

Trinity Highlights

August 2026 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	June	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 19,362	\$ 112,867	\$139,216
Expenses	<u>25,734</u>	<u>153,728</u>	<u>189,139</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(6,372)	(40,861)	(49,923)

Giving in June remains close to what has been given in recent months but remains over \$6,000 short of expenses which require dipping into reserves. Expenses are well under budget year to date.

The General Fund balance at the end of June was \$248,400.21.

The General Fund Investment Account increased in value over 8% in the second quarter bringing the balance to \$264,050.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund increased in value close to 8% in the second quarter. The balance in the Endowment Fund is \$190,043 of which \$63,373 is available to gift to charitable organizations in support outside of the General Fund.

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

Dollars for Missions News

This year five projects have been approved and three have already been completed. Dollar for Missions has assisted in the funding of Hispanic ministry in Beardstown, paid for a beautiful aluminum sign for Wittenberg Student Center at Illinois State, and has provided funds for Immanuel – Charleston to revamp its student library.

The two remaining projects include new flooring for the Wittenberg Student Center sanctuary and fellowship hall, and providing technology equipment and instruction materials for Central IL Deaf Outreach.



Rally Day

Sunday, August 30

During the Sunday School hour

Join us for Rally Day. Breakfast will be served.

Nativity Set pieces will be given out and Milestone Ministry gifts will also be given out.

From the Pastor's Desk

Cross Bones: The Ten Commandments

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17

Dear Members of Messiah,

The Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith are well known among us Lutherans. Martin Luther in the Small Catechism identified the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord's Supper as the six teachings of Scripture that all of us ought to know well, even memorize. It's a good practice, then, to consider them often. For the next year, therefore, we'll seek to provide a fresh look at the Six Chief Parts, plus one more sermon that shows further how they fit into the daily walk of the Christian life. What binds them all together is that they all grow from what Jesus did for us on the cross.

The first of the Six Chief Parts is the Ten Commandments. In Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5, we find recorded the first ten of the 633 commandments that the Lord delivered to Moses to be presented and proclaimed to the children of Israel. These were not mere suggestions but rather a list of actions and reactions to life stations, issues, and activities that would be pleasing to God our Father.

Consider this comparison: Viewed Through the Cross of Christ, the Ten Commandments Are like the Skeletal Structure of the Christian Faith: Cross Bones.

There are three types of skeletal structures common among living things. One is the hydrostatic skeleton. This kind of skeletal structure is formed by a fluid-filled compartment within the body of the animal. These are soft-bodied animals like earthworms and other invertebrates. Another type of skeletal structure is the exoskeleton. This kind is a hard encasement on the animal's surface that protects its sensitive internal organs. Crabs and insects have exoskeletons.

The final type is the endoskeleton. It consists of a hard, mineralized structure located within the soft tissue of the animal. Endoskeletons provide support for the body, protect internal organs, and allow for movement through contraction of muscles attached to the skeleton. Mankind, of course, possesses an endoskeleton—the spine and bones of extremities.

The comparison that we consider in this message is how the Ten Commandments may be viewed through the cross as an endoskeleton that provides the needed basic, foundational structure for Christian faith and life. These Commandments are the structure—the “cross bones,” as it were—upon which we disciples of Jesus Christ, are empowered to live, move, and have our being. Our activities are discerned to be in keeping with the Father's agenda if they align with the skeleton, the Ten Commandments.

Cross bones, as in a skull and crossbones, we know used to strike terror in the hearts of sailors. It was the black flag of pirates, and it always threatened death. God's Law, the Ten Commandments, can—and should—strike terror in hearts as well, because it also threatens death. But seen in our comparison as the skeletal structure of the Christian faith, the Commandments also have a purpose we can appreciate deeply. “What does this mean?” the catechism asks.

By studying the Ten Commandments, we come to understand that without the structure they give us, we are like amorphous blobs without a definite shape, form, or guiding principle to direct our behavior. That is exactly what sin does in our lives. It destroys the structure and form of our discipleship, and after a while, our behavior is totally indistinguishable from the actions of the “nations” and people around us. We are to be salt and light, with a definite form and a definite wattage so that we provide flavor and light to the world around us. The Ten Commandments supply our form and substance.

A simple example is when we are cut off in traffic. Without some form or structure, some cross bones to help determine our response, we are as likely to curse, swear, and seek retribution as we are to pray, praise, and give thanks that the offending driver did not cause a collision. When our spouse or a friend offends us, if we have no form or structure to guide our response, we may lash out in retribution as opposed to seeking forgiveness if we were wrong or offering forgiveness when we are offended. Without some skeletal structure, we are intolerable when we believe someone has more than we do and has come to garner this increase using some dishonest or nefarious means. We look at what they have and think, “That should be me in that house”; “We should have that swimming pool”; “They are driving the type of car that I desire.” We may even think they have more members in their church than we do and we deserve those members because our doctrine is so much better. This is all sin, and without some structure, some cross bones holding us, we do not feel the pain when things break and we need the cast of grace to hold our structure in place while the healing occurs.

