

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 11

November 2007

Images of November

The old cathedrals and churches in Europe share in common thick stone walls supported by buttresses. They stand as sentinels on the landscape of faith.

The witness cultivated in these communities of faith sent their children across the globe carrying the message of the gospel for planting in new places. Every so often, these walls are cleaned or repainted, repaired or replaced, and in doing this work, stories are uncovered. Layer after layer of dirt and dust have covered beautiful etchings and frescos from other ages. At the same time, these walls have also withstood plagues and strife, the ravages of war and famine, and they have lived through centuries of human error and deceit. A haunting phrase in Swedish, "Om bara dessa väggar kunde tala" translates "if only these walls could speak," but in any language, the inference is the same: these stone walls have witnessed the church in the worst of times.

In important and paradoxical ways, these stone walls have also held the church together throughout the ages. In much the same pattern, the gathered assembly in this time and place has faced trial and tribulation, yet has been sustained by a rock that will never falter. The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

As the church moves into November time, the procession of the faithful returning to gravestones is a lasting reminder of those who have gone before and by their witness have helped to sustain the church. Etched into memory and written into tablets of human hearts, our loved ones give us a living faith even in their dying. A cemetery walk at this time of year helps the members of its community ground itself in a story that extends far beyond what normally seems visible. At the graves, the faithful stand at the gate to eternal life. In this way, the church begins its move toward the end of the year, toward the fulfillment of all time, toward the culmination of twelve months of God's grace.

We remember that in every place, but certainly at the grave and in the church, the common prayers of the people have been shared. Our Kyries are a cry for peace. At times of grief and loss, we realize poignantly how prayer unites a people, even if the prayer consists of only a few words or even simple silence. This is counterintuitive to a culture that depends on convincing its members of the value of things through blizzards of word and image. The November church would do well to hold to silence in remembering the past. The task of laying to rest the past becomes an important metaphor in this time before Advent.

Christ the King, Christ the Servant is the cornerstone, the rock on which the church is not only built but continues to rest. Judgment cannot be denied, nor ought it be feared. The judging time of the church ushers in the righteous One of Israel whose clearest commitment is to lead to forgiveness and justice.

The church is God's house of living stones. Here we discover an interesting paradox. The stones of the church upon which the faithful promise their lives are enduring and unmovable, and yet, at the same time, the church needs to fight against being unmoving and inflexible. The liturgy of the church provides an important model for this dichotomy of needs. Stable and predictable while being adaptable and changeable, the liturgy embodies the paradox and holds it in tension. Sunday after Sunday, the church gathers around the word and table, the font and the prayers to be sent in mission to a dying world. Within this stability, hymns and texts, homilies and prayers provide a variety and surprise that make the church grounded and able to reach out at the same time.

Perhaps the holding together of last things as first things, of endings as beginnings, and of death as a rebirth gives us Glorias as well. In the strains of a hymn of praise, we move toward being able to celebrate a victory that comes not only through death but also over death itself.

Even the stones will cry out with the promise of responding to injustice and challenging inequity. A stone might seem an unlikely symbol of risk, yet this important biblical image assists in crossing over to a promised land. The journey is made over uneven ground, strewn with everything from pebbles to boulders, yet in just a few weeks the church will be reminded that the valleys shall be lifted up and the rough places made plain. November liturgy helps a community to see intimately the landscape of faith.

This time of closure for the church has the shape of the valley of the shadow of death. The promise that God's rod and staff will be present allows those who mourn to be comforted. Healing services at this time of year can help prepare for the upcoming Advent fast. The more opportunities to confront loss, the greater the chance to grow and mature into a fuller life in Christ.

A stone rests on the edge of a grave marker, the church is built upon the rock of faith, and all who come to know Jesus Christ remember that when Moses touched the rock, living water burst forth. Running water murmuring over the layered bedrock reminds the believing community of the dynamic and provocative promise of God. Bread and wine with the promise of God become resurrection feast, recalling that the stone was rolled away and we are no longer enclosed and trapped in our self-imposed prisons.

If these walls could speak, the saving gospel sound would be mingled with the prayers of countless pilgrims trusting in the promises of God.

