

# Holy Trinity Ambassador

# May 2026



## Special Voters Meeting

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Following the 9 a.m. service

**Topic: Approve expense for the parsonage roof.**

## Mother's Day – May 10<sup>th</sup>

God is Pro-Life! We give thanks for those who have given birth and cared for us.

"For You formed my inward parts;  
You knitted me together in my  
mother's womb. I praise You, for I am  
fearfully and wonderfully made."  
Psalm 139:13



## Holy Trinity Website

Visit our church website for current information including the Ambassador and Preschool newsletter. Click the "Hear the Word" tab. Listen to sermons on-line  
[www.holytrinitystreator.org](http://www.holytrinitystreator.org)

## Trinity Park Cleanup

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**  
Help us make it look nice.

## Kroger Rewards Cards

Thank you to the 46 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters who shopped the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter have contributed to the \$77.23 donation to Holy Trinity. This simple fundraiser is done by registering and scanning your Kroger Plus Card.

## **For Your Prayers**

### Members in Bold (requested by)

**Gary Brandenburg** (Matthew Brandenburg)

**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.

## **Check out bulletin board by preschool office.**

See what is happening at Holy Trinity. Pictures of new members and baptisms. Prayer list, parish want ads and Bible quiz.

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

Jesus is not the “divine cattle rancher” or “divine pork producer”. He’s the Good Shepherd. Sheep do not do well on their own. They need to be tended. That’s how God made them. Genesis 4 tells us that Adam and Eve’s younger son – Abel – was a keeper of sheep. Sheep cannot be pushed or driven, but they will follow. When the shepherd wants to move them he leads, and hopefully he has a dog to help him. Jesus leads His sheep.

Here is where things get interesting. That leading of the Good Shepherd takes us places we may not want to go.

We live in relative peace and liberty. We have the freedom to assemble. We have the freedom to express our views and beliefs in the marketplace of ideas. We have the freedom to practice the faith we hold. How long that will last no one knows. But for the moment, the suffering we endure is more the suffering of insult, ridicule, loss of friendships, being made fun of.

Say to someone that you like going to church and hearing about Jesus, and folks think you’re some kind of fanatic. Coaches used to not have practices or games on Sunday mornings – not because they didn’t want to - but because parents would say, “No, we’ll be in church.” Now it’s the other way around. “Sorry won’t be in church, we’ve got practice.” Is that a subtle form of persecution? You could make a case for that. In our culture the devil doesn’t keep people out of church with fear or threats, he keeps them out with entertainment and toys.

We follow the Shepherd. Did Jesus have family members who made fun of Him and mocked him? He did. Did Jesus have people tell lies about Him and say things that were intentionally mean and hurtful? He did. Did Jesus have people say they were His friend and then not show up? Yes. ***“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:23)***

You have never experienced hardship just or unjust that Jesus hasn’t already been through.

No one wants to suffer. And certainly no one wants to suffer unjustly. And no one wants to suffer unjustly quietly. Our nature is to strike back, to get revenge, to pay back evil with evil. What happened that Peter did not respond this way? What happened to Peter was the resurrected Jesus.

A resurrected Jesus changes everything - everything. This world has never seen someone react to threats and persecution and suffering the way Jesus did. He humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ***He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.***

By His wounds you have been healed. That’s what happened to Peter and that’s also what has happened to you. With those words it is declared how things are between you and God. There is forgiveness. There is peace. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Christian suffering cannot be punishment from God. God is not angry with you. By the wounds of Jesus you have been healed. This good news is found on page after page of the New Testament. This experience was not unique to Peter but was also true of Paul, John, and the other disciples. And it is also true of you.

Does that mean that suffering doesn’t matter? No. What it means is that suffering is not without purpose. It means that God has the power to work through and in the midst of it. All of that is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus.

The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep and then takes it up again so that He could lead us through the valley of the shadow of death. No one can snatch you out of His hand and nothing can separate you from His love.

We endure. We find peace and joy even in the midst of challenges and difficulties, even unjust ones, because our Jesus is greater than all of that. He is the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul.

