

Holy Trinity Ambassador

March 2026



"Learning from Peter"

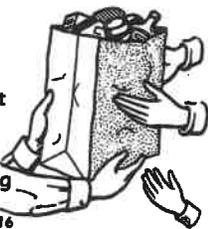
From One Who Was There

**Lenten services at noon on
Wednesdays with lunch following.**

Lenten Food Drive

Please leave canned and non-perishable items on the stage in the fellowship hall. Items will go to the Streatorland Food Pantry at the end of Lent.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
-Hebrews 13:16



Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Turn Clocks Forward
March 8th – Saturday p.m. – 1 Hour**

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
Rev. Jordan Andreasen

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

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



Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

The Gospel of Matthew can be used as a guide book for following Jesus. That may have been one of Matthew's intentions. If you want to know how to follow Jesus - the Gospel of Matthew serves that purpose well. Early in Matthew's Gospel we have account of the temptation of Jesus.

The devil tempts Jesus in 3 different ways. The first temptation is a physical one. The second temptation has to do with testing God - to make God prove Himself. In the third temptation Satan tells Jesus he will give him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus worships him. Satan is a liar and the father of lies.

None of these temptations involves horrible acts of violence or destruction. All 3 temptations involve something even more serious. All 3 temptations are to **not believe the Word of God**. To not believe the Word of God is to call God a liar.

Satan used this tactic with Adam and Eve. The serpent challenged the Word of God. According to the serpent, God's Word was not to be trusted. You know how the story goes. Adam and Eve chose to trust the word of a serpent rather than the Word of God. The result? Sin, death, and disobedience came into our world.

To believe God's Word is not true is still the devil's approach. He's not worried about getting you to do terrible things. What he wants is for you to disbelieve God's Word – which is calling God a liar. You might think, "I would never call God a liar." But we do. When we think we know better than God, when we do what we want, rather than what God wants – we are calling God a liar. That is our nature. That comes naturally to us.

You can see this in children. You don't have to teach children how to lie. You have to teach them to be honest and tell the truth. As adults we get better at lying and being deceptive.

Because we are natural liars, we cannot save ourselves. God takes the initiative by sending the Truth – His Word – in the flesh – Jesus. This encounter at the beginning of our Savior's ministry is good news for all who follow Him. We follow one will give up everything even His own life to obey the Word of the Lord. The Truth stands. It protects and keeps safe those who follow Jesus.

Jesus overcomes the work of the devil with His Word. The Word of Jesus is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. That Word is placed upon us in our baptism, in our ears through preaching, and into our bodies through His Holy Supper. That Word endures forever. Satan, the devil, the tempter, cannot stand against that Word. You are kept safe in Jesus and the power of His Word. Satan can tempt you and he does and will but God limits that. God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear but will always provide a way out for you.

Here is something else Satan cannot withstand. Because Jesus is Lord of all things, God can and does use the temptations of Satan and even our failures to draw us closer to God. In our time of tempting (which comes from the devil and not from God), God urges us to turn to His Word. In that Word we find hope and deliverance. Rely upon that Word. Hear it. Meditate upon it. Rejoice in it - in the midst of every trial and temptation.

Fasting

Jesus commended fasting as a private, voluntary act of humility before God (Matt. 6:16-18). Most people have thought more about dieting than fasting. Yet our Lord's words clearly reveal that fasting should be a part of a Christian's life. Jesus said, "When you fast", not "if you fast." We know the early Christians fasted.

How might you fast? Fasting during Lent can be a wonderful way to remember the perfect obedience of Christ and His sacrifice for your salvation. Money not spent on food may be donated to a food pantry or other community charity.

Consider fasting for a meal or two per week. Spend the extra time in reading God's Word, praying, singing communion hymns.

You could even try a day long fast, breaking the fast at sunset. In a culture of overindulgence and instant gratification, it can be refreshing to know that you don't have to make those choices. Fasting even for a meal or two a week can make you mindful of those things. Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (Deut. 8:3)

Church Council Meeting

January 27, 2026

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurers Report: Financial report for November and December 2025 reviewed.

We need to consider a CD. Mission funds are short from the budgeted number. An additional \$2,000 contribution from the general fund will go to the Mission fund for 2025 donations.

Church Properties: Still reviewing the replacement/repairs to the church front doors.