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/02 Beulah Weid, Wyatt Fecht
11/03 Barb Duffy
11/04 Adrian Creasy, Paul Ewing
11/05 Jesse Disney
11/06 Larry Ellefritz, James Ufkes
11/08 Donna High
11/09 Dave Hartweg, Caroline Hartweg,
Evelyn Briley
11/10 Bob Fecht, Naomi Jurgens
11/11 Sandi Morrison
11/13 Dale Galloway
11/14 Carl A. Hartweg, Dillon Darbyshire
11/16 Mandy Bruns
11/17 Sarah Donley
11/18 Jacqueline Galloway
11/19 Susan Holloway
11/20 Marjorie Harrell, Paul Hartweg
11/23 Phyllis Housewright
11/24 Brigham Duffy
11/25 Alan Housewright, Else Aden
11/26 Bill Fecht
11/28 Kenny Gronewold, Suzy Holtsclaw

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/03 Jerry & Sharon Ideus
11/04 Paul & Marcia Ewing
11/06 Tim & Mandy Bruns
11/10 Merlin & Jolene Gronewold
11/14 Gary & Sarah Donley
11/18 Joel & Tanna Ellefritz
11/21 Elton & Doris Holtsclaw
11/24 Rick & Debbie Johnson
11/25 John & Jackie Adkins
11/29 Lance & Stephanie Stott,
Dave & Diana Harrison

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS BY HEALTH MINISTRIES TEAM

The nurses of Trinity will be doing blood pressure checks for the congregation on the second Sunday of each month in the Welcome Center. These checks will be held before and after church.

COMMITTEE NIGHT

Committee Night is Tuesday, November 6.
The following meeting has been scheduled:
7:00 Evangelism Committee

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of September 30, 2007

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$101,740
Amt. Received YTD - \$96,068
Amt. Spent YTD - \$93,539
Current Fund Balance - \$2,093

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$16,930
Amt. Received YTD - \$15,667

Thank you for your faithful giving as together we live out our mission of Celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people!

TRINITY PRAYER MINISTRY

This **ministry at Trinity** is for anyone who wants to join us in prayer one day a week. Come to the Welcome Center at **7:00 a.m.** on Wednesday mornings. Prayer request slips are located in the pew racks. They may be filled out and put in the collection plates, or you may call Connie Schulz (357-6667) or the church office (357-2468) to request prayer. These names are used for the Prayer Ministry only and not in the prayer chain or Sunday morning prayers. Together we live out our congregation's mission of celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people.

DONATIONS FOR SHEPHERD'S PANTRY

The food pantry could use the following items that aren't always available each month from the state food pantry system:

Boxes of dry milk
Cans/jars of spaghetti sauce
Pancake batter
Syrup
Fruits and Vegetables

Shepherd's Pantry would appreciate any donations that members are able to make. Thank you for your help.

WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

As of September 30, 2007, the amount paid toward the Welcome Center totals \$406,054. Of this amount, \$27,448 was given through September 30, which compares to \$33,882 given through September 2006. Total cost of the project was \$548,653 plus interest to date of \$20,494.63. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$29,000 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$161,000. Let's continue to work together as we pay down our debt as quickly as possible. An extra dollar paid now will save over twenty-five cents in interest over the next five years. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. **Together**, we are living out our congregation's missions of Celebrating Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's people.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The youth group has been meeting the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month since September. In October they had a wiener roast at the Stott house and had election of officers. The new President is Zach Lemley, Vice-President/Recorder is Alex Bentzinger and Secretary/Treasurer is Chris Snyder, the church council member is Ryan Schardon. If you have any ideas for servant projects, fund raisers or activities for Trinity's youth feel free to talk to any of these young people. The sponsor/advisors for the youth group are Jason Hartweg and Lance & Stephanie Stott. The youth would like to invite all high school and post high school youth and their friends to the twice-monthly Bible study. They are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. at the parish hall.

THANK YOU

The members of the Panty Board extend a heartfelt thank you to the confirmation class and members of Trinity for the outpouring of food supplies and cash donated during September and October. You are helping ensure that the pantry can continue to serve the needs of families in the county. God Bless you all. Shepherd's Pantry Board

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

Malyssa Galloway
Robertson Hall
Cottey College
Nevada, MO 64772

Ashton Gronewold
603 Newcastle Court – Apt. D
Rolla, MO 65401

Brooke Gronewold
918 N. Charles St. – Apt. 100
Macomb, IL 61455

Jared Schwartz
1347 N. Lincoln Ave. #3050
Urbana, IL 61801

Ramo Stott
Atkin Hall, Room 759
Normal, IL 61761

Suzan Stott
#1 College Hill
MSC # 1139
Canton, MO 63435

If you have a student attending college this year and want their address listed you may call the office, leave a note in Denise's mailbox or send an e-mail to oldtrinity@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who continues to donate food, help unload the River Bend Food Bank truck, and volunteer during the hours the pantry is open. We are able to operate and serve others with your generous contributions of time and donations. Thank you very much.

