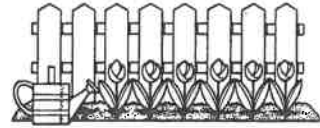


# Holy Trinity Ambassador

## April 2025



### Holy Week Schedule

**All Services at Holy Trinity**

**Palm Sunday - 9 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday - 7 p.m.**

**Good Friday - 7 p.m.**

**No Holy Saturday Service**

**Easter Sunday - 9 a.m.**

**Brunch potluck following**

---

### **Easter Lilies Available**

**These decorate the church at Easter.  
Forms can be found on stage or back  
of church. Cost is \$15.**

---

### NOTHINGbundtCAKES\*

**Fundraiser - A Sweet Way to Support  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Preschool**

**Individual Bundtlet Cost: \$6.75  
Order by: Tuesday, April 29  
Order forms on stage or back of  
church.**

### Private Confession

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 - 9 a.m.  
We use the hymnal p.292.**

### Church Picture Directory

#### **Picture Days!**

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

Scheduling is ongoing.

Monday - Friday schedule online.

Go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)

Click the box to the right that says  
"photography appointment scheduling  
login".

Enter **il405** in the Church Code field.

Enter **photos** in the Church Password  
field.

Follow the prompts to schedule your  
appointment time.

On weekends, you can schedule your  
appointment at the church.

**You receive a free 8 x 10 for  
participating.** Do your part. Schedule  
an appointment.

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

Our main stained-glass window in the church portrays Jesus praying. The Bible tells us that Jesus often went off by Himself to pray. In the garden of Gethsemane before Jesus was arrested he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:42)

Jesus did the Father's will. From beginning to end, He did the Father's will. What is the opposite of that? To do one's own will. Where does that lead?

George MacDonald (1824 – 1905) was a Scottish author, poet and Christian Congregational minister, who greatly influenced C.S. Lewis. He wrote:

*For the one principle of Hell is "I am my own. I am my own king and my own subject. I am the center from which go out my thoughts; I am the object and end of my thoughts; back upon me as the alpha and omega of life, my thoughts return. My own glory is, and ought to be, my chief care; my ambition, to gather regards of men to the one center, myself. My pleasure is my pleasure. My kingdom is — as many as I can bring to acknowledge my greatness over them. My judgment is the faultless rule of things. My right is — what I desire. The more I am all in all to myself, the greater I am. The less I acknowledge debt or obligation to another; the more I close my eyes to the fact that I did not make myself; the more self-sufficing I feel or imagine myself — the greater I am." (Unspoken Sermons, 1905)*

This is a principle of hell because it is a recipe for every kind of sin and indulgence. It is destruction and death. We are encouraged to live this way and we do.

Notice our Savior. He is obedient to His Father unto death, even death on a cross. Why? For us and for our salvation!

**He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV) John 1:11–14**

Jesus comes to set us free - free from ourselves. In His Word there is life and freedom. It is not found in ourselves or in having whatever we think we need to have. It is found in Jesus. When we lose ourselves in Jesus which means being of service to those around us - we discover that everything is given to us in Jesus. Jesus is Lord. See you in church.

### **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)**

### **For God So Loved the World**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

## Church Council Meeting

February 25, 2025

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

**Treasurers Report:** January 2025 Church and Preschool financials were reviewed. Both reports indicate a solid start.

**Church Properties:** Stump removal was complete, awaiting invoice. Working on quotes for chimney project. Old #3 has no issues despite the cold weather.

**Board of Education:** Preschool enrollment is 22. Parent/teacher conferences is March 21<sup>st</sup>. Spring break is March 24-30. No school on Election Day, April 1. Staff evaluations are done. Preschool will participate in Lion's Club Radio days in March. There will be eight 30 seconds ads to promote the preschool and pre-registration for 2025/26 school year.

**Parish Activities:** Sympathy cards sent. Plans for Church directory were discussed. Planned meals after Wednesday Lenten services.

### **New Business:**

Church directory pictures are scheduled. The All-Boards meeting is on Monday, Apr.7.

## **For Your Prayers**

### Members in Bold (requested by)

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)

### **Larry Runyon**

### **Carol Sass**

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.

## Serving in April

### Elders

Saturday – Jack Zavada

Sunday – James Warwick

### Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis,

### Altar Guild

Saturday – Kim and Ben Donner

Sunday – Val McCollum

## Preschool

Springtime is a time of renewal! The days are warmer and longer! Everything feels fresh and new! Spring also brings us Easter!

During April, we will be learning about the death and resurrection of our Lord. We will do this through many different hands-on activities.

We will also be learning about transportation, magnets, positional words, and we will be finishing up the letters.

