

Holy Trinity Ambassador July 2024



Results from the June 9th Election

President:
Jack Zavada

Ch. Properties:
Bob Barr Jr.
Robert Britenstine

Vice President:
Mike Peters

Education:
Breanne Donahue
Heather Drysdale
Nancy McMullen

Elders:
Jeff McMullen

Parish Activities:
Charline Arendt
Dawn Darnell
Kim Varju

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



Old #3 Service
Be watching the Sunday bulletin.
Divine Service times at Holy Trinity
Sat. 5 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.
Please join us.

Some Aphorisms:

An aphorism is a concise, terse, laconic, or memorable expression of a general truth or principle.

Pray all the time. If necessary, use words.

God forgets the past. Imitate Him.

*Greed I've often regretted.
Generosity – never.*

*Don't ask God to do what you want.
Ask God to do what is right.*

Nails didn't hold God to a cross. Love did.

*You will never forgive anyone more than
God has already forgiven you.*

No one is useless to God. No one.

Summer Bible Study
"1 Peter"
Wednesdays, 7 - 8 p.m.,
Begins this Wednesday, July 3.
In the green room.



Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

God works according to His perfect will and His perfect timing, but the understanding and exactly how that works cannot be proven ahead of time or forced into action. God and His Word are to be trusted.

We live in the midst of seed country. Drive any direction from Streator and you drive by fields - huge gardens if you will. The farmer prepares the soil and plants the seed. He may apply fertilizers or treatments. All that is work. One thing the farmer does NOT do is - try to make the seeds grow. He can't and he doesn't have to. The seed in itself contains the power to grow. Human effort does not make the seed grow. God designed the seed so that within itself it contains the pattern and power for growth.

That's the way seeds work. The farmer, the gardener, the sower, the planter, all have to trust that seed to do what it was designed to do. The seed is planted and then you wait. You don't get a harvest the next day. The kingdom of God grows like a seed, mysteriously, gradually, but dependably. Human involvement is minimal. The power for the growth is in the seed, placed there by God. It is God-power, not man-power that makes the kingdom of God grow. Secretly, slowly, but surely, the kingdom grows - and the day will come when a harvest can be expected.

Two points - First point: God is completely sufficient. He does His Work through His Word. We often act as if this growth of God's Word depends on us. We would like to "fix" people. "Make" them believe. Our spouse, our kids, our grandkids don't go to church, don't live a Christian life. They show little or no evidence of God's Word growing in their life and we are going to fix it. We think if we say the right words, or pray hard enough, or somehow get them to church then we can make them believe. That is acting as if this Word from our Lord depends on us. God makes His Word grow and you do not control over that. This is a great comfort if we will let it be.

When we become disheartened because people we love, our family members do not respond to Christ the way we would like them to, when we are discouraged about our own attempts to lead the Christian life and feel that we must "do something" - when the church appears to be weak and powerless and disappointing - what a marvelous comfort to know the power of the Word of God to accomplish the task for which God sent it. His Word is never "wasted." It does not "bounce off" people and situations or fade to nothing in thin air. It accomplishes the purpose for which it was delivered, because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a lifeless stone but it is the living, enduring, life giving Word of God.

Second point: Because the Word of God grows without our effort does not mean we do nothing. In the rich farmland of Illinois the farmer still has to plant. It is intentional. He doesn't leave the seed in storage. He plants with purpose and intention.

We intentionally gather to hear God's Word. We on purpose set aside to have devotions and pray. We give God every opportunity to let the Word of the Lord grow. That happens as we read it, think about it, meditate upon it. It will do more than you could ever ask or imagine. There is an intentionality there. We do invite our family and friends to church. We do speak about Jesus. We don't take it personally when that invitation is not accepted. We are patient and try again another time. No one becomes a Christian by accident. It doesn't just happen. It happens because Christians trust the power and purposes of God to do what He says it will do. There is work involved which we dare not neglect. It's really quite a joyous thing.

