

# Holy Trinity Ambassador



## Christmas Worship

Tuesday – December 24  
Christmas Eve

1 p.m. at Old #3  
7 p.m. Candlelight at HTLC

Wednesday – December 25

Christmas Day  
9 a.m. Divine Service

## Advent Worship

Wednesdays,  
Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
At Noon

## Lunch Following

## Preschool Nut Sale

Thank you to all for your orders! We have some extra nuts available for purchase! Check in the fellowship hall after services or Monday – Friday 8 a.m. - noon!

# December 2024



The Flower, Candle and Radio sign-up sheet for 2025 is on the bulletin board outside church office.

Candles are \$20.  
Flowers are \$30 small, \$40 large.  
Radio Broadcast \$90.

Looking for some Christmas gifts to encourage growth in faith?

The Lutheran Study Bible – \$40 & \$45  
Bible Covers - \$17  
Book of Concord – Readers Edition - \$25  
The Real Story of Creation - \$5 (youth)  
The Real Story of the Flood - \$5 (youth)  
A Child's Garden of Bible Stories - \$14  
Hope for Hurting Singles – by Jack Zavada, \$15  
Available copies in the church office.

## Preschool

Theme for the month of December will be Christmas traditions, the birth of Jesus and teaching the students about what it means to give and how wonderful it feels to do so.  
**December Bible stories:** "David the Shepherd", "David and Goliath", "Jesus is born"  
**Bible memory verse - December –**  
"A Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.  
**Class Christmas party** December 18  
**Christmas program:** December 19.  
**Christmas break begins** December 23



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

Christmas is for children. Young eyes take in the beautiful lights. Young hearts anticipate receiving gifts. Young minds wonder at stories of sleighs and reindeer.

So what happens? The young grow old. The lights and decorations although enjoyed, lose their luster. Some don't even bother taking them down. The purchasing of gifts can be challenging and easily spins out of control. The stories of Christmas are recognized for being just that - "stories." The "magic" of Christmas that we thought we experienced as children becomes a memory - a mirage. Bad things still happen, even at Christmas. It is adults who are stressed out during the holidays - not children. It is adults who wish for something different, looking for answers in unhealthy places.

So what happened? Adults begin to see that the decorations, the gift-giving, the "stories" - it's all man-made. It is one huge money-making campaign. It's all marketing meant to sell a product. There are even merchants who will offer Christmas year-around, as if the problem is that we don't have enough of it. Yet it doesn't satisfy. Is it any wonder that this time of the year finds adults stressed out, wired up, and feeling down? This is what happens when people believe they can manufacture their own solutions. It's nothing new.

Into this sin-sick, selfish, money-driven, commercialized culture comes a Savior. He comes to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world including yours and mine. It is a fascinating story. It is a true story. And yes there are bright lights, and gifts, and mystery. We are simply the receivers of the gifts! Both young and not so young. The majesty and the mystery are not driven by money or marketing but by mercy! The story is not told to extract dollars from your pocket but that you might believe and receive the one who came to give His life for the life of the world. God does not have a hidden agenda. He desires you to live with Him forever. And in that kingdom there will be no death and He will wipe away every tear!

So when you rush through the brightly lit aisles, looking for stuff the way everyone else is, remember to open your eyes and smile. Spend time in the checkout line in prayer. All the plastic will melt away in the consuming fire of God's holiness, at some point or other. Feelings come and go. None of us trying to get one more thing crossed off a list, are God. But in all the craziness, our God comes to be with us. In Jesus we discover burdens made light, joy in the midst of sorrow, and promises that never fail. (Thanks to author Anne Kennedy for some of these thoughts.)

### **Thoughts to Think on:**

- 1. Life isn't the problem. Your interpretations are:** You might think: "This post is long. It stinks that I have to read all this." Or: "This post is long. So much to look forward to!" Post is the same. Your interpretation created those feelings.
- 2. Step back:** "Be more impulsive" isn't advice you hear a lot.
- 3. Accept:** Nor do you hear "you should live in denial."
- 4. The mind requires training:** Yes, that means work. We know being impulsive and denying reality aren't good but we do them anyway. Bad habits are hard to break. Meditate on that. Literally.
- 5. Getting through is the only way through:** You'll never eliminate your personal basket of neuroses — but you don't have to act on them either. Be patient with others and yourself.
- 6. Focus on the present:** Regret might be back there. Anxiety might be up ahead. But what is really bothering you right now? So spend more time in the now.
- 7. People are ridiculous. Love them anyway:** The only people who are perfect and always make sense are people you don't know very well. We all take our turn as the crazy relative at Thanksgiving dinner. Treat people as old friends and often they will become just that.
- 8. Pray. Especially the Psalms.** Remember who's in charge and greater than your problems.

