

# Trinity Highlights

July 2026 Newsletter

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

## Stewardship Report:

<b>General Fund Report:</b>	May	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 19,440	\$ 93,505	\$100,754
Expenses	<u>25,331</u>	<u>127,994</u>	<u>138,525</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(5,892)	(34,489)	(37,771)

Giving in May was very close to projections but remain \$7,249 under projections year to date. Expenses are \$10,531 under budget year to date. To date approximately \$34,000 of reserves have been used in 2026.

The General Fund balance at the end of May was \$254,731.71.

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

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

Sunday, July 26

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**game**  
*night*

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of Messiah,

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (Small Catechism, Apostles' Creed)*

A well-known twentieth-century German theologian wrote about his days as a student. He described one professor who (quoting now) “often took part in our monkeyshines so that we thought of him more as an older brother or friend than as the foreboding ‘Herr Professor.’ . . . But somewhere along the line there was always a turning point which went something like this: ‘Well, boys, we have had a lot of fun together. But our time together is very brief, and we should not lose the opportunity to speak of Jesus’ ” (Helmut Thielicke, *Faith: The Great Adventure* [Fortress Press, 1985], 8). The learned professor seems to have done what any Christian can do. He read in the Bible about speaking of God’s Word “when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deut 6:7).

What of us? So often we do not speak of Jesus and his Word, even with our fellow Christians. And if we’re not saying much about Christ to other Christians, how likely are we to be telling his Good News to anyone else?

Let’s face it: We Christians sometimes find it difficult just to say the name “Jesus” in conversation, even when we’re talking with our brothers and sisters in the faith. Why?

“I’m no theologian,” someone might say. “It may be well and good for a German theological professor to launch into devotional conversation on the spur of the moment. He could do it off the top of his head. As for me, I wouldn’t be able to find the words.” Of course, avoiding any subject is no way to become more conversant in it. Furthermore, and more important, saying something about Jesus does not require an advanced degree.

“All right,” someone else might chime in, “but I don’t want to pretend to be something I’m not. I don’t want to come off like an expert. Nor do I want to appear ‘holier-than-thou’ or seem like I’m showing off. And this is the way I’m afraid it’s bound to look, at least to some people. Besides, I know so little that as soon as anybody adds anything else, even if they agree with what I’ve been saying, that will put me out of my depth right away.” Of course, there’s nothing wrong with saying that you don’t know.

“That’s just the point,” another might interject. “There is so very much we don’t know about God. Unanswered questions lurk around every corner: Why did he do this? Why does he allow that? And on and on. As soon as the conversation about God gets down to nitty-gritty matters of everyday life, watch out! Whatever I might say concerning him is going to come out syrupy, sentimental, and vague. At best, it’s liable to be pure speculation—well-meaning and pious, perhaps, yet speculation all the same.” Of course, you don’t have to make anything up. God has revealed himself in his Word.

“But not everyone thinks so,” yet another person might insist. “And, shameful as it may be to admit, we Christians have learned to follow the world’s etiquette even when we talk among ourselves. You simply don’t discuss religion. It’s a private matter. From little up, this is the way I’ve been ‘wired.’ ” Of course, many Christians make an effort to conduct devotions and speak about the Lord with their young children, at least read them Bible stories or lead them in prayer. But after the kids grow up and move away from home, leaving a couple of empty nesters, these two may have little or nothing to say about the “private matter”—even in the privacy of their own home.

Maybe what no Christian would like to say out loud is what stands behind the various excuses. It can go something like this: “I find sometimes that I really don’t *want* to talk about Jesus. I’m uncomfortable even mentioning his name. It’s easier just to skip it.” And incidentally—really, not so incidentally—the less said about Jesus, the more we can focus on ourselves. Now, that is a deeply unchristian sentiment. But what did we expect from the sinful flesh? It is deeply and desperately unchristian, quite opposed to Christ, really nothing short of damnable.

We Christians have the sinful flesh with us all through our lives in this world. Far from embracing it, the new man or woman in us reacts in horror over it. We fight against it. But how?

The Lord has already struck the winning blow. Christ “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification”. He sacrificed himself to pay for our sins, and he rose as victor over sin, death, and hell. Furthermore, the triune God has baptized us into union with Jesus in his dying and rising. We have been baptized into Jesus’ death and united with him in his resurrection. “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”. Having died to sin, we are no longer slaves to it. You don’t owe your old sinful flesh a thing. To do

battle with it, return to your baptism. Think of yourself as Paul writes: “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”.

