

Trinity Highlights

December 2023 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

Rev. Mark Drews, Vacancy Pastor ~ 701-390-6073

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	October	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 22,722	\$226,039	\$207,611
Expenses	17,984	216,663	273,315
(Deficit)/Surplus	4,738	9,377	

Giving in October was right in line with what was projected and \$4,738 more than expenses which were lower than budgeted. Expenses for the remainder of the year will most likely be lower than budgeted since the budget assumed a full-time pastor for the entire year. The General Fund balance at the end of September was \$194,324.

Stewardship

\$36.00 was collected for "Dollars for Missions" in October and sent to the Central Illinois District in early November.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his continued blessings and pray that we may continue to be faithful stewards until the day of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rob Fornoff
Chairman - Board of Finance

*What
Child
Is This?*



2023 Advent Devotions

Never-ending is the love God has for us. In *What Child Is This?* we see God at work on our behalf, coming to us in human form, entering our world as a Child, a Servant, and a conquering King. It's a love story for the ages, and we are the ones - lost and undeserving - that God sent His Son to save.

Copies are available on the table in the narthex for you to pick-up.

From the Pastor's Desk

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that
By the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13*

Dear Members of Trinity,

Happy New Year!

No, I didn't mix up my months. Although this is still 2023, I have not mixed up December and January. We have begun the season of Advent, or the "New Year" of the Christian Church Year. The New Year begins this coming Sunday (December 3rd) and will continue on until December 24th.

We have different ways during Advent of counting down (or up?) until Christmas and the celebration of the Christ Child. You may use an Advent calendar, opening up panels each day before Christmas Day. In church, we have an Advent wreath which we add one candle to be lit each week: the Hope candle, the Peace candle, the Joy candle, and the Love candle, before we light the Christ candle in the middle.

This year's theme for Advent is taken from the Great O Antiphons, which are found in the hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" in Lutheran Service Book. Each week we will have a Midweek Advent service at 6:00pm. The themes are:

<i>Sunday, December 3rd</i>	<i>O <u>S</u>apientia (Wisdom)</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 6th</i>	<i>O <u>A</u>donai (Lord)</i>
<i>Sunday, December 10th</i>	<i>O <u>R</u>adix Jesse (Rod of Jesse)</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 13th</i>	<i>O <u>C</u>lavis David (Key of David)</i>
<i>Sunday, December 17th</i>	<i>O <u>O</u>riens (Morning star)</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 20th</i>	<i>O <u>R</u>ex Gentorum (King of nations)</i>
<i>Sunday, December 24th (AM)</i>	<i>O <u>E</u>mmanuel (God with us)</i>

These antiphons were and are used as another way to count down to Christmas. Beginning on December 17th, these antiphons were sung or chanted each day. I hope that you join us any or all of these mornings and evenings to learn more about these melodies of the Church. May God continue to bless you throughout this Advent as you prepare your hearts and minds for the coming Christ Child.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

2024 Offering Envelopes: 2024 offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex. If you don't have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact the church office.

2024 Flower Chart: The 2024 flower chart is up on the bulletin board in the hallway by the 4th Street entrance. Simply sign your name by the date you wish to donate flowers. A form will be sent to you when your date is near. Dates are chosen on a first come first serve basis.

October & November

Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following young people who had perfect Sunday School attendance for the month of **October:** Emily Anton, Haven Harms, Ella, Mabel & Oliver Spaeth and Henry Stout and the month of **November:** Emily Anton and Haven Harms.

GSLs Dining Out will take place Thursday, December 7 at Panda Express in Pekin.

Use Raiseright/scrip this Christmas Season!

We encourage you to use GSLs RaiseRight/Scrip program for your gift card needs this Christmas. Whether for shopping or gifting, we have a wide variety of gift cards available. Each card you purchase at face value provides a benefit to Good Shepherd. The last day to place an order to guarantee delivery before Christmas is Dec. 10th. Orders may be submitted to your Church's SCRIP table or to the School office. Have a merry, and Christ-filled, Christmas Season.

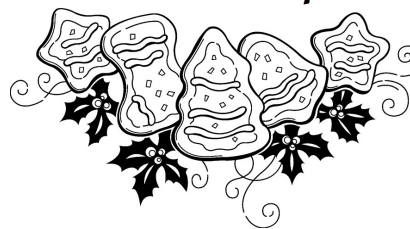
Toys for Tots: GSLs is a drop-off location for Toys for Tots from November 1 - December 8. Please donate new unopened toys. They will not distribute any gifts that look like realistic weapons or anything with food. If you wish to donate, please visit their website www.toysfortots.org



Decorate the Church Sunday, December 3 after the Sunday School hour

We will decorate the church, mainly the sanctuary, on Sunday, December 3, after the Sunday School hour. Everyone is welcome to come and help as we prepare the house of our Lord to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is a job for everyone!

Cookie Fellowship



Cookie Fellowship will follow the Advent Services. Please bring one dozen cookies to the church kitchen on the date on which your name is listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| December 6 | <i>Abbott - Gresham</i> |
| December 13 | <i>Hand - Nash</i> |
| December 20 | <i>O'Conner - Zevnik</i> |

Life Essay Contest: The theme for the Peoria Area Lutherans for Life Annual Life Contest is "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 All entries should be submitted no later than December 15, 2023. Details are on the bulletin board.

