Holy Trinity Ambassador
November 2026



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

www.holytrinitystreator.org

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 5 p.m.

at Holy Trinity

Sunday School

For PreK – 2nd Grade
10:15 a.m.

Classroom C

Women's Bible Study
"Be Thou My Guide"
Tuesdays 9:15 a.m.
in the Green Room.
Led by Lori Welch

Shoebox Due Date
November 16th

Remember Our Veterans
Veteran's Day – November 11th

Prayer Service

November 4
2 opportunities

7 a.m. or 7 p.m.
In the church

Lasts approx. 15 minutes
Join us as we pray for Country, Community and Church

Ponderings in the Pasture - Pastor Gutz

You live under God's Word. Whether you realize it, believe it, or deny it – the world operates under the Word of God. God's Word is over all. Jesus is the Word and Jesus is God. An encounter with Jesus is an encounter with the Word.

Matthew chapter 22 records smart Bible teachers – Pharisees - trying to trap Jesus in His Words. Repeatedly. They fail. Repeatedly.

Before you accuse God or challenge Him – think. Who made thoughts? Who made words so that we could accuse and challenge? God did. Who made the ability to speak? God did. Who made the brain that you could think of any of this? God did. Jesus is God. He is the Word. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Trying to trick Jesus with words is like a created thing trying to trick its creator. Jesus doesn't get rattled. He doesn't get defensive. He knows what's going on. His answers amaze even His enemies.

Jesus is God. That means He is bigger than we realize. Why should it surprise us that the one who made our brains is bigger and more complex than our brains?

Jesus comes to save the wise and the foolish, the rich and the poor, those who would have him and those who would not.

He is not concerned about what the world says about you. He comes to bring you peace with God. He does that by dying on the cross for your sins. That's only good news if you see yourself as someone who needs to be forgiven.

Jesus openly and without favoritism condemns greed, pride, and selfishness. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. That doesn't sit well with some. Doesn't matter if it's true or not. That's not something people want to hear. Talk to me about my potential, my self-esteem, my need to think more of myself - that'll sell. Telling people they're sinful - not so much.

Then as now, people get concerned about their own circle and position. We get wrapped up in our own little worlds. Our problems seem big and important because they're ours. That's a very small picture.

Small pictures can make us think that if we could just make everything go the right way then everything would work out the way that it should. If we tried hard enough we could create a perfect society here on earth. Some people try to do that through government. They think that if we just have the right people and right laws in place then we can solve the world's problems.

Others take the opposite approach and say you have to separate yourself from the world - withdraw into your own little community and remain unstained from this world.

Both are wrong. For God, things are not so small. God has stamped His image on this world, and so uses the things of this world for the life of the world, whether we know and realize it or not.

God gets His Godness done by working in both big and small ways. Mary and Joseph in obedience to the government travel to Bethlehem where the promised Savior is born - just as the Scriptures had foretold. The early Christians are persecuted and scattered meanwhile taking their Christian faith with them and the Word of God spreads. The ultimate example is the Son of God dead on a cross on a Friday afternoon. At the time it did not appear to anyone that God was working in the midst of those situations - no. People thought God had left, abandoned, and failed them. He hadn't. He was working out all of those things for the life of the world and their lives.

He's more clever than you realize and in a good way. For who does He have in mind in His cleverness? You.

When He declares you forgiven - you are forgiven even if you don't feel it.

When He makes you His own in baptism you're His -

When He calls you to forgive others - you forgive -

When He promises He will sustain you no matter what happens - He will -

And it's not tricky Words. It's believing that our God is who He says He is. For you.

