

Trinity Highlights

July 2025 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:

	May <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 17,115	\$ 96,654	\$108,635
Expenses	<u>47,161</u>	<u>145,594</u>	180,255
(Deficit)/Surplus	(30,046)	(48,940)	

Giving in May was off considerably from what was projected and is approximately \$12,000 behind year to date. Expenses were in line with the budget as the first large expense for the parsonage bathroom renovation project was paid. The second and final payment will probably be paid in June.

As was planned, the General Fund reserves are starting to fund the deficit. The General Fund balance at the end of May was 216,648.76.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund balance increased \$11,439 in the first quarter of which \$11,200 was from the Donald Wahls estate. Available earnings at the end of the first quarter was \$31,782.

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



Ice cream will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a favorite ice cream *topping* and/or a game to share.

Sunday, July 27

6:00 p.m.

Please join us for a fun evening!



From the Pastor's Desk

"For the death he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God." (Romans 6:10)

July 4th, we celebrate our independence. As usual, there will be fireworks, parades, etc. throughout our land. Have you ever wondered how many folks, as they're celebrating, stop to consider the cost of our freedom? How many people think of the men and women who shed their blood and died that we might enjoy the freedom we have today? As Christians, we know we have a greater freedom. Today, we will consider what our greater freedom—the freedom that we have in Christ—actually cost. We were not born free. Rather, The Cost of Freedom, Then and Now, Is Blood, for Only through Christ's Blood Are We Truly Set Free.

The very word *freedom* indicates we were not always free. It's easy for us as Americans to forget this fact. Our generation—and every generation in America since our two most formative wars, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War—has experienced freedom. If we had lived in the colonies prior to that, we would have known what it was like to live under the rule of another nation. The colonies were not free. They were forced to house foreign troops and pay taxes that did not benefit them at all.

Perhaps we, as Christians, think as the Jews did in Jesus' day: "We . . . have never been enslaved to anyone". We don't see sin in its proper light. Sin often doesn't appear as a slave driver but as freedom! Sin comes disguised in many forms! What about the alcoholic? Does he take one drink too many, or is he enslaved by the first drink? How about violence against women? It is frightening to see the abuse statistics. It's even more frightening to know what one of the root causes of that abuse is: pornography. Whether you are addicted to alcohol, pornography, or any of a thousand other things, the fact is we are all slaves of sin!

Freedom always comes with a big price tag. Freedom is not something simply given to us. It was fought and died for! When you count up all the men and women who have paid for our freedom with their lives, that number is staggering. We cherish our freedom, but we rarely consider its cost! Our freedom today cost many men and women their lives. We know this, but we ought never to take it for granted.

Spiritually, the price for our freedom is even more staggering. Our freedom cost the very Son of God his life! We may all know this, but we ought never take it for granted! The price for our spiritual freedom is so high that all the silver and gold in the world could not buy it.

The worst part about our slavery to sin is that for us, there was nowhere to run and no escape. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they were separated from God. They became slaves of the devil. Because of their rebellion, there was nowhere to run. They—and we—were hopelessly trapped in the slavery of sin. The only escapes from slavery to sin are to have it bought at a price . . . or there's always that thing about death.

Some 43,000 Americans were killed or wounded in combat in the Revolutionary War. Over 700,000 in the Civil War. A quarter of a million in World War I. Nearly a million in World War II. Thousands more in Korea and Vietnam. Freedom is always paid for in blood.

Thankfully, God was merciful and understood we could never buy our own way out of slavery. We could never buy our own freedom. In Romans 7, Paul describes the helplessness of slavery to sin under God's Law. The good that I wish to do, I can't do. Fortunately for us, God did not leave us to ourselves or our own devices. He sent Jesus into this world to deliver us from the power and slavery of sin. He fulfilled all of God's righteous demands on our behalf. He kept the Law we are not able to keep. Jesus resisted the slavery of sin in all its forms, and the temptations to sin, while walking this earth. Then on the cross, he shed his blood to buy our freedom. The verse above says, "He died to sin, once for all" (v 10). His blood shed on the cross sets us free from the power and slavery of sin.

It all happened by the shedding of Christ's blood, his death on the cross. Blood, which purchased our freedom—and death. There was that other way out of slavery, right? Death. We live in freedom by the death of the Son of God. Christ's victory over the power of sin in the resurrection also belongs to us in our *Baptism*. His victory over the devil is our victory over him. It also means that Christ's resurrection is going to be ours as well when we are raised on the Last Day. All of this belongs to us in Baptism!

