

Trinity Highlights

May 2026 Newsletter

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Rev. Mark Drews ~ 701-390-6073

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	March	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 22,302	\$ 53,106	\$ 59,793
Expenses	<u>28,466</u>	<u>77,240</u>	<u>82,115</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(6,164)	(24,134)	(22,322)

Giving in March was very much close to projections, but remain \$6,687 under projections year to date. Expenses are \$4,875 under budget year to date. To date approximately \$24,000 of reserves have been used in 2026.

The General Fund balance at the end of February was \$267,482.97.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for His continued blessings and pray that we may continue to be faithful stewards until the day that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns.

Rob Fornoff
Chairman - Board of Finance



ASCENSION SERVICE

THURSDAY, MAY 14

6:00 P.M.

“And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.” Acts 1:9

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

Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, Administrative Assistant to the President for Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care, Central Illinois District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Springfield, Illinois

Pray "Thy Kingdom Come"

Lord's Prayer, Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. (Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer, Second Petition)

Dear Members of Trinity,

It was while Jesus was praying that one of his disciples approached him with a request: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk 11:1). When Jesus responded, he did not begin by explaining prayer. Instead, he launched right into teaching what we call the Lord's Prayer. This is what our Lord wants his brothers and sisters to say to our Father in prayer.

Start with God, and call him precisely who he is: "Father." Very soon thereafter pray, "Thy kingdom come." This prayer from Jesus starts with God, not with us and our dreams of our kingdoms or whatever else we want to talk about. "For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power" (1 Cor 4:20).

The Large Catechism gives the example of a mighty emperor inviting a beggar to ask for anything, yet the beggar contents himself to make a request for food—not even fine food, but the kind that beggars usually get. What a scoundrel this guy is! Why even come before the throne for something so paltry? The kingdom of God is a matter of power, but this beggar apparently thought very little of the emperor's power to give or his willingness to keep his promises.

Our heavenly Father is both powerful and faithful, and Jesus did not want his people to be timid or hesitant in praying to him. Ask, the Lord said, for the very best that our Father has to give, his choicest blessings—and that is more than we can imagine! Pray this large petition: "Thy kingdom come." Pray for it to come "on earth as it is in heaven"—to you and others around you.

Jesus is the King setting up his kingdom. It's his gracious rule in the hearts of people all over the world. Think back to the beginning of the Gospels: When Jesus arrived, the kingdom of God was truly at hand. He had come not to condemn but to save. He came to dwell with us, the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth, in a kingdom that has no end.

As time went by, some wanted Jesus to become what might be called their "bread king." They wanted him to provide, even miraculously provide, strictly temporary goods such as food for the belly or maybe healing for ailments. Yet, as Paul wrote, "The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14:17). Earlier, Jesus had said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Mt 6:33). Large things are at stake here, which Jesus knows full well.

Here's how intent Jesus himself was on seeking the kingdom: When he taught his disciples to pray "Thy kingdom come," he was on his way to Jerusalem. He knew what was going to happen to him there, and we know it too. He would be called king, but by mocking soldiers who would beat him, then put a purple robe on his back and a crown of thorns on his head. They would nail him to a cross with a placard that said, "This is the King of the Jews" (Lk 23:38). In truth, that was exactly right. The one on the cross is *the* King, securing his kingdom.

Prayer leads to action, or it is hypocrisy. Well, the Christ who died on the cross and rose again from the grave was no hypocrite. He gave his all to seek and save that which was lost. He did the sin-atoning, death-defeating, life-imparting work his Father sent him to do, the work of bringing in the kingdom.

The Holy Spirit brought me into this kingdom when he called me by the Gospel. But here's a thought to raise your eyebrows: How can I be indifferent where the expansion of this kingdom is concerned? Why would God's kingdom mean little when it means so much to him? How can I be satisfied with so little when Jesus teaches me a prayer that is so large?

Our brows can crease further when we remember that prayer leads to action, or it is hypocrisy. At times, a candid unbeliever will grudgingly admire the way Christians want to reach out with the Gospel of Christ, maybe even adding that a Christian who will not tell others the Good News of salvation must not care for those other people. Well, the Lord cares for those people. Christ died for them as much as he died for anyone and everyone.

Now my hand hits my own forehead! The trouble lies in my own sin! So often, I act as if I don't believe that the stupendous blessings of the kingdom genuinely belong to me. That is, I act as if I have no confidence that I have truly been rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom where Jesus is my Lord. And how sure am I that God also gives me the gift of extending his kingdom through his Word?

At this point, the hands need to fold, so that I can repent of my unbelief and also pray the expansive prayer that Jesus gave me to pray: "Thy kingdom come." God's kingdom comes here and now, on earth as it is in heaven, when our heavenly Father gives me his Holy Spirit so that by his grace I believe his holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and there in eternity. Jesus assures me that it is the Father's good pleasure to give me—one as undeserving as anybody on account of my sin, as a pure gift on account of Christ—to *give* me the kingdom.