Church Council Meeting - September 29

Present: J. Zavada, M. Peters, K. Downey, R. Kochis, J. Araujo, R. Britenstine, C. Kerestes, Pastor Gutz **Absent:** D. Gotch

Meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from August 25 were reviewed and approved.
Treasurer: Council reviewed preschool and church financial statements.
Church Properties: New church signs ordered from Designs and Signs. Could be installed by end of October. Seal-A-Lot provided estimate on sealing parking lot to be done in summer of '27. Outside lighting still being worked on.
Elders: Reviewed volunteers for October. Adult instruction concluded. Brief prayer services offered on the first Wednesday of Oct., Nov., and Dec. Lori Welch leading a women's Bible study. Pastor is helping with hospital and shut-in calls for Zion Lutheran, Ottawa while they're without a Pastor. Private Confession and Absolution offered. Reviewed 2027 budget. Continue to pray for an organist and CD operators. If anyone is aware of someone that is willing to help, please let us know. We will train.
Education: Spirit wear order deadline 9/17. Bullpen fundraiser 9/28. Columbus Day no school. Fall Festival - October 20
Parish Activities: Birthday card, cradle roll mailed. Discussed snacks for Voter's meeting. Plans to update church bags for kids. Planning a cleanup date for Old #3.
Old Business: Review of the Projected Budget for 2027. After discussion, Utilities and Maintenance line items were adjusted. Parking lot sealing line item was removed from budget. Cost to be presented separately taken out of Capital Improvements Fund. A motion to present the revised 2027 proposed budget to the congregation at the October 18 Voter's meeting made and seconded. Motion carried.
New Business: None
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.
Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Thanksgiving Community Meal
November 26

Park Place 406 E. Hickory St

Carryout begins at 11:30
Dine-in at 12:30

Call to make reservations
815-673-1526

Serving in November

Elders
Saturday – Jeff McMullen
Sunday – Tim Welch

Ushers
Rick Lesak
Steve Lightle

Altar Guild
Saturday – Greg & Barb Lentman
Sunday – Deb & Mark Kovach

For the Record

Asleep in Jesus

John Kochis
September 28

Larry Runyon
October 6

"CATechism corner"



Fall is here! Cool nights. Warm days. Enjoy!

Before I get too far – give the whole black cat thing a break! It's a color. That's all. Black cats are not more evil or "witchy" than any other cat. Yes, they are hard to see at night. But show them some love.

More on Baptism. God commands people to be baptized. Not optional. God's Word is clear. When you follow Jesus, you will be baptized. Following Jesus means to follow His Word, His plan, His design. Follow Jesus? – get baptized. Could a person have faith in Jesus and not be baptized? Of course. Not likely. But of course.

Baptism is not magic. Faith in Jesus saves. Unbelief condemns. Baptism works faith in a person. It gives the Holy Spirit. But that faith still has to be nurtured and cared for. You can't bring home a pet and then neglect it and expect things to turn out well. So . . . get baptized. Pray for those who are not. Let the Word of God work.

How can you use your Baptism in daily life? Cats can't do this – but people can – make the sign of the cross over yourself. Let it remind you that you are baptized. Plus you get to DO something. It's a physical act. God's people – not cats – are to live in "daily" repentance. So that "daily" a new man can emerge and live before God in righteousness and purity. If you were baptized as an infant, you don't remember it – but you can daily remember it by making the sign of the cross. Say the words, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." This is not magic, nor is it commanded, but it is helpful and useful. Try it.

When you're taking shower, think about how Baptism washes away your sins. When you hear of a child being born, think of how you were given new birth in your Baptism. Start looking for connections and you will see them. God loves humans so much! As cats we're not quite sure why? Rejoice in your baptism. You are a child of the Almighty God.

Be Kind,
Sammy and Monroe

Preschool

Throughout November, we'll spend time reflecting on our blessings and talking about all the things we're thankful for. We will have fun discussions about Thanksgiving and the community helpers who make our town so special.

We will have a chance to connect with parents about their child's progress. Parent -Teacher Conferences will take place on November 13.

