

Holy Trinity Ambassador

February 2026

Kroger Rewards Cards

Our supporters who shopped the 4th quarter have contributed to the \$85.76 donation to Holy Trinity. We have 46 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. This is done by registering and scanning your Kroger Plus Card. How do I sign up? See last page of Ambassador. Thank you.

Invite a Friend or Relative

Most new people go to a church because someone invites them. Many in our own community do not know of the love and mercy of Jesus, who comes for sinners. If your friend or relative is not currently going to church – what do you have to lose? Be of good courage.

Jesus is Lord.

Email Address

Email addresses help us to keep our members informed about Holy Trinity and save postage. Please let us know your email address or update it if changed so we can include you.

Send us your information at:

htlc.streator@gmail.com

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Noon Service

Our theme is "Looking to Jesus - Encouraged – by Peter" God's Word in 1 Peter

The remaining Lenten services will be at noon with a lunch following.

Tuesday a.m. Bible Class resumes

February 10th at 7 a.m.
Please join us as we study Deuteronomy.



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.

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

"Help my unbelief." Mark 9:24

(taken from *To Live With Christ* by Bo Giertz, 2008, CPH, p.214-215)

It can be difficult to believe.

If you think you can determine if Jesus is God's Son by using logic and known facts, then you will never know the truth. This mistake was made by many in the Jewish community. They believed they knew who the Messiah was. Some said no one would know where He came from; others said the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. They had heard Jesus was from Nazareth, so they rejected Him without knowing where He was born.

In truth, you can know Jesus only by following Him. You listen to Him to see who He is.

Even at that, it can be hard to believe because something inside us doesn't want to. A Christian has both a new man, who receives life from Christ, and an old Adam, who rejects Him. That is why, along with the father of the demon-possessed boy Jesus cured when He came down from the mount of Transfiguration, a Christian can say, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

We always have doubt. The old Adam may acknowledge the existence of God. But then the old Adam would try to exploit God and His Church for personal reasons: The Church and its office can be a good source of income; religion can be an effective tool for teaching servants and dependents to behave and stay in their place; politicians know that one single church can keep a whole nation together (which has led to religious persecution and war).

The old Adam constantly looks for new objections to the existence of God. He doesn't want to be bothered with obeying God unless he is absolutely sure that it somehow benefits him. Even then, he tries to restrict his service to a minimum and wants to be a part of something only because it's good for his reputation or results in influential friendships, a promotion, or a raise.

We shouldn't be alarmed or frightened that this doubt within us doesn't want to learn to believe. That doesn't prevent us from really believing in Christ. In fact, it can even help us come to greater understanding and more confident belief.

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!

Church Finances - How did we do in 2025?

Church giving covered church expenses. Our expenses for the year were a bit over \$241,000. Our giving was just over \$248, 500. Thank you for your generosity. The Word of the Lord continues to go forth into the lives of people through our church and preschool.

We support two specific mission projects: Lutheran Heritage Foundation - which translates materials (other than Bibles) into other languages for use around the world.

And Missionary Jordan Andreasen and family serving in Romania. Our goal is \$7500 to each of these mission projects - \$15,000 total. We only send on what we receive. You can designate this on your offering envelope. Some years we meet and exceed our goal. Some years we come up short. This year we were about \$5000 short of our \$15,000 goal. Hopefully we can meet our mission goal in 2026. We have been given all we need in Jesus and He blesses us that we might be a blessing to others.

+ Jack L. Rogers +

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 Jack L. Rogers.

Jack was born December 16, 1940 in Fairbury, Illinois. He was the son of Thurmon and Clara (Livesay) Rogers. He was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on December 5, 1973 and confirmed in 1973. Jack married Janice Decker on April 27, 1968. She survives. On Tuesday, December 16, Jack at the age of 85 years fell asleep in Jesus.

He is also survived by a sons, Eric (Merre) Rogers of El Paso and Cory (Sheila) Rogers of Blackstone; grandchildren, Cali, Ashlyn, Jackson and Charli Rogers; and a sister, Betty Collins of Normal.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Craig Rogers in infancy; a sister, Nancy Rogers and his brother, Charles Rogers in infancy.

Born and raised in Fairbury he attended Fairbury Grade Schools and graduated from Fairbury-Cropsey High School. He later attended a trade school to learn Data Processing.

He served in the United States Army from 1963 until 1965. He worked for GTE which later became Verizon in computer programming from 1963 until his retirement in 1999. Jack lived in Lexington for over 30 years relocating to Streator in 2008 to be closer to his children and grandchildren. Through the years Jack enjoyed fishing, gardening and spending time outdoors. He was also an avid sports fan. He was a member of the Holy Trinity 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord for our brother, Jack.

+ Matthew J Murray +

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 Matthew J Murray.

Matt was born December 19, 1977 in Streator, Illinois. He was the son of Melvin and Ruth Ellen (Piatt) Murray. He was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism on January 2, 2000 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Streator. On Monday, December 8, Matt at the age of 47 years fell asleep in Jesus.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Murray; three sisters, Deb Monement, Karen Downey (Rob), and Kathy Sweeney; two brothers, Glenn Linnane (Sharon) and Melvin J Murray Jr. (Kristie); several nieces and nephews; and great nieces and nephews; his childhood friend Thomas Richter, the Brotherhood of Marines he served alongside with. He was blessed with wonderful care through his nurse, Heather Wallace, with Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Foundation of Wilmington, NC.

He was preceded in death by his father; Melvin J Murray, Sr.; his brother-in-law, Robert Monement; and his brother-in-law, Robert Sweeney, Sr.; nephew, Tommy Ramos and various aunts and uncles.

Matt was born and raised in Streator. He graduated from Streator High School in 1996. He studied music at NIU. He played a variety of musical instruments, including the Contra Bass, and a variety of guitars.

Matthew served in the United States Marine Corps enlisting in 1996. He served two deployments in 1998 & 2000 before he exited as a Sergeant of Marines and a highly respected Machine Gun squad Leader. Matt received numerous medals and accommodations during his military service.

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, Matthew.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Kroger Fundraiser Program

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

Here is the link and instructions:

Simply register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- **Holy Trinity's new number is SG181.**
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thank you,

Suzy,
Parish Secretary