Trinity Highlights

November 2026 Newsletter

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

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	September Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Income	$ 19,041	$172,275	$177,678
Expenses	23,715	225,183	242,958
(Deficit)/Surplus	(4,674)	(52,907)	(65,281)

Giving is off approximately $5,400 for the year while expenses are lower by approximately $17,800.

The General Fund balance at the end of September was $256,526.

The General Fund Investment Account, where reserves are held, decreased in value in the third quarter by $1,499 (0.6%). The balance at the end of September was 262,551.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund value decreased by $1,713 (0.9%) in the third quarter. The value at the end of September was $188,330 of which $61,660 is available to gift to charitable organizations.

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

All Saints' Sunday
Sunday, November 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

All Saints' Day we also observe the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. On this Sunday we will remember those who have gone to be with their Lord since the last All Saints' Day.

Those whom we will be remembering this year:

Barbara Glick	Jeanine Meyers
Donald Maskel	Dale Ranney

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

From the Pastor's Desk

Cross Bearers: Faith and Works

Ephesians 2:1–10; James 2:14–26

Dear Members of Trinity**,

As we celebrate the 509th anniversary of the Reformation, the importance of the Six Chief Parts, the chief teachings of the Christian faith we've been exploring throughout this series, is that they help us understand how we are pleasing to the Father as we live out our lives of faith with one another. Very often we acquire knowledge for the sake of knowledge itself. Such knowledge can increase our faith, and that's an excellent thing. But we also need to beware. We need knowledge that is tempered with wisdom and love, because, as the apostle Paul warns us in the context of food offered to idols, " 'Knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up" (1 Cor 8:1). We have no desire to be puffed-up believers, so Luther in these Six Chief Parts shows us the more excellent way.

Right off the top, we would be wise to deal with the faith-and-works challenge that confronts us as Christians. We know for certain that we are saved by faith alone, but saving faith never travels alone. It is always found in the company of good works. Luther does not say these exact words but picks up this sentiment in his commentary on Romans quoted in the Book of Concord. For, as Dr. Luther writes in the Preface to St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans:

Faith . . . is a divine work in us that changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works, however, is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are. Yet he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God's grace makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all creatures. And this is the work that the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready and glad to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace. Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire. (AE 35:370–71, quoted in SD IV 10–12)

We cannot separate faith from works, according to Luther. This truth aligns with the epistle of James. James would have us understand that our Father has the expectation that we put what we've learned into practice. He says it this way: "Faith apart from works is dead" (2:26). Jesus comes to save us from the death resulting from our disobedience to the Law of God, the "cross-bones" structure of our Christian life—disobedience that reflects our lack of faith. Believers are not to yield again to death by refusing to ask the second of the classical catechetical questions.

You know the questions. "What does this mean?" is the first. "How is this done?" is the second, and it begs asking about each and every one of the Six Chief Parts. We are duty bound to *do* what we've learned. We are duty bound because of the companion virtues that cling to us through the "cross wind" of baptismal water: faith and love. Paul reminds us of the greatest virtue of the great triumvirate: "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). We, because of our emphasis on justification, would be hard pressed not to say the greatest of these is faith. That is not the testimony of the Holy Bible. Love triumphs over every other virtue, even faith. Love for our heavenly Father and the sacrifice of his Son refuses to be disregarded and leads us to perform those good works prepared beforehand as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit's "cross fire," the Lord's Supper, to be God's workmanship on earth.

This is where the Six Chief Parts come alive off the page and go to work in my heart, my hands, and my feet. I recall what I believe about my Lord Jesus Christ and his sacrifice to save me from the wages of sin, hell, and death. I remember his suffering on the cross and his prayer for me even as the life flowed out of his body. I remember his resurrection from the dead and his ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and I am liberated from the life of sin and set free to love Jesus and to honor him with my life and actions. I view all of this from the perspective of the cross, and I am empowered with these graces.

