

Trinity Highlights

September 2023 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

Rev. Simeon Raddatz, Pastor ~ 773-634-0082

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	July	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 24,031	\$163,211	\$147,038
Expenses	<u>15,463</u>	<u>156,809</u>	193,321
(Deficit)/Surplus	8,568	6,402	

Giving in July was a bit more than what was projected, partially due to a five Sunday month. Expenses look much lower than what was budgeted due to a \$4,800 gift for the new refrigerator in the kitchen which offset the expense in May. The General Fund balance at the end of July was \$194,561.

Stewardship

\$81.70 was collected for "A Dollar for Missions" in July. This was sent to the Central Illinois District in August.

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

Voter's Assembly Meeting **Thursday, September 14 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

The next scheduled Voter's Assembly Meeting will be **Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.** At this Voter's Assembly Meeting a vote will be taken on whether to proceed with having one single Sunday worship service or remain at two Sunday worship services. Please be sure to attend this Voter's Assembly Meeting.

Central Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League Annual Retreat **Saturday, September 9 at Camp Cilca** **Doors Open at 8:00 a.m. ~ Retreat Begins at 9:00 a.m. ~ Concludes at 2:00 p.m.**

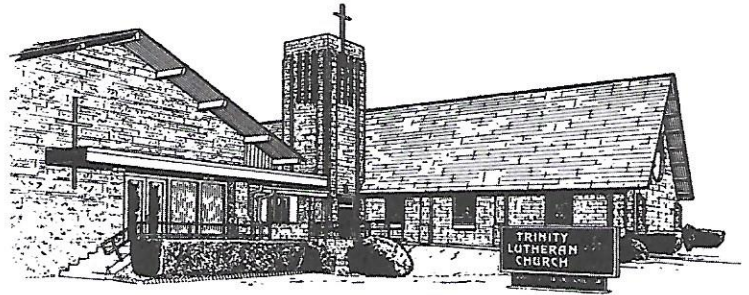
The guest speaker will be Rev. Timothy Scharr, District President, Southern Illinois District LC-MS. The topic will be: *God's Living Word Today - Survey of First Peter*. The registration fee is \$25.00 and includes lunch. Registration is due Tuesday, September 5. The fee can be sent to: Deloris Blessman, 24204 CR 1850N, Topeka, IL 61567.; phone: 309-361-1461 or e-mail: delorisbless@yahoo.com



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, Illinois 61554
(309) 346-1391

Rev. Simeon D. Raddatz, Pastor



August 29, 2023
Tuesday—Trinity 12

Beloved in the Lord,

Last month I wrote to you about the idolatry of self-made worship (read last month's newsletter if you missed it!). This month I want to invite you to reflect on another common form of idolatry—one to which we ourselves often fall prey. It is the idolatry of trusting in created things rather than the Creator.

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter 1: “[They] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” (v. 25). In context, the apostle is explaining that, though all mankind can discern from creation that God exists, fallen humanity has chosen instead to worship images of created things, like birds and other animals. The most obvious form of this would be the “crass” idolatry depicted in the Old Testament, where we find people bowing down before handcrafted statues, trees, and other such things.

But idolatry can be much more subtle. The “created things” referred to don't necessarily have to be literal idols, that is, the statues of false gods. In our day, the created things which mankind worships are more often the very gifts of God *through which* He would provide for us. They can be things like work, money, technology, medicine, spouse, government, health, reason, strength, etc. These good gifts, too, can become idols in our hearts. Let me explain.

God is your provider. Anything you have has come from Him, regardless of *how* you received it. Israel of old, for example, received bread (manna) directly from heaven in the wilderness by God's miraculous hand. The Lord *could* do the same for us today. However, *ordinarily* God chooses to provide our daily bread *through* His creation/creatures. For example, God provides food to an infant *through* his mother. God often provides food to an adult *through* the job, strength, and skill which *He has given*. Martin Luther, therefore, calls all these created things “the masks of God.” They are “masks” because they are what we see, but behind them all is God's shining face and merciful hand. *He* is always the one providing for you, even if He's using the health and strength He's given you to do it.

