

# TRINITY'S GOOD

Volume 9 Issue 12

## December Birthdays

- 12/01 Justin Schwartz, Skyler Johnson
- 12/02 Kate Nettles, John Manning
- 12/04 Terry Redenius, Darin Higgins,  
Tom Holtsclaw
- 12/06 Shea Redenius, Linda Hartweg
- 12/08 Kayla Jacoby, Anna Biery
- 12/09 Samantha Klingler
- 12/10 Corey Housewright, Terri Ellefritz,  
Sharon Ideus, Addison Ufkes
- 12/11 Gavyn Markham, Lori Wildrick
- 12/12 Ashley Ufkes
- 12/16 Carolyn Ware
- 12/17 Tiana Kirby
- 12/19 Jerry Ideus
- 12/20 Dena Marmion, Connie Schulz,  
Jennifer Hartweg-Brown
- 12/21 Jerry Fecht
- 12/23 Carrie Johnson, Chris Waite,  
Levi Kirby, Steve Carr
- 12/24 Ashton Gronewold, Ron Cook
- 12/30 Mark Harrell, Emma Busboom,  
Galen Krieg
- 12/31 John Peterson

## December Anniversaries

- 12/08 Delmer & Cheryl Schlueter
- 12/12 Noren & Vickie Livingston
- 12/13 Rod & Marcia McGaughey
- 12/23 Jason & April Lemley
- 12/26 Lester & Arlene Lantz
- 12/27 Kent & Connie Flesner
- 12/30 Tim & Tammy Snyder,  
Russ & Carol Schoch

## Choir Practice

Choir practice will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Anyone wishing to sing is welcome to join us!

## 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.

## Sewing Group

The sewing group will meet each Monday at 9:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to sew can join us.

## Financial Update

As of October 31, 2008

### Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$119,699  
Amt. Received YTD - \$95,380  
Amt. Spent YTD - \$96,053  
Current Fund Balance - \$5,921

### Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$15,530  
Amt. Received YTD - \$14,503

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.

Advent Devotional Books  
Advent devotional books are available at the back of the church and at the north entrance of the sanctuary on the small table.

### 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.

### Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, December 2. The following meeting has been scheduled:  
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

### Welcome Center Update

As of October 31, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$370,719. Of this amount \$29,903 was given through October 31, which compares to \$28,855 given through October 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2008 we have paid \$5,301 in interest through October compared to \$5,694 in 2007. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$51,602 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$106,178. 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.

### Budget Requests & Finance Meeting

All council members need to get their budget request numbers in to Kathy Graham as soon as possible! The Finance Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2 to go over these numbers.

### Sunday School Teachers Needed!

We are looking for a person or team to serve as the teacher(s) for our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This group is missing out on a critical part of their Christian education. As a church, we really need to provide this opportunity to them. Please prayerfully consider working with this group!! Contact Lydia Gutting at 357-0917 if you are interested.

### Christmas Eve Worship

Our traditional Christmas Eve Festival Worship will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24. This service includes Holy Communion and the traditional candle lighting service. O come, let us adore him!

### Ladies Bible Study

There is a new Bible Study that is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in my home. The title of the 9-month study is "The Hidden Land of God: Wisdom Stories from Ruth, Daniel and Esther." There is lots of discussion and no wrong answers to questions that arise. There is always room for one more at the table and the group is very welcoming. The next meeting is December 11. For any questions you might have give me a call at 357-2737. Copies of the current Bible Study are available in the organist mailbox in the parish hall.

Doris Holtsclaw

### Stewardship Packets

If you have not yet returned your Stewardship Packet, please do so as soon as possible.

## Church Council Highlights November 13, 2008

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

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions and opening prayer led by Dave Poland.

The minutes of the October 9 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as presented by John Schwartz. Seconded by Kathy Graham. Motion carried.

The following Petitions or Communications were reported: Brent stated 2 letters had been received from the sponsored children.

