

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# October 2025



## **#1 reason someone comes to church?**

Someone invites them. Not rocket science. Someone invites them. Who could you invite? Spouse, family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker? You don't need to make a production of it. They are forgiven and loved in Jesus. We hear that in church. If we're not in church, we don't hear that. If they say, "No," respect that. There will be other opportunities. On the other hand, they might surprise you and say, "Yes!"

**Risk giving them that opportunity!**

-----

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Pack a shoebox to be sent to a child at Christmas.

**Where can I get one?**

**Beginning in early October - Back of church (Narthex) or on the stage.**

Every gift is an opportunity to share with children around the world.

**Boxes need to be returned November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Voters Meeting**

Voters Meeting will follow the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The 2026 budget will be presented.**

-----

## **Quilting Circle**

The Quilting Circle has resumed **Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.** Every quilt made is donated as a blessing to others. Members and non-members who are interested in sewing or quilting are welcome.

-----

## **Final Instructions and Benediction**

1 Thessalonians 5:13-18

Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



## Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

(Excerpted from "The Point of the Entire Exercise" by A. Kennedy)

Of the many millions of people who have gone to church through this past century, it is extraordinary to **stay**, to never wander off somewhere else. It is no longer any great virtue to forgive. Forgiveness is hard enough all by itself, but when everyone around you is calling to you to take offense, to put yourself first, to examine your feelings, to take care of yourself, the chief reason for going at all is lost, both intellectually and emotionally, in the souls of Christians.

Why go to church? Because you have to learn how to forgive. You have to learn the heartbreaking way of the cross, which is to be forgiven, and to forgive.

There are three people/groups that you have to always be forgiving if you're going to make it in a church. You have to forgive the other people in the pews, sometimes just for even existing. You have to forgive the pastor. And you have to forgive God, ultimately, not for sinning (which He doesn't do) but for not organizing things the way you would. If the Christian does not take this to be the chief reason he is there—if it is something else, like "belonging" or "bringing about the kingdom of God on earth" or anything like that—then he will never relearn the lost lesson of staying put, which is an astonishing and a merciful lesson.

In Matthew 18, after explaining how it is that the church should cope with the inevitable and painful disagreements and sins that members of the body will have, one with another—Jesus adds a parable to add emotional weight to the question.

A man owes all the money in the world, more than anyone can imagine, and when he flings himself on the mercy of the master, the master forgives him. Which means the master was out that amount of money. The master took an immense loss. The money was real, and it disappeared because the servant threw it all away. It will never come back. The servant, of course, never wants to think about it from that angle. He has incurred a debt and he cannot pay it and he is miserable. He can't get out from under his own anxious burden to see it from the master's perspective.

This is what happens. Something goes wrong, someone disappoints you, or doesn't 'get' you, or looks cross-eyed at you, and you think, 'Oh, that is unacceptable, I'm outta here.' You go find some other church, or you quit going altogether. You just can't stomach the ridiculousness of others.

That's the first set of people you have to forgive—everyone in the church. And, second, the pastor, as I said, who will disappoint you. He's constantly having to face the humiliation of putting his own debt of sin down before the Master, and then stand up and face the people again on Sunday. He tries hard to swallow down their slights, their debts, and point them always to the cross. Sometimes he fails. Maybe often. Still, the people in his church have to forgive him, one way or another. Why? Because Jesus commanded them to.

And finally, you have to forgive the Master himself—the one who forgave you all that debt. He gave you your life back, out of his own blood, if you would only accept Him as He is. So why are you so angry?

In the parable of the Unmerciful Servant, some like to say that he didn't 'feel' or 'realize' he was forgiven and so was unwilling, in turn, to forgive. And that may be so. I think he was unwilling to feel the humiliation of being forgiven. It is much easier, to walk away from discovering that you sinned so deeply that someone else is actually hurt. You tell yourself that it is not a big deal. To look at yourself and see that your own sin is so sickening, so incalculably big, so that you cannot repair the damage or repay the debt is too hard—God should not be the kind of God to make you do that.

