

Trinity Highlights

March 2025 Newsletter

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Rev. Mark Drews ~ 701-390-6073

Stewardship Report:

General Fund Report:	January	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 14,822	\$ 14,822	\$20,947
Expenses	<u>21,180</u>	<u>21,180</u>	26,501
(Deficit)/Surplus	(6,357)	(6,357)	

Giving in January was much lower than projected, partly due to a bad weather Sunday and partly due to January being January when giving is generally lower than the remaining months of the year. Expenses were lower than budgeted but will catch up in February.

Work will be gin at the parsonage in February to renovate the two bathrooms. Expenses will be incurred but have been included in the budget presented and approved in January.

The General Fund balance at the end of January was \$256,370.40.

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

2025 LENTEN DEVOTIONS



In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus teaching His disciples and healing the sick and hurting who followed Him. We see Him enduring the scorn of the Jews who mocked Him and the brutality of the Romans who crucified Him. And we see Him display the love of God - a love that took our sins upon Himself even unto death, so that we might be raised to life through the power of His resurrection.

Copies are available on the table below the screen in Room 10. Please pick up a copy!

What is the Easter Vigil?

Taken from an article in *Lutheran Witness*, April 16, 2022.
Trinity will observe the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19th at 6PM

This Is the Night

The fire flickers in the courtyard near the newly budding redbud and beside an old, steel cross. One of the acolytes tends the flame, another adds a scoop of frankincense to the censor, and the rest stand erect, bearing their torches, waiting for the folks to gather around the newly lit flame. "This is the night."

We need nights like this — nights that bounce from darkness to light, from death to life, from old to new and perishable to the imperishable. We need mystery and proclamation, the hearing of where we've been and the declaration of who we are now and what we shall be. "Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death" (*Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book*, 531).

The Easter Vigil service is truly unique. There's nothing quite like it. The drama, the chanting, the candles, the fire — it's a ritualist's dream and one of the few services that captures the attention of our teenagers with their screen-induced stupor. Sadly, though, it has largely fallen from custom. What was once the primary service of the whole year now rarely interferes with our busy, Saturday schedules. Dear saints of God, "let our hearts be kindled with the fire of divine love and keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with Him, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end!"

The Service of Light

"Vigil" means "keeping watch" or "staying awake." Traditionally, an all-night prayer service accompanied a major feast or festival (like Christmas Eve services). Time and eternity hold together in the vigil, connecting the past with what's to come. In the case of the Easter Vigil, the Lenten journey to Passiontide and the sacred Triduum culminates in the resurrection of Christ, peered into first while keeping watch at night. And it was at night that the early Christians gathered, "while it was still dark" (John 20:1), full of expectation for Christ's return. This movement from darkness to light finds cosmic fulfillment in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Him, the darkness that once filled our heart is now scattered, and the true light raises our hearts to Him. And at the Easter Vigil, the lighting of the paschal candle from the new flame symbolizes this shift, accompanied by the pastor's stole, changing from violet to white.

Then, the paschal candle leads the procession into the sanctuary, followed by all the faithful bearing their lights. We hear proclaimed three times, "The light of Christ" — symbolically portrayed by the candle's entrance into the sanctuary of God — to which we joyfully respond, "Thanks be to God." Thanksgiving and joy fill the sanctuary, a fitting praise for the God who is with us, again, risen from the dead. The *Exsultet* (Easter Proclamation) calls heaven and earth to rejoice at the light come upon them. The ancient darkness has been forever banished and the church of God is clothed in the brightness of His light. This is the night.

But which night? It's the night of our Lord's resurrection, to be sure. But that night — the night of all nights — is also the night of the exodus. This is the night when the Lord brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when the type gives way to the reality, the old to the new, the perishable to the imperishable and the mortal to immortality. This is the night when we, too, are risen from the dead, delivered from the bondage of sin and restored to life and immortality. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is His mercy toward us. To redeem a slave, He gave His Son. He put wickedness to flight and washed away sin and restored innocence to the fallen and joy to the downcast. Dear saints, how blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ.