**Financial Secretary's Report** – Financial Secretary Report dated October 31 was reviewed. Motion to approve the financial secretary report by Kathy Graham. Seconded by Jody Miller. No further discussion held. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer's Report dated thru October 31 was reviewed. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Linley Bartell. Seconded by Merlin Gronewold. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht)** – Angie stated Sunday school attendance is down. Discussion was held as to how children could be encouraged to attend regularly. It was felt a middle school Sunday school teacher was still needed as the material currently being used does not reach all ages. The material is geared more towards the younger youth. At this time due to the lack of attendance, a Christmas program is not being planned. Angie will work with Lydia on how to get youth more involved.

**Evangelism (John Peterson)** – A picture directory was discussed. Dave felt it would be good to have the directory updated as there are many new members that are not currently

included, and it would be good to have updated before a new Pastor arrives. The directory is a very useful tool for a Pastor.

**Fellowship (Jody Miller)** – No report.

**Finance (Kathy Graham)** – The investment and account balances from September – November 2008 were reviewed. Budget requests are due by the end of the month. 2009 Synod Guidelines should already be released. It was decided to set December 2 as the Finance committee budget meeting.

**Memorial (John Dittmer)** – No report.

**Property (John Schwartz)** – John shared he is still working with the insurance company regarding the hail damage. Cook's Glass has fixed the glass to the steeple. The roof damage is still under investigation. A second estimate was submitted to include items missed under the first report. This would include damage to the garage, overhead door, trim, and Welcome Center entryway. Currently \$17,404.65 has been received from the insurance company towards damages. Additional payment is still pending. Max Gronewold met with Bruening Electronics to fix the carillon for \$742. It was recommended to add a power surge protector.

**Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder)** – Brent shared that due to change of employment for Tammy, she will be stepping down from council and social ministry chair as she will no longer be able to make any meetings. According to the constitution, should a member's place on the council be declared vacant, the council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

**Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold)** – Merlin reported the Stewardship banquet is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on November 23 with breakfast casseroles being prepared by committee members. Stewardship packets have been prepared and are available in the Welcome Center. Please complete your time and talent sheet and return at the banquet.

**Worship & Music (Linley Bartell)** – Linley stated Sandi Watts will be covering for Eileen this Sunday. She thanked those that helped decorate the Sanctuary and Welcome Center in the fall theme. They did a very nice job. They will begin decorating the church beginning December 7 for Christmas. Each week something new will be added. Linley, Dave and Eileen will begin planning for the next season. Linley will talk with the Altar Guild regarding Advent plans.

**Youth (Ryan Schardon)** – No report.

**Call Committee** – No report.

**Carthage Ministerial Alliance Report (Ron Schulz)** – In Ron's absence it was noted that the Carthage Ministerial Alliance will be hosting Hunger Fest on November 16 at 6 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

**Dave's Report** – Dave stated he is starting to get a little more organized. Still shares concerns regarding shut-in visits. He is working with Pastor Gayle and Jackie Adkins to make sure they know who wants and needs to be seen. Dave stressed if you know someone who needs to see him or Pastor Gayle, please contact them or let Denise know and she will get word to them.

**Pastor Gayle's Report** – Gayle stated she is continuing to help with the confirmation program. She has continued to assist members of our congregation either with home visits or hospital visits. She continues to meet with Dave regularly and assists where needed.

**Old Business: Food Resource Bank:** This was the first year and felt a very good project to keep going. Merlin stated he would include information in the newsletter and also prepare a summary for the annual report regarding the success of this project.

**Geographic Parish Report:** The next meeting for the geographical parish committee will be November 20 at 7 p.m. at Immanuel in Golden. Minor Garrelts and Delmer Schlueter are the congregation's representative. December 14 is the next pulpit rotation. This is held every other month.

**Pastor Gayle's Compensation:** Pastor Gayle prepared a summary report of her activities for the past few months. She received the interim oversight guidelines from the Bishop. \$200/month was recommended plus payment for any additional services performed. Pastor Gayle stated payment for services to go to Christ Lutheran, but reimbursement for mileage/travel expenses should be paid directly to her. At this time \$1,150 was approved for July – September and \$400 for October services. \$315 was approved towards mileage expenses. A motion was made by Linley Bartell and seconded by Dave Hartweg to approve the compensation package as prepared by Pastor Gayle.

