

TRINITY'S GOOD

Volume 9 Issue 4

IMAGES OF THE SEASON--EASTER

What image comes to mind when you think of Easter--Jesus getting up and walking out of the tomb? Actually, none of the resurrection stories gives a detailed description of what happened in the tomb, other than to say that the Crucified One was raised. We are not told that the hand of God reached into the tomb to jostle Jesus from his death sleep, or that the Holy Spirit came into the tomb to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. Whatever happened in that tomb was something beyond human understanding. So the primary image for Easter is a profound absence: just the empty tomb itself.

Matthew gives additional details about the entombment of Jesus that enhance our understanding of the resurrection. He relates how the Jewish religious authorities requested that the tomb be sealed and that guards be posted, so that the body could not be stolen and the claim made that Jesus had been raised. Jesus became a prisoner of the tomb. But it is death itself, not the guards, who is the jailer. Fittingly, in the Easter hymn "Come, you faithful, raise the strain" we sing that "Christ has burst his prison" (st. 2).

Of course the rolling away of the stone did not release Jesus from the tomb, for he had already been raised and gone ahead of the disciples to Galilee. In the resurrection Jesus transcended time, space, and death--those things that limit human existence. So the stone was not rolled away for Jesus, but for the disciples and for us. We need to see the evidence that the "right hand of the Lord has triumphed" (Ps. 118:16) in raising Jesus so that we might believe, and through believing "have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Jesus' victory over death is but a foretaste of God's final victory over death in the age to come. Isaiah anticipates God's ultimate defeat of death (25:7) when he speaks of God destroying "the shroud that is cast over all peoples" and swallowing up death forever. Death having been defeated, the only thing left for God's people to do is to throw a big celebration, replete with the best food and wine. Each repetition of the Lord's

supper anticipates the new life of the end-time, and the risen Lord comes again to share with us the gifts of eternal life in the bread and wine, which are his own body and blood.

Other images for the Easter season remind us that Jesus' victory over death was not for his sake alone--a divine tour de force--but was for us and for our salvation. Jesus' resurrection is the precondition for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is also the precondition for our new birth as God's sons and daughters destined to receive a permanent inheritance (1 Peter 1:4), and for our being ransomed from the ways of sin and death with Christ's own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The good shepherd image of John 10 is also one that we associate with Easter, specifically, the fourth Sunday of Easter. Why Easter? The reason is that Jesus can only be our good shepherd insofar as he himself has conquered death. He lays down his life (that is, sacrifices himself) for his sheep, but he takes it up again, and he can share the power of eternal life with the sheep who hear his voice (10:10, 28). Only the one who has conquered death can be the guardian of God's sheep.

Jesus' victory over the grave is completed in the ascension and at the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus ascends not just to another place, but to another age, the future reign of God where sin and death have no power. As the one who conquered death, Jesus ascends to take his rightful place in the dominion where the power of eternal life has full sway. Jesus takes his place in the future reign of God for us. He pours out his Spirit on the church to empower it for mission in the world (Acts 1:8), and through the sacramental means of grace--proclamation of the word, the meal of thanksgiving, and the cleansing and renewing bath--Jesus comes in the power of the Holy Spirit to incorporate us into the reign of God. The risen Lord, death's conqueror, gives us a share in what will be our future glory with him.

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April Birthdays

4/01 Stephanie Stott
4/03 Heather Stevenson
4/05 Pastor Greg Busboom, Anne Ufkes
4/06 Randy Geissler
4/07 Lance Stott, Rod McGaughey
4/08 Ashley Harrison
4/09 Tyler Ufkes, Zach Lemley
4/13 Edith Galloway
4/14 Scott Harrison
4/15 Austin Ufkes
4/16 Nathan Wisehart, David Harrell
4/17 Crista Rainford
4/20 Dustin Ellefritz
4/22 Andy Redenius, Erin Markham
4/24 Gerrie Harrison, Travis Ufkes,
Ryan Biery
4/25 Denver Smith
4/28 Sally Swank, Margaret Rosenboom
4/29 Susan Pennebaker

April Anniversaries

4/09 Tadd & Carrie Markham
4/15 Rick & Lori Wildrick
4/22 Loren & Connie Schulz
4/24 Jim & Lori Ufkes

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.

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!

Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, April 1. No meetings have been scheduled at this time.

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$23,938
Amt. Received YTD - \$26,362
Amt. Spent YTD - \$19,338
Current Fund Balance - \$12,617

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$3,106
Amt. Received YTD - \$3,146

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!

