

Trinity Highlights

November 2025 Newsletter

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	September	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 18,213	\$174,523	\$192,024
Expenses	<u>22,267</u>	<u>265,709</u>	<u>283,065</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(4,054)	(91,186)	(91,041)

Giving in September was off quite a bit from projections and is off \$17,501 for the year to date. Expenses were in line with the budget.

After transfer of the monies from the Estates and Bequests Fund to the General Fund the balance at the end of September was \$273,785.95.

The General Fund Investment Account, where a significant of the general fund reserves are held, increased in value by \$10,358 in the third quarter.

The Endowment Fund increased in value by \$13,593 of which \$6,000 came from the Marilyn Alexander and Donald Wahls gifts as was approved at the September Voters Assembly. \$48,660 of unspent earnings remain in the Endowment Fund to gift to organizations as recommended by the Church Council.

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

Rob Fornoff
Chairman - Board of Finance

All Saints' Sunday **Sunday, November 2, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.**

All Saints' Day we also observe the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. On this Sunday we will remember those who have gone to be with their Lord since the last All Saints' Day.

Those whom we will be remembering this year:

Marilyn Alexander

Kent Garber

Linda Wolters

Karalyn Garber

Diana Johnson

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

From the Pastor's Desk

"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4).

Dear Members of Trinity,

You ever wonder: Why wasn't Cain's offering as good as Abel's? Genesis chapter 4 tells us that Cain was a tiller of the soil, a crop farmer, and Abel raised sheep, and in the course of time, each brought a sacrifice to the Lord from what he produced. Now, of course, for a farmer, some of Cain's crops were a meaningful offering. So also a lamb from a shepherd's flock. So why wasn't Cain's offering as good as Abel's?

Hebrews helps us see that Cain's offering wasn't accepted because it was made without assured and convinced faith. We can infer that means that Cain wasn't convinced that God would accept him because of Christ's mercy; rather, he thought he had to merit God's favor himself. Cain, then, had the first Messiah complex. And, regrettably, his parents gave it to him.

See, when Eve discovered the full meaning of God's curse of pain in childbearing after Cain first popped into the world, the new, exhausted mother held against her this little crying bundle of joy, and Eve was sure that this was the promised seed God said would crush the head of the serpent and so bring justice and reconciliation back to fallen man. So she named her newborn bundle of joy Cain, saying, literally, "I have gotten a man: the Lord" (cf Gen 4:1). That is, "I now hold in my arms the Lord, the Savior, the Messiah."

Now, it's not in the text, but can you imagine growing up in the first generation after expulsion from Eden with all the hopes of your mother and father, your whole family, being put on your shoulders?—the hope that God would use you to restore all things! Wouldn't it be hard for you to have faith in God's mercy in Christ when you knew you weren't good enough, not strong enough, not *God* enough to live up to those expectations? I mean, Cain couldn't even offer up a sacrifice for himself—much less the whole world—until he repented of his own sin and sought God's mercy for the sake of the real, promised, and coming Christ. So his mother's and father's hopes for this "man, the Lord," Cain, would shortly lie dead and dying as Adam and Eve learned the hard way that God had other plans—much, much more patient plans.

Yet let's not pass over what God does to Cain in all this. Cain, you know, murdered his brother. He thinks his other brothers and sisters, the other sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, will hunt him down for vengeance, for justice, as Abel's blood cries out. But in mercy, God shows Cain God's true nature; he marks Cain to save him. He gives Cain a reason to have faith, showing him how much God loves and seeks the good of even murderers like him. The mark protects him. And thus, even though Cain must face the consequences of his actions, God *assures* Cain with a promise and *convinces* Cain with a sign. So that Cain's story, which began with false hope, might end with real and saving faith. That's Cain.

Now let's look at Abel. Abel's sacrifice was more acceptable than Cain's because it was offered with assured and convicted faith. Abel must have known and trusted the promises of God to save him rather than relying on his own works. The sacrifices that he made of his flocks must have been offered in humility and thanksgiving rather than in an effort to earn God's favor by his works. Because his sacrifices came from a heart of sure and convinced faith, his offerings were accepted, so that even now Abel gives us an example of the kind of sacrifices the Lord accepts.

