

TRINITY'S GOOD

Volume 9 Issue 7

Celebrating the love of Christ

This summer has already begun with a variety of celebrations of love. On the first full day of summer, June 21, many witnessed the exchange of vows of Jennifer Hartweg and Joel Brown. It was a wonderful time to worship the Lord, to hear again about the love of God for his people and how God's people also love one another as God has first loved us. The love of God was evidenced in the sharing of the Holy Eucharist during the ceremony, a rarity in Lutheran circles, as all the guests came forward to receive the Body and Blood from the nuptials.

This weekend the Hales are gathering in Park Ridge, IL to witness and celebrate fifty happy (mostly) years of marriage of my parents, Bob and Kathy Hale. With a small circle of invited guests, my siblings and I hope to mark the occasion of June 28, 1958, when these two young adults decided to join together two families from different immigrant backgrounds and start a new family that resulted in three offspring and a still growing grandchild population (not anymore from Chris and Lori!) I have learned from them, not necessarily by perfect example, that communication is key to keeping a relationship going and thriving. Hearing my parents say "I love you" backed up by countless selfless examples of loving partnership has been inspirational to me as I witness them also be able to say, "I forgive you." Since Lori and I were married much later in life than either of our parents, we can only hope that we can be given good health in order to

match their mark of 50 years of fruitful and thriving relationship based in the love of Jesus for his followers.

Finally, it was a tiring, but rewarding week spent with our confirmation campers at Augustana College. The weeks' lessons for "Real life—take hold," were based on a selection of "reality" TV shows.

- Real life is fearless FEAR FACTOR
- Real life is tough SURVIVOR
- Real life is cross-eyed AMAZING RACE
- Real life is spirited AMERICA'S GOT TALENT
- Real life is love SUPER NANNY

Our children: Bria Repplinger, Addison Ufkes, Cody Ufkes, Brittany Ufkes, Levi Kirby, Kirby Fecht, and John Malloy, were well-behaved and participated fully in all of the fun, the serving, the feasting, and even the clapping during worship times. All of them got to see the love of Christ at work in new and challenging experiences.

Let us all devote ourselves this summer in being graceful and loving to each other, offering words of comfort when needed, and being slow to anger when others don't live up to our expectations of them. Let us remember to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love our neighbor as God has first us.

Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Chris Hale

July Birthdays

7/01 Helen Hartweg
7/03 Pam Edris
7/04 Linda Schmudlach, John Dittmer
7/06 Paxton Brown, Austin Brown, Sarah Kohl
7/07 Lynn Fecht
7/10 Wilber Johnson, Natalie Cole
7/14 Wilma Fecht
7/15 Tanna Ellefritz, Marcia McGaughey,
Brooke Gronewold, Abbie Lemley
7/16 Maressa Busboom
7/20 Donna Hills
7/21 Peggy Higgins
7/22 Steven Sargent
7/24 Jane Wills, Ashley Snyder
7/26 Bill Kirby, Regan Seaver,
Jackie Adkins
7/27 Ruth Ufkes, Kaci Ellefritz,
Amber Jacoby, Colt Vance
7/28 Ed Seaver
7/29 Brianna Hale, Barb Hartweg
7/30 Gladys Rhodes, Norm Jurgens
7/31 Jennifer Duffy

July Anniversaries

7/05 Cory & Jennifer Clostermery
7/06 John & Pam Edris
7/10 Don & Phyllis Housewright
7/13 Bill & Teresa Geissler
7/14 Chris & Kim Nettles,
Ryan & Sarah Kohl
7/16 Jason & Cari Seaver
7/19 Ronnie & Traci Johnson
7/20 Gary & Susan Holloway
7/22 Tyler & Adrian Creasy
7/26 John & Shirley Manning

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.

Summer Music Needed

Choir will not be singing until September. If there is anyone interested in helping provide music for the summer, please contact Linda Hartweg.

Sewing Group

The sewing group will only meet the first Monday of the month for the summer and will resume their regular schedule in September.

Financial Update As of May 31, 2008

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$59,849
Amt. Received YTD - \$52,889
Amt. Spent YTD - \$54,099
Current Fund Balance - \$2,640

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$7,765
Amt. Received YTD - \$7,473

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 May 31, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$359,336. Of this amount \$18,520 was given through May 31, which compares to \$19,716 given through May 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653 plus interest to date of \$25,445.79. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$41,942 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$115,508. 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.

Committee Night

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

Address Change

Travis & Jennifer Duffy
P.O. Box 211
Carthage, IL 62321

Thank You

We would like to thank Gary Vest for making and hanging the signs that have been recently placed in the Welcome Center and Parish Hall. The signs look great and will help visitors feel more welcome as they find their way around our worship areas.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Jerusalem Marketplace Holy Land Adventure

Mark your calendars for July 13 – 17 to come and join us at Trinity for VBS! We will have a fun time learning more about Holy Week in the Holy Land Adventure. We will be participating with the First Christian, Presbyterian and Assembly of God churches again this year. It will be held 5:00 to 8:00 on Sunday and 5:30 to 8:00 Monday through Thursday. Sunday is early for registration, cost is \$3 per child. The week will end with a short program at the First Christian Church. **Volunteers are still needed, so if you can help** with Bible School, **please sign up** in the Welcome Center or contact Angie Fecht at 743-6363.