**Stewardship Banquet:** Previously covered under Merlin's report.

**Ordination Ceremony:** It was noted that the ceremony held for Jennifer Hartweg-Brown was very nice. Dave & Pastor Gayle both appreciated the opportunity to be part of the ceremony.

**New Business: Copy Machine Lease:** Denise shared information with Brent regarding an upgrade to the copy machine. A new lease was prepared to upgrade the current unit at the same costs as before. Motion was made by Angie Fecht to approve the upgrade to the copier at the same rates, seconded by Linley Bartell. Motion carried.

**Christmas Service Schedule:** Discussion was held regarding the services for Christmas. Christmas Eve service will be held on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. No late service will be held at Trinity, however; the congregation is welcome to attend at Christ Lutheran. Times will be shared in a bulletin closer to the service. No service will be held on Thursday, December 25. Sunday, December 28 will be the Lessons and Carols service. It was also noted that Advent services are held at Christ Lutheran in Nauvoo on Wednesday evenings. Times will also be shared on these services.

**Thanksgiving Schedule:** A community service will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church sponsored by the Carthage Ministerial Alliance.

**Sitzmore Benefit:** It was noted that there will be a benefit on November 30 at the Eagle's Club for Loren & Connie Schulz's great

grandson. Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. with an auction beginning at 1 p.m. The confirmation youth will participate as one of their service projects this year.

*Confirmation Update:* December 12 the youth have been invited to attend a lock-in at St. John's church in Springfield. Plans are being made for this event. On December 20 the confirmation youth will help to deliver the Christmas baskets.

*Nominating Committee:* The nominating committee will begin to meet regarding the upcoming vacancies on church council. The following terms will expire in January: Brent Ufkes, John Peterson & Jody Miller. Tammy Snyder's term will also need to be filled. John Schwartz will gather the list of committee members and call a meeting.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 by John Schwartz. Seconded by Merlin Gronewold. No further discussion. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorded By: Jody Miller, Council Secretary

### Nursing Home Worship

We will lead worship for the residents of the Hancock County Nursing Home on Sunday, January 4. Everyone is invited to help us sing, pass out hymnals, transport residents, and share a smile. Come and join us in this important ministry!

### Winter Items Needed

The Department of Human Services is collecting new or gently used coats, sweatshirts, gloves, mittens and scarves to hand out to those in need this winter. You may drop your items off at their office at 2005 E. US Highway 136 starting now through the end of February. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Edris at 357-3116.

### Trinity Medicare



### Recipients

After November 15 of each year you may change your Medicare Part D drug coverage, or decide to stay with your present insurer. Rates change and drugs covered change from year to year, so it is a good idea to review your Part D coverage each year.

All of the information you need is on the Internet. If you desire assistance, contact Jackie Adkins at 357-2012 and we can set up a time to review your coverage rates. Or, Carol Gronewold with the Area Agency on Aging will again be providing this service. Watch the newspaper for dates and times.

### Would You Like to Be an Assisting Minister?

Every Sunday, a month at a time, you see someone walk in with the minister, bend their head in prayer at the altar, and help lead the congregation in worship and prayer. In the bulletin, you will note that when there is an A in the margin, the ASSISTING MINISTER takes that part, and when there is a P, the PRESIDING MINISTER takes over. Assisting ministers will sometimes read the scriptures, write and offer prayers, sing or say the liturgical responses and invitations, and dismiss the congregation at the end of the service.

Not everyone feels comfortable about being an assistant minister. But if this is a form of ministry that interests you, and you would like to participate in the service in this way, please let me know. You can call the church office and leave your name with Denise, or you can call me directly at 357-2304 or 357-5208. I would then arrange for a short training session.

As someone who has done this for a couple of years, I can attest to the fact that this preparation for prayer and for leading worship gives a deeper understanding of God's word. It is an opportunity for spiritual enrichment and a deepening faith in our Lord.

Linley Bartell, Chairman of Worship and Music

## Confirmation Activities

- A Confirmation Camp Reunion and Jr. High Lock-In will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield, on Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13.
- We will help deliver Christmas food boxes in Carthage on Saturday morning, December 20. Mark your calendars.

