

# Trinity Highlights

March 2026 Newsletter

309-346-1391 ~ www.trinitypekin.com

Rev. Mark Drews ~ 701-390-6073

## Stewardship Report:

<b>General Fund Report:</b>	January	Year to Date	Year to Date
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 13,716	\$ 13,716	\$19,331
Expenses	<u>24,916</u>	<u>24,916</u>	<u>27,705</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(11,200)	(11,200)	(8,374)

Giving in January was much less than projected due in part to bad weather causing lower than normal attendance. This may correct a bit in February as offerings normally given in January are caught up given the weather cooperates. Expenses were less than budgeted.

The General Fund balance at the end of January was \$279,391.07.

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

---

---

### Personal Care Kits

The Boards of Christian Service / Evangelism are hosting a service project during the Season of Lent. Personal Care Kits provides much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. They are used for those who must flee their home due to a natural disaster or those arriving in a refugee camp.

Each week of the Lenten season they are asking for donations of the following items:

February 25	Towels (20" to 27" x 40" to 52" - correct size found at Dollar General)
March 4	Bars of Soap (8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
March 11	One Adult Size Toothbrush (in original packaging)
March 18	One Sturdy Comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs)
March 25	One Metal Nail Clippers

There is a box in room 10 for your donations. Thank you for helping provide these Personal Care Kits.

## From the Pastor's Desk

*"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Dear Members at Trinity,

We've all done this sometimes, you know—acted a certain way when someone is watching. You've done it, haven't you? I know I have. It can be as simple as taking your foot off the accelerator when you see a police officer. It may also be the way you act when you're wanting to give a certain impression. Maybe when you're around a bunch of church people, you act very pious. And when you're around a group of people away from the church, your language becomes, shall we say, colorful.

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven". These words of Jesus sound pretty severe, don't they? They say, basically, if your righteousness—here that means how you act, as in, acting like a good person, your practice of outward acts that are supposed to flow from the faith within you—if your righteousness is nothing more than putting on a show, you will not get into heaven. Wow! I don't know about you, but to me that sounds pretty drastic.

And it also could seem to be pretty confusing. Jesus elaborates: "When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret". He says, "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret". Well, those sound okay. But how do we reconcile them with "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"? How do we reconcile doing things in secret with being a good Christian example? I've wondered about that concerning the topic of stewardship in the church. Isn't what we give—the money we give—a "good work"? And yet, most all congregations keep it a secret. I've only known of one congregation where giving was published—yes, that's right, *published*. Not just by envelope number, but by name! Many referred to it as a "scandal sheet." (It was my first call in rural Wisconsin) Yet Christian stewardship of all kinds, including the money we give, is a good work, is it not? How do we let our lights shine when we have to be secret? I know, I know! There are many other concerns that this raises! But think about it!

Do you remember the story about how Daniel got into trouble? It's written in Daniel chapter 6. Daniel had this habit of praying three times a day while facing the city of Jerusalem. He did this in full view of people. He did it in front of an open window. Apparently, everyone knew it. So when the king was manipulated into passing this law saying that anyone praying to any god but the king of Persia would be thrown into the lions' den, what did Daniel do? He went to his home and faced Jerusalem through his open window (yes, his *open* window) and prayed to God. As he had done every other day. He did it as a witness of his faith. But he did it in a situation where the wrong people seeing him could have him arrested and put into the lions' den.

So Daniel prays openly after hearing that it's illegal to pray to any being except the Persian king. And that begs the question: Why didn't he follow advice more like what Jesus gave here? Jesus said, "Do your praying in secret." Had Daniel just prayed in secret, he wouldn't have been arrested and spent the night in the lions' den. So is there a conflict here between what is said in one part of the Bible and another? Is it Daniel versus Christ? Is Jesus speaking in contradictory terms, saying in this text, "Do your good works in secret," while in another part of the Bible, he clearly says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"?

