

Trinity Highlights

June 2026 Newsletter

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	April	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 20,982	\$ 74,088	\$ 81,223
Expenses	<u>24,497</u>	<u>101,736</u>	108,820
(Deficit)/Surplus	(3,514)	(27,648)	(27,596)

Giving in April was very close to projections but remain \$7,135 under projections year to date. Expenses are \$7,084 under budget year to date. To date approximately \$27,000 of reserves have been used in 2026.

The General Fund balance at the end of April was \$260,345.93.

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



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 summer months of June, 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!

Church Picnic

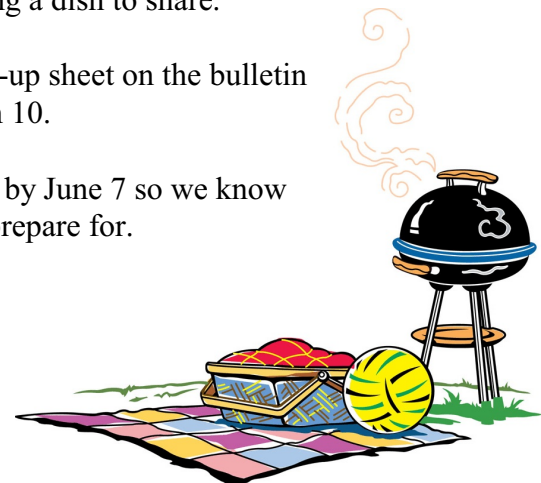
Sunday, June 14, 2026 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Royal Avenue Shelter Pekin Park

Meat, table service and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Room 10.

Please sign-up by June 7 so we know how many to prepare for.



From the Pastor's Desk

1. Pray "Thy Kingdom Come", Lord's Prayer, Second Petition
2. Say "I Am Baptized", Baptism, First Part
3. Convey Your Confession of Christ to Fellow Christians, Apostles' Creed

Say "I Am Baptized"

Baptism, First Part

Dear Members of Messiah,

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 28:19) (Small Catechism, Baptism, First Part)

Following perhaps an opening hymn, the first words we hear in church are these: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." These words take us to our baptism, for we are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It's not strictly that you *were* baptized. Rather, you *are* baptized.

The Large Catechism says, "Every Christian has enough in Baptism to learn and to do all his life" (LC IV 41). We come back to it in church, but that's not all. There's a lot in Baptism for what we do in telling the Good News about Jesus. For We Gladly Say, "I Am Baptized."

In the words of a hymn: "God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ" (LSB 594:1). We can say this only because God put water on us and said, "I baptize you." As a result, we gladly say to ourselves, "I am baptized." And with gladness we also get to tell others, "I am baptized." We have the gift of identifying ourselves as God's baptized people, for he has made it so.

God said, "I baptize you." "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." At your baptism, the one speaking these words was very likely a pastor. (Perhaps another Christian said them if you were baptized in an emergency.) "To be baptized in God's name," in any case, Luther writes, "is to be baptized not by men, but by God himself. . . . Although it is performed by human hands, it is still truly God's own work". In Baptism, it was no one less than the Creator of the universe who put his name and his claim on you. He gave you his name. He identified you as his.

Veteran actors who've played many parts over the years sometimes end up losing themselves in all those roles. They have assumed so many other identities that they have a hard time keeping track of their own. For that matter, how settled can identity be within any individual if it depends on that person's own notions and wants? If you could look inside my head you'd find my thoughts tangled into a jumble, not all lined up in orderly rows. And my desires change all the time.

In a sinful world, human thoughts and wants always revolve around the people who think and want them. If I find it to my advantage to put part of me out there for everyone to see and know, I'll do it—and maybe take pains along the way to be noticed. If I think it better to hide something else about myself, I'll go to perhaps even more surprising lengths to keep that secret. For instance, once in the middle of a meeting on Zoom, a man mentioned that prior to the meeting he had taken the trouble to tidy up his work area. He didn't want his clutter on camera.