## Craft and Baked Goods Sale

Trinity will be holding a Craft and Baked Goods sale during the Carthage Christmas on the Square. We will be set up in the Welcome Center, in the gathering space just inside the double doors. The night of the activities is Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00.

Of course, to have a successful Craft and Baked Goods sale, we need crafts and baked goods! So we would like to ask for donations of items for the sale. Anything you can make, or bake, or if you know someone who would like to help, we will appreciate all donations.

There are a few limitations, though. The Health Department restricts the sale of cream pies, pumpkin pie, or generally, anything that needs refrigerating.

If you can donate something, please price it. If it is food, please wrap the item first and then price each package.

All the proceeds will go to The Shepherd's Pantry.

If you would like to help with the sale, such as with setting up, cleaning up, or "manning" the tables, please call me or someone on the Evangelism Committee.

Thanks for your support in helping to reach out and serve those in our Community.

Committee members are:

Marcia Ewing	Paul Ewing
Sandy Peterson	Ron Schulz
John Peterson	

## Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army Bell at County Market on Saturday, December 20, from noon until 8 p.m. If you

are able to help, please sign up in the Welcome Center. Thanks!

## Children's Books Needed

The Carthage Elementary School is organizing a book exchange for our students. We would like to encourage reading over the long Christmas vacation and hopefully create lifelong learners. If you have any gently used books that you would like to give away, please deposit them in the box in the Welcome Center. You can also drop donations off at Carthage Primary School. We are looking for books appropriate for Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. During tough economic times it is nice when we can share the luxuries of life with others less fortunate. We want all books by December 10. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Edholm at 357-9202, ext. 1723.

## Trivia Night

The high school youth will be hosting a trivia night on December 7. This is a fundraiser for the youth going to the National Convention in New Orleans in 2009. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a soup supper. The trivia contest will take place at 6:30. We need teams of 8 people to sign up. The fee per team is \$80. Matching funds will be applied for through Thrivent. There will be cash prizes for the first 3 places. We encourage you to ask friends and family outside of Trinity to join your team! If you have any questions or to sign up, call Stephanie Stott at 217-257-6995 or email [stephanie@heimerassoc.com](mailto:stephanie@heimerassoc.com). All are welcome to the dinner and to be an audience for the trivia contest. If you don't have a team but would like to play, come that night and we'll form teams then. Thanks for you support!

## Poinsettias

It's time to order poinsettias to be placed in the church for Christmas. If you would like to order a poinsettia, there will be order forms in the Sunday bulletins or you may call the church office. You may choose from red

or white and the cost is \$10 each. Orders must be placed by December 14.

### News From Our Sponsored Children

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,  
First is much greeting from your sponsored Daniel Salau. It is my hope that you are also fine. I and my family we are doing well here in our country and hoping also you are doing well in your country. It had been a long time since we had communicated to each other. Here in our country we had a good climate since the rain started raining in the beginning of this month.

I am also going well with my education and also usually pray for you for the assistance you are giving me. For now I want to study until I get in the university and I hope you are praying for me and also I will pray for you that God will help you there in your country. Here in our country we are preparing our Christmas and also we are wishing you a wonderful Christmas. The little problem we had here is that my mother was sick and she is getting treatment. That was only the problem which was disturbing us here but we are praying that she will be well and fine because she had been sick since the beginning of the year.

On the other side I appreciate the assistance you are giving me and I will pray for you and also for the church that God will raise his people to join the church because of kindness and assistance you have giving people. And also what I would urge you to do is that let us pray for each other.

Yours faithfully, Daniel Salau

Dear Trinity,  
I wish you and your family good health. Let me tell you that I am doing well at school and the subject that I like the most is Philosophy.

And how are you? What do you do? Well I hope you to be well and that everything you do goes fantastic.

My family is well here and they send their regards and many kisses.

My little brother Ramiro gave me a black kitten, which is very cute. You don't know how much I love cats. His name is Fido.

Well, I say good-bye to you and I send you a lot of kisses and hugs. Take care.