The Readings

To understand the fullness of this night — past, present and future — we turn back once more for just a bit. The Lenten posture resumes, purple dons the pastor and the Old Testament stories of salvation fill our ears with hope. These shadows and types have done their work. They've prepared the way of the Lord. From creation to the flood, the testing of Abraham to the deliverance at the Red Sea, the prophetic word makes even more sure this night — a night of Jonah's true expulsion from the fish and Ezekiel's rattling dry bones, crowned by the story and song of the three young men, delivered from the fiery furnace by one whose appearance is like that of a son of God. The Old Testament preaches Christ the crucified. And it's these stories — stories of hope amid chaos — that give meaning to our proclamation, even as they acquire their substance from what came many years later. Nevertheless, the fitting

response for all of creation to the Old Testament resurrection collage is to bless the Lord, praising Him and magnifying Him forever.

Service of Holy Baptism

But such praise is always embodied. It's not just an idea or a word, but a life — a baptized life. So, on this holiest of nights, the whole church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. And what goes for Jesus goes for all those baptized into Him: "Do you not know," St. Paul says, "that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3). His death is our death; His resurrection raises us with Him. That's why Baptism now saves you (1 Peter 3:21), because it assumes you into the life of Christ. And the Easter Vigil is, if nothing else, a baptismal service. Even when there are no catechumens eligible for Baptism, the congregation remembers her own and renews her renunciation of the devil, his works and his ways, along with her confession of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Service of Prayer

Dressed in white stole, hinting at the Easter character of the baptismal remembrance, the church then kneels for the litany of the resurrection — a litany recalling all that our Lord has done for us as the Paschal Lamb: destroying death by dying and by rising again, bringing life and immortality to light. Having rehearsed the narrative of that glorious third day and all that followed in its wake, the litany reaches its apex in the Easter acclamation. With words left unuttered for 40 days, they yet ring forth with unmatched joy: "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

Service of the Word

At this point the lights, which had been candlelight alone or dimmed so as just to see what is needed, now come on full force. The bare altar, stripped on Maundy Thursday, now gets vested in gold for the Eucharistic feast. The hymn of praise resounds. And another service begins. The Gospel of our Lord's resurrection is read, while the ancient paschal homily of St. John Chrysostom proclaims the infinite mercy of our God, who is gracious and receives the last even as the first and who has become the firstfruits of all who sleep.

Service of the Sacrament

Finally, the church of God approaches the source and summit of all creation and redemption: the Sacrament of the Altar. Here is fulfilled what was proclaimed. Here the type gives way to reality, the shadow to the substance, the old to the new, and what was perishing to what remains forever. This is the night when heaven stoops to earth, for this is Christ. All that was stripped away for a time now returns — the alleluias and *Gloria Patri* ring out exuberantly. The Holy Communion is the end, the *telos*, but also the beginning, the *arche*. It is where we were always going, and at the same time, where we started.

The Easter Vigil dramatically symbolizes and delivers all that we believe, teach and confess. It is the resurrection. It is Baptism. It is the mystical union and life everlasting. Of course, so is every gathering of the faithful around Jesus. So, why the Easter Vigil? Because it is another opportunity to gather around Jesus and with Jesus. What sets it apart, perhaps, is the symbolic depth of its traditional rubrics. That is, there is a lot to see, taste, touch, smell and hear that all leads to the praise and glory of God and fills us with wonder. And whenever there is a chance to instill wonder and incite the imagination — especially of our children — toward what is true, good and beautiful, that is an opportunity not to be missed.

In the early Christian Church, the time of Lent was especially a time of Adult Catechesis (instruction) for new adult converts to the faith. The adult confirmands were often baptized during the Great Vigil of Easter and "kept vigil" through the night before they received communion at the sunrise service on the Feast of the Resurrection.

Martin Luther encouraged the practice of reviewing the Catechism during Lent. The Vigil of Easter service has been "revived" in the Lutheran Church for at least 25 years (my vicarage congregation did it in 2002, if not sooner). I would invite you to join us on Saturday, April 19th at 6:00pm to this incredibly moving service as the final day of worship for the Triduum (3 day) worship that starts on Maundy Thursday, continues through Good Friday, and concludes with the Easter Vigil.

Pastor Mark R. Drews

2025 Lenten Midweek Series
Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis

Ash Wednesday, March 5
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Covers Our Sin
Genesis 3:1-13, 21

Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 26
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Gives Himself in Our Place
Genesis 22:L1-18

Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 12
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Conquers Evil
Genesis 3:14-15

Lenten Service, Wednesday, April 2
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Unites Heaven and Earth
Genesis 28:10-22

Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 19
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Gives Us a New Beginning
Genesis 6

Lenten Service, Wednesday, April 9
The Good News of a Savior Who...
Brings Good from Evil
Genesis 50:15-21



Camp Cilca News

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 15
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Free will offering

Annual Banquet
Sunday, March 30
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
\$40.00 per person

Spring Work Day: A Spring Work Day will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We need help sweeping out buildings, raking leaves, and opening the beach shed. Lunch will be provided.