In faith, we constantly confess to God that we are sinners, repenting the sins of which we are aware and thankful that because of the cross of Christ, God remembers our sin no more. The God who remembers everything promises to forget that one thing, your sin. We have been set free from the power of sin—but never from sinning itself until we see Jesus face to face. This is why Paul writes, "But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more". Our freedom and new life in Christ is preserved every day by remembering our baptism. Just as we wish to see our country remain a free country so that we may enjoy our freedoms as Americans, we as Christians should desire even more so to continue in the freedom we have in Christ.

How can we do that? By remembering our baptism! By daily remembering our baptism, we will be reminded daily what we have been delivered from—the power of sin, the power of the devil, and eternal destruction in hell. At the same time, we remember the benefits of our baptism—the gift of faith, the forgiveness of sins, and the guarantee of our own resurrection unto eternal life. All of this is ours in Christ through Baptism. Just as we may never stop to think about the cost of our freedom as Americans, we might not stop to consider all the benefits Baptism has given to us. It may be some time since you thought of your baptism. Let us remember our baptism and the freedom Christ has won for us by confessing together what Luther writes about Baptism in our catechism. As we confess these words together, remember in your heart all God has done for you in and through Baptism.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - July 2025

ACOLYTES

07/06 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
07/13 9:00 a.m. Emily Anton
Edith Spaeth
07/20 9:00 a.m. Will Brown
George McAvin
07/27 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

07/06 *Open*
07/13 *Open*
07/20 *Open*
07/27 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

07/06 Julie O'Conner
07/13 *Open*
07/20 *Open*
07/27 *Open*

ALTAR GUILD

07/06 Melissa Deverman / Cori Spaeth
07/20 Melissa Deverman / Lauren Juergens

USHERS

07/06 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Matt Deverman
07/13 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Chris Whitley
07/20 9:00 a.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms
07/27 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Matt Deverman

ALTAR FLOWERS

07/06 Delores Gresham, *in memory of Gary Gresham.*
07/13 *Open*
07/20 Walter & Lynn Brown
07/27 Ron & Hermene Upchurch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

07/06 Eric Spaeth
07/20 Brad Juergens

READERS

07/13 Matt Deverman
07/27 Mike Seidell



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Open House

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Tour the school & meet the staff
- Get information on the upcoming school year

Sunday School Perfect 10 Awards

Congratulations to the following students
for receiving their Perfect 10 Award for the
months of March - May 2025.

Emily Anton

Haven Harms

Zoe Portillo

Edith Spaeth

Ella Spaeth

Mabel Spaeth

Oliver Spaeth

Henry Stout

July Birthdays

July 1

Raine Robertson

July 3

Shelly Harms

Brandon Lanhardt

July 4

Eric Spaeth

July 6

Fashia Eubanks

Avery Speck

July 9

Debbie Fornoff

Delores Gresham

Mabel Spaeth

Marcia Whitley

July 10

Amy Hand

July 11

Karalyn Garber

Lori Lynn

Brian Rochester

July 13

Alora Burdess

July 14

Nicole Lynn

July 15

Robert Maquet

July 16

Knoxwell Deverman

Grady Dunn

Michael Knollenberg

July 18

Enrique Rodriguez, III

Kayla Steele

Cecelia Utke

July 20

Julie O'Conner

Kayci Steele

July 22

Scott Beccue

July 23

Miranda Seidell

July 25

John Bennett

Elizabeth Eubanks

Johnathon Eubanks

July 26

Lauren Hand

Courtney Kincaid

Kara Palmieri

July 28

Ashley Kincaid

July 30

Jennifer Anton

July 31

Kevin Dobbelaire

Kerrigan Link

Kathy Seidell

July Anniversaries

July 1

Terry & Joy Knollenberg

July 15

Bill & Kelly Link

July 21

Walter & Lynn Brown

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



*Celebrating 75 Years
of Campers*

Saturday, August 2
Homecoming 75th
Anniversary Celebration

Homecoming begins at 1:00 p.m. and goes until 9:00 p.m. There will be a volleyball tournament, softball game, guided hikes, wagon tours, swimming, boating, a vendor fair and an evening concert. There will also be outdoor games, face painting, and a museum of camp photos. The meal will be served from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

There will be a silent auction from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This will be Camp Cilca's only fund-raiser for the year (replacing the Hog Roast and Chicken Fry).

S. E. L. F. Retreat
at Camp Cilca
Singles Engaged In
Lutheran Fellowship

Friday, Aug. 22
to
Sunday, Aug. 24

Lots of activities are being planned for this weekend to have a ton of fun with other Lutherans who happen to be single. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to attend.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <i>4th of July</i>	5
6 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	21	22 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. GSLs OPEN HOUSE	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 6:00 PM ICE CREAM SOCIAL & GAME NIGHT	28	29	30	31		



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization

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ICE CREAM SOCIAL

&



GAME NIGHT

Sunday, July 27

6:00 p.m.