

Holy Trinity Ambassador

August 2026



Divine Service at Holy Trinity
Sat. 5 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.

Old #3 Service
August 30th at 7:30 a.m.
Please join us.

Kroger Rewards Cards

We have 44 households participating in the Kroger Rewards program. Our supporters who shopped the 2nd quarter have contributed \$93.94 to Holy Trinity. Our total so far this year is 171.77. This is done by registering and scanning your Kroger Plus Card.

Preschool Orientation

Parents and Children

Thursday, August 20th

5:00 - 5:30 – supply drop off

5:30- 6:00 – parent meeting in the gym

This is the time to see the classroom, take pictures and pick up needed information.

School Begins
Monday, August 31st

Pray for All People **1 Timothy 2:1-6**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may be lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

This is good, and 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.



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

Invite a Friend
(or even better – an enemy)
to Church!

Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

The Kingdom of God is at work. Kingdom of God was, is, and always will be. The Kingdom of God cannot be destroyed. The Kingdom of God is an eternal kingdom that lasts forever. The kingdom of God is about saving people. That's what the kingdom of God is about – very different from the kingdoms of men.

The kingdoms of men are about power, money, and control. They involve kings, presidents, rulers. God teaches us to pray for our elected officials whether we agree with them or voted for them. That is part of our Christian responsibility. We do that because God's kingdom is over them.

All earthly kingdoms and rulers are temporary. The kingdom of God isn't like that. What is the kingdom of God like?

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells several parables about what the kingdom of God. In the parable of the weeds, a farmer sows good seed in his field. The sower is the Son of Man - Jesus. The good seeds are those who follow Jesus – the sons of the kingdom. But the enemy of Jesus, the devil, sows weeds among the good seed. The weeds represent the sons of the evil one.

Here is the simple answer for why there is evil, wickedness, and wicked people in the world. "An enemy has done this."

The weed in the parable is a very specific weed. It looks just like wheat. The weed looks so much like wheat that when both plants are young, you can't tell them apart. It isn't until both begin to ripen that you can tell them apart. Then it's obvious. The weed, has a different color head of grain than wheat does.

The servants want to get rid of the weeds. But the master tells them now is not the time. **"Lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them."** Remember the kingdom of God is about saving!

We would like it if God would get rid of evil right now once and for all - with power. That's how it works in the kingdom of men. That's not how it works in His kingdom. There will come a day when that will happen. But that day isn't here yet. God is not anxious about evil. The devil is a defeated enemy. God knows the seed He plants cannot be destroyed

and those who belong to Him cannot be destroyed.

That means you don't believe with your eyes. You believe with your ears. The Kingdom of God does not look powerful. Earthly kingdoms with money and armies look powerful. They do whatever they want whenever they want. Meanwhile the Word of God is preached and taught in churches with most people not noticing or paying attention. It's like a mustard seed, a tiny, insignificant seed, which is easily missed and overlooked. But it grows and grows and grows and before you know it, it is a blessing for the rest of creation.

Or like yeast, a little bit goes a long way. A little yeast makes the dough rise. It looks small, insignificant, but it does what it was meant to do. That is the way the kingdom of God works. It works through that which looks small and insignificant. It looks weak.

When Jesus came to earth no one noticed. If it hadn't been for the angels telling the shepherds and the wise men following the star no one would have noticed. Jesus entered our world not in power but in weakness. Some 33 years later, He dies upon a cross. You can't get any weaker than being dead. Powerful and influential people don't let others treat them that way. But the Son of God allows it. His kingdom is not of this world.

Yes, evil and evil doers will be punished. Jesus tells us that. There will be a day of reckoning. Until then, we wait and yes, we even groan. If you listen closely you can hear the groan of creation waiting for the return of the king. **[19] For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. . . . [22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [23] And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. [24] For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8)** God bless you in your waiting.

Church Council Meeting

July 14, 2026

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Church Properties: ABC has completed the roof/gutters on the parsonage.

