

Holy Trinity Ambassador

November 2025



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 5 p.m.

at Holy Trinity



Remember Our Veterans
Veteran's Day – November 11th

Voters Meeting

Results of Oct. 19th Voters Meeting.
34 voters unanimously approved the
2026 budget.

Morning Prayer

So far today, God, I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper,
haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish
or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about
that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to
get out of bed, and from then on, I'm
probably going to need a lot more help.
Thank you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**Invite a Friend
to Church!**

**(or an enemy or even someone
you don't know)**



Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

What follows is an excerpt from a book published in 1939 in Sweden by one of my favorite authors – Bo Giertz. I find it encouraging. I hope you do as well.

All that the Church does is based on the firm faith that the Word is efficient and that without the Word there is no salvation for this suffering world, since it does not know God. Nothing but God's Word and sacrament can make a person a Christian. If the Word does not have any effect on her, nothing else will help.

In times of decline, when the crowds are thinning seriously, the Church must only ask herself if she has rightly administered the sacraments and if she has proclaimed the Word purely and clearly and lovingly. If she has done that, then she has also done all that is in her power and all that God has commanded her to do for the conversion of man. He who hardens himself before God's Word rightly proclaimed has therewith said no to God Himself. Our heavenly Father must again and again experience that grief.

The Church too must live with that grief, in prayer and patient waiting, without giving up hope, without getting weary in deeds of love, and without ceasing to proclaim the Word just as purely and clearly and lovingly as always. But woe to her if she thinks that adding human means will do it, where God's Word was rejected, and sevenfold woe to her if she, fearing to lose also her last hearers, attempts to keep them with human ties but neglects to preach the Word for judgment and grace, purely and clearly and lovingly! It can be very tempting to do such a thing.

When people are not coming to church, God's Word is being diluted with lots of other things that are attractive to sinful human nature. The methods vary according to the taste of the people that one is eager to reach. But the consequences are just as disastrous in every case. One substitutes religious interest for faith. One connects the people to activities, projects, and entertaining events, but not to Christ. Of course, it is quite possible to get a lot of people to come together! Captivating speakers and popular musicians will often attract large audiences. Hundreds of examples of the entertainment offered by the churches are frequently advertised in the newspapers, on community bulletin boards, and on bill boards along our highways. That is the way the churches go, when they no longer dare to trust only and solely in God's Word and sacrament. . . . All of us in the church need to acknowledge that our salvation stands and falls with the right proclamation and the right reception of the Word, and not with any other procedures or movements or organizations or reforms.

Christ's Church, Bo Giertz, 1939. Translated by Hans Andrae, published by Wipf and Stock, 2010. p. 107.

How Great are Your Works

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:1-2

Church Council Meeting

September 30, 2025

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

Treasurer's Report: Preschool financials look good. August Church expenses were mostly in line with a few exceptions, but overall, the church financials are in good shape.

Church Properties: Budget was reviewed and approved. R. Britenstine and B. Reynolds are calling contractors for the chimney repairs. D. Reynolds getting estimates on removal of window a/c units. Old #3 gate was repaired and reinforced by D. Reynolds. B. Etenburn submitted snow removal rate. It was approved. Outside lights in need of repair. Bid from Ficek was approved with LED lighting. ComEd rebate will be submitted.

Board of Education: Preschool enrollment is down by 1 student. A new student will begin in January. Bullpen fund raiser went well selling 225 tickets. Thank you everyone who purchased the tickets. October 23 will be Fall Fest at the preschool.

Elders: Scheduled volunteers to services in October. Bible classes, confirmation instruction have resumed. Pastor provided support to Zion Lutheran in Ottawa by visiting hospitalized member. Their vacancy pastor resides over 2 hours away. Reviewed and approved the budget. Continue to look for organist and CD operators. Reminder to make Bible reading a part of daily habit.

Parish Activities: One shut-in birthday card was sent. Coffee and cookies will be served at the October Voter's meeting.

Old Business: Reviewed the 2026 church budget.

New Business: Randy Kochis mentioned the call list for the security system needs to be updated. There are 2 lists. One for the security system and one for the fire alarm system. Pastor will see if he can get the list for the committee.

Serving in November

Elders

Saturday – Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle

Altar Guild

Saturday – Jeff & Nancy McMullen

Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach



For the Record

Christian Funeral

Sylvia Held

October 11, 2025

Tracy Morgan

October 25, 2025

"CATechism corner"

Fall is "cat cuddle time." Short days. Longer nights. Cool but not cold. Good time to assemble your winter reading list. We continue along with our cat-analysis of the 10 commandments.

"You shall not steal." What does that mean? It should be obvious. Don't take your neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

We all understand that we shouldn't shoplift or steal stuff out of our neighbor's garage. But how about when you are lazy at work? That's stealing! How about when they're giving out free samples at the store and you take three instead of one? How about when the dog comes and eats my food out of my dish! That's stealing. We know stealing when we see it but when we do it – that's different. We justify helping ourself to something that really isn't ours. What's the opposite of stealing? Being generous. Giving. Helping someone maintain what is their's.