Here is where the Creed comes in. The Apostles’ Creed makes a statement of the faith into which I was and am baptized. The Apostle’s Creed is sometimes called the “baptismal creed” because from the earliest days of the church it expressed the faith, the confession, of those being baptized. I believe that God has made me, and gives me all manner of created blessings in this world he’s made. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord, the God-man who redeemed me, purchased and won me by his blood and death, and now is risen from the dead and makes me his own. I believe that the Holy Spirit brought all this home to me as only God can when he created faith in my heart through the Gospel and gathered me with my fellow saints into the church where he continually forgives my sin and points me to my resurrection and everlasting life with God. The Creed is a summary, drawn from Scripture, of the reality into which I am baptized.

Believing and confessing the Creed is living in your baptism. The Creed sums up the baptismal reality and gives you words with which to speak of it. The Large Catechism says that in “reading, conversation and meditation the Holy Spirit is present and bestows ever new and greater light and fervor. . . . Nothing is so effectual against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts as to occupy oneself with the Word of God, talk about it, and meditate on it” (LC Preface 9–10, Tappert edition). Luther wrote these words in reference to the catechism, which includes the Creed. With the Creed, You Can Convey Your Confession of Christ to Your Fellow Christians. It’s an aspect of living in your baptism.

By giving us the Creed through the church, our triune God helps us to meet the misgivings that arise from our sinful flesh. You may not be a theologian, but you know the Creed. You can recite it verbatim, or you can relay its contents to someone else in your own words. If you fear that other Christians may think you’re showing off, you can convey your confession by sticking very closely to the words of the Creed, or to Bible passages or hymn stanzas you’ve memorized; don’t hesitate to use this “canned material” that your fellow Christians know and recognize. If you’re concerned that another Christian may raise some knotty personal problem and you won’t know what to say, with the Creed and its contents you can still draw attention to what is most sure and most important—not dismissing your friend’s troubles, yet centering you both all over again on God and his saving work. And there is nothing at all private about this Creed that you confess with the church. Utilize it as a vehicle to convey to your fellow Christians your confession of faith in the triune God.

The Creed summarizes the faith into which you are baptized. Really, all Christian education after Baptism amounts to an unfolding of this one and the same faith. I had a New Testament professor who used to say, “You really don’t learn anything new in seminary.” Far be it from him to suggest that we students could get by without studying the Greek text! What he was emphasizing instead was the unity of Christian teaching, which is imparted in full already in Baptism. When you attend a Bible class or hear a sermon or read a devotion and become aware of some aspect of the faith that was there all along but may not have previously “hit” you, an obvious next step would be to relay the insight to a fellow Christian. He or she is also baptized into the same faith. Convey your confession to someone who shares it, and you can both marvel at the grace of God. The Book of Concord speaks of “the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren” (SA III IV 1).

The Christian family can be an especially promising place for this. I know one family in which, on a daily basis, each family member tells the others something like this: “The Lord God loves you. Jesus died to pay for your sins, and he lives to give you life.” It’s like a short creed. This family is a very good example of conveying one’s confession to fellow Christians.

Not long after his wife, Jean, died, former LCMS president A. L. Barry (1931–2001) invited a neighbor couple to his home for an evening meal. As the good conversation over good food was winding down, he mentioned one more thing that he wanted to talk about. “Most important of all,” he said, “is the hope Christ gives me.” He went on to convey his confession of faith.

For a while, President Barry had been anticipating this dinner—the entire evening, but with this particular moment especially in view. His neighbors had known Jean before she died. He did not want to skip over giving them the reason for the hope that was in him concerning Jean and concerning his own salvation. During the days just prior to the dinner, he looked forward to this opportunity.

His anticipation ran high in part due to all the times he had previously conveyed his confession to fellow Christians—to Jean, to his children and grandchildren, to his friends, colleagues, and staff. When he sat down to convey his confession to his neighbors that evening, he was well practiced in telling the Good News about Jesus.

You can convey your confession of Christ too. Where to start? An excellent place is with your fellow Christians.

