

# Trinity Highlights

October 2025 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ [www.trinitypekin.com](http://www.trinitypekin.com)

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

## Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	August	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 21,955	\$ 155,979	\$171,177
Expenses	<u>51,634</u>	<u>243,442</u>	<u>257,312</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(29,680)	(87,464)	(86.135)

Giving in August was close to projections but is off \$15,198 for the year to date. Expenses were in line with the budget. The second and final payment for the parsonage bathroom is the reason for the large deficit in August.

The General Fund balance at the end of August was \$192,768.90.

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

## Operation Christmas Child

We are thankful that God has given us an opportunity to bless children around the world by packing shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child. We are asking for you to bring in **NEW** items to help fill shoe boxes for boys and girls ages 2 - 4; 5 - 9 and 10 - 14. Gifts do not need to be expensive. You might try searching the dollar stores in town. Check out the display in Room 10 for a list of acceptable items. Please remember items need to fit inside an average size shoe box.



**LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY 2025**

**Sunday, October 5, 2025**  
**2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Meet at Planned Parenthood**  
**2709 N. Knoxville, Peoria**

Life Chain is an annual, nationwide, peaceful, prayerful hour of silence on public sidewalks supporting the dignity of and right to life. Thousands of churches nationwide are participating at the same time.

# From the Pastor's Desk

(continued from last month)

*"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Hebrews 1:3).*

Dear Members of Trinity,

Here's where the Hebrews 11 story of faith begins—in the beginning. And from the very beginning, there is indeed faith. So this morning, let's look at this faith and ask, What Does Faith Have to Do with Creation?

First of all, let's remember the definition of faith: "Faith the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen]" (v 1). We looked last month at how this isn't a wishy-washy or blind faith but a faith that is assured by the Promiser's faithfulness and is convicted by the evidence that we've seen. Meaning, when Hebrews says that we understand creation *by faith*, we believe that "what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" because the one who tells us about what happened is reliable and the evidence we still see today is convincing. And, indeed, it is.

Now, let's just say from the start of this, there are many studies that say all there is came about by chance and random evolution rather than divine creation. There are pop critics who say that anyone who believes in creation is a nut who hates children and society. Have you heard or been confronted with these kinds of attacks? More and more, our kids, our grandkids, and our friends are being bombarded by this idea that the only sure and convincing reality is random chance and not the creation of God. It's come so far that people are personally attacked and ridiculed—even thrown out of the academy, faculty positions in colleges and universities—just for questioning evolution, much less for presenting the evidence that's out there for creation.

Have you seen the attacks that come against scholars and teachers who simply want to include the scientific evidence for intelligent design alongside evolution in the classrooms? Ben Stein, an actor and comedian, even made a movie about it. The sheer vehemence of the personal attacks, name calling, and mockery that follow is in many places disgraceful. The academy, schools everywhere, are turning into places that not only ignore the Christian worldview but now actively fight against it. Which is why we need to be prepared in our own hearts with certainty and conviction in the creation testimony of the Bible, and why we also need to be proactive and constant in teaching all of our kids the reasons for our certainty and convictions. For your faith *will* be attacked. Are you prepared to give a defense?

There are many resources out there to dig into the great heap of legitimate and scientific reasons to believe that we were created rather than that we evolved by blind chance. Time doesn't allow us to take them up in the sermon this morning, but if you'd like to do so, let's talk after service, and I'll share some of them with you.

Instead, let's work with this simple reason for our assurance: namely, we have the assurance that the One who promised is faithful and is able to fulfill his promises. That's the assurance of faith.

The book of Genesis with its account of creation was written by Moses. Now, of course, Moses wasn't there when creation happened—in fact, not until thousands of years later. So how did Moses know what to write? God told Moses that *he* was there. Do you have more reason to believe this God or to doubt him? He says that when there was nothing—in emptiness and chaos—he spoke order and light and being, time and space. No one else was there to know how it happened. Only God. And the Lord told Moses to write that down, so that every generation to come would know. That's how we got Genesis in the Bible.

But the critic will say Moses made it all up. Why should we put our assurance in someone's fiction? Reasonable question, but there's a simple answer: Because everyone who was there when Moses wrote agreed that when Moses talked to God something supernatural happened; God made Moses' face radiate splendor, the reflection of the glory of God himself. So when Moses told the people, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," with face glowing brilliantly as God's sign and proof, they believed. They were sure and convicted, because the testimony was validated by the glory of God—the God who struck down the Egyptians, who thundered from Sinai in lightning and smoke, and whose trumpeted voice once spoke directly to them from the mountain before they requested not to hear the holy voice but to have Moses be the voice box of the Lord. The divine sign was God's verification of Moses' words. And let's be honest—wouldn't you believe him based on that evidence? So why would you doubt him now?