Need to replace the cork board in the education area. Roof on the parsonage will need to be replaced. Board will work on getting bids.

Board of Elders: New members will be received on January 25. Average attendance for 2025 was 102 with an average of 31 on Saturday and 71 on Sundays. Ash Wednesday will be on February 18. Continue to look and pray for organists and additional CD operators.

Parish Activities: Cards were sent out. Lent lunch will begin on February 25. bids. Outside lights in the front of the church in need of repair. Parts have been purchased and board will do the needed repairs.

Board of Education: 2026/27 registration is open. Pastor will conduct a continuing education class for the staff. Board approved funding for advertising 2026/27 registration. One new student will begin catechism in the fall.

Old Business: Having issues with the fiber optics on the phones, copier and alarms

Missionary Andreassen and family serving in Romania

"Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." (Acts 15:36)

Since the days of Acts this has been the work of pastors and the church in general. This past weekend was another such occasion. I took with me Vicar Jesse Liebmann to visit the brothers in Sofia, Bulgaria and the Tsakmalis family in Greece. As always it was a joyous time of fellowship, discussion and encouragement in our common faith. In Sofia, Rev. Bojinov presented my sermon in Bulgarian. And we spent time of fellowship around snacks provided by Mr. Demeter from his garden. We then proceeded to Greece where we would meet with the Tsakmalis family and also enjoyed the presence of Rev. David and Glenda Mumme from near Mankato, MN. They came to Greece for vacation and sought a place to receive the Word and Sacrament while visiting. It was a wonderful encouragement for us all to share not only the Liturgy (Divine Service), but also the Christian fellowship and encouragement which we share in Christ. - Rev. Jordon Andreassen

Please keep praying for:

Rev. Bojinov and his congregation in Sofia.

The Tsakmalis family to be sustained in faith and more Greeks would hear the Gospel. Vlad who hopes to begin studies for the ministry soon.

Serving in March

Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis

Sunday – Tim Welch

Ushers

John Burt, Rob Downey

Altar Guild

Saturday – Tracy Stortz and Nickie Clark

Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds



"CATechism corner" – March 2026

Happy Lent. The days are getting longer. We are glad that February is a short month. Lots of things in March. Time Change. St. Patrick's Day. Basketball tournaments. Birds start coming back! Easter is around the corner. We are working our way through the Creed. The Apostles' Creed is the oldest creed - centuries old - and it sums up the Christian faith. You won't find it word for word in the Bible but every part of it is from the Bible. It's typically divided into 3 parts – first part is about God the Father, second part about God the Son(Jesus) and the third part about the Holy Spirit. We're going to cover it that way too.



"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

During Advent and Christmas, we hear about the conception and birth of Jesus. During Lent we hear about the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus. There's a lot going on there – all under the direction of our Creator. We find it fascinating that Jesus knew all this was going to happen. He predicted His suffering and death. He told people that it was going to happen. How crazy is that? It's tough to predict Illinois weather 2 days in advance – Jesus predicted His suffering and death. Add to that it fulfilled what was written in the Old Testament. You humans are so blessed. Jesus didn't do all this for the cats – and certainly not for the dogs – He did this for people. You human beings were made in His image. You should believe that you are loved. We know He loves us and we're cats. You folks who were made in His image, what a privilege! We like our four legs but sometimes we wonder what it would be like to be human.

Go to church this Lent. Learn more about your Savior and what He did for you. Give thanks for the blessing of His Word. Take care of your pets. Don't put sweaters on your cats. Dogs look silly enough with them.

Be Kind,
Sammy and Monroe

Preschool

Get ready for an adventure! During the month of March, we are heading into the jungle! Our class will embark on a special safari to discover exotic animals and learn all about tropical weather. As we explore, we'll be focusing on our fine motor development by practicing our cutting and crafting skills. I also want to share how incredibly proud I am of our students; they have been working so hard on counting to 100 and are doing an awesome job! It is truly a blessing to watch your children flourish, and I can't wait to see them continue to bloom during these final months of the school year.

March Bible Verse – "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

March Bible Stories

Jesus Eats with Zaccheus
A Woman Anoints Jesus
Jesus Rides into Jerusalem
The Last Supper

Reminder

Registration for 2026/27 School year is open.

Events

March 17 – No School – Election Day
March 23-26 – Spring Break
March 30 – School Resumes