Where will it go from here? How will it grow from this time and place? What is our plan for its growth? That really isn't our concern. The Lord is the Lord of the harvest and He will continue to do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Do not be misled by the smallness of the beginning of the Word of the Gospel. Don't underestimate its power even though it may seem weak and unimpressive. Growth, though gradual, is inevitable through the power of God's almighty Word.

So we are always of good courage. . . . for we walk by faith, not by sight.

(2 Corinthians 5:6-7)

Church Council Meeting

May 28, 2024

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurers Report: Review of April church and preschool financial reports.

Church Properties: Church Properties will evaluate the Parsonage for any required repairs. Still trying to secure a 2nd or 3rd bid for repair to chimney and windows. No update on the door bids at this time. Fans were installed.

Board of Education: 22 students enrolled. Graduation for 12 students. Fall registration currently at 9. Tea Party for students and guests was a big success. Park clean up held May 20. Picnic held at the park on May 20. Carol Luke has stepped down as Preschool Director. Tonya Carter will be Interim Administrator. Cathy Koval will be the aide. Open House for Carol Luke was held June 1. Grow in God's Word will be June 23 and 30 after church. The format will be for all ages with a lesson, craft, hymn, and lunch.

Elders Report: Review of Pastoral activities. June elders assigned. Pastor Bill Jensen will fill in for Pastor Gutz May 25 and 26. Private baptism on May 18. Cleaning of Old #3 was done on May 18. Services will be held dates to follow. Pastor was asked to run again as a board member for a 3 year term on Lutheran Haven Board of Directors in Oviedo, Florida, approved by Board of Elders. Pastor reminded us to try to make Bible reading a part of your daily habits.

Parish Activities: No cradle rolls or birthdays. Sympathy card sent. May 18 cleaning Old #3 Church. Voter's Meeting June 9 the board will serve cookies, coffee and juice.

Old Business: Full slate of nominees ready for Voter's meeting on June 9th. Phone system update will be presented to the voters. Church Properties will mention upcoming projects at the Voter's meeting.

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Eileen Andree

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)

Judy Beckman

Abbey Brown (Marilyn Quinn)

Bob Cross

Buddy Crouch (Lauren Pastirik)

Sylvia Held

Laura Johnston (Nancy Hepner)

John Kochis

Sally Libby (Carol Sass)

Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)

Matt Murray (Karen Downey)

Mary Lou Rubis

Larry Runyon

Carol Sass

Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)

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.

For the Record

Christian Funeral:

George Tibbles

June 28, 2024

Serving in July

Elders

Saturday – Jack Zavada

Sunday – Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,

Altar Guild

Saturday – Volunteers

Sunday – Sandy Gutz

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.

Dear friends in Christ,

The Cundiffs in Latvia



This month begins our time of home service. It is a time designed by Synod for missionaries to

come off the field and reconnect with family, friends, and supporters. All missionaries are required to do this every two to three years.

We are excited to return to the States. Two years ago, when we began our time doing network building, we traveled a significant distance and covered a good portion of the western US. We must concentrate our time in the Midwest states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, with a few stops in Illinois and Missouri.

We are looking forward to the Sunday engagements that we have already. The work going on here in Europe is so important, and we look forward to sharing this with as many people in the States as possible. God is truly at work and blesses the work of his Church because, through faithful Word and Sacrament ministry, Christ calls and gathers his people to himself, and he nourishes and feeds them. Missionaries see this on a daily basis, and we look forward to coming to tell you all about it!

We had a very busy May! Quintin successfully completed his second year of teaching at the academy but continues with many administrative tasks. Lindsay will begin her BSN studies in August but has lots of admission steps to complete before then! We joined another missionary family and other local families. It was so refreshing to meet together with these Christ-loving families for companionship and revitalization!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Cundiff

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Safe travels for the Cundiffs during their period of Home Service.
- Our faculty and students.
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Our generous donors and prayers, along with the steadfast workers.