Idolatry sets in when we forget the One behind the various “masks” in our lives. When I come to believe that it is solely because of my hard work and strength or skill that I have daily bread or that it is because of this or that government leader or this or that modern technology that I have daily bread, then I am worshiping the creature rather than the Creator. A good litmus test for determining whether I have an idol is what happens when that idol fails. If I fall into fear and despair when I lose my job or can't afford the medicine or whatever else, then I have likely been worshiping the mask, the created thing, rather than the Creator.

If, however, I am trusting in my Creator to provide, I will trust in His provision, even when the various masks of God fail in my life. I will trust that He will find another means to provide. So, while I have the job, I work the job, thanking God for this means of provision. When the job or whatever else goes away, I nevertheless know that the One behind it is still there. Therefore, I can trust that He will find another way! What contentment and peace is ours when we trust God above all else!

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Raddatz

Trinity's Service Volunteers - September 2023

ACOLYTES

09/03 8:15 a.m. Ella Spaeth
09/10 8:15 a.m. Lexi Brown
09/17 8:15 a.m. Emily Anton
09/24 8:15 a.m. Will Brown

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

09/03 Bill & Sonia Heren
09/10 Jeanine Meyers
09/17 Rob Fornoff
09/24 Pam Buerkett

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

09/03 Kathy Seidell
09/10 Julie O'Conner
09/17 *Open*
09/24 *Open*

USHERS

09/03 8:15 a.m. O. Miller, D. Harms
10:45 a.m. M. Seidell, A. Juergens
09/10 8:15 a.m. C. Whitley
10:45 a.m. M. Seidell
09/17 8:15 a.m. O. Miller, D. Harms
10:45 a.m. M. Seidell, A. Juergens
09/24 8:15 a.m. C. Whitley, D. Harms
10:45 a.m. M. Seidell, B. Juergens

ALTAR FLOWERS

09/03 Bill & Sonia Heren, *for their 65th wedding anniversary on September 7.*
09/10 Bob Lutz
09/17 Jeanine Meyers, *remembering her husband, Frederick Meyers' birthday on Sept. 25.*
09/24 Dave & Theresa McDonough



Trinity's Wiener Roast Friday, September 29 6:00 p.m.

Hot dogs, buns, chips, drinks and table service will be provided.

Items to Bring

Any individually wrapped snacks or individually wrapped desserts, lawn chairs and wiener sticks.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we can plan on how much food to have on hand.

“Shop with RaiseRight/Scrip” Now that school is in session it’s a great time to support Good Shepherd Lutheran School through the RaiseRight/Scrip gift card program. All proceeds go to support GSLS and/or a student of your choice. Gift cards can be purchased or ordered each Sunday morning at the Scrip table or brought to the school each Monday by 9:00 a.m. Orders can also be placed on-line and delivered electronically. Any questions, please check with the school office or call or text Charlie Berndt at 309-642-1980. A large number of local restaurants, gas stations and retail outlets have gift cards available for your shopping needs!

GSLS September Dining Night Out will be **Tuesday, September 12** at Texas Roadhouse in East Peoria. Be sure to use Scrip cards.

Save the Date for the 75 & Over Dinner on **Saturday, October 21 at 12:00 p.m.** Letters will be sent out and more information will follow.

Music for Missions is a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of our LC-MS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at ISU in Normal, at the Wittenberg Lutheran Center. The event will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin, on Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 p.m. Music for Missions will feature guest organist Peter Wykert, Cantor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria. It will also include music from vocalists, choir, and hand bells, as well as congregational singing. A free-will offering will be gathered to support our Wittenberg Lutheran Center at ISU. Refreshments will be served following the program.

A Dollar for Missions

Two Dollars for Missions Projects Completed!

It is with exceedingly great joy that Central Illinois District President, Rev. Michael Mohr, announces that not only has the current *A Dollar for Missions* Project (the purchase of a 15 person passenger van for University Lutheran Church in Champaign) been fully funded, but July contributions towards *A Dollar for Missions* have been robust enough to fully fund the next project on the list: Augment pay for Prison Ministry at Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers. Therefore, the current *A Dollar for Missions* Project is to raise \$20,000 for stipends to pastors to begin visiting four new prisons or jails in 2024. There is a container on the chair in the back of the sanctuary for you to put your dollars in.



