

Trinity Highlights

September 2025 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	July	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 13,375	\$ 134,024	\$150,330
Expenses	<u>24,686</u>	<u>191,808</u>	231,559
(Deficit)/Surplus	(11,311)	(57,784)	

Giving in July was much less than what was projected and is off \$16,000 year to date. Expenses were in line with the budget. The second and final payment for the parsonage bathroom renovation should be paid in August.

The General Fund Investment Account increased \$13,396 in the second quarter of 2025.

The General Fund balance at the end of July was \$222,208.

At the August Church Council meeting, action was taken to distribute the gifts from the Marilyn Alexander family and the Donald Wahls estate. \$3,000 will be sent to Good Shepherd to help pay off the debt, \$6,000 will be sent to the Endowment Fund and \$20,801.80 will be retained in the General Fund. This action is in line with distribution of previous non-designated gifts.

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

Lutheran Women's Missionary League News

LWML Peoria/Pekin Zone 2025 Rally
Wednesday, September 17, 2025
St. John's Lutheran Church
13443 Townline Road
Green Valley, IL 61534

You are invited to the LWML CID Peoria/Pekin 2025 Zone Fall Rally which will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Green Valley. Registration is \$15.00 (includes lunch). Please mail your registration before September 8. If you have questions, please contact Sheila Lutz at 309-635-7050. Registration forms are available on the table below the screen in Room 10.

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.



From the Pastor's Desk

What Can Faith Do? Hebrews 11

Note: Here are presented a twelve-sermon series on Hebrews 11. Instead of preaching these in place of the lectionary, I will be presenting them in the newsletter each month.

What's This Faith That Does?

Hebrews 11:1–12:2

We're beginning a series on those basic Old Testament stories that form the foundation of our faith: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and so on. These are the standard Old Testament stories that every Christian ought to know. Yet these days, it seems that every ounce of the devil's efforts is aimed at keeping even church-going people from reading or knowing their Bibles, especially the Old Testament. Which is why it's good for us to look at these accounts once more, particularly from the eye of the New Testament—the perspective of faith.

That's what Hebrews 11 is all about: faith. Hebrews 11 is commonly referred to as the Hall of Faith, the Hall of Fame of the faithful. Hebrews 11 walks through those famous Old Testament stories and properly frames them in light of faith. Not surprisingly, therefore, Hebrews 11 begins with a clear and concise definition of faith in verse 1:

“Faith Is the Assurance of Things Hoped For, the Conviction of Things Not Seen.”

Now, because this is the Bible's definition of faith, whatever other definitions you've ever heard for faith, set them aside and forget them. This is how God wants us to understand faith. Commit this to memory: “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” That's what this chapter is all about. What's more, Hebrews 11 claims that this faith is what all of those Old Testament stories are all about. So if you want to understand your Bible, especially the Old Testament, you've gotta read it all in light of this understanding of faith.

That's why, in the coming months, we'll look at each of these stories of faith to refresh our memory or to learn them for the first time, and also to frame rightly our thoughts about these stories in the way the New Testament teaches us—with the perspective of faith. Let's start our series there, then, by meditating on that definition Hebrews gave us: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Start with “assurance.” *Assurance* means to be sure about something. Faith, first of all, is being sure of the things for which you hope. The hope we're talking about here is *not* like, “Gee, I hope I win the lottery!” or “I really hope she likes me.” No. This is sure, certainty; this is hope because there's a reason. Biblical faith isn't wishy-washy, blown about by this fad or feeling. It's sure because it's been made sure, assured, that the One who promised is faithful and he is able to fulfill that promise.

Let's not miss this assurance just because there are things about God, about the world, even about ourselves that we don't understand. Rather, the things that God has revealed to us in his Word are the things that we are called to believe, to be absolutely certain and sure about. These promises are the objects of the Christian's hope. You know many of these great promises. You've been promised that Christ's blood was shed to forgive you of all of your sins—known and unknown, past, present, and even future—all of your sins. Can we be sure about that promise of God for you? Absolutely! Believing that is faith, faith that saves. You've been promised that he who died and rose again is going to prepare a place for you, that where he is you might be also. Can you be certain about going to be with Christ in the place prepared for you when you die? Absolutely! Believing that is faith. Many more such promises are the object of our hope as Christians. And the one who puts assurance in those sure promises of God in the Bible has the kind of faith that God desires you to have—the kind of faith that saves. That's assurance.