So you have a farmer and a shepherd. Every single day, both of them rise early and tend his field or his flock. Remember, before the flood, man didn't eat animals but only fruits and vegetables—the way God made them in the Garden (Gen 1:29–30). But even if they didn't butcher the sheep, there's still a lot of work for the shepherd to do. So both the farmer and the shepherd are raising precious commodities. Both put in the same amount of work. One yields food to eat, the other wool, milk, offspring, equally of value. Both even come with their families to call on the name of the Lord in worship for at least an hour every week. Let me ask you, which one has faith? Which one was a Christian? Which one will be saved? They're exactly the same, outwardly. We, you and I, can't judge that—when the outward appearance is the same. (When the outward appearance is different, we can talk, but not when they're the same.) God does, though, see a difference, because he doesn't judge on outward appearances. God judges the heart. And inwardly, one of these two has faith and one is only going

through the motions. God knows.

Cain and Abel both made sacrifices. They did the same thing. And it's not that God prefers lambs to legumes. What they sacrificed wasn't the issue. The issue was the heart. Cain let sin have a place of ambush in his heart; he offered his sacrifices without faith, just going through the motions. Abel did the same thing in offering his sacrifice, but he was assured and convinced of the mercy of God in Christ.

Which sacrifice are you bringing to God? The sacrifice of Cain—repetitive, dull, born of the impossible desire to win God over? Or the sacrifice of Abel—freely given, joyful, born of a faith? The sacrifice of Cain—daily attempts to “do good” so that God and the world see you as someone special? Or the sacrifice of Abel—a life lived knowing that God has already commended you as righteous, not by anything you've done, but entirely because of his mercy and grace in Jesus? Truly, Gifts Acceptable to God Are Those That Flow from Assured and Convinced Faith in His Offering to Us in Jesus

If today you're worn out and tired from trying to be a Christian, it's probably from your attempts to earn God's favor rather than rejoicing in faith that his favor is already freely given you. If you're looking at your fellow Christians in resentment because of the blessings they have, sin is crouching at your door waiting to strike.

If you're just going through the motions, today's the day to hear the word of the faith of Abel that God has already made the perfect and only Sacrifice that can save you, and he made it once and for all at the cross of Jesus, so that all who will believe, who will be assured and convicted by Jesus' death and resurrection as being God's promise *to you*, will be saved from just going through the motions. Saved from striving to please God and everyone else. Saved from the bondage of works. Saved from the guilt of blood. Your Savior, Jesus, put his Spirit in you to give you joy and faith and purpose so that your sacrifices can now be offerings of thanksgiving rather than burdens of work.

Hence, Hebrews says that “through his faith, though he died, [Abel] still speaks” to us today, as one among that great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us as part of the church.

Remember that that great cloud of witnesses is encouragement to us as we “run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Track events don't always get much attention outside of Olympic years, but you probably watched some of the running competitions from past years in Paris or in other Olympics. Have you noticed, especially in the long events, that the runners bunch up, run in a pack up front until the end? That cloud of runners sets the tempo; it encourages the group to push themselves—especially if the one leading the pack pushes a little harder. So runs the bunch. Together.

We are indeed running a race—the endurance race of faith. And when we're tempted to fall behind, to give up, to just go through the motions, the cloud of witnesses is there, the pack of the saints past and present running the race with us is there, to give us the encouragement and the example to keep following the leader and to keep running the race, that together we may all reach the finish line and so receive the crown of life that waits for all who complete the race in faith. As Hebrews puts it, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (12:1–2).

