

# Trinity Highlights

January 2024 Newsletter

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

## Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	November	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 19,333	\$245,373	\$227,802
Expenses	<u>13,174</u>	<u>229,837</u>	296,646
(Deficit)/Surplus	6,159	15,536	

Giving in November was lower than what was projected however remains strong year to date. Expenses were much lower than budgeted primarily due to less than budgeted Pastoral expenses. The General Fund balance at the end of November was \$201,111.

## Stewardship

\$38.00 was collected for “Dollars for Missions” in November and sent to the Central Illinois District in early December.

## 2024 Outlook

In December, the Church Council approved a 2024 budget request in the amount of \$263,786. Members attending the January 11, 2024, Voters Assembly will be presented with the budget details and be asked for approval. Please plan to attend.

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

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## **Voter's Assembly** **Thursday, January 11** **6:00 p.m.**

All communicant members of the congregation, 18 years of age and older, are encouraged to attend. This is an excellent time to be brought up-to-date on what is going on at Trinity.

**2024 Offering Envelopes:** 2024 offering envelopes are on the table in Room 10. 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.

# From the Pastor's Desk

*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'" Matthew 2:1-2*

Dear Members of Trinity,

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Yes, I know that it's January. But if you get this before January 6th, we are still celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas. It seems to me that everyone is excited each year for Christmas Day to arrive. Stores seem to put up Christmas decorations earlier and earlier each year ( you might have seen them going up around Halloween). Radio stations like WCIC (a Christian radio station) start to play Christmas music the day after Thanksgiving until December 25th.

But then what happens? By December 26th, people are already taking down their Christmas lights and tossing their Christmas trees to the curb (people with artificial trees might take a little longer). Department stores celebrate the holidays with their "after Christmas sales".

But for the Church, Christmas has only just begun! The Twelve Days of Christmas that we sing about in the song START with December 25th and END on January 5th. There are other minor festivals that start off the 12 days including the Feast of St. Stephen on December 26th (remember "Good King Wenceslas"?); The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist on December 27th; and the Feast of the Holy Innocents (dedicated to the boys two and under who were slaughtered by King Herod) on December 28th. We also observe the Circumcision and Name of Jesus on New Year's (the 8th day of Christmas).

On January 6th, we observe the Feast of Epiphany. In the Eastern Orthodox Church Epiphany is known as the "Gentiles' Christmas" because they celebrate the arrival of the Magi who travelled from the East to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. They followed the light of the star, which led them to the Light of the World (with a slight delay in Jerusalem).

The word "Epiphany" is translated from the Greek, and it means "manifest". You may know the hymn "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," which ends with "God in man made *manifest*". The word Epiphany is a word picture. I used to ask my confirmands (or sometimes younger children in a Childrens' Message) "What do you need to take a picture?" I'd get all sorts of answers, from a camera, film or a subject for the picture. But the most important thing you need for a picture is *light*. Without light, it doesn't matter if you use a camera with film, a digital camera, or even your cell phone these days, you aren't going to get a picture. The shutter of a camera gradually opens and lets in the light. In the season of Epiphany, the light of Jesus Christ starts small (a star) and gradually increases as we see Jesus made manifest at His baptism, in His miracles and ministry, until finally we see Him in His full glory on the Feast of the Transfiguration. The season of Epiphany is a glorious opportunity for us to "see the Light" even as the daylight hours outside grow longer beginning with Christmas and continuing through Epiphany.

May we continue to worship our Lord, the Light of the World through Christmas, Epiphany, and the rest of the year. And may God bless you throughout the coming year.

In Christ,

*Pastor Mark R. Dress*

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## Trinity's Service Volunteers - January 2024

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### ACOLYTES

01/07 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth  
01/14 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown  
01/21 9:00 a.m. Emily Anton  
01/28 9:00 a.m. Will Brown

### USHERS

01/07 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms  
01/14 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Chris Whitley  
01/21 9:00 a.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms  
01/28 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Owen Miller

### BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

#### **Pick-Up Donuts:**

01/07 *Open*  
01/14 *Open*  
01/21 *Open*  
01/28 *Open*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

01/07 Walter & Lynn Brown  
01/14 *Open*  
01/21 *Open*  
01/28 Delores Gresham, *in memory of Robert Speck*

#### **Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:**

01/07 *Open*  
01/14 *Open*  
01/21 *Open*  
01/28 *Open*

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**Please Join Us** on Sunday, January 7 at after Sunday School to take down the Christmas decorations. With your help this shouldn't take much time. We appreciate all the volunteers that help with this!