Then take “conviction.” *Conviction* means to have been convinced, convicted, by the evidence and reports around you. This isn't blind faith. It's reasonable. It's evidential. It's a faith that makes sense. So the writer to the Hebrews says that faith is being convinced by the evidence, which we do see, that the things we don't see

must also be true.

We believe in a God we can't see because God was made flesh in time and history so that the world did see him. We believe in a heaven we can't see because the Jesus we could see was taken up into heaven before the apostles' very eyes. We believe in life after death because a very visible and tangible Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by over five hundred eyewitnesses in the course of the forty days before his ascension. We believe that God washes away our sins in the water of the baptismal font because Jesus poured out his very real and visible blood on the cross and rose again from the dead. We believe that Jesus gives us his body and blood in, with, and under the simple forms of bread and wine—even though we can't see his body, feel his body, taste his blood. We know, we are convinced, that they are here at the altar in Holy Communion because he who died and rose again, who ascended to the right hand of the Father as God and Lord, has convinced us of his power and his will to fulfill his promise: "This is my body. This is my blood" (cf Mt 26:26–28). We don't see it, but can we be convicted, convinced, by the overwhelming evidence that it is true? Absolutely! Believing that is faith—the kind of faith that God desires you to have, the kind of faith that saves.

And Hebrews 11 says that all of the great saints of the Old Testament had this faith. Which means that the history of the Old Testament is the history of faith. The faith that saves you for the sake of Christ Jesus is the very same faith that saved Abel, that saved Noah, the very same faith that saved Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Joseph and Moses, Rahab and all the rest. They were commended for the same faith in God that you have. They were saved by the same faith you have. The only difference, Hebrews 11 says in verses 39 and 40, is that they "did not receive what was promised," but you have received it. So they looked forward to Christ, and we look back—but for both us and them, from first to last, it's all about faith.

Which means that the Bible is and always has been the story of Christians; it's the story of the church from Genesis to Revelation. Adam and Eve were Christians. Abraham was a Christian. That's what the Bible actually says. If you fail to read the Bible that way, you'll miss everything, because it's all about Jesus. It was always leading to Calvary and the Son of God dying for the sins of the world. The stories of the Old Testament are the stories of sinners like you and me struggling for the very same faith—members of the very same church. They may not have faced the exact same struggles we do today, but we can learn from the way they lived out their faith—from the way they clung to their assurance and stuck to their convictions—and so follow their examples as they lived their faith in Christ.

See, that's why we need to know their stories, and that's why in these coming weeks you need to be here in church and bring your kids to church—that you and they may know and grow too. Or, as Hebrews puts it beginning in chapter 12, verses 1–2, "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."

That's what it's all about: faith. A faith that is made sure by the promises of Jesus and convicted by the evidence of Jesus—because Jesus is the beginning and end of faith. If you're still unsure or unconvinced about this Jesus, please join us throughout this series as we see more reasons to believe. And if you are sure and convinced already, join us still, that you may learn more ways to share that certainty with others. May the Lord increase your faith, no matter who you are, that together we all may rejoice when he fulfills his promise to come again and take us home. Until then, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - September 2025

ACOLYTES

09/07 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
09/14 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth
09/21 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth
09/28 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

09/07 *Open*
09/14 *Open*
09/21 *Open*
09/28 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

09/07 Julie O'Conner
09/14 Julie O'Conner
09/21 *Open*
09/28 *Open*

ALTAR GUILD

09/07 Lynn Brown / Cori Spaeth
09/21 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff

USHERS

09/07 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms
09/14 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson
09/21 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
09/28 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson

ALTAR FLOWERS

09/07 Bill & Sonia Heren, *for their 67th wedding anniversary on September 17.*
09/14 Bob Lutz, *to commemorate his 90th birthday on September 12.*
09/21 Dave & Theresa McDonough
09/28 *Open*

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

09/07 Eric Spaeth
09/21 Brad Juergens

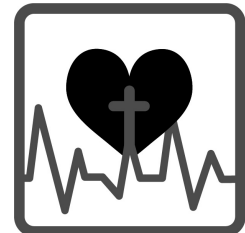
READERS

09/14 Matt Deverman
09/28 Mike Seidell



Trinity's Wiener Roast

Friday, September 19
6:00 p.m.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

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

Items to Bring

Please bring a dish to share, 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.