Of course, there's no contradiction here, either between Jesus and Daniel or in the words of our Lord himself. What we must examine here is a matter of *motivation*, what's in the heart—the inward drive or desire for what we do. Also, it is a matter of witness. In other words, what is our action saying, and why are we doing it? Daniel was in the habit of publicly praying as a deep expression of his love for God; further, his habit was to pray at an open window facing the city of God, Jerusalem. Had he refrained from doing that just because of who might be watching, it would give the impression that he was switching his worship from God to the Persian king because of the law that had just been passed. Even if Daniel crawled into his closet—similar to what Jesus is saying in this text—it would have given the wrong message, and Daniel wouldn't be true to his heart.

But when Jesus spoke these words, he was addressing the Pharisees. The Pharisees were considered by the people of that day as the most religious people around. And watching them in public, they looked like the most religious. Their actions were considered by many in that day to be a wonderful demonstration of godly behavior.

If you wanted to be a good person, if you wanted to be a godly person, if you wanted to show a life that was worthy of God, then you followed the example of the Pharisees. They were the best of the best. That was the thinking of the day. So why was Jesus being so harsh with them?

Jesus was not impressed with the Pharisees because he saw them for what they truly were. He called them hypocrites because their actions were all done for show, but in their hearts they believed something very different. They had godly actions without having godly hearts. And it's what's in a person's heart that determines his or her status before God.

Now, this is not to say that what we do is not important. What we do should be a reflection of who we are. What we do should be consistent with what is in our hearts. Remember when Jesus said that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit? He was illustrating the truth about good works. Works done from a heart of faith in Christ as Lord and Savior are truly *good* works.

But works, no matter how good they might look, done without faith in Christ, are not truly what the Bible would call good works. Jesus is clarifying that he looks for *authenticity*; a person's heart, being right with God, is displayed to you and me, who cannot see that person's heart, by the works the person does.

Here we are in the season of Lent. Lent has traditionally been a time when we take a good look at our lives and spend time contemplating the death of Jesus on the cross for our salvation. How is it with you and me? What kind of heart do we have? What kind of witness do we give to what is in that heart? Well, we first and foremost have to admit that we are sinners. And because we are sinners, we do bad things called sin.

I like to use this saying to make a point about sin and our relationship to sin. We sin because we are sinners; we are not called sinners because we sin. Let me repeat that. We sin because we are sinners; we are not called sinners because we sin. I know that sounds like I'm talking in a circle. But what it really is saying is this: We very often label people based on the kinds of things they do. Someone who is found drunk a lot because they drink too much we call a drunk. Someone who lies we call a liar. Someone who swindles people out of money or possessions we call a cheat. The person who steals is called a thief. These are labels that we put on people based on how they tend to act. And we know that every person does bad things—we call those bad things sin. But we are not labeled or identified as sinners because we sin; rather, we sin because we are sinners. It is the condition we are born into that came first—sin that comes through the generations since Adam and Eve. We are identified as sinners even before we've had a chance to do anything called sin. The name comes first. From the condition called sin flow the actions from us that are sinful. When we sin, we're being consistent with our inward nature. We're sinners, and so we do things flowing from our sinful condition, and those things are sinful.

But our sin—and our sinfulness—is exactly why Jesus went to the cross. He who had no sin was made sin for us; he took our sin upon himself and died with it. We are forgiven sinners, we are redeemed, we are saved. Martin Luther called the condition of the forgiven sinner *simul justus et peccator*. See, you just learned some Latin. *Simul justus et peccator*. It means “sinner” and “saint” at the same time.

And so, when we do good things, they should flow from the faith in God that is within our hearts. That shows we are locked in a perpetual struggle. We are sinful, and so moved to actions that are sinful; but we are saints, holy people of God by virtue of our baptism into Jesus' death on the cross that connects us into the righteousness of Christ. And that would seek to move us to live holy lives, doing holy things in service to God as a witness of the holiness that is within us.