Commandment eight is, **"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."** What does that mean? Don't tell lies about other people, slander, or hurt their reputation. Rather, defend them, speak well of them and explain everything in the kindest way." I could tell you that Monroe really struggles with this one, but then I would be breaking this commandment. We all know those who gossip. We never think of ourselves as gossips. We're sharing information. We think they need to know. Ugh. We are so good at defending our sin. Jesus needs to help a lot with this one. Our talking gets us into soooo much trouble. That's how cat fights get started. Hiss, hiss, claws out. In James 3, he writes that no human being can tame the tongue. That would be a good goal. I am going to not say anything negative about Monroe for two weeks. You have to start somewhere. Wish me well. Get your pets ready for winter. But do not put a sweater on your cat!

Be Kind,
Sammy and Monroe



Preschool

November is centered on farming, harvesting, and Thanksgiving.

We will practice sequencing stories, review numbers 1 – 4, and continue building foundational reading skills through phonics. We will also work on sorting based on shape, color, and size. We will focus on building a kind classroom community by exploring good manners and learning how to articulate feelings.

Stories will be: The 12 Spies Report, Jericho, Gideon Wins the Battle

Bible memory verse - "I am the good shepherd." John 10:11

Parent/Teacher conferences will be on November 14th.

Dates to Remember:

November 11 - No School Veteran's Day.

November 14 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 24-27 – No School -Thanksgiving Break

Andreasens in Romania



Dear Friends in Christ,

We thank you for your prayers for the work in Romania and the Balkans. We are in full fall swing.

The kids recently had "International Day" at their school it was amazing to see the 28 countries represented. Our kids were glad to share being American and (1/4) Finnish.

Alison is now busy on the equivalent of the PTA at the school and I am busy serving and supporting the Romanian Church and now also as Area Facilitator for the Eastern portion of the region.

The month ahead is busy as I travel for an ordination in Sweden, a conference in Germany and then Rev. Sorin Trifa will be appointed as the "Superintendent" of the Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania and Moldova. This is still under a "temporary" organization for the coming 10 years, but marks an important step toward this church and her pastors taking more leadership in how things are done as they share the Gospel.

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,
Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)

Abbey Brown (Marilyn Quinn)

Bob Cross

Buddy Crouch (Lauren Pastirik)

Roberta Foster

John Kochis

Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)

Larry Runyon

Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

TIM missionary: Rev. Jordan Andreasen

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.

DAILY BIBLE
READINGS



+ Sylvia Held +

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 Sylvia Held.

Sylvia was born October 14, 1936 in Streator. She was the daughter of Andrew and Leona (Shotick) Berta. Sylvia was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on November 1, 1936. She was confirmed in 1950. She married B. Donald Held on April 2, 1960 at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Streator. On Monday, October 6, 2025 Sylvia at the age of 88 years fell asleep in Jesus.

She is survived by her husband, Don; her children, Julie Navejar of Kingsville, TX, Kathy (Tim) Armstrong of Ransom, David Held of Ransom, and Karla (Krista Ridder) Held of Bloomington; five grandchildren, Ashley (Michael) Martinez-King, Matthew and Ryan Armstrong, Jonathan Soucie, and Ian Seger-Held; and two great grandchildren, Katie Soucie and Michael Ray King. Also surviving are two sisters, Janet (Fred) Yeck of Elgin and Andrea (Steve) Pettigrew of Tualatin, OR, and several nieces and nephews.

Sylvia attended the Streator grade schools and was a graduate of Streator High School. She worked at Owens Glass prior to raising her family. Later she worked as a secretary at the Ransom Grade School.

Sylvia was a Cubs fan, an avid reader, and when she was able enjoyed the YMCA. She enjoyed listening to country bluegrass music.

Sylvia was a formerly part of the United Methodist Women and choir. Sylvia was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Streator.

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 His servant Sylvia.

+ Tracy Morgan +

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember what God has done through His servant Tracy Morgan.

Tracy Earl Morgan was born December 25th, 1960, in Marengo IL, to Earl Laverne and Virginia A. (Mack) Morgan. He was baptized into Christ in January of 1961. He was confirmed in 1979 at Faith Lutheran Church in Hebron, NE. On June 14, 1981 he married Bethany Benson at Faith Lutheran in Hebron, NE. On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the age of 64, Tracy fell asleep in Jesus.

Tracy is survived by his wife Beth, daughters Bonita (Bryan) Borem of Ottawa, Rebekah (Cory) Bierdeman of Washburn, son Daniel Morgan of Decatur. Grandchildren: Owen, Damien, Harmony, Earl, Aden, Triston, Isaac, Gabriel, Walker, Izzie, and Benjamin. Siblings, Larry (Cindy) Morgan, Kristy (Art) Metzger, Terry (Ann) Morgan, nephew Tracy (Jen) Caze and many nieces and nephews. Tracy was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Kathy Casey.

In 1982 Tracy joined the US Navy. He served on the submarine the USS James K. Polk until 1989. Following the Navy, Tracy worked for several companies in the area of electronics and computer programming. He retired from the company Scadaware in early 2025. Tracy was active in the community of Grand Ridge serving as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. Tracy was an avid outdoorsman. Following his advanced prostate cancer diagnosis, he started an online men's support group and founded Mohawk Mission, a nonprofit organization to raise awareness and provide support for men battling prostate cancer.

A man of many skills Tracy's greatest pride and joy were his wife, children, and grandchildren. Tracy was a member of Holy Lutheran Church in Streator.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ for Tracy.