Oftentimes, Christians keep their Christian identity a secret. We don't like to mention it. There seem to be no special upsides to putting it out there, and maybe more than one downside. Beware, though: We can become like desperate actors at the ends of their careers, craving recognition from others because they themselves have lost who they are.

God has given us better than that. He baptized us into his own name. He gave us a new birth and a new beginning, really a new identity. In Baptism you died with Christ, really died, and you were raised with him to new life. He rescued you from the road to hell and placed you on the path to heaven. All your sin was washed away, washed onto Jesus. He got all that. What you got was his righteousness and life. By the blood of his death, he completely cleansed you from all your sin, including the reluctance into which we Christians sometimes fall about being identified with Christ. Yet he is not ashamed to be identified with us. He is not ashamed to be our God and Savior. Your identity in Christ is his gift to you. The apostle Paul wrote: "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

The invocation we hear at the beginning of our church service is not a complete sentence. It's a prepositional phrase: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The full sentence it reflects is this: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." As one so baptized, you can say to yourself, "I am baptized." You can say this because he said it.

This is who you are. *This* is your identity. You are baptized into Christ, with God's name on you. This is reality, more real than anything you see or feel.

Appearances can be very deceiving. Think of Christopher Columbus when he made landfall on his great first voyage to America. If someone had asked him who he was, he would have had no problem saying, "I'm Christopher Columbus." At that time, though, he thought he was in the East, somewhere near India or China. He didn't know where he really was. Part of identity is *who* you are, of course. But another part is *where* you are—and also where you're going. Columbus could never have known to say, "I'm the discoverer of a new world." When the Lord God confronted Adam after the first sin, he didn't ask, "Who are you?" he asked, "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9).

In this world, we have plenty to mix us up about not only who we are but also where we are and where we're going. Good times and circumstances tend to puff us up and make us haughty. Bad ones lead us to doubt and despair. All sorts of things, from fighting without to fears within, can keep me quiet about my identity in Christ. If I were to own up to it, where would that put me?

So whom do I trust?

Luther once said that even though he had Baptism and the Lord's Supper, as well as God's comfort through the Word and Absolution, "I see nothing of what he promises. Indeed, I feel the opposite in my flesh. Here, then, one must struggle and do battle against unbelief" (AE 5:205). By the power of the Holy Spirit, Luther in this battle took his stand on the grounds that God does not lie. He declared, "I will not make God a liar" (AE 5:206).

I am baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. None other than the triune God baptized me. No matter what—regardless of sin, death, and the devil—this never ceases to be real and true. I can always have confidence in my baptism. It remains, and I can return to it in repentance and faith. I can always tell myself, "Nevertheless, I am baptized." Saying so is echoing what God himself says, and he is no liar.

I can gladly say it, then: "I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise" (LSB 594:5). I live the resurrected life of Christ, which will include my resurrection. Where am I going? Where will I be? With him. In a sense, we are already there. God has "seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:6–7).

So how can I grow either proud, when the circumstances around me appear favorable, or timid, when they don't look so good? The reality of who I am in Christ, in my baptism, remains. As one of the Lord's people, a member of his church, I can pray, and pray gladly, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come right away." When we're praying that prayer, what's there to stop us?

We get to tell not only ourselves but also others that we are baptized. That is, we gladly identify with the identity God gave us as Christians. Part of living in our baptism is letting other people know that we belong to Christ, that we are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is necessary if we are to tell others the Good News. If we prove slow even to say we're Christians, how are they going to hear from us about Christ?

Here's some advice: When you meet someone new, try to identify yourself as a Christian right away. Perhaps you'll be wearing some article of clothing or jewelry that assists you, maybe something you carry or even drive (with a bumper sticker). Draw attention to it. Or mention in passing that you go to church. For example, you can say something like this: "I went by there last Sunday on my way home from church." Even if you go into no further detail just then, still it's good to identify yourself as a Christian with a new acquaintance early on.