For more information of these events contact Camp Cilca at camp@cilca.org or call the office at 217-487-7497. Also, in celebration of Camp Cilca's 75th anniversary, all program sessions for Summer 2025 will be available for \$75.00 if you register before April 1.



Good Shepherd Lutheran School News

GSLS 19th Annual Benefit Auction "*Down on the Farm with Ewe*" is coming fast! Please get in your reservations soon! The auction will be held on **March 29, 2025** at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. All forms are due by March 14. Please remember to bring Cash Only for the bead game and the purse game with new GSLS logo tote bags! Can't wait to see you at the Embassy Suites!

Dine to Donate! The next Dining Out Night will be **Tuesday, March 18, 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**, at Texas Roadhouse in East Peoria. GSLS will receive a 10% donation to all diners who present a flyer. Flyers are available at the table below the screen in Room 10.

March Birthdays

March 2

Terry Knollenberg

March 3

Zachary Utke

March 4

Thomas Seidell

March 7

Bill Heren

Steven Koenig

March 8

John Williams

March 9

Hunter Anton

March 11

Lindsae Baldes

March 12

Donna Deverman

March 15

Dana Lowe

Nastacia Terrell

March 16

Josephine Sizemore

March 17

Raymond Knollenberg

March 18

Austin Juergens

March 20

Taylor Beccue

March 22

Melanie Miller

Alex O'Conner

March 25

Dylan Beccue

March 27

Evelyn Palmer

March 29

Lexi Brown

March 31

Stephanie Blatt

Chris Jones

March Anniversaries

March 7

Roger & Carol Simpson

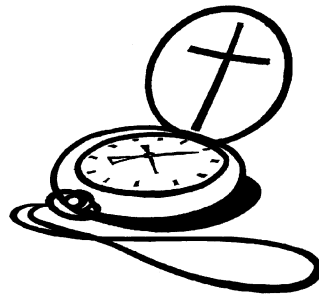
March 10

Brian & Jennifer Anton

March 21

Mark & Deb Suhs

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
begins on
Sunday, March 9.**

*Don't forget to set your clocks
ahead one hour before you go
to bed Saturday night.*

**February Sunday School
Perfect Attendance**

Congratulations to *Emily Anton* for having perfect Sunday School attendance during the month of February.



Lenten Fellowship

We are having cookie fellowship after each midweek Lenten service, *beginning with Ash Wednesday.* Trinity members are asked to bring one dozen cookies to the church kitchen before 5:30 p.m. on the Wednesday under which your name is listed below.

March 5

Abatie - Durham

March 12

Egli - Hand

March 19

Ingrassia -

Moldenhauer

March 26

Nash - Rochester

April 2

Schmidt - Zevnik

April 9

*Boards of Christian
Service & Evangelism*

Cajun Mission Meal: You are invited to celebrate "Fat Monday" on Monday, March 3, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran, Bath. You are invited to enjoy a wide variety of Cajun food and at the same time support our District's work with Spanish speaking people offering services at St. John's Lutheran Church of Beardstown, Illinois. The menu will include: jambalaya, etouffee, gumbo, muffuletta, red beans and rice, beignets, cold spinach salad, virgin hurricanes, and a wide variety of desserts all for a free will offering. For those using Google maps the church's address is:

10844 N Co Rd 1400 E
Bath, IL 62617

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	3	4 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	5 <i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> 6 PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	6 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	7	8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
9 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	10	11 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	12 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	13 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	14	15
16 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	17	18 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	19 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	20 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	21	22
23 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	24	25	26 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	27 7 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	28	29 GSLS 19TH ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION AT EMBASSY SUITES EAST PEORIA
30 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	31					

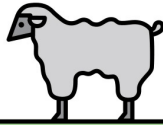
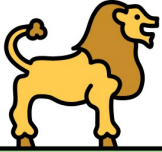


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 S. Fourth St.
Pekin, IL 61554

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(Return Service Requested)



MARCH

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5

6:00 p.m.

With the Imposition of Ashes