Welcome Center Update

As of March 23, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$355,710. Of this amount \$14,449 was given through March 23, which compares to \$12,933 given through March 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653 plus interest to date of \$23,352.97. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$37,461 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$119,239. In addition there are \$62,000 of our own funds on loan to the Welcome Center. On January 10, 2008 the construction loan ended and our payments now are due monthly in the amount of \$2,412.29. Let's continue to work together as we pay down our debt as quickly as possible.

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.



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.

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.

News From Our Sponsored Children

Dear Sponsors, Trinity Lutheran Church,
I hope that you are enjoying good health. Thank you for the gift of money you sent me for my birthday, US \$10, Bs 75.15. With that money I bought myself a pair of shoes to wear them with a dress and they are in fashion here.

I am so glad since I passed to a new class. I am in junior class. I am also working looking after a baby girl. I like babies. My mother's health is somewhat delicate and I am so worried but she is glad since I will be 17 years. She tells me that her former child is very young now and she wants to see me getting a professional degree. I close now with many kisses and hugs.

With love, Silvia Update on Trinity's Organ

Have you noticed that the organ sometimes produces some sour notes? Have you heard a kind of screeching sound? These discordant sounds are not the fault of our organist!

As organs go, the organ at Trinity has been reasonable to maintain, but the sixty-year old electrical components are now experiencing replacement and repair issues. John Basinger tunes the organ regularly, but lately we've had to call him more frequently for repairs on dead notes and other maintenance issues.

Many of the problems that the organ has came about when there wasn't carefully regulated temperature control or air conditioning in the church. The organ is very sensitive to temperature changes. We need to do something soon to ensure that we have this organ for another sixty years. What is it worth? You may be surprised to learn that our organ is worth about \$157,000 to replace in kind. So we need to treat it with respect and protect it from further deterioration.

With this in mind, the council has invited Rodney Levsen of Levsen Organ Company in Buffalo, Iowa to explain what he sees are the problems with our organ, and what he recommends be done about them. Anyone who is interested in learning more about our organ, and what might be done to restore it to its former glory, is invited to stay after church on Sunday, April 6. We will meet with Mr. Levsen at 10:30 in the sanctuary.

I encourage you to attend this session with Mr. Levsen. The more we know about the organ and the better informed we are, the better we will be able to make good decisions later about how to proceed.

Linley Bartell, Chairman Worship & Music



Church Council Highlights March 13, 2008

Council members present were Brent Ufkes, Jody Miller, David Hartweg, Ryan Schardon, John Peterson, Angie Fecht, Merlin Gronewold, Tammy Snyder & Linley Bartell. Absent were Pastor Hale, Kathy Graham, John Dittmer & John Schwartz.

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of February 21, 2008 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by John Peterson. Seconded by Linley Bartell. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Petitions or Communications: Brent shared a thank you letter from Sheriff John Jefferson for a donation to the child safety and drug prevention program.

Financial Secretary's Report – Report dated February 29 was reviewed. Motion to approve by David Hartweg and seconded by Jody Miller. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Report dated February 29 was reviewed. A recommendation was made for Pastor's car allowance to be submitted monthly. Motion to approve by Jody Miller. Seconded by Angie Fecht. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – No report.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – No report.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – Jody stated that soup suppers have ended and thanked those that hosted during Lenten services.

Sunday fellowship is covered for a couple of weeks.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – No report.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – No report.

Property (John Schwartz) – No report.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – Tammy reported she has spoken with Connie Schulz regarding a card program at the Carthage Terrace.

No meals have been served from the social ministry team as no requests have been shared.

Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley met with Rod Levenson regarding a review of the organ repairs needed. A lot of the issues have to do with wear due to age. Mr. Levenson has offered an educational session to discuss the repairs needed. Once repairs started it would take approximately 2 months until completion. Possible dates for Linley to schedule the suggested program were April 6 or 13.

Families are still needed to house students for the Luther Collegiate Choir concert on April 17. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – Ryan discussed the building project. He will meet with contractors, share the youth ideas and present the proposal at the next council meeting if possible.

The youth will be holding bible study this Sunday evening and then attending the "Living Water" praise band concert in Nauvoo at 7 p.m. It was suggested that the Evangelism committee try to get the praise band to perform here at Trinity. John Peterson will follow-up.

Ryan stated that the youth currently have no summer trips planned and at this time plan to use their time working on the basement.

Call Committee – Brent stated he has spoken with the Bishop; however, as stated Sunday there has been no action yet.

Pastor's Report – Brent shared the following items:

1. The Regional/Geographical Parish Meeting is scheduled for March 27 at Immanuel Lutheran at 7 p.m. Pastor would like to have a few council members attend. If interested, contact Pastor Hale.
2. Confirmation camp – Only two registration forms have been returned to date. It was noted that the deadline date on the form is May 15.
3. Jennifer Hartweg and Joel have been assigned to this Synod and will graduate in May from seminary.
4. A Joint Council Retreat may be scheduled sometime in May.
5. Lester Lantz is at the Veteran's Home.
6. A confirmation retreat may be held in late April.