God holds before you the cross. He invites you to Himself, for whom forgiveness is not optional. He sets you free. The debt is paid that you might forgive as you have been forgiven.



## Church Council Meeting

August 26, 2025

### Present:

J. Zavada, D. Gotch, K. Downey, R. Kochis, D. Reynolds, B. Kerestes, C. Kerestes and Pastor Gutz.

**Treasurer Report:** June and July financial reports from the church and preschool were reviewed.

**Church Properties:** Reviewed the 2026 Budget and made some minor adjustments. Preschool awning is complete.

**Board of Education Report:** Preschool enrollment is full with 18 students. Orientation on went well. Preschool fund raiser at The BullPen on September 29 from 4-7 p.m. All preschool work projects are complete. Reviewed and submitted budget. Catechism, Sunday Bible Class and Tuesday Bible class resume in September. Wednesday school is pending.

**Elders Report:** Service schedule was reviewed with volunteers assigned. Old #3 had service on July 27 with 33 in attendance. Reviewed budget and submitted. Please continue to pray for an organist and CD operators. Make Bible reading a part of your daily habits.

**Parish Activities Report:** A sympathy card was sent. Reviewed budget and submitted. Plans were made for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship on August 31.

**Old Business:** Church directory is being proofed and will be sent back for printing. It is well put together. The company did a great job.

**New Business:** Old #3 gate needs some repairs.



## Serving in October

### Elders

Sunday – Mike Peters  
Saturday – Jack Zavada

### Ushers

Bob Barr Jr., David Kochis

### Altar Guild

Saturday – Nickie Clark, Tracy Stortz  
Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

## For Your Prayers

### Members in Bold (requested by)

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)  
Abbey Brown (Marilyn Quinn)

### **Bob Cross**

Buddy Crouch (Lauren Pastirik)

### **Roberta Foster**

### **Sylvia Held**

### **John Kochis**

Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)

### **Larry Runyon**

Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

TIM missionary: Rev. Jordan Andreasen

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



Thanks for reading! This is Sammy with my sidekick Monroe. I am the larger of the two. We are cousins actually. Not sure about the exact bloodlines but we like to think we are from royalty. Cat bloodlines can be hard to track. Did you know a cat can start to have kittens at about 6 months of age? And the length of a cat pregnancy is about 9 weeks. Cats can multiply! – and I'm not talking about arithmetic.



This leads us into our next commandment – the sixth. "You shall not commit adultery." What does that mean? We are to fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other." Now this is for people – not for cats. God designed marriage. His design is one man and one woman for life – monogamy. God's design is good and it works. When people start acting using their sexual parts outside of marriage things go sideways. You've seen the evidence. Broken hearts. Broken homes. Broken lives. People disrespecting others as well as themselves. The Bible is full of stories of people not following God's design. When folks listen more to the world than to God's Word they need to get redirected. The God who made us wants the best for us. Indulging in self-gratification - in whatever form - never works out well in the long run. What can seem like present pleasure can lead to life altering circumstances. You can fill in the blanks.

Husbands, love your wives. Wives, respect your husbands. Children are a blessing and gift from the Lord. If not getting married works for you – you also do well. St. Paul tells us singleness has advantages married folks don't have. He writes about it in 1 Corinthians 6 and 7. Whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced – honor God with your body - it is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. Us cats do not have that advantage. . . and cats make great pets!

Be Kind,

Sammy and Monroe

## **Preschool**

October is exploring the season of fall, digging into the world of dinosaurs, learning important fire safety tips, and discovering different shapes. We will have a lot of fun.

**October Memory Verse:** I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Phillipians 4:13

### **Our Bible Stories:**

"Isaac is Born"

"Joseph and his Father and Brothers"

"Baby Moses"

"Crossing the Red Sea"

**Our Theme for October** – the forest, nocturnal animals, and pumpkins. We will have activities aimed at enhancing our fine motor skills and practicing printing our names.

### **Dates to Remember**

September 29 – BullPen Fundraiser 4 – 7.

October 13<sup>th</sup> - Columbus Day - No School

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Family Fall Festival 5:30 - 7:00