That's what it's all about. And Abel's acceptable sacrifice and commended righteousness, his faith, helps point us to Jesus so that we, too, one day join Abel and all those who've gone before in the life of the world to come. For which we wait and persistently pray, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus.” Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - November 2025

ACOLYTES

11/02 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
11/09 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth
11/16 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
11/23 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth
11/26 6:00 p.m. Open
11/30 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown

USHERS

11/02 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms
11/09 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson
11/16 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
11/23 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson
11/26 6:00 p.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
11/30 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Owen Miller

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

11/02 **Open**
11/09 **Open**
11/16 **Open**
11/23 **Open**
11/30 **Open**

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

11/02 Julie O'Conner
11/09 Julie O'Conner
11/16 **Open**
11/23 **Open**
11/30 **Open**

ALTAR FLOWERS

11/02 Claudie Huey, Jeff Glick, Laurie Klopfenstein,
*in honor of Barbara Glick's 101st birthday
today, November 3.*
11/09 Carolyn Cordts, *in remembrance of Bob
Cordts' birthday on November 7.*
11/16 **Open**
11/23 Don Nash, *in memory of Lois Nash's birthday
on November 22.*
11/30 **Open**

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

11/02 Eric Spaeth
11/16 Brad Juergens
11/30 Eric Spaeth

ALTAR GUILD

11/02 Lauren Juergens / Cori Spaeth
11/16 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff
11/30 Lynn Brown / Melissa Deverman

READERS

11/09 Matt Deverman
11/23 Mike Seidell



Each year Trinity provides coats for underprivileged children in the Pekin school districts. This particular ministry is vital to the Pekin community in helping keep these children warm during the winter months.

Please donate to The Giving Tree by using your Giving Tree envelope or mark a pew envelope "*The Giving Tree*" so we can continue this important ministry.

Life Essay Contest: The theme for the Peoria Area Lutherans for Life Annual Life Contest is "*In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind*" Job 12:10. All entries should be submitted no later than Friday, December 12, 2025. Details are on the bulletin board.

Did You Know? Baby can enjoy Thanksgiving dinner in utero. Multiple studies have shown that throughout a pregnancy, baby can taste and smell foods through the amniotic fluid. God has created the prenatal journey to be both intricate and awe-inspiring.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**



A little pumpkin is on the way!

Join us for a baby shower (open house) honoring
Cori Spaeth at
Trinity Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 16 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cori has registered at Walmart and Amazon. Baby girl clothes, sizes newborn to size 3, pampers and baby wipes of any kind are appreciated.

Music for Missions

St. John's Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin is hosting a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of our Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, our LC-MS Central Illinois District Campus Ministry at Western Illinois University, Macomb, on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

We will join together in singing some hymns, and in listening to sacred organ, choir, vocal solo, and hand bell music, all under the theme, "*Hymns of Our Heavenly Home*." A free will offering will be gathered to help support our Central Illinois District mission work at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb. Refreshments will be served following the program.



Advent 2025 Devotions: The Christ-Child in a manger is a familiar site at Christmas. But the meaning of this quaint scene often gets lost in the flurry of the holiday. God has come to us - to you and me - as a human, with the divine purpose of rescuing us from our sins. In *Born to you ... a Savior*, we treasure the Father's beloved Gift of love to each of us. Advent devotions will be available towards the end of November.

Camp Cilca: Fall Work Day at Camp CILCA will be on Saturday, November 1, 2025. On that day we will turn the water off and prepare the camp for the winter by doing many chores including raking leaves, cleaning buildings, moving picnic tables, and moving other items into storage, such as fire extinguishers. There may also be opportunity to do some work with the remodeling of the Dining Hall. We will begin the day at 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to come anytime. Lunch is provided. Typically, we are finished working after lunch. See you there! Email director@cilca.org and let us know you are coming.

Final SCRIP orders for Gift Cards: Due to GSLS making a minimal profit purchasing and selling SCRIP gift cards, there will be two more opportunities for gift cards to be purchased in time for the holiday season. The first order will be placed on Monday, November 10 and the second order on Monday, December 8. After December 8, gift cards sold will only be those we have on hand. The Raise Right app for SCRIP can be used anytime. This app often has specials where there is an increase in the percent given back for designated businesses. We appreciate everyone that has supported us by using SCRIP. Unfortunately, the gift card part of SCRIP is no longer profitable.