I have the wisdom of the cross-bones structure of the Ten Commandments to teach me how to display love for my Father and for my neighbor. I see through the "cross-eyes" revelation displayed in the confession of the Apostles' Creed so that I won't be misdirected by false teaching regarding my faith in Christ and his sacrifice. I am empowered and encouraged in "cross words" to be instant and constant in my conversation with the Father through prayer and especially

the Lord's Prayer. I am assured that nothing can separate me from the love of God, because I am endowed with the cross wind of the Spirit through the power and authority of the water and the Word of holy baptismal grace. I am renewed when I err and transgress the boundaries, missing the mark of holiness through the "cross way" of confession and forgiveness, where I announce my sin and hear the sweet words of absolution, "In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven." Alleluia!

I am filled to overflowing with the cross-fire power of my Father through the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, in which I take and eat, take and drink the true body and blood of my Lord Jesus Christ. I am so full of grateful humility that in these Six Chief Parts the Father has taught me how he has showered his love on me! I am so overwhelmed with gratitude and love that his life in me by faith moves me to action in love for my neighbor!

I feed the hungry because I am fed. I clothe the naked because I am clothed. I love the unlovable because the Father loves me enough to cover my ugliness with the blood of his Son. With my sin taken away, laid on Jesus, and covered in his blood as my righteous raiment, I become lovely and lovable. I soothe the widow and the orphan because I have been soothed. I welcome the sojourner and stranger because Jesus was a sojourner from glory clothed in human flesh and because I am a sojourner on this earth even as I am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Paradise and heaven is my home.

The place where we are most exposed is in our relationship with others in the Body of Christ. Too often, I hear Christians, even pastors, talk to and about, instead of respectfully with, one another. I see some Christians treat others in ways that reflect neither faith in God nor love for our brother or sister. We should be ashamed! For such things, the cross way of confession and forgiveness is the blessing we desperately need.

Just stop and think about this for a moment: Jesus is caught speaking to and dining with tax collectors and sinners; the Bible says "reclining at table" (cf Mk 2:15). The scribes and Pharisees see Jesus eating with them and wonder why he would do such a thing. After all, he is a rabbi. He is holy. He is supposed to know better. God approves of him and does not approve of them. Jesus said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (2:17).

That is what we all are according to our doctrine: *simul justus et peccator*, at once saint and sinner. When we begin calling ourselves righteous and casting others out on the basis of our own righteousness, we are no longer practicing the cross way of confession and forgiveness, but rather judgment and condemnation. These are outside of our purview as followers of Jesus. He encourages us with this: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12). That is love, born of humility, that endures with faith enough to grant forgiveness of trespasses endured. Even on the cross, Jesus displays this grace, saying of those who just betrayed him, lied of him, and had him crucified, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34).

The Father grants me strength and courage not to stop, not to falter, not to fail, not to become distracted by the world, but to continue to go and advance the kingdom of God with every step that I take and the very air I breathe. This, my friends, is the outcome of faithful, humble love and obedience to the Father through the Six Chief Parts. Lord, help us. Bless and prosper us with hearts of faith, love, and obedience, so that these words that Jesus said to others never apply to us: "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you" (Mt 21:31).

All of this, loving of God and loving neighbor, is entirely contrary to our me-first—in fact, really, me-only—nature. Living as the Six Chief Parts teach and enable us means sacrificing self, giving up so many things we might desire. It's what Jesus means when he says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mt 16:24). We surrender, we yield, to the grace, power, and authority of faith and works that bless us to be "cross bearers." By bearing our own crosses, we participate with our Lord Jesus in the salvation of humankind, and

The Six Chief Parts Are Gracious Means That Encourage and Strengthen Us to Be Cross Bearers.