Marcia McGaughey

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, so if you are interested in singing, please join us!

STEWARDSHIP PACKETS & BANQUET

Packets are available to be picked up in the Welcome Center. The Stewardship Banquet will be held on Sunday, November 18. We will be meeting immediately following worship for brunch during coffee hour. Please remember to bring you stewardship packet to turn in!

ASSISTING MINISTERS NEEDED!

The new schedule for Assisting Ministers is soon due and I am looking for new recruits! The responsibilities of the Assisting Minister include writing and offering prayers, singing or saying liturgical responses and invitations, helping distribute the bread and wine, and dismissing the congregation at the end of the service. From my own experience in assisting during the worship service, I can say that it is an opportunity to better understand the Lutheran Order of Worship and to grow in spiritual enrichment and deepening faith. If you are interested in this ministry and leadership role, please call the church office or speak to me. I would be glad to meet with you to talk about crafting prayers and answer any other questions you might have.

Linley Bartell, Chair of Worship & Music

CRAFTS & BAKED GOODS SALE

Along with the craft items sale, we want to include baked goods (love those cookies!). The sale went very well last year, raising over \$500 for the Habitat for Humanity general fund. But at this time of year more families are in need of a few more groceries so we decided to donate the proceeds from this year's sale to the Shepherd's Pantry. We had a good response for donated items last year, and hope we can have an equally, or even better!, response this year.

Please bring your items for sale to the Welcome Center by 3:00 Thursday, November 29, and attach a tag showing the price.

We plan on having cheese and crackers, coffee and hot chocolate, to snack on while browsing!

If you have any questions, please contact someone on the Evangelism Committee: Pastor Hale, Marcia & Paul Ewing, Judy Hartweg, Ron Schulz, Sandy & John Peterson

THANK YOU

This past Thursday, as he has done for many years, Wayne Fecht took items for Lutheran World Services to Bloomington. He takes the items for all of the area Lutheran churches and we are so thankful for what he quietly does year after year. Thank you, Wayne!

SCHOOL KITS

This year the Women of Trinity sent off 90 school kits, 92 comforters/quilts, and one box of bar soap. Not many of the women take part in the sewing anymore, but the whole church takes part by filling the school bags with supplies and by bringing in bar soap, as well as giving us fabric, old blankets and mattress pads. Thank you for helping us with these projects. Lutheran World Services is no longer accepting old clothing, so we are no longer collecting clothing for missions in the sewing room. However, if you have old clothing that could be cut up into quilt blocks, we are accepting that: old jeans, polyester pants, heavier cotton shirts and skirts. If you can see through the fabric or if it is really stretchy, it is not suitable for quilt blocks. If you leave materials in the sewing room, please put your name on the sack or box so we can thank you.

Any of you are always invited to attend sewing on Mondays from 9 am until after lunch. Just come and bring a sack lunch. You do not need to sew, but can help with marking, cutting, putting together and tying. Any of you who cannot attend sewing circle but would like to help are invited to take home a "quilt kit" – a sack of blocks needing to be sewn and do it in your home whenever you have time. We will be able to help you with directions if you have not done one before. See Wilma Fecht, Jackie Adkins, Sandy Peterson or Ruby Habben if you have any questions.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

On Sunday, November 4, we will be starting rehearsal for the Children's Sunday School Christmas Program. Practice will start at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and will end promptly at 6:00. Our program will be presented on Sunday, December 23 during

worship service. We would like to invite all 1st thru 6th graders to participate!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

Council members present were Dave Hartweg, Tammy Snyder, Pastor Hale, John Dittmer, Brent Ufkes, John Schwartz, John Peterson, Angie Fecht. Absent were Linley Bartell, Jodi Miller, Ryan Schardon, Max Gronewold.

Brent Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions and opening prayer led by Pastor Hale.

Minutes of August 16, 2007 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by John Peterson. Seconded by John Schwartz. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report – Report reviewed. Motion to approve by John Schwartz and seconded by John Peterson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Report reviewed. Motion to approve by John Schwartz, seconded by Angie Fecht. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Jennifer Menn has been working as the CLASP co-director. Motion was made by John Schwartz, seconded by Dave Hartweg, to hire her for the co-director position pending a successful background check. Motion carried.