Throughout Lent, then, we embark on a journey by faith with Jesus to the cross. Jesus came to bear our sin, to pay for that condition into which we each are born and into which we often stumble—that inbred defect that we call sin. In this season of Lent, we have opportunity to take a careful look at our lives. Who are we? We are God's saints. Yet every time we sin, we are being untrue to our status as saints, the godliness born in us in Baptism and renewed in us in Holy Communion. We are saints, people of God. God calls us to authenticity. He calls us to be genuine. We are saints. Live the life of a saint. See *Ourselves for What We Are so That Our Prayer and Practice Reflect the Heart of Saints*.

And know that when you stumble, you can come again and again to the forgiving, merciful face of God and receive from Jesus' cross love, forgiveness, and strength to do better next time. That will be the final destination of this, another season of Lent.

Pastor Mark R. Drews

---

## Trinity's Service Volunteers - March 2026

---

### ACOLYTES

03/01 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth  
**03/04 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown**  
03/08 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth  
**03/11 6:00 p.m. Lexi Brown**  
03/15 9:00 a.m. Lexi Brown  
**03/18 6:00 p.m. Ella Spaeth**  
03/22 9:00 a.m. Edith Spaeth  
**03/25 6:00 p.m. Edith Spaeth**  
03/29 9:00 a.m. Ella Spaeth

### BIBLE BREAKFAST HELPERS

#### **Pick-Up Donuts:**

03/01 Mike Seidell    03/22 *Open*  
03/08 *Open*            03/29 *Open*  
03/15 *Open*

#### **Prep Donuts, Make Coffee, Pour Juice:**

03/01 *Open*            03/22 *Open*  
03/08 *Open*            03/29 *Open*  
03/15 *Open*

### ALTAR GUILD

03/01 Lynn Brown / Debbie Fornoff  
03/15 Lynn Brown / Melissa Deverman  
03/29 Lauren Juergens / Cori Spaeth

### USHERS

03/01 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms  
**03/04 6:00 p.m. Dave Harms, Rich Janson**  
03/08 9:00 a.m. Chris Whitley, Rich Janson  
**03/11 6:00 p.m. Dave Harms, Chris Whitley**  
03/15 9:00 a.m. Brad Juergens, Dave Harms  
**03/18 6:00 p.m. Mike Seidell, Rich Janson**  
03/22 9:00 a.m. Mike Seidell, Rich Janson  
**03/25 6:00 p.m. Dave Harms, Chris Whitley**  
03/29 9:00 a.m. Owen Miller, Dave Harms

### ALTAR FLOWERS

03/01 Terry Knollenberg, *for his 79th birthday on March 2.*  
03/08 Betty Ingrassia, *in memory of Marty Ingrassia's March 4 birthday.*  
03/15 Don Nash, *in memory of Jim Nash's birthday on March 15.*  
03/22 Walter & Lynn Brown  
03/29 Palms for Palm Sunday

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS / READERS

03/01 Rob Fornoff    03/29 Rob Fornoff  
03/15 Brad Juergens

### READERS

03/08 Matt Deverman  
03/22 Mike Seidell



**ORDER  
DEADLINE  
Sunday, March 29**

---

Name _____
No. of Lilies _____ Amt enclosed _____
<b>In Memory Of:</b> _____

In celebration of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, we decorate our sanctuary with Easter lilies. The cost is \$18.00 per plant. Please return this form and money for the lily in your offering envelope marking it "Easter Lily."

**2026 Lenten Midweek Series**  
***Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus***

Lenten fellowship continues after each of the Lenten Services. 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.

**Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 4**

*The Good News of a God Who...*

*Sends a Deliverer*

Exodus 4:1-20

Cookies provided by: *Egli - Huey*

**Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 18**

*The Good News of a God Who...*

*Makes a Way for Us*

Exodus 14:5-31

Cookies provided by: *O'Conner - Whitley*

**Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 11**

*The Good News of a God Who...*

*Passes over Us in Mercy*

Exodus 12:1-14

Cookies provided by: *Ingrassia - Nash*

**Lenten Service, Wednesday, March 25**

*The Good News of a God Who...*

*Sustains on Our Journey*

Exodus 16:1-18, 35

Cookies provided by: *Boards of  
Christian Service / Evangelism*



**Holy Week Schedule**

**Sunday, March 29**

Palm Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, April 1**

Passover / Seder Meal - 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 2**

Maundy Thursday Service - 6:00 p.m.  
*with Holy Communion*

**Friday, April 3**

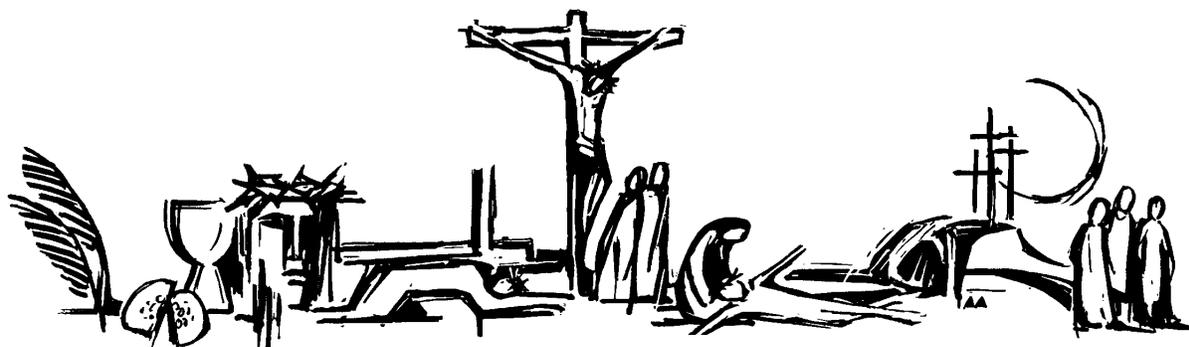
Good Friday Service - 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 4**

Holy Saturday Service - 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 5**

Easter Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.



## March Birthdays

### March 2

Terry Knollenberg

### March 3

Zachary Utke

### March 4

Steve Abbott  
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

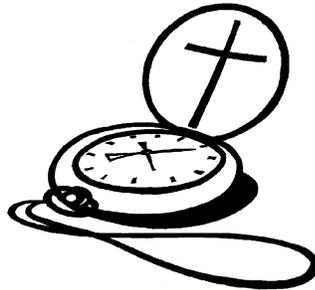
### March 10

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 7.

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

## February Sunday School Perfect Attendance

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

## Easter Cards

Please remember our shut-ins this Easter by sending them an Easter card.

### At Charter Senior Living of Pekin:

Norma Rebuffoni  
2700 S. 14th St., Apt. 207

Loraine Weyhrich  
2700 S. 14th St., Room 201

### At Lutheran Hillside Village:

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

### At Home:

Joan McDonough  
916 Easling Ct.  
Pekin, IL 61554

Jeanine Meyers  
1111 Caspian Dr.  
Pekin, IL 61554

Delores Shafer  
2210 Sunset Dr.  
Pekin, IL 61554

Robin Thompson  
17298 Lake Knolls Rd.  
Pekin, IL 61554



A Seder (Passover) Meal will take place Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., during Holy Week. Volunteers are needed to prepare food for the Seder Meal. Listed below are the dishes needed. Pastor Drews suggests doubling the recipes. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in Room 10 along with the recipes. Seder meal recipes can also be found on-line, however, no recipes that include beef or chicken.