November Bible Verse:
"The Lord is good to all."
Psalm 145:9

November Bible Stories
12 Spies Report
Jericho
Gideon Wins the Battle
David the Shepherd

Dates to Remember:

November 3 - No School - Election Day
November 11 - No School - Veteran's Day
November 13 - Parent -Teacher Conferences
November 23 - 26 - Thanksgiving Break

+ John E. Kochis +

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 John E. Kochis.

John was born January 29, 1933 in Streator. He was the son of Andrew and Mary (Cipalo) Kochis. He was baptized into Jesus at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on February 19, 1933. He was confirmed on April 14, 1946. John married Betty Hansen on June 15, 1958 in Streator at the Primitive Methodist Church. She survives in Streator. On Monday, September 28 John at the age of 93 years fell asleep in Jesus.

He is also survived by sons, Randy (Jane) Kochis of Streator, Terry Kochis of Streator; and Kurtis (Mendy) Kochis of St. Charles; and grandchildren, Jacob, Matthew, Keegan, Mallory and Myla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Elmer, Richard and Arthur Kochis; and sisters, Ann Stinar, Norma Marx, Esther Kelley and Marian Carpenter.

Born and raised in Streator he attended Wilson Grade School and graduated from Streator High School in the class of 1951. He served in the United States Army from 1953 until 1955. He was stationed in Korea. He worked for Knoedler's Manufacturing and JC Penney Store. He later worked for Owens Illinois Glass Company as a bottle maker for over 30 years until his retirement in 1993. John was an avid fisherman. He and Betty enjoyed traveling. John valued the gift of family and the blessings of children and grandchildren.

John was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Streator where he served on the Board of Church properties.

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 our brother, John.

+Larry Runyon +

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 Larry Runyon.

Larry was born September 19, 1942. He was the son of Maurice and Florence Vivian (Stacy) Runyon. He was baptized into Christ on September 4, 1955 at Antioch Christian Church in Olney, Illinois. Larry married Diane Pastirik on December 18, 1965, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Diane preceded him in death on May 4, 2008. On Tuesday, October 6, Larry at the age of 84 years fell asleep in Jesus.

He is survived by children: Beth Anne (Larry) Lessen of Bloomington; Brian (Jayne) of Bloomington; Mendy (Kurtis) Kochis of St. Charles; Tara (Tommy) Longmire of Long Point; Krista (Scott) Luckey of Streator/Cape Coral, FL. 13 children and 3 step-grandchildren: Matthew, Justin, Kaylee Kussmann and Brandon Brown; Cort, Laina and Derek Runyon; Keegan, Mallory and Myla Kochis; Grace Longmire; Tyler and Jake Luckey; Hannah Randazzo, Molly Held, Kaylee Brugman and five great grandchildren: Brooklyn and Maverick Brown; Michael Runyon; Miles Randazzo and Madelyn Held. He is also survived by his two sisters: Linda Cook and Cindy Baker; in-laws Pete and Nancy Pastirik; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Larry grew up in Olney, IL. He served in the United States Marine Corps. Early on he worked on drilling rigs with Sitton Drilling Company and retired from Northern Illinois Gas Company (NICOR). He enjoyed working on cars and helping family and friends. His garage was a meeting place for many.

He was a member of the American Legion, Streator Eagles and former member of the Masonic Temple until he chose to join Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Streator in 1998. He served on Holy Trinity's Church Property Board many years.

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 our brother, Larry.

Andreasens in Romania



Dear Friends in Christ,

We thank you for your prayers for the work in Romania and the Balkans. We are in full fall swing.

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,
Rev. Jordon and Alison Andreasen

For Your Prayers

Members in Bold (requested by)

Gary Brandenburg (Matthew Brandenburg)
Bob Cross
Buddy Crouch (Lauren Pastirik)
Roberta Foster
Ellen Girard
Rick Mahrt (Denise Burt)
Shirley Zavada (Jack Zavada)
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
TIM missionary: Rev. Jordan Andreasen

Pray for All People
1 Timothy 2:1-6

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

Help Freshen Up Old#3

Saturday, Nov. 14th
9 a.m.