**Current Dollar for Missions Project:** A Dollar for Missions gathers many small gifts - one dollar at a time! - to add up to a big impact for the spread of the saving Gospel of Christ. Our current project is to provide payments to churches for pastors visiting 4 new prisons or county jails. There is a container on the chair in the back of the sanctuary for you contribute.

**Giving Tree:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree Fund. We have surpassed our goal! The total given was: \$2,692.00!



# January Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Jan. 3

Nicholas Prather

Jan. 5

Steven Seidell

Cori Spaeth

Jan. 8

Hannah Bennett

Jan. 9

Darren Upchurch

Jan. 10

Jeremy Egli

Carol Spaeth

Cameron Speck

Connor Speck

Lindsey Watters

Jan. 11

Lannette Speck

Jan. 12

Kaydi Steele

Jan. 14

Michael Seidell

Jan. 15

Pennie Adkins

Jeff Hemp

Jan. 16

Jenna Owens

Jan. 17

Curtis Egli

Jan. 18

Lori Kincaid

Zander Seidell

Jan. 21

Sloan Grosch

Zelene Grosch

Jan. 23

Linda Wolters

Jan. 26

Betty Robinson

Jan. 31

Seth Cooney

## Anniversaries

Jan. 1

Brad & Christi Juergens

Jan. 17

Michael & Jaymie Townzen

Jan. 20

Mike & Sheryl Jones

Jan. 24

Dave & Lynn Wyatt

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

**Thank you to those who donated Poinsettias this Christmas!**

Rozella , Beth & Steve Abbott

*In loving memory of*

*Elmer Abbott*

Walter & Lynn Brown

Bob & Carolyn Cordts

*In memory of our parents*

Jim & Donna Deverman

Rob & Debbie Fornoff

*In memory of loved ones*

Barbara Glick

*In memory of Merle Glick*

Marcella Harms

*In memory of Bernard Harms*

Claudie Huey

*In memory of Merle Glick*

Betty, Mark & Brian Ingrassia

*In memory of Marty Ingrassia*

Terry Knollenberg

*In memory of*

*Raymond & Ruby Knollenberg*

Jeff & Lori Lynn

*In memory of loved ones*

Bob & Paula Mattheessen

*In memory of*

*Bill & Marian Mattheessen*

*William G. Mattheessen*

*Verna Lane*

Jeanine Meyers

*In memory of*

*Fred Meyers*

*Chesley & Clara Beasley*

Owen & Jane Miller

*In memory of loved ones*

Don Nash

*In memory of Jim & Lois Nash*

Julie & Alex O'Conner

*In memory of James R. O'Conner*

Norma Rebuffoni

*In memory of Henry Rebuffoni*

*and loved ones*

Mike & Kathy Seidell

*In memory of our parents:*

*Tom & Marlene Brock*

*Jack & Peggy Seidell*

Rev. David & Carol Spaeth

*In memory of*

*our granddaughter, Hazel Spaeth*

*and our parents*

Marcia Whitley and family

*In memory of Perry Whitley*

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i>
7 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL	8	9 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	10 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	11 1:30 PM CONCORDIA  6 PM VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING	12	13
14 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	15	16 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	17 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM GSLS DINING OUT NIGHT AT LA GONDOLA PEKIN	18 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	19	20
21 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	22	23	24 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM	25 7 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	26	27
28 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	29	30	31 4:30 PM YOUTH CATECHISM			



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.  
Pekin, IL 61554

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*(Return Service Requested)*



**Voter's Assembly**

**Thursday, January 11**

**6:00 p.m.**