Angie reported that there were two options for confirmation camps: one at Augustana and one at LOMC. A comparative sheet showed the two options. Augustana is where Trinity has attended the majority of times. Angie reported 15 kids for camp this year. Following a discussion on the two camps, a motion was made by Angie Fecht, seconded by Pastor Hale, to attend the camp at Augustana. Motion carried.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – No report.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – The committee has scheduled a bake and craft sale at the Welcome Center during the Christmas Open

House on the square. Proceeds will go to the Food Pantry. A similar type sale was successfully held last year during this time and the committee wished to do it again this year.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy reported that the finance committee did not meet in September, but did plan to meet on Tuesday, October 2. Investments continue to do well.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – A request had been made to use money from the Memorial fund for a new sound system. Quotes on a new sound system to include audio and video would be desired. The cry room still does not have a sound system, so this too should be included in bids. There was a discussion on sound needs, potential trends and needs. Immediate need is for a system, which can reproduce tapes or CD's for shut-ins. John Schwartz suggested a 3-phase estimate: 1) the welcome center and church; 2) video ability; 3) education building.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – Tammy reported that the blood drive was well attended and did well with both walk ins and sign ups. Monthly blood pressure checks continue to occur. The health ministry has also taken on the monthly birthdays at the nursing home and served several cakes this month. It is believed that this service occurs annually.

Stewardship (John Schwartz) – The Stewardship banquet is historically scheduled for the 3rd Sunday in November, which would be November 18. Some discussion on the speaker and format ensued.

Call Committee – Brent thanked everyone for his or her participation and stated the profile had been completed and submitted.

Pastor Report – Pastor Hale indicated that there was a good response from persons signing up to be hosts of the Cottage Meetings, but not as good a response for persons attending. He encouraged all council members to sign up if they had not

done so already. The sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center. Pastor Hale also encouraged council members to attend the adult Sunday school class meeting. The focus is on planning the new future for Trinity.

Pastor Hale reported that Frances Swarbrick had sent a letter about remodeling the church towers to original design. The tower fund continues to grow, but is nowhere near what the cost would be. Before the tower could be remodeled, several maintenance issues would have to be addressed. The basement and foundation issues were then discussed. Pastor Hale reported that the relatives of Agnes Geissler had met with him and were very happy how her gifts to the church were being handled.

Pastor Hale asked the council to communicate with him when deaths or hospitalizations occurred.

The Council suggested Pastor Hale's hours be posted in the bulletin. He indicated he plans to be in the office every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:45 to 5:00 and will communicate with Denise any changes in his schedule.

Old Business – Regional Parish Update –

Pastor Hale stated that Ron Schulz and Minor Garrelts attended the meeting on September 29. The session at Camp Point was well received and attended.

Welcome Center Pledges – The Welcome Center 3-year pledge commitment is almost done. \$164,000 remains to be paid. The interest on the loan goes up in January. There was a general discussion of how to tackle this financial commitment, be it another three year pledge drive or otherwise.

John Schwartz reported that the food bank had not been awarded a financial grant from Riverbend Food but had received a food grant. The surplus is to be stored in the garage as weather permits.

Brent Ufkes reported that there is a program through the world resource bank where urban and rural churches hook up. There is a certain amount of crop reserved for world

hunger from the farmers and the input costs are covered by the urban churches.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for October 18 at 7 p.m.

Recorded by Kathy Graham

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation 2007-2008 started in August with a kick-off cookout and swim with parents and students. 15 students attend every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday evening along with 3 sets of group leaders, Tom & Suzy Holtsclaw, Diana Harrison and Dean & Angie Fecht. Our long time confirmation leader, Tim Snyder, is again doing a fantastic job helping to teach our youth along with Pastor Hale. The focus for the fall semester is Old Testament study.

Service projects are also a part of our class. In September, we helped the Senior Center serve a fund raising dinner and provided items for their bake sale. Thanks to Diana Harrison for being our adult sponsor that day. In September – October we joined with the Shepherd's Pantry in a fall food drive. Our altar was full of much needed food items for those needing some assistance in our community. Thanks to all who helped carry the many items and stock the shelves. Our Confirmation curriculum also includes fun as well as learning events. October 19-20, Suzy Holtsclaw and Angie Fecht took 10 students to a Confirmation Camp Reunion at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Springfield. The kids were excited to meet up with friends from other churches that had also gone to camp last summer. Many new friends were made as well. Worship, fellowship, games, food and a service project filled the night and early morning hours. It was great fun!!

In December, we will help deliver Christmas food baskets thru out Hancock County, so watch for details to come.

God's Holy Spirit is with us each time we gather. Please continue to prayer that our hearts and minds are open and listening to his message.