We go forth from this series in wisdom and knowledge, not puffed up, but in faith and love that says we have all we need to be the cross-fire incarnational presence of Jesus Christ to those who are waiting to know that grace of God made available through him, our Lord. This is our Perspec-tive of the Cross.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Drews

**For those of you who haven't noticed, it was pointed out to me that I had been addressing you as "Dear Members of Messiah". I looked at previous newsletters, and I noticed that I have been doing that for several months. This was the congregation I served in North Dakota. Please excuse my lapse in memory. I humbly apologize, and I hope that I will never make this mistake again.
MRD

Trinity's Service Volunteers - November 2026

ACOLYTES

11/01	9:00 a.m.	Edith Spaeth
11/08	9:00 a.m.	Lexi Brown
11/15	9:00 a.m.	Ella Spaeth
11/22	9:00 a.m.	Edith Spaeth
11/25	**6:00 p.m.**	**Ella Spaeth**
11/29	9:00 a.m.	Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

11/01 *Open*
11/08 *Open*
11/15 *Open*
11/22 *Open*
11/29 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

11/01 *Open*
11/08 *Open*
11/15 *Open*
11/22 *Open*
11/29 *Open*

ALTAR GUILD

11/01 Lynn Brown / Cori Spaeth
11/15 Lauren Juergens / Melissa Deverman
11/29 Lynn Brown / Debbie Fornoff

USHERS

11/01	9:00 a.m.	Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
11/08	9:00 a.m.	Chris Whitley, Owen Miller
11/15	9:00 a.m.	Dave Harms, Mike Seidell
11/22	9:00 a.m.	Chris Whitley, Owen Miller
11/25	**6:00 p.m.**	**Chris Whitley, Owen Miller**
11/29	9:00 a.m.	Dave Harms, Mike Seidell

ALTAR FLOWERS

11/01 Claudie Huey, *in memory of Merle & Barbara Glick.*
11/08 *Open*
11/15 *Open*
11/22 Don Nash, *in memory of Lois Nash's birthday on November 22.*
11/29 *Open*

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

11/01 Rob Fornoff
11/15 Brad Juergens
11/29 Owen Miller

READERS

11/08 Matt Deverman
11/22 Mike Seidell

The Giving Tree
Providing warm coats for children in need.

Each year Trinity provides coats for underprivileged children in the Pekin school districts. This particular ministry is vital to the Pekin community in helping keep these children warm during the winter months.

Please donate to The Giving Tree by using your Giving Tree envelope or mark a pew envelope *"The Giving Tree"* so we can continue this important ministry.

Did You Know?

Lutherans For Life is one of the many RSO's (recognized service organizations) that help our Synod extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry. Other RSO's you might be familiar with are Lutheran Heritage Society, Lutheran Braille Workers, Lutheran Bible Translators, Ministry to the Armed Forces, and many, many others. Each RSO is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit with its own focus, but whose programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LC-MS. You can visit LC-MS.org and search RSO's to see a directory.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Music for Missions



St. John's Lutheran Church, 711 Court St., Pekin is hosting a Sacred Music Concert and Hymn Sing in support of University Lutheran Church, Champaign (our CID LC-MS campus ministry at the U of I) Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Samuel Bishop will be the guest organist and Allison Harley will be the vocalist. There will be a combined choir and bell choir of St. John's Pekin and Trinity, Pekin, along with congregational singing. A free will offering will be gathered to help support University Lutheran Church, Champaign. Refreshments will be served following the program.



Let's Gather Together To Give Thanks!
Combined Thanksgiving Eve Service at Trinity Lutheran Church
Wednesday, November 25 • 6:00 p.m.

Trinity & St. John's Pekin will join together for a combined Thanksgiving Eve Service at Trinity. We will also combine the choirs and bell choirs of both churches for this special service. Pastor Dan Bishop will preach and Pastor Mark Drews will lead the service. Next year St. John's Pekin will host this service.

Let us join together with our fellow Christians to give thanks to God for His blessings to us.

"I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify Him with thanksgiving."
Psalm 69:30

Advent 2026 Devotions: Into this world, the Father sent His Son to show His grace and mercy toward sinners. This truth - given in the Gospels and expressed in the Nicene Creed - tells us that no light illuminates greater than God's love. And Jesus, the Light of the world, perfectly displays love's pure light sent into our darkness. Advent devotions are available on the table below the screen in Room 10. Pick-up a copy as you leave church.