Stewardship is often presented as a three-legged stool: Time, Talent, and Treasure

We use our Time and Talents in various ways that are of benefit to the Church at large, to assist with the ministry of the Trinity congregation, and to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

The third leg of the stool is Treasure, or Financial Stewardship. This means the giving of our financial resources to the same benefits as mentioned above.

We know that our Lord desires us to give these things to provide for the basic needs of congregations as well as the ministry of the Word - *"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house"* Malachi: 3:10a. Out of love for Him, who gave His only Son for us, we gladly give!

November has long been the time when we, as a congregation, prayerfully review all our gifts from God and determine that portion to return to Him in terms of financial offerings to the church.

You will receive mailings in November explaining the needs of the congregation and asking you to pledge a portion of your financial gifts to Trinity to assist with the ministry needs in 2026. Pledges are not a command from the Lord, but can help each of us to form and maintain the healthy Christian discipline of tithing/giving. Pledges are also used to determine the level of resources that will be available to fund the budget for 2026. All pledges are confidential and are not shared with anyone outside the church office and the person responsible for pulling together the forecast for 2026.

The pledge process will culminate on Sunday, November 23 when we will carry our pledges to the front of the church to be presented to our Lord.

Almighty God, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord.



November Birthdays

November 2

Keith Garman
Bob Johnson, Jr.

November 3

Barb Glick
Happy 101st Birthday!

November 5

Jacob Weyhrich

November 8

Madeline Erickson

November 9

Rob Fornoff
Nikhia Williams

November 10

Brad Hillig

November 11

Ryan Scheeler

November 13

Nolan Drake
Sagan Drake

November 14

Zachary Olt

November 15

Jeff Gillis
Patricia Tadlock

November 17

Brian Palmer

November 18

Alexis Crain
Andrew Staker

November 20

Steve Jones

November 22

Kylea Seidell
Carol Simpson
Garrett Watson
Isaac Watson

November 23

Brad Cordts

November 25

Dave Vaupel

November 27

Liam Harms

November 28

Trent May
Norma Rebuffoni
Jarrod Vaupel

November 29

Chloe Erickson

November Anniversaries

November 23

Graham & Amy Watson

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



Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, November 2

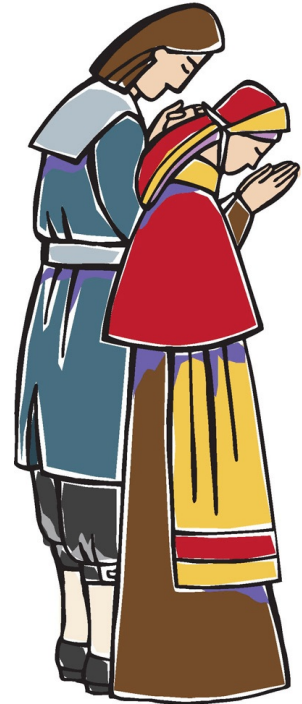
Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, November 1.

September Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Henry Stout

October Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Edith & Ella Spaeth
Mabel & Oliver Spaeth



Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 26 6:00 p.m.

The Thanksgiving envelopes in your offering box plus the plate offering from the Thanksgiving Eve Service will go toward the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund is used throughout the year the year to provide assistance to various organizations.

O Give Thanks

to the Lord,
for He is GOOD,
for His steadfast love
endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

◀ October	November 2025					December ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS - DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK 8:30 AM CAMP CILCA WORK DAY
2 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	3 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	4 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	5 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	6 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	7	8 9 AM - 4 PM CAMP CILCA CID JR. HIGH YOUTH EVENT
9 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	10 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	11 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	12 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	13 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	14	15
16 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 2 PM BABY SHOWER / OPEN HOUSE FOR SPAETH FAMILY AT TRINITY	17 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	18 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	19 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	20 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	21	22
23 Stewardship Sunday 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	24 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	25	26 4:45 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 6:45 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28	29
30 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<i>“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!”</i> 1 Chronicles 16:34					



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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