Of course, we're tempted to doubt even this sure and convincing voice of God because a scientist says something different. Is the scientist, his textbook, or his latest find more reliable and certain than God? Can textbooks be wrong? Can diagrams and displays in museums be false? Who's made more verifiable and assured promises that have proven true over time? Consider: God's Word has proven faithful over hundreds and thousands of years, bringing prophecies to fulfillment



and doing wonders and working miracles for his people.

Compare that to modern science. In the last two hundred years, so many scientific theories have changed, so many time-lines or diagrams have had to be revised. What's more, the modern way of doing science is less than five hundred years old. Even if everything were brilliant and perfect and wise, according to such scientists' own numbers, that's only five hundred out of four billion years of earth and fourteen billion years of time. That's like a two-year-old saying he knows everything and all the world should listen to him and do what he says.

So, really, whose testimony is more reliable?

Did you know that archeology has found abundant historical evidence to confirm the Old and New Testaments? Did you know they've even uncovered evidence, outside of the Bible, that shows Jesus' tomb was empty? Solid evidence, outside of the Bible, that when combined with the eyewitness testimonies of the evangelists and apostles makes the case that Jesus rose from his borrowed tomb?

Did you read about that evidence in your history books or dioramas at the museum? No? Because the naturalistic, atheistic scientific community of today says it can't happen. Since it doesn't fit their beliefs, they deny it. Bury it. They put a stone and a guard over it, if you will, and say, "People can't rise from the dead because people don't rise from the dead." And you say, "What about Jesus?" And they say, "Didn't happen." You say, "What about the evidence?" They say, "That evidence doesn't count because it doesn't agree with the way we understand the world. Miracles can't happen because there's no such thing as miracles." "But how do you know that, and why deny the evidence?" Yet just as the tomb couldn't hold Jesus down, he won't be contained by them either.

Even the champion of the scientists, Darwin, said that if you could prove just one object in the world was so complex that it couldn't be reduced to any evolvable parts, it would topple his entire theory. It's called irreducible complexity. And thanks to progressively more powerful microscopes—invented after Darwin's time—we've found numerous irreducibly complex structures in life. Random chance didn't do that. A Creator, an intelligent designer, God the Lord did that.

See, there are reasons not only to doubt the attacks of an unbelieving world but also to cling all the tighter in faith to the sure and convincing Word of God in the Bible. Which makes you wonder: Why are Christians mocked and reviled and marginalized for believing the evidence? We have to say, it's because the truth and evidence, the real substance of the Christian faith, isn't what our world wants to hear. Even the so-called scientists, the naturalistic and atheistic scientists, don't want to hear the evidence; they just want to proselytize their religion of godless evolution—a religion that atheist Richard Dawkins says "Christians don't have enough imagination to believe."

Therefore, I ask you, what would you rather have: a religion of imagination and speculation, or a religion of fact and evidence? "Faith is the *assurance* of things hoped for, the *conviction* of things not seen. . . . By [this kind of] faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God [from nothing]" (vv 1, 3, emphasis added).

Now, look anew at the world around you. See how remarkable and astounding the universe is, how complex and carefully crafted and designed for life. The creation reveals the handiwork of God for all who will look with a truly open mind. Take the time this week really to look at God's created world. Ask yourself and your kids and grandkids, "What does that tell you about God?" Look up from your computer screens, get out of your car, walk around outside, look up at the stars at night, and see the evidence all around you of the fingerprints of God. See, be assured and convinced, and so believe.

Then realize that God made all this for *you*, for us human beings as the crown of his creation—because he loved us and wanted us to have this beautiful, amazingly complex universe as our very own place in which to enjoy a relationship with him. And then you'll be staggered that the God who made all of that loved you so much *more* that when we destroyed our relationship with him, he gave his only Son to come down from the heights of the universe to this place, earth, in order to die for you, that all who would have faith in him would have everlasting life, that the God who made everything, who could do anything, chose to become flesh and blood to die for you, because he who created you loves you. He who made everything died to save everyone. Believe it, because it is true.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

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## Trinity's Service Volunteers - October 2025

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### ACOLYTES

10/05 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown  
10/12 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth  
10/19 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth  
10/26 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth

### BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

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

10/05 Mike Seidell  
10/12 *Open*  
10/19 *Open*  
10/26 *Open*

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

10/05 Julie O'Conner  
10/12 Julie O'Conner  
10/19 *Open*  
10/26 *Open*

### ALTAR GUILD

10/05 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff  
10/19 Lauren Juergens / Cori Spaeth  
10/26 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff

### USHERS

10/05 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms  
10/12 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson  
10/19 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell  
10/26 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson

### ALTAR FLOWERS

10/05 *Open*  
10/12 Owen & Jane Miller, *for their 47th wedding anniversary on October 13.*  
10/19 Marcia Whitley, *in memory of her husband, Perry Whitley.*  
10/26 *Open*

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

10/05 Eric Spaeth  
10/19 Brad Juergens  
10/26 Eric Spaeth

### READERS

10/12 Matt Deverman



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

### **"Did You Know?"**

By week 10 of development, baby *can* feel pain, as his nervous system is highly developed and functional. Also, baby's unique fingerprints have formed. By God's design, our bodies are immensely complex.