When we view the Ten Commandments through the cross, we understand how necessary the suffering and death of Jesus was to save us from our sins, faults, and failures. We cannot perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, and forgiveness is essential to set us free to serve even in the midst of our failures.

There are those who say that the Law, the Commandments, are in the Old Testament and that they really do not relate

to humankind in this new, enlightened era in which everyone gets to do whatever is right for themselves. Jesus reminds us that the Commandments continue to be the heart of the Father for our deportment, as he encouraged us in Matthew 5:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Our need for this structure is so extreme that Jesus must come to complete and fulfill that which we lost the capacity to do in the Garden as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve. The Law, the Commandments, the structure is not going away. God's heart and mind are not changing and shifting. He wants people to be consecrated, holy, and set aside for his sovereign purposes. So the Father sends us one whose righteousness *will* surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees, and through his death and resurrection, we have access to that righteousness and restoration of the kingdom of heaven.

We know the Ten Commandments with their "Thou shalt nots," and we understand them to be the baseline for life and behavior that is pleasing to our Father. We know that in ourselves it is impossible to perform these Commandments, and we need someone to come and save us from our failure to keep them, which is sin, and the attendant punishment, which is death eternal. The One who comes to rescue us must be perfect in keeping the Law—must never, ever miss the mark or transgress the Father's boundaries, the skeletal structure the Commandments set.

We need someone to come who is able to step in on our behalf and without fault or failure do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves. Jesus comes for exactly this purpose. He does not come to condemn us for our failure but to supply what we lack—holiness and total devotion to the Father in all his Commandments and expectations.

That means that Jesus must take our failure, our sin, upon himself and boldly go up the way of sorrows to the cross of Calvary. He must suffer, bleed, and die to save us from sin, hell, and death. But even in death, his cross bones could not be broken (Jn 19:36). Neither could they stay in the grave and see corruption. Those bones must live again, be resurrected and restored, so that by faith we receive his life and resurrection, which delivers the grace of salvation and resets our broken, sinful life, restoring our relationship with the Father.

It's at this point that another classic catechetical question posed by Dr. Luther helps bring into focus the impact of these Commandments on everyday life. The inevitable follow-up question: "How is this done?" The answer is ultimately best summed up in the command found throughout Deuteronomy and given expression to believers by the Lord Jesus Christ: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Mt 22:37–40).

This leads the disciples to understand that just the Commandments' "Thou shalt nots" are totally inadequate for life redeemed by grace under the cross of Calvary and lived as such. This life must *go*, motivated to "fear and love God so that" we *do* "gladly hear and learn" preaching and God's Word, so that we *do* honor authorities, seek truth and justice, and *do* give aid to our neighbor who is in need.

It's in this "going and doing" that we discover what it means to be salt and light in a world darkened by illness, sin, doubt, confusion, and death. It's in this "going and doing" that we discover what it means to be held and supported by the cross bones of the Commandments.

We receive the grace of being "little Christs" to our neighbor for the benefit and blessing of our world and the extension and expansion of the Father's agenda on earth in response to the prayer of our Lord, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We discover that these Ten Commandments are the basic, foundational structure of Christian faith and life. They are the bones upon which the body, the muscles, sinews, and flesh of the disciple of Christ are all supported.

Jesus pays the price for our formless and void life of failure in his scourging, rejection, suffering, and death. In the resurrection, Jesus releases grace, forgiveness, and life unto all who believe in and receive his righteousness as a gift. This is a relationship with the Father into which we are to invite others as they see us living the Ten Commandments by faith. Our behavior and response are not like that of our neighbor who is devoid of faith in Christ; rather, it is a witness to the mercy of God as our lives are structured by the cross bones of the Ten Commandments.

Yes, we fail. That's why Jesus went to the cross: to purchase the forgiveness we receive by faith in his sacrifice. That's why Jesus rose again from the dead: so that we have authority in Christ to rise from our failures and to continue "going" for the glory of God—forgiven, renewed, our actions conformed to the cross bones, the Ten Commandments.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - August 2026

ACOLYTES

08/02 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
08/09 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth
08/16 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
08/23 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
08/30 9:00 p.m. Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

08/02 Matt Deverman
08/09 Mike Seidell
08/16 *Open*
08/23 *Open*
08/30 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

08/02 Julie O'Conner
08/09 Julie O'Conner
08/16 Julie O'Conner
08/23 *Open*
08/30 *Open*

ALTAR GUILD

08/02 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff
08/16 Lynn Brown / Lauren Juergens
08/30 Lynn Brown / Cori Spaeth

USHERS

08/02 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
08/09 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Owen Miller
08/16 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
08/23 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Owen Miller
08/30 9:00 p.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell

ALTAR FLOWERS

08/02 Bob & Paula Mattheessen, *for Tabitha, John & Clara.*
08/09 Craig & Katilyn Stout, *for their 13th wedding anniversary on August 10.*
08/16 BonnyLou Schmidt, *in memory of Paul's August birthday.*
08/23 *Open*
08/30 *Open*

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

08/02 Rob Fornoff
08/16 Brad Juergens
08/30 Rob Fornoff

READERS

08/09 Matt Deverman
08/23 Mike Seidell



Did You Know? There is some good news out of Springfield to celebrate! The Illinois legislature adjourned its spring session without bringing forward for a vote the proposed Abortion Amendment that would have made abortion a constitutional right in Illinois. This amendment could well be brought back in a future session, but for now the effort has expired.