What if you don't? Some months later, when you're thinking it's high time to speak to your new friend about Jesus, the devil can plant another thought: "You dare not bring this up now. What if this person finds out that you were a Christian all along, yet you said nothing about this most important subject of all? You'll look very bad." Over the years, the devil has used even less than that to keep Christians quiet about Christ.

Yet you are and remain baptized. You're a child of paradise, no matter how you may look to others. Even if you have been hesitant to let on to someone that you're a Christian, you can go ahead and do it right now. And for future reference, you can gladly sabotage a future attempt by the devil to silence your witness. Acknowledge your Christian identity from the very start.

Sometimes people have begun Good News conversations by asking, "In which church were you raised?" Another approach, very much in keeping with this sermon, might be to say, "I'm baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. How about you?" Or simply ask, "Were you baptized?"

Mention that you're a Christian. Don't hide it. Here's a first step toward telling the Good News about Jesus. When we tell non-churched people we're Christians, we're inviting them into our identity. We invite them not so much into ourselves but into union with Jesus Christ. He prayed for his people "so that the world may know that you [Father] sent me and loved them even as you loved me" (Jn 17:23). Think of that. God the Father loves you as he loves Jesus. In Baptism he adopted you, made you his own. He wants to do the same with others.

There's every reason to say, even if not in these exact words, "I am baptized." Let people know you're a Christian. Do so early as you get to know them. By the grace of God, you get to do it gladly! Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - June 2026

ACOLYTES

06/07 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
06/14 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth
06/21 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
06/28 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

06/07 *Open*
06/14 *Open*
06/21 *Open*
06/28 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

06/07 Julie O'Conner
06/14 Julie O'Conner
06/21 *Open*
06/28 *Open*

ALTAR GUILD

06/07 Lynn Brown / Debbie Fornoff
06/21 Lynn Brown / Cori Spaeth

USHERS

06/07 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
06/14 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson
06/21 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
06/28 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson

ALTAR FLOWERS

06/07 Mike & Kathy Seidell, *for their 55th wedding anniversary on June 12.*
06/14 Rev. David & Carol Spaeth, *for their 51st wedding anniversary on June 14.*
06/21 Beth Abbott, *remembering with love, Elmer Abbott's birthday and Steve Abbott's baptism on June 24.*
06/28 Terry Knollenberg, *for their 54th wedding anniversary on July 1.*

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

06/07 Eric Spaeth
06/21 Brad Juergens

READERS

06/14 Matt Deverman
06/28 Mike Seidell

Congratulations Graduates!

College

Elizabeth Deverman
Emily Harms
Kerrigan Link
Soffie Link

Bachelors from University of Illinois\
Illinois Central College
Masters from Illinois State University
Bachelors from Illinois State University

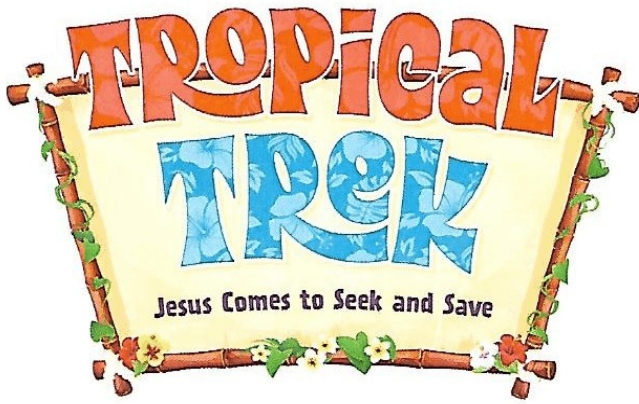
High School

Hunter Anton
Lauren Hand
Kylea Seidell

Eighth Grade

Knoxwell Deverman





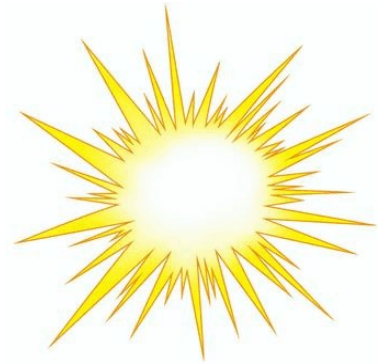
Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 7 - Thursday, June 11
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
at Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Sign-up sheets are available on the table below the screen in Room 10. Forms can be given to Kelly Link. If you are interested in helping please contact Kelly Link.