Not just me, though; our Lord was speaking to his "little flock" (Lk 12:32). For part and parcel of his gift of salvation is to include me in a gathering that's larger than myself, his holy church. The church is the flock of sheep hearing the voice of the Shepherd who gave his life for them and lives to tell the tale.

Never underestimate the church, this gift from God. Flawed as it is in this sinful world, it is the realization of his kingdom. Then, too, the church is a means by which God extends his kingdom, for the church brings the Gospel and Sacraments to others. No Christian is in this alone; you have God's people with you. Above all, you have the risen Christ himself, and he wins the victory.

Sunday after Sunday, a pastor proclaims God's Word to God's people, then faces the altar and leads the congregation in prayer. One of the common requests that he lays before our Father is that short but large petition, "Thy kingdom come." In this petition we pray, among other things, that "the kingdom may come to those who are not yet in it" (LC III 53).

God hears this large prayer, and he answers. Now, if you yourself do not trust Jesus as your Savior yet you're here listening to this sermon, I can assure you that it's no accident for you to be hearing of the Christ who died for you and rose again. This congregation has been praying, "Thy kingdom come." That's a prayer they've been praying for you—that by God's grace *you* would believe his Holy Word, the word that Christ Jesus has died for you and earned eternal life in heaven for you. And I want you to know that I'd love to talk with you some more about Jesus!

Meanwhile, as for you who have hope in Christ by the power of his Spirit, don't be surprised when you pray "Thy kingdom come" and all sorts of opportunities arise for you to give a reason for this hope to those around you.

Of course, it can discourage us when we see that lots of congregations in our own synod have fewer and fewer members from year to year. There is nothing wrong with praying for these churches and for the whole Missouri Synod. Yet when we pray "Thy kingdom come," we're not particularly asking for the preservation of any one church body or even one congregation. We are praying for the Holy Spirit to give newcomers the gift of faith in Christ and include them in his one holy church, the communion of saints, and to preserve believers in their faith and in this church.

We also pray in this large petition for our Father to hasten the day when Christ the Lord comes again, when those who have known him by faith will live under him in perfect righteousness, innocence, and blessedness forever. Then there will be no more need to pray for God's kingdom to come, no more need than there will be to say, "Forgive us our trespasses." But there will be endless, exuberant rejoicing that sins have been forgiven and the kingdom has come in its fullness.

Just think of all the saints, the angels, and every creature gathered around the throne in the new creation. Of all the things that might be said to the Lord in this blessed situation, there will be nothing we'll want to say so much as "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever" (Rev 5:13). This is the kingdom of God in glory. We pray for it, too, to come to us when we pray the large petition, "Thy Kingdom come."

Ever since Jesus first taught the Lord's Prayer, I suppose people have gotten stuck over something. We might wonder how well this prayer expresses our wants, whether it says what we mean. Yet when some unnamed disciple said, "Lord, teach us to pray," Jesus responded with this prayer. You see, we learn to pray when the Holy Spirit teaches us to *mean* what the Lord's Prayer *says*.

It says, "Thy kingdom come," and adds, "on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus wants the kingdom of God to come. He wants you and me to pray for it to come. Pray for the Lord to come in glory, pray for him to come to you now through his Word, and pray for him to come to others also through you as you tell them the Good News about him.

You can go about this in a very deliberate way. Take some time. Be specific. Picture yourself with pen or pencil in hand, listing people for your prayers. Then name before God the names of these folks to whom you pray his kingdom would come. In other words, take what's been lying implicit every time you've ever prayed the Lord's Prayer and now make it explicit.

We learn to pray when the Holy Spirit teaches us to mean what the Lord's Prayer says. Only he can do this. And when he does it, how can we not? The Lord Brings Us to Mean It When We Pray the Large Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come."

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - May 2026

ACOLYTES

05/03 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
05/10 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
05/14 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown
05/17 *Combined GSLS Service*
05/24 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth
05/31 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

05/03 Mike Seidell
05/10 Weldon Moldenhauer
05/17 *No Sunday School*
05/24 *Open* 05/31 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

05/03 Julie O'Conner
05/10 Julie O'Conner
05/17 *No Sunday School*
05/24 Julie O'Conner
05/31 Julie O'Conner

ALTAR GUILD

05/03 Lynn Brown / Cori Spaeth
05/14 Lauren Juergens / Debbie Fornoff
05/31 Lauren Juergens / Debbie Fornoff

USHERS

05/03 9:00 a.m. Dave Harms, Rich Janson
05/10 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Chris Whitley
05/14 6:00 p.m. Mike Seidell, Rich Janson
05/17 *Combined GSLS Service*
05/24 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Rich Janson
05/31 9:00 a.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms

