

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# April 2026

The Promise of  
**EASTER**

## Holy Week Schedule

### All Services at Holy Trinity

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

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

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

### No 5 p.m. Saturday Service

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

Brunch potluck following  
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## 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 Steadfast Lutheran Lenten Devotional)

## Check out bulletin board by preschool office.

Pictures of new members and baptisms.  
Prayer list, parish want ads, Bible quiz and a  
Lenten message from Dr. Matthew C. Harrison.  
See what is happening at Holy Trinity.

## 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)



## Church Council Meeting

February 24, 2026

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Preschool financials in good shape. Church insurance prepaid for annual coverage. Mission funds reflect the expense Church Council approved for donation in 2025. Church properties expense is up due to NICOR billing and snow plow expense from 2025.

**Church Properties:** Will do a walk through at the parsonage to evaluate any needed repairs. Getting quotes for roof at parsonage.

**Board of Elders:** Assigned volunteers for services. Pastor conducted an in-service training for preschool staff. Tuesday AM Bible class studying Deuteronomy. Continuing to look for another organist and additional CD operators. Pastor reminded to continue to read the Bible each day.

**Parish Activities:** One cradle roll was sent. Made plans for Lent lunches. No 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship in March.

**Board of Education:** 2026/2027 budget was reviewed and passed by the board. The budget will be presented to Church Council for review and approval.

**New Business:** Pastor and Jack Zavada are registered voters for the Synod elections. Vinyl fencing at parsonage discussed.

**Listen to sermons on-line:**  
[www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)

**On-Line Giving** is available on website

Lutheran Ch. - Missouri Synod [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)  
Concordia Pub. House - [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

For singles, widowed, divorced:  
[www.inspiration-for-singles.com](http://www.inspiration-for-singles.com)  
Our Preschool has a Facebook page.

### **Serving in April**

#### **Elders**

Saturday – Jack Zavada  
Sunday – Tim Kerestes

#### **Ushers**

Bob Barr Jr. and David Kochis

#### **Altar Guild**

Saturday – Kim and Ben Donner  
Sunday – Val McCollum

### **For the Record**

#### **Baptisms**

Mary Catherine Wiseman  
March 8, 2026

Hayes Gregory Hill  
March 14

Kyrieauna Shai Duckworth  
March 22

Ronin Anthony Alexander Williamson  
March 22

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

John chapter 9 is the account of the man born blind whom Jesus healed. Read it. The disciples ask Jesus, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus said, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." With these words, Jesus teaches that God has the power to work His will and good purpose even in the midst of suffering, physical challenges and limitations.

Most of the time, Jesus did NOT heal people. Read that again. Sometimes Jesus healed people - but most of the time He didn't. For every person that Jesus healed there were many more that were not healed. The apostle Paul testifies that the Lord specifically told him that he would NOT be healed of his thorn in the flesh. Paul believed this "thorn" hindered his ministry and he asked God to take it away. The Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

God has the power to heal people either through the care of medical professionals or through a miracle. However the Word of God reveals that God often calls His people to endure suffering and at times even loss in order that "the works of God might be displayed." We should not expect miracles on our terms. ALL things are subject to God's greater purposes. For reasons known to God and God alone He allows suffering and brings healing where and when He wills.

Jesus encounters the man born blind and without the man's request, does a miracle. Jesus spits on the ground, makes some mud out of it, puts it on the man's eyes and then tells him to go was in the pool of Siloam. He goes and washes and comes back seeing.

But that is not the end of his suffering. It created some. The man is questioned by the Pharisees. His parents are questioned. When the man was blind the religious leaders considered him to be cursed by God, but now that he can see – they curse him. Why? Because he spoke the truth about Jesus. The religious leaders did not when to hear the truth about Jesus.

In the midst of this new suffering, Jesus finds the man and asks, "***Do you believe in the Son of Man?***" [36] ***He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"*** [37] ***Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."*** [38] ***He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*** [39] ***Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."*** (John 9:36-39 ESV)

We are not to be blinded by popular notions about miracles or suffering. We are to trust the Word of the Lord in all circumstances. We can pray for miracles, but even then we praise God for working through more than miracles, for working through our suffering, pain, loss, even death. His grace is sufficient for all of our needs and challenges; as our God cares for us and sustains us through His Word. We worship a God who raises the dead! "Jesus did not come to teach the teachable; He did not come to improve the improvable; He did not come to reform the reformable. None of those things works. He came to raise the dead." (Robert Farrar Capon)

Jesus, come to us through the power of Your Word and Spirit. Continue to open our eyes and ears to Your truth. Grant us ears to hear that we might see you in all things.

**Please keep praying for:**  
Rev. Jordan Andreasen and family  
Missionary serving in Romania

It is a wonderful encouragement for us to share not only the Liturgy (Divine Service), but also but the Christian fellowship and encouragement which we share in Christ.



## “CATEchism corner” – April 2026

Almost Easter. Easter is tough on us cats! Picture little peeping chicks and baby bunnies running around – it makes me hungry just thinking about it. You humans do some strange things at Easter. Chocolate eggs? Chocolate bunnies? Candy crosses? Strange! How about jelly beans? They are not beans and they have no jelly!

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.

### Part 3 about the Holy Spirit:

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

What does that mean? Martin Luther has a great explanation. I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;

Wow! Humans don't get credit for following Jesus. Because, on their own, they can't. No wonder the Bible calls you “sheep”! So how do you get to be a Christian? but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

The Holy Spirit takes what is spiritually dead and makes it alive! How awesome is that! The gifts of the Holy Spirit – the tools He uses - are the Word of God which points us to Baptism, Confession and Absolution, the Lord's Supper.

It's the Almighty God working from start to finish, from beginning to end. How much the Lord of the universe loves you human beings!

God gives out those gifts in the community of believers – the church. We've seen folks going to church – all shapes, sizes and ages. You aren't left to figure this out on your own. You have a community to be a part of and learn from. You don't always get along, but cats don't always get along either. We will write more about the church next time. There are so many. How do you find the right one?

Go to church during Holy Week – especially Good Friday and Easter. 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 let them eat chocolate! Cats are usually smart enough not to – dogs – not so much.

Be Kind,  
Sammy and Monroe



## Preschool

We are thrilled to dive into the world of transportation this month to bring students a hands-on look at all the different ways we move through the world. To bring our lessons to life, we will be hosting a Transportation Expo in our parking lot at the end of the month! This gives students a hands-on look at all the different ways we move through the world.

April Bible Verse – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5

March Bible Stories - April 1 is school picture day!

## Events

- April 1 – School picture day!
- April 6 – No School – Easter Monday
- April 17 – Conferences
- April 30 – Transportation Expo