## Serving in May

### Elders

Saturday – Jeff McMullen  
Sunday – James Warwick

### Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle

### Altar Guild

Saturday – Jeff & Nancy McMullen  
Sunday – Mark & Deb Kovach

## Preschool

**May's Bible Verse:** I am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

### **May Bible Stories:**

- Peter & John Heal the Crippled Man
- The Word Spreads

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - Graduation at 9:00 a.m.**

**May 26<sup>th</sup> - Family Picnic in Trinity Park  
10:30 - 12.**

## **Church Council Meeting**

**March 31, 2026**

**Present:** J. Zavada, M. Peters, D. Gotch,  
R. Kochis, S. Gutz, B. Kerestes,  
N. McMullen and Pastor Gutz

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Treasurer Report:** Church and Preschool finances reviewed.
- **Church Properties:** Toured the parsonage and recorded minor repairs. Bids for a new roof for the parsonage are coming in. Temporarily tabled the work on replacing or repairing the wooden doors on the church.
- **Board of Education:** Preschool is full for the fall. A waiting list is established. Picture day was April 4<sup>th</sup>. A Transportation Event will be held at the Preschool parking lot. The budget was submitted and approved.
- **Elders Report:** Pastoral activities were reviewed. Two baptisms were held. Volunteers were scheduled for Lent and Holy Week services. The church is still looking for additional organists and CD operators.
- **Parish Activities:** Easter cards were sent. Discussed potluck brunch. Names submitted to the Nominating Committee.
- **Old Business:** Update from the nominating committee for upcoming elections.
- **New Business:** There was no New Business. Meeting adjourned at 7:38. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## For the Record

### Asleep in Jesus

**Davie Jo Kotches**  
April 5, 2026

**Christine Clark**  
April 11, 2026



## **Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreassen Serving the Lord in Romania**

Please pray for the Andreassen family as they serve the Lord in Romania. Pray that the Lord would open the ears and hearts of the Romanian people to the preaching of Christ crucified. Give thanks to God that the Andreassen's are serving in Romania.

**"CATechism corner" –  
May 2026**

Spring! Summer is getting closer. Baby bunnies. Baby birds. Yes, sometimes it makes your stomach rumble. We don't steal babies out of the nest! But . . . if they fall out or wander off . . . well, there is a reason there are feral cats around. One animal feeds another. It's a time for us to brush up on our stalking and pouncing skills. On with the CATechism. Last month we ended by writing that we would say more about the church. We will put that on hold for now and write about prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is the 3<sup>rd</sup> chief part of the CATechism. Everybody in every religion prays. Prayer is universal. And . . . it is uniquely human. Animals don't pray – only humans. You will never interrupt an animal prayer service in the woods because there aren't any.

Even more unique to human prayer is Christian prayer. Christians believe they need to be taught how to pray. Christians believe that because of sin, left to their own devices, they will get prayer wrong. So, they first learn to pray before they pray. Like how you need to hear before you learn to talk. You learn to talk by hearing. You learn to pray by being taught to pray.

Some of the oldest prayers humans have are in the Psalms. 150 different ones for many different emotions and circumstances. The premier prayer is the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught His disciples, "When you pray, pray like this . . . Our Father . . ." Amazing. You have a prayer that was taught by the Son of God Himself. You don't have to wing it or try to invent your own! When you pray the Lord's Prayer you can't go wrong because it's the prayer Jesus teaches people to pray. It starts out, "Our Father . . ." Jesus said that! Jesus said that He has the same Father as His disciples. He is actually praying with them when they pray this prayer. Think about that. Jesus prays with you when you pray the Lord's Prayer. What an incredible blessing and comfort! Picture Jesus standing or sitting



beside you praying, when you pray this! That is strictly for humans not animals – not even cats. More on this next month.

Monroe and I will work on our stalking and pouncing skills. Dogs might be bigger, but we're smarter. Take care of your pets.

Be Kind,

Sammy and Monroe

**+ Davie Jo Kotches +**

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 Davie Jo Kotches.

Davie Jo was born in Streator. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Overocker. Davie Jo was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Davie Jo married Steve Kotches on October 26, 1968 at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Streator. On Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026 Davie Jo at the age of 74 years fell asleep in Jesus.

She is survived by her husband, Steve; two daughters, Jamie(John) Blevins of Tulsa, OK and Jessica (Robert) Britenstine of Streator; three grandsons, Bo (CeeAnna) Blevins, William Steven (Marie) Blevins, and Jack Blevins. Also surviving is a sister, Toni (Tony) Miles of Streator; a brother, Mike Overocker of Ancona; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Jodeen Kotches; and a brother, Arthur W. "Archie" Overocker.

Davie Jo was a teacher's aide in Streator. She was a skillful cook and baker and was well known for her cakes. She was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

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 Davie Jo.