**April Bible Verse: "He is not here, He is risen!" Matthew 28:6**

### **April Bible Stories:**

Jesus Crucifixion

Easter Morning

Jesus Feeds the Disciples

The Ascension

**Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year.**

**April 1:** No School - Election Day

**April 11:** Parent/Teacher Conferences

**April 21:** No School - Easter Monday

**April 30:** You & Me Tea - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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)

### Eileen Andree+

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 Eileen Andree.

Eileen was born January 24, 1933 in Troy Grove, Illinois. She was the daughter of Glenn and Frances (Hall) Morrison. She was baptized and confirmed. She married James "Jim" Andree on April 26, 1952 at the First United Methodist Church in Streator. He preceded her in death on August 28, 2016. On Wednesday, February 26, Eileen at the age of 92 years fell asleep in Jesus.

Eileen is survived by her daughter Linda (Pat) McGurk of Streator; son Jim (Shelly) Andree of Blackstone; grandchildren: Sheila (Cory) Rogers, Sara (Jerry Dronenberg) Perrotta, Robert Andree, Trisha (Devon Richardson) Studnicki, Julie (Nathan) Matsko, Chris (Charissa) Andree, Staci (Selby Proud) Harcharik, Jason (Lindsey) Andree; great-grandchildren: Cali, Ashlyn, Steven, Breanna, Anthony, Michael, Andrew, Jackson, Joey, Brayden, Bradley, Kennedy, Evelyn, Stella, Bennett, Gretchen, Gwenyth and Vivienne. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Jim; her son, David Andree, daughter-in-law, Sue Andree and her brothers, Glenn and Gene Morrison. Eileen was a graduate of Ottawa High School, class of 1951. She embraced the life of a farmer's wife as Jim and her farmed in the Blackstone area for many years. In addition to her work on the farm she worked for 27 years at JC Penney. Eileen 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 sister Eileen.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our students, faculty, and administration as we have begun the spring semester. Our students in war-torn countries, especially those students who face the possibility of being drafted into their militaries.
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- YOU - our generous donors and prayer warriors, along with the steadfast workers of Mission Central and Mission Advancement, without whom this mission would be impossible.

### 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)

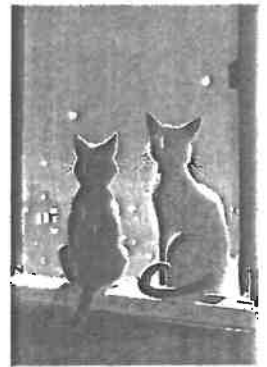
### For the Record

Christian Funeral  
Eileen Andree  
March 3, 2025

The Promise of  
**EASTER**

"CATechism corner"

Stretch . . . yawn . . . It's good to be a cat! This is Sammy, the super cool cat that's also Lutheran. My sidekick is Monroe. He tries hard. I'll give him that. Last month we left you with a few questions about the 10 commandments. Today we are giving you the answers.

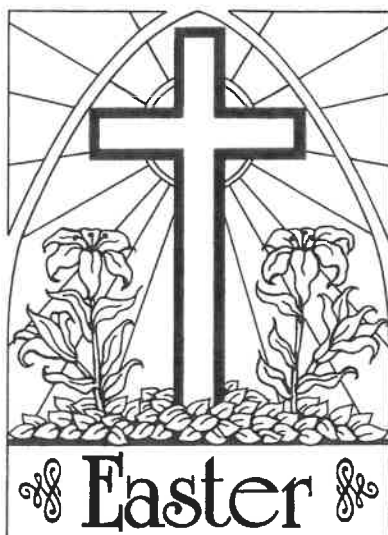


1. Which commandment urges you to talk to the animals? Number 10. The explanation: We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, **but urge them** to stay and do their duty. There it is! Urge your neighbor's dog to stay home and do his duty - in his own yard!
2. Which day of the week is the Sabbath day? Easy one. Saturday. Since Jesus fulfilled all the commandments on our behalf we are free to worship our Lord every day!
3. Which commandment would remind you to obey the government? Number 4. The explanation: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents **and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them**, love and cherish them.
4. Is it okay to gossip if it's true? No! Like old Grannykat used to say, "If you can't say anything good, don't say anything at all." 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment. Monroe is quiet a lot.

And finally our trick question, number 5. Can you get to heaven by keeping the commandments? In theory - yes - if you could keep them perfectly and were born without sin. In reality - no - since you cannot keep them perfectly and were born with sin.

Small CATechism is a great book. Always learning something. Have a great upcoming Holy Week and Easter. Don't let your cats eat chocolate. Dogs shouldn't eat it either. And because dogs aren't very smart, you have to watch them closer.

Be Kind,  
Sammy and Monroe



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