*Pastor Mark R. Drews*

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## Trinity's Service Volunteers - July 2026

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### ACOLYTES

07/05 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown  
07/12 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth  
07/19 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown  
07/26 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

### BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

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

07/05 *Open*  
07/12 *Open*  
07/19 *Open*  
07/26 *Open*

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

07/05 Julie O'Conner  
07/12 *Open*  
07/19 *Open*  
07/26 *Open*

We are always in need of volunteers to pick up donuts and make coffee for Bible Breakfast. Please consider helping out for a Sunday.

### USHERS

07/05 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell  
07/12 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson  
07/19 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell  
07/26 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson

### ALTAR FLOWERS

07/05 Delores Gresham, *in memory of Gary Gresham and her 79th birthday on July 9.*  
07/12 *Open*  
07/19 Walter & Lynn Brown  
07/26 *Open*

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

07/05 Eric Spaeth  
07/19 Brad Juergens

### READERS

07/12 Matt Deverman  
07/26 Mike Seidell

### ALTAR GUILD

07/05 Melissa Deverman / Debbie Fornoff  
07/19 Lynn Brown / Lauren Juergens



*Do you like to sing?  
Do you play the piano or any other instrument?*

We are looking for volunteers to share with us special music for church services during the remaining summer months of July and August while the adult choir and the handbell choirs are on vacation.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in Room 10.  
*Please share your musical gifts with us!*

### **Did You Know?**

Due to the generosity of the members from ten LC-MS congregations in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties, Peoria Area Lutherans for Life has been able to distribute 8,516 baby diapers and 16,048 baby wipes to four local Christian non-profit entities that help women who have chosen life for their babies.

These baby supplies are provided at no cost to the mothers who also receive Christ-centered counseling, parenting classes, and other loving support from Living Alternatives in Pekin, and Women's Care Center, Destiny for Women, and Empower Life Center in Peoria.

In addition to the baby supplies, 854 donated adult garments were distributed to Aperion Care Center in Morton. Thanks to all who donated to our Mothers' Day Diaper Collection in May and made it possible for us to bless people in Jesus' name in this way.

*God bless you for your generosity!*

### **Thank You!**

The Peoria Area Lutherans for Life would like to thank you for your generous contributions to their "Pennies for Life" collection and the "May Diaper Drive." Their mission is to promote the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. They made contributions to pro-life charities in Heritage Foundation, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center, Empower Life Center, Lutheran Hillside Village, Central Illinois Right - to - Life, and Esther House. Your support and prayers are appreciated as they serve the Lord of Life.



Since July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, the United States has been the land of the free. *Father, thank You for the freedoms we enjoy in our country. But thank You more for the freedoms Jesus Christ won for us all. Amen.*

### **We Need You!**

Ewe's Treasures and Ewe's Home Furnishings are looking for volunteers! If you would be interested in working a 4 hour shift, serving customers, sorting and pricing donations, or moving furniture, your help is needed. Please call Penny at 309-231-7180.

### **LC-MS Foundation**

In a world where self-help is celebrated, why does enlisting the support of an LC-MS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor make sense? Estate gift plans can get complicated at times, as you weave desires for family inheritance with your desires to support your favorite ministries as well. Your LC-MS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is trained to identify how best to use the right assets for the right purposes that you have in mind, often with charitable gifting instruments that bring it all together. Your desire is to transfer God's blessings, and to do so in the wisest way possible. To start learning how this works, contact Scott Radden at 618-977-4049.

# *July Birthdays & Anniversaries*



## **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

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



## **Anniversaries**

July 1

Terry & Joy Knollenberg

July 15

Bill & Kelly Link

July 21

Walter & Lynn Brown



## **Sunday School Perfect 10 Awards**

Haven Harms

Liam Harms

Edith Spaeth (5th year pin)


Ella Spaeth (7th year pin)

Franklin Spaeth

Mabel Spaeth (3rd year pin)

Oliver Spaeth

Henry Stout

◀ June	July 2026						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4 	
5 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	6	7 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE / EVANGELLISM	8	9	10	11	
12 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS  4:00 PM ICE CREAM SOCIAL / GAME NIGHT	27	28	29	30	31	"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." Psalm 33:12	



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.  
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization

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*(Return Service Requested)*



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

&



GAME NIGHT

Sunday, July 26

4:00 p.m.