Pekin Township
420 Elizabeth St., Pekin
39th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Wednesday, November 25 • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pekin Township will be serving a turkey dinner, consisting of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and pumpkin pie. If you know of anyone who may need a meal, please tell them about the Thanksgiving Dinner.



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Stewardship is often presented as a three-legged stool: Time, Talent, and Treasure

We use our Time and Talents in various ways that are of benefit to the Church at large, to assist with the ministry of the Trinity congregation, and to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

The third leg of the stool is Treasure, or Financial Stewardship. This means the giving of our financial resources to the same benefits as mentioned above.

We know that our Lord desires us to give these things to provide for the basic needs of congregations as well as the ministry of the Word - ***"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house"*** Malachi: 3:10a. Out of love for Him, who gave His only Son for us, we gladly give!

November has long been the time when we, as a congregation, prayerfully review all our gifts from God and determine that portion to return to Him in terms of financial offerings to the church.

You will receive mailings in November explaining the needs of the congregation and asking you to pledge a portion of your financial gifts to Trinity to assist with the ministry needs in 2027. Pledges are not a command from the Lord, but can help each of us to form and maintain the healthy Christian discipline of tithing/giving. Pledges are also used to determine the level of resources that will be available to fund the budget for 2027. All pledges are confidential and are not shared with anyone outside the church office and the person responsible for pulling together the forecast for 2027.

The pledge process will culminate on Sunday, November 22 when we will carry our pledges to the front of the church to be presented to our Lord.

Almighty God, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Generous Hearts
STEWARDSHIP
Love | Give | Serve

November Birthdays

November 2
Keith Garman
Bob Johnson, Jr.

November 5
Jacob Weyhrich

November 8
Madeline Erickson

November 9
Rob Fornoff
Nikhia Williams

November 10
Brad Hillig

November 11
Ryan Scheeler

November 13
Nolan Drake
Sagan Drake

November 14
Zachary Olt

November 15
Jeff Gillis
Patricia Tadlock

November 17
Brian Palmer

November 18
Alexis Crain
Andrew Staker

November 20
Steve Jones

November 22
Kylea Seidell
Carol Simpson
Garrett Watson
Isaac Watson

November 23
Brad Cordts

November 25
Dave Vaupel

November 27
Liam Harms

November 28
Trent May
Norma Rebuffoni
Jarrod Vaupel

November 29
Chloe Erickson

November Anniversaries

November 23
Graham & Amy Watson

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



Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, November 1

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday, October 31.

August Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Haven Harms
Liam Harms
Henry Stout

September Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Edith Spaeth
Ella Spaeth
Franklin Spaeth
Mabel Spaeth
Oliver Spaeth
Henry Stout



Bible Breakfast Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to pick up the donuts for Bible Breakfast and make coffee and pour juice. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Room 10. If you have questions contact the church office. Just helping for one Sunday would be so much appreciated!

Pekin Lion's Club will host a Soup Supper at Trinity on Tuesday, November 10 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a variety of soups while supporting the Pekin Lion's Club. Donations will be taken at the door.



◄ October

November 2026

December ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	**2**	**3** 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	**4** 3:30 PM CONFIRMATION 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	**5** 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	**6**	**7**
8 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	**9**	**10** 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM PEKIN LIONS SOUP SUPPER 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	**11** 3:30 PM CONFIRMATION 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	**12** 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	**13**	**14**
15 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	**16**	**17** 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	**18** 3:30 PM CONFIRMATION 5 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	**19** 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	**20**	**21**
22 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	**23**	**24**	**25** 6 PM COMBINED THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE AT TRINITY WITH ST. JOHN'S PEKIN	**26** *Thanksgiving Day*	**27**	**28**
29 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	**30**					

"Oh give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!"
Psalm 107:1

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

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