Old Business – Signage: Brent stated that some concern was expressed recently from visitors that could not find their way around. John Peterson shared that Gary Vest is working on making signs; however, it is taking some time as they are being handmade. It was recommended to have the signs for both Pastor's office and Denise's office stick out to be viewed down the hallway. More people are using the church facilities and are unfamiliar with the layout.

New Business – Food Resource Bank: Brent stated the meeting Sunday was well received. A follow-up meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. to start finalizing plans to proceed. All available are encouraged to attend.

Meeting Date Changed: The April council meeting was rescheduled for April 10 at 7 p.m. due to a conflict on April 17. (Luther Collegiate Choir is performing in Keokuk April 17 at 7 p.m.)

Scouting for Food: Ryan Schardon noted that the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts are having their annual Scouting for Food collection this weekend. Donations are being made to the Shepherd's Pantry. He will be here to assist with dropping off of food donations.

Building Lock-up: It was noted that the church has been left unlocked on several occasions. Please remember to lock up when done. Brent shared that one of the hex keys is also missing. If found, please return to office. (Key has been returned.)

Table in Welcome Center: John Peterson stated they would like to see the table be left set up in the Welcome Center for blood pressure checks, etc.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. by Linley Bartell. Seconded by David Hartweg. No further discussion. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorded by Jody Miller
Council Secretary

FAMILY News

"Family News" is a place where we can celebrate together the many good things that are happening in the lives of Trinity's members and friends. We hope to include news about all of our members and their families. To submit good news, please call Denise at the church office (357-2468) or send an e-mail to oldtrinity@hotmail.com. This is yet another way we are **caring for each other**.

***Taryn Geissler** was involved in state music contest and received a 2 on her duet and a 2 on her solo. Congrats, Taryn!

Hosts Needed for Luther College Chorale

Luther College Collegiate Chorale will be performing a concert in Keokuk on Thursday, April 17. We need volunteers to house and feed choir members. If you would be willing to host, please sign up in the Welcome Center or let Pastor Hale or Denise know.

Thank You

Shepherd's Pantry wants to extend a huge thank you for the recent cash donation for the Pantry. With you continuing support we are able to keep the shelves supplied with food items. Our working together to help feed people is truly a testimony of our congregation's dedication to serving God's people.

Marcia McGaughey, Shepherd's Pantry

Great Rivers Laity Prayer Retreat

May 2nd & 3rd, 2008

Toddhall Retreat Center

Plan now to be a part of this inaugural laity prayer retreat to be held in the midst of God's beautiful creation. Nestled in the woods near Cahokia, Toddhall Retreat Center, Columbia, IL offers a scenic and peaceful setting for fellowship and communion with the Lord. Participants will enjoy time together devoted to glorifying God through study, reflection, renewal, and prayer.

The cost of \$65 per participant includes lodging and meals. Registration is limited. Reservations must be received no later than Friday, April 18. For more information, contact Melissa Idleman at 217-469-2786 or via email at Melissa.Idleman@insightbb.com

Breakfast in Basco

Basco United Methodist Church is hosting a "Breakfast in Basco" on Saturday, April 5 from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Basco Community Building. The menu consists of Biscuits and Gravy, Breakfast Casseroles, Muffins, Juice and Coffee. They will also be selling baked good, kitchen utensils, rugs, etc. Join us!

Open House for Evelyn Briley

Evelyn Briley, secretary of Carthage Mutual Insurance Company, will be retiring on March 31, after 56 years with the company.

An open house is planned honoring Evelyn on Sunday, March 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Trinity's Welcome Center.

Best wishes can be sent to Evelyn at 1308 East Main, Carthage.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Fourth Interfaith Symposium of the Nauvoo Inter-Faith Partnership

An interfaith symposium will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 3 at Sts. Peter and Paul School Gym, Young and Wells Street, Nauvoo. Panelists include ministers of Nauvoo area congregations and moderator is Jim Moffitt. During the symposium, a panel of ministers from area churches will each be given the same amount of time to present a statement about the beliefs of their respective denominations regarding the person and nature of Jesus Christ.

Questions such as these and others may be addressed:

- What is the relationship between Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit?
- What is meant by speaking of "three persons in one God?"
- How is Jesus both human and divine?
- Did Jesus have a beginning and an end?

Questions from the audience will be addressed after the presentations.

Plenty of seating is available. Refreshments



will be served. Come! Listen! Learn!