With love, Silvia

### A Time To Remember

"A Time to Remember," a service which is dedicated to the memory of loved ones deceased, will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Printy Funeral Home. The service is open to the public to help people deal with the grief that can be experienced during the holiday season. The funeral home will serve refreshments after the service. It is our hope that everyone attending will find strength and hope from the words of encouragement in this service. We have expanded the service this year because of the positive response of last year. Should you have any questions, please call Jim Printy at 357-3144.

### Christmas Gift Idea

We have Fran Swarbrick prints of Trinity available for sale in the church office. We have 3 different small, unmatted prints available for \$15 each. We also have a large winter scene available at \$35 for unmatted and \$50 for matted. These would make great Christmas gifts!

### New Picture Directory

Get your hair cut. Go to the beauty salon. We are going to have our pictures taken!

With all the new members that have recently joined, our Council thinks it is time to have a new picture directory made. And it will be very helpful to give to our next Pastor, to help him in his transition to Trinity.

Olin Mills will provide the services. We are looking at some time toward the latter part of February. Firm dates have not been set yet, but once they are, you will be able to sign up for appointments. Each family will receive a free portrait and a picture directory. And, in addition, you will be able to purchase other pictures or poses.

More information will follow, when we have it. If you have any questions, please contact someone on your Evangelism Committee.



## Angel Tree

Trinity Lutheran was asked if we would like to play "Santa Claus"! Carl Sandburg has a Literacy Program that is involved with families that are less fortunate. Unfortunately, Christmas will be a little bleak for these families, so Carl Sandburg contacted us for help.

We have placed an Angel Tree in the Welcome Center, with Angels and Stars hanging on the branches. The red and green Angels contain Christmas items for the children, and the yellow Stars have suggestions for food items that could be donated for the family's Christmas dinner.

If you want to be a "secret Santa" and put a smile on these children's faces, please remove as many Angels and Stars as you wish. Purchase the items indicated and return them to the Welcome Center by December 14, putting them under the tree. All of the gifts will be taken to Carl Sandburg on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you can wrap them, that would be great! But whether they are wrapped or not, please attach the Angel or Star, so each item can be identified and Santa can deliver them to the right family!

If you have any questions, please contact someone on your Evangelism Committee.

## Decorators Needed

One of the choir anthems says, "Christmas Is Coming, Let the Church Bells Ring." Yes, Christmas is just around the corner, and it is time for the sanctuary and Welcome Center to be decorated for the season. The Welcome Center will be decorated after worship on December 7th, and the sanctuary will be decorated after worship on December 14th. Wear your "decorating" clothes to church, and stay behind to be a part of the camaraderie that develops as we work with our church family to make our place of worship beautifully festive. You will be glad that you did. It is a great way to start the Christmas season!

Linley Bartell, Chairman Worship and Music

## Greeting's from Trinity Sunday School

Sunday School is officially in full swing. We just completed our lessons on the Ten Commandments. On October 19, 2008 Connie Schulz gave a presentation on The Terrace and the kids made a craft for the residents of The Terrace. We took a field trip to The Terrace on October 26, 2008. We presented our crafts to the residents and sang a couple songs. A good time was had by all. The residents really appreciated our visit.

Sunday school is for all ages starting at the age of 3 years. This year we will be using Firelight Bible Learning Curriculum. Kids learn in different ways. Firelight rotation recognizes and nurtures this by spending 2-4 weeks on one story, rather than one story every week. Each week kids will rotate to Deeper learning stations that teach the Bible story from one of ten approaches like music, art, games, or storytelling. The result is a learning experience that is fun for all and ensures learning that lasts.

During the month of December we will be studying Advent, and Christmas. Due to the low numbers of children attending Sunday school we will not be having a Christmas program this year. The kids will begin working on Christmas carols during Sunday school that will be presented during the service on Sunday, December 14, 2008. During the Sunday school hour that week, we will have a celebration for the birth of Jesus. Please encourage your children to attend Sunday school and be a part of this joyous celebration!

We are looking for a person or team to serve as the teacher(s) for our 6-7-8 grade students. This group is missing out on a critical part of their Christian education. As a church, we really need to provide this opportunity to them. Please, prayerfully consider working with this group!! Contact Lydia Gutting if you are interested (357-0917).