Sign on the north side of the church is in need of repairs/update.

Bulletin Boards for the preschool need to be installed.

Board of Education: Fiscal year has closed and the preschool financials are positive. It has been a good year. Painting done in the hallway. Class enrollment is full with 1 on the waiting list.

Elders Report: Volunteers scheduled for August. Pastor thanked the board for their help during his vacation. Lutheran Church Charities were discussed.

Parish Activities: Julie Araujo will be chairperson for Parish Activities. 1 cradle roll was sent. **New Business:** Tim Welch will fill the vacancy of assistant treasurer.

Serving in August

Elders

Saturday – Jeff McMullen

Sunday – Tim Kerestes

Ushers

Rick Lesak, Steve Lightle,

Altar Guild

Saturday – Jeff & Nancy McMullen

Sunday – Dan & Diana Reynolds

+ Betty Koval +

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 Betty Koval.

Betty was born on April 10, 1935 in Streator. She was the daughter of Matthew and Anna (Leschinsky) Coley. Betty was made a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Betty married Arthur Koval on January 27, 1957 at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Streator. He preceded her in death on December 31, 1991. She later married Irving Stansell on October 10, 2006. He preceded her in death on April 14, 2011. On Tuesday, June 23, 2026 Betty at the age of 91 years fell asleep in Jesus.

She is survived by her sons, John (Julie) Koval of Streator, Ted (Cathy) Koval of Streator, grandchildren, Crystal Chalkey, Nathan Koval, Jenna and Daniel Koval, step granddaughter, Jenny Madison, sister, Maxine Dyas of Streator and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Arthur and Irving, stepson Terry Koval, brother Matt Coley and sisters, Lucy Lutz and Helen Tkach.

Betty attended Streator Grade Schools and graduated from Streator High School. Betty retired from Redwing. She enjoyed gardening, camping, traveling. She always had a pet dog and was a regular walker. Her family brought her joy. She was 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 Betty.

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— 1 Corinthians 13:13

"CATechism corner" – August 2026

Yes we are now here. The "Dog Days" of summer – named appropriately. Yuck. Hot . . . humid . . . and named after dogs. Makes sense to us cats. Have you ever smelled a sweaty dog? Nasty! Good to be a cat! This month more on the Lord's Prayer – from our cat perspective – of course.

The Lord's Prayer ends with two interesting requests – Lead Us Not into Temptation – Deliver Us from Evil. What's going on?

God doesn't tempt any person. But this petition is a request for God's help in the midst of temptation. Christians ask for strength to resist temptations. Not all temptations can be avoided but all can be resisted. There's an encouraging passage in 1 Corinthians 10:13. ***No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*** I think Monroe does better resisting temptation than I do. Hard for me to resist an opened can of tuna. God uses times of testing and temptation to help people rely on Him. It has a purpose. His power is made perfect in weakness.

The last petition of the Lord's Prayer is – But Deliver Us from Evil - or it can be - Deliver Us from the Evil One. That's a good way to wrap it up. The devil is always trying to snatch the Word of God away from people. Once again, a reminder to rely on the Lord. The devil is a sneaky snake and humans are no match for him.

There are some variations on the ending of the Lord's Prayer. Roman Catholics end it after – But Deliver Us from Evil. Some Christians conclude with "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever" – and there are variations of that! Don't be anxious about it. The longer ending was a later add on. It dates back to the 2nd century. So . . . it has been in use for a while. It's great if you use it and fine if you don't. Pray the Lord's Prayer. Pray it daily. That's why the Lord gave it. He gave it to people – not cats – but we are here to encourage you. Stay cool. Keep your pets fed and watered in the heat – even if they're dogs.

Be Kind,
Sammy and Monroe



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

For the Record

Asleep in Jesus

Betty Koval

June 23

Baptism

Silas Troy-Elijah McCollough

July 26

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



DAILY BIBLE
READINGS