**There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Room 10 for those planning on attending the Seder (Passover) Meal so we know how much food needs to be prepared.**

Choco-Carmel Matzo Brittle	Crispy Smashed Potatoes with Caper Gremolata	Matzo Ball Soup	Potato Kugel
Coconut Macaroons	Flourless Chocolate Cake	Matzo Icebox Cake	Potato Salad with Vinaigrette
Coriander-Maple Glazed Carrots	Green Beans with Olive-Almond Tapenade	Matzo Toasts	Roasted Carrots and Red Onions
Crispy Roasted Potatoes	Herb-Roasted Root Vegetables	Pimiento-Cheese Deviled Eggs	Vanilla Roasted Sweet Potatoes

### “Did You Know?”

by Peoria Area Lutherans for Life

*Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life.*



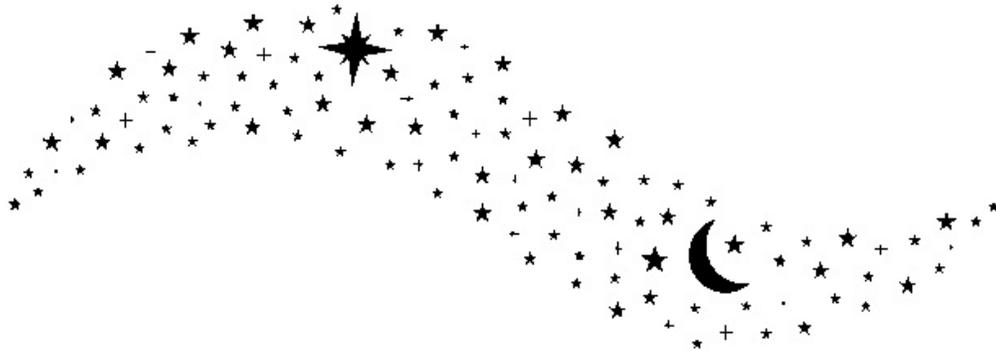
Just one egg. That one egg is only viable for 12-24 hours. Millions of sperm start the very arduous journey. Only a few hundred survive. They all work together producing enzymes to break down the egg’s protective barrier. Once one sperm breaks through the barrier, the egg immediately changes to block all the others. Evolution? Luck? Intricately woven by God Himself, every human being is beautifully complex in body and soul. (Psalm 139:13-16).



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

### **Save the Dates!**

- **Friday, March 6 - Saturday, March 7 - Women's Retreat**  
Calling all ladies! The retreat theme is "Pew Sisters" Come and celebrate our true sisterhood - our pew sisterhood! The guest speaker is Mrs. Katie Schuermann. You can join us overnight for \$100 and stay in the Christian Growth Center or just come for the conference for \$75.00 Registration information is available at <https://www.cilca.org/womens-retreat.html>
- **Saturday, March 14 - Work Day & Pancake Dinner**  
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Help get the campground ready for Spring & Summer fun!  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Free pancakes for all!
- **March 31: Early Bird Discount Ends!**  
Registration is open for Camp Cilca's summer programs. Check out the flyers on the table in Room 10 for information or contact Camp Cilca at 217-487-7497. Sign-up before midnight on March 31 to save 10% off every week of camp!



### **Good Shepherd Lutheran School's 20th Annual Benefit Auction**

**Saturday March 21, 2026**

*"A Starry Night with Ewe"*

Embassy Suites Ball Room

100 Conference Center Dr. East Peoria, IL 61611

Silent auction begins at 4:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres served, followed by dinner and live auction

Tickets are \$55.00 per person

Contact the school office for ticket information

or visit: [onecau.se/gsls20th](http://onecau.se/gsls20th) auction

◀ February	March 2026						April ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>2</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>3</b> 6 PM BOARDS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - EVANGELISM	<b>4</b> 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>5</b> 6 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR	
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>9</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM GSLS BOARD	<b>11</b> 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>12</b> 1:30 PM CONCORDIA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>16</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>17</b> 6 PM BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	<b>18</b> 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>19</b> 6 PM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>23</b> 2:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:45 PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 6 PM LENTEN SERVICE 7 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>26</b> 6 PM BOARD OF ELDERS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b> <i>Palm            Sunday</i> 9:00 AM WORSHIP/ COMMUNION 10:15 AM S.S. & BIBLE CLASS	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					



Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Pekin, IL  
Permit No. 100