### **Sunday School August Perfect Attendance**

Emily Anton  
Edith Spaeth  
Franklin Spaeth  
Mabel Spaeth  
Oliver Spaeth  
Henry Stout

### **Perfect 10 Awards**

#### **June - August 2025**

Emily Anton  
Haven Harms  
Edith Spaeth  
Ella Spaeth  
Mabel Spaeth  
Oliver Spaeth  
Henry Stout



**G.R.I T. Run:** The Grueling, Rugged, Intense, Trail Run (G.R.I.T.) is Saturday, October 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Camp Cilca. Run participants ages 6 - 18 run for \$10.00, and participants 19 and over run for \$30.00. Find out more and sign up at [cilca.org/grit-run](http://cilca.org/grit-run) or call 217-487-7497 for more information.

**LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca  
October 10 - 11, 2025**

Come share in fellowship, servant events and Bible Study sessions on the many blessings God has given us. The cost is \$65.00. Registration forms are available on the table below the screen in Room 10.

**CID Junior High Youth Event at Camp Cilca  
"Make a Joyful Noise"  
Saturday, November 8 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)**

The cost is \$40.00 per youth (\$0 for adult leaders. The cost includes lunch, t-shirt, and a full day of activities). Registration, long-sleeve t-shirt orders, and additional information can be found at the following link: <https://forms.gle/KaSiitVeuiYgKBQY9>  
The deadline for registration is October 20.

*"From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion."* Martin Luther



**Save the Dates!**

- 75 & Over Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 25 at 12:00 p.m. Letters will be sent out and more information will follow.
- A baby shower (open house) will be held at Trinity in honor of the Spaeth family on Sunday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. Cori is registered at Target, Amazon and Walmart.

**LWML Mites** will be collected on Sunday, October 5.

# *October Birthdays & Anniversaries*



## **Birthdays**

October 1

Ryan McCoy  
Jane Miller  
Mary Ann Vaupel

October 6

Brian Ingrassia  
Amy Watson

October 7

Christopher Adkins

October 11

Nicholas Maquet

October 13

Bernard Harms Jr.  
Nicklaus Hernan

October 14

Hollie LandiVittori

October 15

Barret Speck

October 16

Zachary Cooney  
Ashley Fornoff

October 17

Debra Cooney

October 18

Hermene Upchurch

October 21

Kiel Baldes  
Kreigh Look

October 22

Roger Simpson

October 23

Kelly Hoehn  
John Mattheessen

October 25

Rocky Crawford, II  
Arlene Moldenhauer

October 27

Virginia Hilst

October 28

Summer Watson

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



## **Anniversaries**

October 7

Nicklaus & Toni Hernan  
***Happy 50th Anniversary!***

October 10

Tim & Lori Kincaid

October 12

Bob & Paula Mattheessen

October 13

Owen & Jane Miller

October 19

Jeff & Pam Hemp

October 21

Richard & Gina Kuhn

October 22

Mike & Kelly Hoehn

October 23

Dave & Nicole Harms

October 24

Trent & Billie May

October 29

Bryan & Cassie Dunn  
Amy & Doug Hand



◀ September	<b>October 2025</b>					November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>2</b> 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 2 PM LIFE CHAIN IN PEORIA	<b>6</b> CID FALL PASTORS CONFERENCE	<b>7</b> CID FALL PASTORS CONFERENCE  6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	<b>8</b> CID FALL PASTORS CONFERENCE  5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>9</b> 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	<b>10</b> LWML CID FALL RETREAT AT CAMP CILCA	<b>11</b> LWML CID FALL RETREAT AT CAMP CILCA
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>13</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>14</b> 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	<b>15</b> 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>16</b> 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>20</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>21</b> 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	<b>22</b> 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12 PM 75 & OVER DINNER
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>27</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>30</b> 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	<b>31</b> Reformation Day  	<i>"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."</i> Martin Luther



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Non-Profit Organization

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OCTOBER



**Entire Month of October**  
Operation Christmas Child

**October 4**  
G.R.I.T. Run at Camp Cilca

**October 5**  
Lutherans for Life - Life Chain

**October 10 - 11**  
LWML CID Fall Retreat  
at Camp Cilca

**October 25**  
75 & Over Dinner