

Trinity Highlights

December 2024 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinityekin.com

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	October	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 21,337	\$208,160	\$217,618
Expenses	21,780	187,527	214,340
(Deficit)/Surplus	(443)	20,663	

Giving in October was equal to what was projected but remains off approximately \$9,500 year to date. Expenses were also on budget and remain significantly lower than year to date budget. Year to date giving has exceeded expenses by \$20,663 resulting in a General Fund balance at the end of October of \$258,872.

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



2024 Advent Devotions

Christmastime is when we look again to God's great love and mercy. It is when we consider Jesus' lowly birth - God coming to us a Child - and marvel at a love so freely given to a world so hostile and corrupt. There is really no response possible other than "Come, Let Us Adore Him!" At Christmas, God has come to us in His Son. Truly "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Copies are available on the table in Room 10 (*the room off the parking lot entrance*) for you to pick-up.

From the Pastor's Desk

"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." Jeremiah 33:15

Dear Members of Trinity,

Cyprian was an African bishop who lived in Carthage during the middle of the third century. He and his people lived during a difficult period in the history of the Roman Empire and in the life of the church. You see, there was a plague in 250 A. D. that devastated the population of the empire, and to add insult to injury, the Romans *blamed the Christians* for the calamity because the Christians refused to worship the Roman Gods and preserve the *pax deorum* ("the peace of the gods"). This unleashed a deadly persecution under the Emperor Decius that claimed many Christian lives and devastated those who survived. The same thing happened to Christians in Rome nearly one hundred years earlier when Rome burned during the reign of Emperor Nero.

The Christians were blamed because they refused to deny their Lord even in the face of torture and death. They lived blameless lives before the Lord but not before the world. Jesus had warned His disciples (and us) that the world would hate them for this, because it hated Him. Jesus went blameless to the cross and "was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5). Just as our Lord was innocent and blameless when He took up His cross, so also Christians can strive to be innocent and blameless in a world that is opposed to our Lord (John 16:33) and that we will be vindicated at His coming back.

It seems, these days, that hostility towards Christians is increasing even here in the United States. Several communities have removed Nativity Scenes from the public square. Store employees have been told to wish people "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". Political correctness has forced schools and work to eliminate Christmas Concerts, Christmas office parties, etc. The "separation of church and state" has taken on a whole new meaning today. The term "freedom of religion" has been exchanged for "freedom of worship", as if we need to keep our faith within the walls of the church.

Advent and Christmas are the time when we are in our darkest times. The daylight hours get shorter and shorter until Christmas Eve (shortly after the Winter Solstice) when the daylight hours become noticeably longer for the first time. Isaiah spoke of "the people who walk in darkness have seen a great light". When things around us seem the darkest, when we are tempted to despair, I pray that we look all the more firmly to Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world.

I also pray that we may all celebrate these days in worship at Trinity, or wherever we may go on vacation. Look to the light of Christ, especially as times of persecution and trouble seem their darkest for us these days. May God bless us and keep us, and may you all have a Merry Christmas.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark R. Drews

Trinity's Service Volunteers - December 2024

ACOLYTES

12/01 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth
12/04 6:00 p.m. Emily Anton
 12/08 9:00 a.m. Will Brown
12/11 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown
 12/15 9:00 a.m. Emily Anton
12/18 6:00 p.m. Ella Spaeth
 12/22 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown
12/24 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown
 Will Brown
12/25 10:00 a.m. Emily Anton
 12/29 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

Pick-Up Donuts:

12/01 Mike Seidell
 12/08 Weldon & Arlene Moldenhauer
 12/15 *Open*
 12/22 *Open*
 12/29 *Open*

Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:

12/01 Julie O'Conner
 12/08 Julie O'Conner
 12/15 *Open*
 12/22 *Open*
 12/29 *Open*

USHERS

12/01 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms
12/04 6:00 p.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms
 12/08 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Chris Whitley
12/11 6:00 p.m. Mike Seidell, Chris Whitley
 12/15 9:00 a.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms
12/18 6:00 p.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms
 12/22 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Owen Miller
12/24 6:00 p.m. Mike Seidell, Brad Juergens
12/25 10:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Dave Harms
 12/29 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Brad Juergens

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

12/01 Brad Juergens
 12/15 Eric Spaeth

ALTAR GUILD

12/01 Melissa Deverman / Cori Spaeth
 12/15 Lauren Juergens / Debbie Fornoff
 12/25 Kara Cutting / Kylie Cutting
 12/29 Lynn Brown / Kara & Kylie Cutting

ALTAR FLOWERS

12/01 Walter & Lynn Brown
 12/08 *Open*
 12/15 Kevin & Jeri Dobbelaire
 12/22 *Open*
 12/29 Poinsettias

Poinsettias will decorate the altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you would like to donate a plant, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office no later than **Wednesday, December 18**. The cost is \$15.00 per poinsettia. Mark your offering envelope "Poinsettia" and include the money in your envelope.



NAME OF DONOR

Number of plants _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory Of: _____

2025 Offering Envelopes: 2025 offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex. If you don't have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact the church office.