Camp Cilca News - Save the Date!

Chicken Fry and Auction - September 3

- Fresh fried chicken and all the sides.
- Auction items up for bid.
- Preview all auction items at cilca.org/auction-items
- Make a weekend of it and camp out with friends from across the state.
- Find out more at www.cilca.org



LWML Peoria/Pekin Zone 2023 Fall Rally
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
St. John's Lutheran Church
711 Court St.
Pekin, IL 61554

You are invited to the LWML CID Peoria/Pekin 2023 Zone Fall Rally which will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pekin.

- Pastor Ryan Meyer will lead a Bible study from John 13:34, *"Love One Another."*
- Nancy Stremming, the LWML CID Vice President of Christian Life, will share information from our District and the National LWML.
- The speaker will be Rev. Wayne Knolhoff from Orphan Grain Train.
- The Mites from this year will help fund 2 grants for Orphan Grain Train. \$9,000 to help with shipping costs and \$8,100 for supplies needed at their office in St. Louis.

Carol House of Hope is the Center for Prevention of Abuse's shelter in Pekin. It is a 24/7 crisis hotline and shelter. There are no fees for the program. The Center serves people who may be victims of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation in a 6-county area of Central Illinois. It is Handicap accessible. People come to the Center when they have no place to turn.

Please bring one or more of the following needed items to the Rally:

- Deodorant
- Shaving cream for women and men
- Full-size shampoo, conditioner, liquid body wash and face wash
- Disposable razors with cartridges
- Personal hygiene products
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets

The registration fee to attend the LWML Rally is \$10.00 and due September 13. Make checks payable to: St. John's Women in Faith. ***Copies of the registration form can be found on the table under the screen in Room 10.***

September Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

September 1

Zoey Portillo
Laura Schmidt

September 4

Lauren Freehill
Jared Timian

September 5

Beth Abbott

September 6

Delores Shafer

September 8

Jeff Weisert

September 12

Avelyn Addison
Jodi Erickson
Matthew Juergens
Bob Lutz
Katilyn Stout

September 14

Shawn Mason
Dick Nash

September 19

Benjamin Vollmer

September 22

Melissa Deverman
Anthony Erickson

September 25

Oliver Spaeth

September 26

Jason Timian

September 27

Chris Whitley

September 29

Nocona Daniels

September 30

Heather Durham

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

No Sunday School Sunday, Sept. 3

There will be no Sunday School, Sunday, September 3. There will be coffee and donuts for a fellowship hour at 9:30 a.m.

August Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Emily Anton
Haven Harms
Elias & Violet Raddatz
Henry Stout



Anniversaries

September 5

Andrew & Sara Staker

September 7

Bill & Sonia Heren
Janet & Todd Zevnik

September 10

Zach & Courtney Juergens

September 20

Anthony & Jodi Erickson

September 22

Eric & Fashia Eubanks
Dave & Theresa McDonough

September 28

Bret & Carol Maloney

Attention Parents of College Students!

Please let us know the address of your college student. Call the church office at 346-1391 or e-mail us at trinity.lutheran.pekin@gmail.com with the address so we can send them church mailings and keep in touch with them throughout the school year.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:15 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:45 AM WORSHIP	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	6 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	7 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	8	9 8 AM CID LLL ANNUAL RETREAT AT CAMP CILCA 4 PM MILLER FAMILY FELLOWSHIP HALL
10 8:15 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM S.S. & B C 10:45 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION	11	12 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GSLS DINING OUT NIGHT AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE	13 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	14 1:30 PM CONCORDIA 6 PM VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING	15	16
17 8:15 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 9:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 10:45 AM WORSHIP	18	19 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	20 LWML ZONE RALLY AT ST. JOHN'S PEKIN 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	21 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	22	23
24 8:15 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 10:45 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION	25	26	27 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	28 7 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	29 6 PM WIENER ROAST	30



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Inside this issue:

Voter's Assembly Meeting
LWML Zone Rally
CID LLL Annual Retreat
Trinity's Weiner Roast
Camp Cilca News