

Holy Trinity Ambassador

September 2026

**Preschool Begins
August 31st**

**Adult Bible Class
September 13th, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.**

**Tuesday Morning Bible Class
September 15th, 7 a.m.**

**Private Confession
And Absolution
Saturday, Sep. 26th, 8-9 a.m.
in the Church sanctuary**

**Prayer Service
September 2nd
1st Wednesday of the month –
2 Opportunities
7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Lasts about 15 minutes
Join us as we pray for one another, our church,
our community.**

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

www.holytrinitystreator.org

Visit our website for current information
including the Ambassador and
Preschool Newsletter. Listen to sermons
On-line. Click the "Hear the Word" tab.

Preschool Fundraiser

The BullPen Restaurant

**1014 Johnson St
Corner of Johnson & Bronson**

**Monday, September 28
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Pulled Pork Sandwich, Chips, Coleslaw,
Cookie & water**

\$10.00 – Ticket

**Tickets available at church office and
after services. Deadline September 21.**

Dine In or Carry Out

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD**

Ponderings in the Pasture – Pastor Gutz

The miracle of Jesus walking on the water happens after the feeding of the 5000. It had been a full day. Now the day is over. Jesus sends the disciples off across the lake. He doesn't go with them. Jesus goes off by Himself to pray.

At least 4 of disciples were fishermen. They knew how to handle a boat. They knew how to handle challenging weather conditions. They were familiar with the lake. The wind was against them and John tells us that they were 3-4 miles out into the lake. They weren't scared of the weather – that's another Bible story.

What scares the disciples is that, sometime between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. – they see a man walking on the water. How do you process that? What would you think? It would have been very disturbing. It would have been terrifying.

Jesus shows up where and when you would not expect Him. We know Jesus is at church. He is present through His Word. But church is not the place where you have sleepless nights. You wake up in the middle of the night. You can't sleep. Your mind goes into spin mode. You think all kinds of things. Problems seem worse at night.

Who shows up in the middle of all of that? Jesus. The disciples didn't expect that – but there he was. Nobody would have expected Him to be there - not even the disciples.

They don't realize it's Jesus. The disciples cry out, "It's a ghost." Immediately Jesus speaks, "**Take heart; it is I. Don't be afraid.**" In the original language, "It is I", is the big name for God. I AM. He says it's me - the I AM. This was not a phantom. This is Jesus.

Peter isn't sure. He wants proof. "Lord, if it's you command me to come to you on the water." That's not the way of faith, but Jesus goes along with it and says, "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and walks on the water. Peter has enough courage and enough trust in God's Word to do what Jesus says. By the Word of Jesus, Peter walks on water.

Peter does fine as long as he has his eyes fixed on Jesus. But you know what happens. He takes his eyes off of Jesus. He sees the wind and the waves. He becomes afraid and begins to sink. He took his eyes off Jesus.

We do the same thing. We focus on Jesus but then get distracted. Our problems, our worries, our fears look overwhelming, and they seem even worse when we are tired and it's dark. Our thoughts become far from Jesus.

Jesus reaches out his hand and grabs hold of Peter and doesn't let go. "**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**" Peter had faith. He had the faith to get out of the boat. He had the faith to walk on water. But he took his eyes off of Jesus. Jesus never took his eyes off of Peter. Jesus is there to save Peter despite his inadequate faith. Why did Peter doubt? Why do we?

Do you think that Jesus will fail you in your time of need? Do you think that the one who died for you, who went down to the depths to save you, will abandon you? Do you think that He will turn away from your cry for mercy?

Never! You belong to Him. You are baptized. You are marked with His sign, His seal, His mark. You have His body and blood given and shed for you. You have His Word - the Word that caused a man to walk on water, that makes all things new, that raises the dead.

Jesus is with you, all your days until the end of them. Nothing in this world can break His hold on you. Not the cancers, the bullets, the bullies, bad government, the devils and demons, not the darkness of your soul. Not even your sin. St. Paul reminds us, ***For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** -Romans 8:38-39

When doubt overtakes, sin overwhelms, and the waves of guilt and shame and inadequacy threaten to drown you, say with Peter, "Lord, save me." And Jesus will. He always will.

Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat to join the others who witnessed all of this. The wind died down. He and the rest of the disciples did the only thing that's left to do when Jesus has done it all - they worshipped and professed, "**Truly you are the Son of God.**" No need to be afraid. Worship Him - who has saved and redeemed you.

Aging – Some Things Improve

In an interview with Laura Carstensen, founding director of Stanford University's Center on Longevity. She says this:

There's a lot that isn't good about growing older, but people seem to do better emotionally. Older people have shorter time horizons. For many years, people thought that must make people miserable and scared. The interesting thing is there's a paradox. It actually makes people feel calmer not to have to prepare for this long and nebulous future, to be able to live more in the present. . . .

Younger people are almost always thinking about the future. They almost always have one foot out the door, whatever they're doing. And older people seem to do better just being able to be in the present and enjoy the moment. I think that is because they don't have to keep planning. As people get older, it's clearer where they stand in the world and what they're good at. It becomes easier to say: "Yeah, you know, I'm good at this. I'm not so good at that. And it's OK."

And older people tend to look at the positive in life. There's a lot of evidence that when you show younger and older people different kinds of stimuli, and then later you ask them which ones they remembered, older people remember many more of the positive images than negative images. And younger people do the opposite. (Taken from The Wall Street Journal. November 2024.)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16



Serving in September

Elders

Saturday – Randy Kochis
Sunday – James Warwick

Ushers

John Burt, Rob Downey,

Altar Guild

Saturday – Tracy Stortz and Nickie Clark
Sunday – Lori Welch

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

TIM missionary: Rev. Jordan Andreasen

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

Preschool

We are excited to get this year started!
Mon-Thurs 9 – 11:30 a.m.
Begins August 31st

September's theme is:

All About Me and My Five Senses.
We will be learning procedures and how to be a good friend.

Bible Stories

God Made Me
God Made the World
The First Sin
The Flood

“CATechism corner” – September 2026

Fall is on the way. It's starting to cool off. Midwest harvest is coming. Mice will be coming in from the fields – yes! Last month we wrapped up the Lord's Prayer. This month we jump in Baptism.

The word “baptism” means “to wash.” I know there are exceptions but generally cats don't like water. Our fur absorbs water and that makes it feel very heavy and uncomfortable. We can swim – but out of necessity – not out of enjoyment. Don't baptize your cat.

Baptism has two pieces – water and the Word of God. Jesus commanded baptism for people – not optional. In the last chapter of Matthew, Jesus said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”* Matt. 28:19-20(ESV)

The water that is used in baptism comes out of the faucet. It's not imported from the Holy Land. It's regular, every day water. What gives the water it's power is the Word of God in and with the water along with the faith that trusts that Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote to Titus, *“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* Titus 3:4-7 (ESV)

Baptism is a promise that God gives to people – NOT a promise people make to God. God always keeps His promises. People not so much. That explains why most Christians baptize infants but some do not. Can an infant make a promise? No. Doesn't have to. It's about the promise God is making to an infant. Churches that wait until children are “of age” to baptize believe that baptism is a pledge of faith people make to God. Our God is so incredible He can work faith in a child before the child is born. Luke 1:39-45 tells about that.

Baptism is an incredible gift God gives to people. I have to admit being a bit envious as a cat although I'm not a water lover. It's amazing how God has given rituals to people to remind them how much they are loved. Can a person go to heaven without being baptized? We'll jump into that next month. Until then, take care of your pets. Fresh water is always appreciated.



Be Kind,
Sammy and Monroe



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