"Did You Know?"

By week 9 of development, a baby begins exploring. He opens and closes his fists and mouth, swallows fluid, sticks out his tongue, and sucks his thumb. Even at this early stage, baby begins to show a preference toward becoming right- or left-handed. God's creative work is good and orderly.



*Camp Cilca exists to strengthen and foster
faith in Jesus Christ
and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.*

**Whippoorwill Golf Outing
Friday, September 12 at Hickory Point, Forsyth, IL**

Check in begins at 11:00 a.m. and shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Cost: Due to the generosity of the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, much of the cost of the outing has been underwritten. While \$70.00 will cover your basic cost (golf, cart, dinner), you are free to give more with the knowledge that it will go to the long term benefit of Camp Cilca. Proceeds collected from sponsors and players will all go directly to Camp Cilca and the Cilca Endowment Fund. Make check payable to: Lutheran Golf Fundraiser, Grace Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 493, Paris, IL 61944

**ACT LIKE MEN: Shooting Retreat - For men and men-in-training
Saturday, September 20**

The Shooting Retreat provides a perfect opportunity to talk to men, young and old, about responsibility, strength, and discipline. Bible study will also focus on what it means to be a man in an increasingly confused society. A range officer will be on hand for safety. Lunch will be served between morning and afternoon sessions. Total cost is \$15 per person. Camp Cilca will have some safety glasses and ear protection, but feel free to bring your own.

G.R.I.T. Run - Saturday, October 4

The Grueling, Rugged, Intense Trail Run (G.R.I.T. Run) is for the bravest of souls. The 5-kilometer course includes narrow trails, steep hills, creek bed crossings, scenic views, and stairs. Participants will be able to take an alternative route for anyone nervous about navigating the creek bed. Registration for ages 6 - 18 is \$10, and all others is for \$30.

**Women's Scrapbooking Retreat
November 14 - 16**

The Fall 2025 Scrapbooking Retreat will be held November 14 - 16. The cost is \$90 for your shared room and meals. (Private rooms are available upon request for \$120.) Not a scrapbook enthusiast? Bring your favorite craft or hobby that you need to focus and catch up on. Sewing, crocheting, writing, photography, painting, or drawing; whatever your craft, there is a spot for you! Each participant will be given a 6-foot table to use. Three meals will be served on Saturday, as well as brunch on Sunday. Bedding and towels are also provided in the hotel-style rooms of the Christian Growth Center.

**Contact the camp office for more information
or to register for any of these events.
217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org**

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 28

Emersyn Juergens

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.

Bell Choir

& Choir Rehearsal

will begin on **Wednesday, September 10.** The Bell Choir practices at 5:00 p.m. and the Choir rehearses at 6:00 p.m. Come join us to sing praises to our Lord!

LWML Mites will be collected on Sunday, September 28 & Sunday, October 5.

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

July Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Haven Harms

Edith Spaeth

Ella Spaeth

Mabel Spaeth

Oliver Spaeth

Voter's Assembly
Thursday, September 18
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.

◀ August		September 2025					October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Labor Day	2 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	3	4 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	5	6	
7 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	8	9 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	10 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	11 1:30 PM CONCORDIA 6 PM VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING	12	13	
14 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	15	16 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	17 9 AM LWML CID PEORIA/PEKIN 2025 FALL RALLY AT ST. JOHN'S GREEN VALLEY 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	18 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	19 6 PM TRINITY'S WIENER ROAST	20	
21 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	22	23	24 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	25 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	26	27	
28 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	29	30	 <p><i>"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me."</i></p> <p>Matthew 25:40</p>				



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pekin, IL 61554

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