2025 Flower Chart: The 2025 flower chart is up on the bulletin board in the hallway by the 4th Street entrance. Simply sign your name by the date you wish to donate flowers. A form will be sent to you when your date is near. Dates are chosen on a first come first serve basis.

October Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following young people who had perfect Sunday School attendance for the month of October: Emily Anton, Haven Harms, Zoey Portillo, Edith, Ella, Mabel & Oliver Spaeth and Henry Stout.

Gift Cards for Christmas! Please allow the Good Shepherd RaiseRight/Scrip gift card program to fill all of your needs for gift cards this Christmas Season. Whether for giving or shopping, there are many stores to choose from! *The last day to order cards to insure delivery before Christmas is December 15.* Place your orders at your church Scrip table or bring them to the GSLS office before 10:00 a.m. on a Monday morning. On-line orders may still be placed at any time. Merry Christmas and thank you for supporting Good Shepherd through this program!

Chili & Oyster Stew Supper: Come to the country for food and fellowship! St. Luke Lutheran Church, rural San Jose, will once again host their annual Chili & Oyster Stew Super on **Monday, December 2, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Chili, oyster stew, chicken salad, ham sandwiches, hot dogs, and a wide variety of delicious desserts will be served for a donation. The church is located at: 15757 N. County Road 3600 E., San Jose.



Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

With grateful hearts, the entire family of Barbara Glick sends our thanks to you for all your kindnesses and well wishes to her for her 100th birthday. The beautiful flower arrangement in her favorite fall colors adds so much cheer to her room, and she can keep it for as long as she wants. The full basket of birthday cards have been so much fun for her to open, and she appreciates every one of them.

Although Mom has not physically been in church at Trinity since before Covid, her heart is still there. She asks about many of her friends, she prays for our pastor, and it makes her happy to hear that Trinity is doing well.

Barbara is a grateful person. She is grateful for her faith in God, for her family, for her long life, and for your prayers. We are so grateful, too. Thank you and God bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Claudie Huey for the entire Glick family

Cookie Fellowship will follow the Advent Services. Please bring one dozen cookies to the church kitchen on the date on which your name is listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| December 4 | <i>Abbott - Gresham</i> |
| December 11 | <i>Hand - Nash</i> |
| December 18 | <i>O'Conner - Zevnik</i> |

**Trinity's Shut-In's
and/or those recovering from an illness/injury**

At Cedar Hurst:

Norma Rebuffoni
2700 S. 14th St.

At Hallmark:

Diana Johnson
2501 Allentown Rd.

At Lutheran Hillside Village:

Barbara Glick
6901 N. Galena Rd., Peoria IL 61614

Villas of Holly Brook:

Marilyn Alexander
2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 5

Karalyn Garber
2720 S. 14th St., Apt. 6

At Home:

Pennie Adkins
500 S. Third Ave., Apt. B
Canton, IL 61520

Don Maskel
1320 Executive Ct., Apt. 224

Delores Shafer
2210 Sunset Dr.

Robin Thompson
17298 Lake Knolls Rd.

Keith Warwick
705 Buckhaen St.

Loraine Weyhrich
11523 Weyhrich Rd

*Please remember Trinity's shut-in's this holiday season
by sending them Christmas card.*



Christians have an easy way of witnessing their faith in Jesus Christ by the message on their Christmas cards. Try to find cards that clearly tell of the joy of God's gift to mankind in Jesus Christ, Who came to die for our sins. Christmas cards can serve as your witness to your friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives about what Christmas truly means. This is also a great opportunity to remember our shut-ins by sending one or more of them a Christmas card sharing with them the joy of Christmas.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



December Birthdays

Dec. 1

Chris Deverman
Matt Deverman
Tammy Olt
Carol Stroyeck

Dec. 2

Owen Miller

Dec. 3

Dave McDonough

Dec. 5

Don Maskel
Jennifer Reese
Perry Steinsultz

Dec. 7

Rae Ann Weisert

Dec. 10

Nolan Dunn
Ron Upchurch

Dec. 11

Andrew Erickson
Paula Mattheessen
Emma Sizemore

Dec. 12

Sonia Heren
Malia May
Logan Schultz

Dec. 13

Zach Juergens
Theresa McDonough

Dec. 14

Annelise Burke
Peggy Durbin

Dec. 16

Gary Guengerich

Dec. 18

Carolyn Cordts

Dec. 20

Mark Suhs

Dec. 23

Joseph Bennett

Dec. 26

Jay Jones

Dec. 28

Gerald Davis

Dec. 30

Emma Seidell

Dec. 31

Makenzie Abatie

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



December Anniversaries

Dec. 1

Jeff & Lori Lynn

Dec. 19

Jim & Donna Deverman

Dec. 30

Bill & Marty Bond



Children's Christmas Program

Children's Christmas Program practice will be held during the Sunday School hour and continue each Sunday. Please make every effort to have your child here so they can be a part of the Children's Christmas Program. The Children's Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 15 during the Sunday School hour.**

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	2	3	4 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	5 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	6	7
8 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	9	10 6:30 PM GSLs BOARD	11 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE 7 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	18 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM ADVENT SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	19 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES 7 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	20	21
22 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 6 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

Non-Profit Organization
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(Return Service Requested)



Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18 - 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 - 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25 - 10:00 a.m.