Did You Know?

by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life: Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life.

A stunning, microscopic flash of light occurs at the exact moment of conception. There are 8,000 zinc compartments in the egg. Each one contains around 1 million zinc atoms, ready for “fireworks” at the very moment a sperm meets the egg. This happens in order to block other sperm and also to activate the beginning of embryo development. It is a marvel that speaks of God’s amazing and wonderfully intricate care and attention to detail. He is the *light of life*.



A Dollar for Missions News

The second project of 2026 for Dollars for Missions is a new lighted, cast aluminum sign for Wittenberg Lutheran Center at Illinois State University. The cast-aluminum sign will feature the Wittenberg logo and be placed on the building’s steeple to proclaim the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit for all. The amount needed to be funded is \$7,000.00.

Prayer: *O Lord, open the hearts of your people to support the proclamation of the Good News about Jesus in ways large and small. Bless the Dollars for Missions that support mission work in unusual ways. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

GSLS Auction results are in! An incredible \$80,000 was raised. Approximately \$50,000 will go toward purchasing Chromebooks for students through 4th grade and they are exploring Smart TVs for every classroom. Thank you to the committee co-chairs and everyone who supported this effort.

Ewe's Treasures Resale Shop and Ewe's Home Furnishings would like to say thank you for your donations to our stores in support of Good Shepherd Lutheran School! Whether its donating items or shopping in our stores, it all makes a difference! Because of you we were able to give \$104,600 in 2025 to Good Shepherd! Without you this would not be possible! We ask that you continue to donate so that together we can continue this mission. We are also looking for more volunteers! If you would be interested please call Penny Bollinger at 309-231-7180.

April Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Edith Spaeth - Ella Spaeth - Franklin Spaeth - Mabel Spaeth - Oliver Spaeth

June Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

June 1
Kinley Deverman
Joyce Thompson

June 2
David Spaeth

June 3
Kelly Link
Casey Whitley

June 7
Craig Cooney

June 9
Rozella Abbott
Katrina Addison

June 10
Will Brown
Christi Juergens

June 11
Janet Zevnik

June 13
Jessica Schuette
Braden Schultz

June 14
Ashley Erickson
Joan McDonough
Michael Timian

June 16

Linda Hollenback

June 17
Beth Utke

June 19
Conner Cordts

June 20
Brent Look

June 21
Tyler Kuhn

June 23
Sarah Hillig

June 24
Don Nash

June 25
Emily Harms

June 26
Kim Cordts

June 28
Haven Harms
Jace Link

June 30
Bill Bond



Anniversaries

June 9
Chad & Kara Cutting

June 12
Scott & Pam Beccue
Mike & Kathy Seidell

June 14
Dave & Carol Spaeth

June 15
Kevin & Jeri Dobbelaire
Dick & Darlene Ringwald

June 17
Dustin & Lindsey Watters

June 19
Andy & Brandi Seidell

June 21
Brian & Jenni Ingrassia

June 26
Nocona & Katie Daniels

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

◀ May	June 2026						July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	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 6 PM - 8 PM VBS AT GSLS	8 6 PM - 8 PM VBS AT GSLS	9 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD 6 PM - 8 PM VBS AT GSLS	10 6 PM - 8 PM VBS AT GSLS	11 1:30 PM CONCORDIA 6 PM - 8 PM VBS AT GSLS	12	13	
14 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS 4:00 PM CHURCH PICNIC	15	16 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	17	18 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	19	20	
21 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	22	23	24	25 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	26	27	
28 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	29	30	 <p><i>"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."</i> Matthew 28:19</p>				



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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(Return Service Requested)



Church Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Royal Avenue Shelter Pekin Park

