:** Mike Peters

**Elders:** (vote for 1)  
Jeff McMullen

**Parish Activities:** (vote for 3)  
Charline Arendt  
Dawn Darnell  
Kim Varju

**Church Properties:** (vote for 2)  
Bob Barr Jr.\*  
Robert Britenstine

**Education:** (vote for 4)  
Heather Drysdale  
Nancy McMullen  
Breanne Donahue  
Kim Varju

**Incumbents \***

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### **Old #3 Service**

Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

**Divine Service times at Holy Trinity**  
Sat. 5 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.  
Please join us.

### **Grow in God's Word**

We are having a family centered program  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> after Divine services.  
Children accompanied by an adult can  
participate. Sundays - June 23 and 30  
10:15 - noon. For all ages - not just children.  
We will learn about the 10 commandments.  
Sing. Work on a craft and have lunch  
together. Children need to be accompanied  
by an adult. Please sign up in advance so  
material and food preparations can be made.  
Sign up by the church office or on the stage.  
Be watching for more details.

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

We have something and Someone that cannot be destroyed. Our Savior, Jesus has overcome the world. Jesus said that and did that. Jesus died - physically died - and came back to life. It happened. It happened as He said it would. This has implications. One is that we don't live negatively. We live positively. What do I mean by that? We live "for" not "against."

It's not hard to find people who are against things. They can point out what's wrong. They can show how things are bad and getting worse. They can identify problems. They may be right. They may be correct in identifying problems, difficulties, and faults. That way of thinking can become a person's identity.

Read the letters of Paul in the New Testament. They are not primarily negative. They are primarily positive. We aren't given a life that simply reacts to the bad. We are given a life that transcends and surpasses the bad. Evil and darkness can be and are overcome. They are overcome by goodness and light. Jesus is both of those for us. As we abide in Him we are given a life that is lived in goodness and light.

One of traits that attracted people to the early church was their willingness to sacrifice and live virtuous lives. That happens when you believe in something that is both bigger and better than evil and darkness. That is the life we are given in Jesus.

During June our culture will bombard us once again with promotions of life-styles that are neither good nor God-pleasing. This is nothing new. Promoting darkness is the way of the world. Don't throw up your hands and exclaim how terrible people are. People have always been terrible. Read the Bible. The Bible is a record of the human condition which is sinful to the core.

Rather than fret, call to mind the promises of God. You have been pointed to Jesus who offers you something both higher and better than what the world offers. We simply don't play the game. That's our confidence. Truth stands.

I like the way writer Aaron Renn expresses this, *"Propaganda is not about getting people to believe lies, rather, propaganda is about shaping the truth. Propaganda is about controlling the narrative, the story by which people understand their lives. The point of propaganda is always to be dictating the terms of the narrative, the thing people think about and the information they act upon.*

*Even if that action is only to feel what they want you to feel or hate whom they want you to hate, once the propagandist makes you do what he wants (put on a mask, for example), he has you. You think, "I have to counter his message, his lies."*

*This is the exact wrong way to think about propaganda. When you react to the propagandist and are giving counter-messaging or trying to correct his "lies" with the "truth" you are actually helping the propagandist win. Why? Because by reacting to the propagandist you are legitimating his narrative as the narrative which must be responded to.*

We have a God who loves the world and loves you and does not play the game of the world. His grace and mercy are not up for debate. His Word brings light and life whether you admit that or not. We have something and Someone who cannot be destroyed. That's positive! That's hopeful! That's something we can hold out to those who have questions and don't know where to turn. We are given a life in Jesus. Rejoice in His Word. Go to church. Read the Bible.

**Invite a Friend  
to Church!**  
(or an enemy or even someone  
you don't know)

**+ Marilyn Howell +**

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 Marilyn Jean Howell.

Marilyn was born October 26, 1936, in Morris, Illinois. She was the daughter of Leo and Margaret (Plesko) Harrington. Marilyn was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on December 5, 1936. She was confirmed on April 2, 1950. Marilyn married Charles "Tuddy" Howell in Streator on September 5, 1964. He preceded her in death on February 1, 2021. On Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Marilyn at the age of 87 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Marilyn is survived by her children, Sally (Kevin) Pflibsen of Streator, Sam Howell of Flanagan, Sheri (Mike) Wilkinson of Ottawa and Steve Howell of Streator; four grandchildren, Nikki (Bobby) St. Vincent, Cooper and Elle Wilkinson, and Maddison Howell; and two great grandchildren, Wally and August St. Vincent.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Tuddy Howell; a son, Shawn Howell; and a sister, Ruth Ralph.

She was known for being meticulous at cleaning and gardening. She enjoyed being outdoors and biking.

Marilyn was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in 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 Marilyn.

Dear friends in Christ,  
This month marks the end of the third official academic year of the English program with

Lutera Akadēmija in Riga and my second year with them. In the last three years, this English program has gone from merely an idea to becoming a part of the Latvian institution of Lutera Akadēmija.

Starting an educational program is no small undertaking and often takes much longer than it has for us here in Latvia. That is in part due to the generous work of our Latvian partners. As the institution has now been granted accreditation status, the program offered is going through the process of streamlining and integration. This will bring the Latvian program and the English program together. This next step is just starting, and we welcome your prayers for this process.

Additionally, we are preparing to host students in Wittenberg, Germany, for the summer intensive courses in June. Unfortunately, our family will not be joining them because we will be back in the US for home service. It seems that our Sundays are all booked at this point.

Lindsay has been busy with administrative tasks with the Academy and with her own preparations for finishing her Bachelor's degree with the University of Nebraska Medical Center remotely. She is also the logistics planner for our upcoming Home Service. While we would love to see all of our supporters during that time, it just isn't humanly possible. Because of our limited time and the need to see our families and take care of personal affairs while stateside.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Cundiff

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- The well-being of our missionaries and their families here on the field and at home.
- Our students, faculty, and administration as the semester winds down.



**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Quintin's grandmother, Evelyn, who celebrated her 100th birthday in May!

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Light-bulb moments in the minds of Christians that draw them closer to God.  
- Our supporters for helping to make this mission possible - we cannot stress our gratefulness enough!

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## 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](http://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