Your contributions to our Pennies for Life collection allowed our LFL chapter to help with petitions and financial support as the Illinois Pro-Life Action organization worked to oppose this amendment. Since 2022 when the current US Supreme Court justices reversed the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that had legalized abortion in our nation, some states have made abortion a constitutional right within their state. Thank God along with us for saving Illinois (at least for the present) from also making abortion a constitutional right in the Land of Lincoln. Illinois Pro-Life Action will now be focused on advancing a Life-at-Conception Act that would protect an unborn baby's life in the same way our laws protect your life and mine. Pray that God would grant success to these efforts.

Camp Cilca Events!

❖ Homecoming

- ▶ August 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Beach is open.
- ▶ Outdoor Games - cornhole/bags, giant checkers, face painting, wagon rides, live music.
- ▶ Trading Post will be open with brats, hot dogs, and other food and drinks for lunch.
- ▶ Swimming and boating in the afternoon.

❖ S.E.L.F. Retreat: August 28 - 30

- ▶ What does S.E.L.F. stand for? Singles Engaged in Lutheran Fellowship.
- ▶ It's the least awkward singles' retreat you'll ever attend.
- ▶ Will all the other retreat attendees be single? Yes.
- ▶ Will we make you go speed dating? No.
- ▶ What's our goal? Our goal is fellowship and fun. We are planning to do lots of activities and have a ton of fun with other Lutherans who happen to be single.
- ▶ Who can attend? Anyone over the age of 18.



The Work of Christ in the Midst of Tragedy - 25th Anniversary of 9/11

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 227 E. Market St. - Havana, IL 62622

September 17, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havana, IL welcomes Pastor Wrede as he recounts serving at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001 and ministering to victims and first responders at the World Trade Center. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Catechetical Series

(This series will appear in our newsletter over the course of the school year.)

Perspective on the Cross

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cross Bones: | Ten Commandments | Matthew 5:17-20 |
| 2. Cross Eyes: | The Apostles' Creed | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 |
| 3. Cross Words: | The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:5-15 |
| 4. Cross Wind: | Holy Baptism | John 3:1-17 |
| 5. Cross Way: | Confession | 1 John 1:5-10 |
| 6. Cross Fire: | Holy Communion | 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 |
| 7. Cross Bearers: | Faith and Works | Ephesians 2:1-10; James 2:14-26 |

August Birthdays

August 1

Lynn Brown
Shawna Thompson

August 2

Chris Seidell
Sara Staker

August 3

Walter Brown
Jeri Dobbelaire
Lucas Erickson
Clara Mattheessen
David Steele

August 4

Jim Deverman

August 5

Grace Cooney
Joshua McDonald

August 6

Jedidiah Hastings

August 8

Andrew Seidell

August 14

Morgan Lynn
Jessica McTernan

August 16

Cody Timian

August 17

Claudie Huey

August 20

Chris Utke

August 21

Justin Abatie

August 22

Kylie Cutting

August 23

Rachel Adkins

August 24

Dave Harms
Gina Kuhn
Michael Townzen

August 25

Pam Beccue

August 26

Angela Lanhardt

August 28

Megan Weisert

August 29

Kara Cutting
Elizabeth Deverman

August 30

Daniel Seidell

August 31

Randi Deverman

August Anniversaries

August 1

Ron & Hermene Upchurch

August 2

Gary & Becky Gillis

August 4

Justin & Christina Abatie

August 5

Jeff & Christie Gillis

August 6

Mario & Kara Palmieri

August 10

Craig & Katilyn Stout

August 11

Les & Julie Schultz

August 20

Weldon & Arlene Moldenhauer
Chris & Miranda Seidell

August 22

Chris & Beth Utke

August 24

Tyler & Heather Durham

August 31

Rickey & Jennifer Reese

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

Interested in Helping with Sunday School?

We're always looking for people to help with Sunday School. If you would like to give it a try, please contact Matt Deverman or the church office.

Reminder

If you will be in the hospital, please notify Pastor Drews (701-390-6073), call the church office (309-346-1391), or have a family member, friend, or the hospital notify us. Your privacy is greatly respected and HIPPA laws prevent the hospital from notifying the church unless they have your permission.

Attention Parents Of 2026 High School Graduates

If you have a 2026 High School graduate, please verify we have their email and/or new school address in the church office so we can keep in touch with them and keep them informed of what's happening while they are away at school.



June Perfect Attendance

Ella Spaeth

Franklin Spaeth

Mabel Spaeth

Oliver Spaeth

◀ July August 2026 September ▶						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	3	4	5	6 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	7	8
9 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	10	11 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	12	13 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	14	15
16 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	17	18 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	19	20 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	21	22
23 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	24	25	26	27 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	28	29
30 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM RALLY DAY	31	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9				



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Pekin, IL

Permit No. 100

(Return Service Requested)



Sunday
August 30

During the Sunday School hour.