ALTAR FLOWERS

05/03 The Harms family, *in loving memory of Jeff Harms.*
05/10 *Open*
05/17 *Combined GSLS Service*
05/24 *Open*
05/31 Claudie Huey

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

05/03 Rob Fornoff
05/14 Brad Juergens
05/31 Rob Fornoff

READERS

05/10 Owen Miller
05/24 Mike Seidell



May Diaper Drive

Peoria Area Lutherans for Life is again sponsoring their annual May Diaper Drive. The purpose is to collect as many disposable diapers and wipes as possible for infants and toddlers (especially sizes 4, 5, and 6); plus, adult protective underwear for use by seniors. These will be distributed to local pregnancy resource centers and senior living facilities.

May the Lord of life bless you as you help make this event a success again this year. There is a box in Room 10 to put your donations in.



Combined Worship Service
at Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Sunday, May 17
10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, May 17 we will join together at GSLS with St. John's Pekin, St. John's Green Valley and the Good Shepherd staff and students for one combined worship service. There will be a combined choir of the three congregations and the GSLS children will sing. During this service we will celebrate the paying off of the school loan, along with Mrs. Hicks who accepted the called position as principal.

There will be a complimentary meal following the service. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Room 10. Please sign-up so they know how much food provide. **The deadline for signing up is Thursday, May 7.**

Camp Cilca News

Camp Cilca Hog Roast & Auction (at the Dining Hall)

Sunday, May 24 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Camp Cilca is collecting baskets and other items for their upcoming auction. All donated items must have the organization who donated them along with a list of all items being donated and the fair market value of items being donated. If you have questions, contact the office 217-487-7497 or email camp@cilca.org.

This is Camp Cilca's largest annual fundraiser. Come support the work that the Lord is doing in the great outdoors!

Wednesday, May 27: First Day of Summer Camp! Registration is open for the 2026 camping season. Sign-up today for a summer full of adventure in God's creation! Check the brochures available in Room 10 for summer camp information.

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

A Dollar for Missions News

The second 2026 project 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.*

May Birthdays

May 1

Derek Egli
Bill Link
Brett Wolters

May 2

Dylan Speck

May 3

Jim Risinger

May 4

Anthony Erickson

May 5

Emily Anton
Sofia Link

May 7

Vikki Steele

May 10

Linda Weyhrich

May 11

James Drake

May 12

Coltan May

May 15

Becky Gillis

May 18

Cassie Dunn
Kris Vaupel

May 19

Weldon Moldenhauer
Edith Spaeth
Graham Watson

May 20

David Knollenberg
Lane Staker

May 21

Julie Schultz

May 22

Ocean Oquenda
Scott Thompson

May 24

Billie May

May 27

Pam Hemp

May 28

Darlene Ringwald

May Anniversaries

May 5

Blake & Tammy Olt

May 12

Coltan & Jaylene May

May 13

Dave & Mary Ann Vaupel

May 22

Jeff & Rae Ann Weisert

May 27

Eric & Cori Spaeth
Dave & Vikki Steele

May 31

Steve & Claudie Huey

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

March Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Edith Spaeth
Ella Spaeth
Franklin Spaeth
Mabel Spaeth
Oliver Spaeth

Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, June 7 - Thursday, June 11 at Good Shepherd Lutheran School from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets are available on the table below the screen in Room 10. Forms can be given to Kelly Link. Please sign-up by May 16. If you are interested in helping please contact Kelly Link.



Pekin Township

The Boards of Evangelism/ Christian Service are taking donations during the month of May to benefit the children's summer lunch program. This is a much needed program used to feed less fortunate children during the summer months. To make a donation, just mark a pew envelope "Pekin Township."

"Did You Know?"

by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life.

The baby is a distinct and separate human being from the mother. The baby begins communicating with his or her mother right away, sending chemical signals into the mother's body. This way her body will help the baby grow rather than attack the baby as a foreign object. Not by chance, but by design. Created and redeemed by God Himself.

◀ April	May 2026					June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	4 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	5 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	6 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	7 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	8	9
10 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	11 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	12 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	13 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	14 <i>Ascension</i> 1:30 PM CONCORDIA 6 PM ASCENSION SERVICE	15	16
17 10:00 AM COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE AT GSLS <i>LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICE</i>	18 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	19 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	20 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	21 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	22	23
24 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	25 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	26	27 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	28 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	29	30
31 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<p><i>“And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.”</i></p> <p><i>Acts 1:9</i></p> 					



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

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Ascension Service

Thursday, May 14 - 6:00 p.m.

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at Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Sunday, May 17 - 10:00 a.m.

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(at the Dining Hall)

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