**Trinity's Shut-In's
and/or those recovering from an illness/injury**

At Cedar Hurst:

Norma Rebuffoni
2700 S. 14th St.

At Hallmark:

Diana Johnson
2501 Allentown Rd.

At Lutheran Hillside Village:

Barbara Glick
6901 N. Galena Rd., Peoria IL 61614

Donald Wahls
2720 S. 14th St.

Villas of Holly Brook:

Marilyn Alexander
2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 5

Karalyn Garber
2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 6

Betty Woith
2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 45

At Home:

Pennie Adkins
500 S. Third Ave., Apt. B
Canton, IL 61520

Don Maskel
1320 Executive Ct., Apt. 224

Delores Shafer
2210 Sunset Dr.

Robert Thompson
Robin Thompson
17298 Lake Knolls Rd.

Keith Warwick
705 Buckhaen St.

Loraine Weyhrich
11523 Weyhrich Rd

*Please remember our shut-in's
this holiday season by sending a card.*



Christians have an easy way of witnessing their faith in Jesus Christ by the message on their Christmas cards. Try to find cards that clearly tell of the joy of God's gift to mankind in Jesus Christ, Who came to die for our sins. Christmas cards can serve as your witness to your friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives about what Christmas truly means. This is also a great opportunity to remember our shut-ins by sending one or more of them a Christmas card sharing with them the joy of Christmas.

Trinity's Service Volunteers - December 2023

ACOLYTES

12/03 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
12/06 6:00 p.m. Will Brown
 12/10 9:00 a.m. Emily Anton
12/13 6:00 p.m. Ella Spaeth
 12/17 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth
12/20 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown
 12/24 9:00 a.m. Will Brown
12/24 6:00 p.m. Emily Anton
Lexi Brown
12/25 10:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth
 12/31 9:00 a.m. Emily Anton

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

12/03 Bill Heren
 12/10 *Open*
 12/17 *Open*
 12/24 *No Sunday School*
 12/31 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

12/03 Julie O'Conner
 12/10 Kathy Seidell
 12/17 *Open*
 12/24 *No Sunday School*
 12/31 *Open*

USHERS

12/03 9:00 a.m. O. Miller, D. Harms
 M. Seidell, A. Juergens
12/06 6:00 p.m. M. Seidell, A. Juergens
 12/10 9:00 a.m. C. Whitley, M. Seidell
12/13 6:00 p.m. C. Whitley, D. Harms
 12/17 9:00 a.m. O. Miller, D. Harms
 M. Seidell, A. Juergens
12/20 6:00 p.m. M. Seidell, B. Juergens
 12/24 9:00 a.m. M. Seidell, B. Juergens
 O. Miller, C. Whitley
12/24 6:00 p.m. O. Miller, D. Harms
M. Seidell, A. Juergens
12/25 10:00 a.m. C. Whitley, D. Harms
 12/31 9:00 a.m. C. Whitley, M. Seidell

ALTAR FLOWERS

12/03 Dave & Theresa McDonough
 12/10 *Open*
 12/17 Jeff & Lori Lynn
 12/24 Poinsettias
 12/31 Poinsettias

Poinsettias will decorate the altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you would like to donate a plant, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office no later than **December 18**. The cost is \$15.00 per poinsettia. Mark your offering envelope "Poinsettia" and include the money in your envelope.



<p>NAME OF DONOR</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Number of plants _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____</p> <p>In Memory Of: _____</p>

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



December Birthdays

Dec. 1

Chris Deverman
Matt Deverman
Tammy Olt
Carol Stroyeck

Dec. 2

Owen Miller

Dec. 3

Dave McDonough

Dec. 5

Don Maskel
Jennifer Reese
Perry Steinsultz

Dec. 7

Rae Ann Weisert

Dec. 10

Nolan Dunn
Ron Upchurch

Dec. 11

Andrew Erickson
Paula Mattheessen
Emma Sizemore

Dec. 12

Sonia Heren
Malia May
Logan Schultz

Dec. 13

Zach Juergens
Theresa McDonough

Dec. 14

Annelise Burke
Peggy Durbin

Dec. 16

Gary Guengerich

Dec. 18

Carolyn Cordts

Dec. 19

Dennis Speck

Dec. 20

Mark Suhs

Dec. 23

Joseph Bennett

Dec. 26

Jay Jones

Dec. 28

Gerald Davis

Dec. 30

Emma Seidell

Dec. 31

Makenzie Abatie

If your birthday or anniversary was omitted or a date is incorrect, please contact the church office so we can update our records.



December Anniversaries

Dec. 1

Jeff & Lori Lynn

Dec. 19

Jim & Donna Deverman

Dec. 30

Bill & Marty Bond



Children's Christmas Program

Children's Christmas Program practice will be held during the Sunday School hour and continue each Sunday. Please make every effort to have your child here so they can be a part of the Children's Christmas Program. The Children's Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 17 during the Sunday School hour.**

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 11:30 AM DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	4	5	6 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE	7 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL GSLS DINING OUT NIGHT AT PANDA EXPRESS PEKIN	8	9
10 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	11	12 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	13 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE	14 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	15	16
17 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	18	19 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	20 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE	21 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	22	23
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:00 AM WORSHIP 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	26	27	28 7 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	29	30
31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS						



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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(Return Service Requested)



Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20 - 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24

Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25 - 10:00 a.m.