**The final step? Thanksgiving – in ALL things.**

## Church Council Meeting October 29, 2024

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Treasurer's Report: Preschool:** Financials are positive for the year. **Church:** The church sign on the north side of town will be reimbursed from IDOT.

**Church Properties:** Insurance for Old #3 with State Farm will be paid since the repairs are completed. Parking lot light was repaired. Old #3 furnace was checked out and is working. All but 1 of the tree stumps at Old #3 have been removed. Painting in PS bathrooms completed. Discussion held about chimney project. More information needed. Door project is on hold until the chimney is completed.

**Board of Education: Preschool:** We have 21 enrolled (full/partial tuitions). No school on election day. Parent/ Teacher conferences are on Nov. 22. Thanksgiving break is Nov. 22-28. Staff handbook was revised.

**Church:** Confirmation was held on Sept. 22. Educations classes all underway. Sunday School held when there are students.

**Elders:** Elders volunteered for Nov. services. Pastor has Adult Instructional Class on

Saturdays after church. Pastor is serving as a mentor for a student at Woodland once a month. Review of Thanksgiving Eve, Advent and Christmas services. The Advent services to start at noon. Continue to look and pray for another organist and additional CD operators.

**Parish Activities:** Cradle roll and cards were sent. Picnic was well received. Voter's meeting had refreshments. Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be in Dec. Advent services are on Dec. 4, 11, and 18.

### The Birth of Jesus Christ

And the angel said to them, "Fear not,  
for behold, I bring you good news of great  
joy that will be for all the people. For unto  
you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



### For The Record

#### Christian Funeral

**Clint Peters**  
**November 19, 2024**

### Serving in December

#### Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis  
Sunday – James Warwick

#### Ushers

John Burt, Rob Downey,

#### Altar Guild

Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman  
Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

### 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 and family

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

**+ Clint Peters +**

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 Clint Peters.

Clint was born May 15, 1928 in Clark, South Dakota. He was the son of Earl and Alice (Henry) Peters. He was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on June 1, 1928 and confirmed in 1940. Clint married Lois Marie German on January 3, 1949, in Shakopee, Minn. They first met in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and were married 58 years of marriage until her death in 2007. On Tuesday, November 12, Clint at the age of 96 years fell asleep in Jesus.

He is survived by a daughter, Marjo (Don) Simons of Bloomington; a son, Michael (Melissa) Peters of Streator, grandchildren: Catherine (Bobby) Barry, Sean Peters, Jacob (Melody) Simons and Jared (Kayla) Simons; 6 great grandchildren; and a half-brother Jim (LaVonne) Rasmusson of Minneapolis, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a son, Mark in infancy; a brother, Don Peters; half-brothers, Dale Rasmusson, Gary Rasmusson and Elwin who died in infancy; and half-sisters Marcella Rasmusson and Helen Rasmusson.

He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. While in service he was stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Clint was a district sales manager for Allis Chalmers. He later owned and operated Streator Farm Mart and Ladd Farm Mart. Through the years he sold Allis Chalmers tractors, Gleaner Combines, Simplicity Mowers, and Kubota tractors living up to his sales motto "You don't need a mint to deal with Clint." Never staying still for long, he enjoyed Friday night dinners out with friends, Sunday drives, tending to his rose bushes and planting petunias. He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

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 brother, Clint.

The Cundiffs  
in Latvia

Dear friends in Christ,



It sure is getting dark earlier now, isn't it? As we slide into the darker part of the year, I find myself reflecting on the words of Isaiah 25:7-8: "And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken."

God reminds us that he has already given the answer for this darkness of death. Our Lord Jesus Christ swallowed up death at the cross and through his resurrection. In Christ, we have eternal life. And that life is ours now. This life then belongs to our Lord. And as his servants, we now rejoice at the opportunity to share the willingness of our master to receive all others as well! This is why we as Christians engage in mission: Death has been defeated, and we get to tell people about not just the victory but also the victor!

May God grant you the light of life and joy as we move into the end of the Church year and look with anticipation to our celebration of God swallowing up the shroud of death by sending his son to be incarnate among us for our salvation. May God bless the work of all missionaries throughout the world, and may He bless those who pray for and support those engaged in the work.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Cundiff



*Merry  
Christmas!*