

Holy Trinity Ambassador

November 2024



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.

at Holy Trinity



Remember Our Veterans

Veteran's Day – November 11th

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.

Preschool Nut Sale

The nut sale is over. Be watching for pick up information. Thank you for supporting preschool with your orders.

Kroger Rewards Cards

Thank you to our 45 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters who shopped the 3rd quarter have contributed to the \$112.46 donation to Holy Trinity. Our total so far this year is **\$323.80**. This is done by registering and scanning your Kroger Plus Card. **Call the office for more information.**

Pray for All People 1 Timothy 2:1-6

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

Life is full of disappointments. Accepting that truth can help you grow in contentment. People will fail to meet your expectations – and you theirs.

Your parents will disappoint you and so too your children and grandchildren. Your friends will disappoint you and so too your relatives. All will fail you at times and in a variety of ways. And . . . you will do the same for them. Your church will disappoint you and you'll disappoint your church. Your spouse will disappoint you and you'll disappoint your spouse. Your friends will disappoint you and you will disappoint your friends. No one will ever fully meet your hopes, desires, and expectations. No one ever *can* fully meet your hopes, desires, and expectations. And you can't meet theirs.

God's gifts are good and are meant to be enjoyed. Yet none of them can deliver all that they promise. Each of them brings a level of satisfaction but also a level of disappointment. Be wary of that longing for more because it can lead to making poor decisions. It can lead us to forsake the ones we love and be discontent in their efforts and best attempts to love. It can lead us to act in ways that hurt others and dishonor God.

When you encounter disappointments, do not be surprised nor dismayed. Do not allow them to cause you to turn aside from those who love you and those whom you are to love. Accept them as a reality of life in this world. Instead of resenting them, embrace them and allow them to deepen your love and your longing for the only One who will never let you down.

And how does one practice one's devotion to God?

Wendell Berry in his book *Hannah Coulter* puts Scripture into context.

"You mustn't wish for another life. You mustn't want to be somebody else. What you must do is this:
"Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In everything give thanks."
I am not all the way capable of so much, but those are the right instructions."

If you are a Christian, recognize there will be disappointments and also recognize the belonging and purpose you have in Jesus; you have all things through Christ.

Christ calls you into a further mystery: He calls you to the ordinary life that every Christian believer is called to—a life of rejoicing, gratitude, and prayer as you pour yourself out for the people God has given to you, all while belonging to a community bound together by water, body, and blood. This line from *Lord of the Rings* can sum that up: "*And that will keep you as busy and as happy as anyone can be, as long as your part of the Story goes on.*"

(Thanks to writers Jake Meador and Tim Challies for their thoughts in this.)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



Church Council Meeting

September 24, 2024

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

Treasurer's Report: Reports from August 31, 2024 for the preschool and church were reviewed with no corrections.

Church Properties: Church Properties discussed custodian's compensation. Door project on hold. Work continues on chimney/cement projects. Old #3 repairs have been made. Touch up painting will take place in preschool bathrooms. One stump at Old #3 has been removed. Work continues on Old #3 gates. Discussion held about boiler and chimney exhaust. No further decision on this project.

Board of Education: Preschool enrollment is 22 students with 17 full tuition and 3 available openings. Nut orders due October 3. No school on Columbus Day, October 14. Fall Festival is October 17. Staff handbook to be reviewed. Revised at the October meeting.

Church Education: Sunday Bible classes began September 8. Confirmation will be September 22. New adult information class to begin September 21 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

Elders: Assigned elders for October. Sunday a.m. Bible class, Sunday school, confirmation instruction and Tuesday a.m. Bible classes have resumed. Confirmation will be September 22 with 3 confirmands. Adult Instruction classes on Saturday 6:30 – 7:30 starting September 21. Welch family have transferred their membership back to Holy Trinity. New phones and computer for church office are up and running. Pastor and Elders continue to look and pray for finding another organist and additional CD operators.

Parish Activities: Cards were sent for shut-ins. Plans were discussed for the church picnic on September 29. Budget reviewed with no changes.

Old Business: 2025 Church budget was reviewed. Adjustments were made and approved for presentation to voters.

Voters Meeting

Results of Oct. 20th Voters Meeting.

29 voters unanimously approved the 2025 budget.

**A Christian's life is
a window through which
others can see Jesus.**

Serving in November

Elders

Saturday – Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle

Altar Guild

Saturday – Nickie Clark, Tracy Stortz

Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

Acolyte

Jaylin Lowe



Now Thank We All
OUR GOD

Preschool

During November we will talk about all of our blessings and everything we are thankful for. We will also talk about Thanksgiving, our community helpers, story retelling, and continue with phonics.

Bible Stories will be: The Twelve Spies Report, Jericho, Gideon Wins the Battle

Bible memory verse - "The Lord is good to all." Psalm 145:9

Parent/Teacher conferences will be on November 22nd.

Dates to Remember:

November 22 - No School P/T Conf.

November 22 - 28 - No School
Thanksgiving Break

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Eileen Andree
Judy Beckman
Walt Bernard

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)
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)

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.

Dear friends in Christ,

The Cundiffs
in Latvia



Life on the field has been a joy over this last month.

We are well into the fall semester with Luther Academy. Carter's school is underway and he is involved in some great extracurricular activities as well. Lindsay is back to school, and I am halfway through my Ph.D. program.

The English services that we have been doing at St. John's for the last few years are set to expand this month. We will be worshipping in English every week. This is an important development because, in order to plant an actual congregation, we need to have not only regular worship services, we also need to develop a community. The missionary families already have lunch together after church most Sundays, and we are occasionally joined by a Latvian or two who speak English and attend the services.

In other news, I have been given some expanded responsibilities on the field. I was recently promoted to the role of Area Facilitator for Eurasia North and East. This means that I have responsibility for the oversight of the mission activity and missionaries in these areas of our region. This will facilitate greater communication on the field, and we will be able to collaborate on projects more effectively.

It is a joy to work so closely with Rev. Dr. David Preus as our Regional Director and Rev. Nathaniel Jensen, the Area Facilitator for Eurasia South and West.

God's blessings to you this fall, and we thank you all for your continued support of this important work that our Lord is doing throughout Eurasia!

In Christ's service,
Pastor Cundiff