HUGS in Hancock County

Gina K. Lanning, director of social services at Memorial Hospital in Carthage, will speak on Advance Directives at the July meeting of HUGS, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their care givers and loved ones. The meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 1, at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, in the executive board room. An Advance Directive is a document in which a person either states choices for medical treatment or designates who should make treatment choices if the person should lose decision-making capacity. Lanning will discuss the importance of these documents and the necessity of family members talking to one another about their wishes. For more information about HUGS, contact Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, 217-357-6565; Stephanie Willey at the Hancock County Health Department, 217-357-2171; Jetty Calvert at Carl Sandburg College, 217-357-3129, or Deb Limkemann at Sherrick Drug and Medical, 217-357-3353.

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***.

*We welcome **McKenna Colleen Huls** to our church family. McKenna was baptized on June 15. Her sponsors are Kaylee Menn and Angie Newman. McKenna is the daughter of Sid and Kristin Huls.

*Congratulations to **Rod & Marcia McGaughey** on the birth of a grandson, Carl Henry Roselle, on June 3. Carl is the son of Andy & Melissa Roselle.

*Happy birthday to **Wilbur Johnson**, who turns 90 on July 10. An open house is planned for July 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. The congregation is invited to attend.

Worship on the Square
On Sunday, July 6, the Carthage Ministerial Alliance will host their annual community worship on the square. The service will begin at 8:00 a.m. Please bring your lawn chairs. There will be no worship at Trinity that day.

CLASP Director Needed
Trinity is in need of a director for the CLASP program, which meets each Tuesday after school until 5:00 p.m. The primary functions of this paid position are to coordinate and lead bible study and activities for students from 3rd – 6th grades. Please contact the church office @ 357-2468 for an application.

News From Our Sponsored Children

Dear Sponsor Trinity Lutheran Church:

Hello! I hope you are in good health. I am well. It is cold here in the evenings. How are you?

I say good-bye with kisses and hugs.

With affection, Silvia

Hi! Trinity Lutheran Church,

This is Marcia, Brendon’s mother, who is writing. I would like to know how you are doing along with your families. Things are going well here. As I told you, our family is very happy and Brendon has surprised us more and more each day. He is having a very good development in school. He is interested in his books and subjects. He said that he wants to learn more about Brazil. He also talks about the things are shown on TV.

Brendon likes the city where we live, Belo Horizonte. But he would like to know other places. He also likes his friends that live in our neighborhood. He loves children and adults.

Brendon is a dear child by our neighbors and relatives. He is in good health and he likes to play soccer and his dream is to be a great soccer player.

Dear sponsors, I say good-bye now and I thank you for the money gift you sent me, the amount of 20 dollars (that in Brazilian currency corresponds to 36.21 reais). With it I bought a beautiful jacket that he chose. I thank you for everything and I send a hug and kisses to you all from Brendon and family.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Brendon Luiz Cunha Da Silva

Pastoral Assistance
Denise will be out of the office July 14 to 18. If you need pastoral assistance please call Pastor Hale at 217-242-9192 or Brent Ufkes at 217-430-8604.

Church Council Highlights June 19, 2008

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

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Pastor Hale led devotions with a handout on church place in the community and outreach. Brief discussion followed.

The minutes of May 15, 2008 were reviewed with a minor change. Pastor Hale noted item #14 stating that he was appointed to a 3-year term as NW Conference Secretary. Motion by Dave Hartweg to approve, seconded by John Schwartz. Motion carried.

There were no petitions or communications presented.

Financial Secretary's Report – Financial Secretary Report was reviewed. Pastor Hale moved and Kathy Graham seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report was presented and a brief discussion followed on utility expenses and general fund balance. John Schwartz moved and Merlin Gronewold seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Angie was absent, but Brent presented information relating to the report. Vacation Bible School will be from July 13 through 17. A Sunday School survey will be included in the next newsletter. The CLASP job is being advertised again. Pastor Hale noted that Luther Fest will be August 17 at Weinburg King State Park.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – John reported on recent committee meetings where the following topics were discussed. Structured group visits to shut-ins; organized volunteer team to respond to emergencies (Pastor Hale referred to bulletin on Lutheran Disaster Response). General discussion followed with suggestion that the committee explore these issues further. Church signs are up and have

received positive comments. A Praise Band performance is being planned for August 10 or 17. A format will likely be an ice cream social.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – No report.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Performance on the Investment accounts has been flat for the most recent period because of the stock market.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – No report.

Property (John Schwartz) – A meeting has been arranged with the insurance adjuster to review the damage to the steeple and roof resulting from the recent storm. There was roof damage and some broken glass in the steeple. Plans to make repairs will be delayed until probably September. It was noted that Brandon Housewright did an excellent job trimming landscape bushes. There is a roof leak in the furnace room that is not serious, but needs to be repaired soon.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – No report.

Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – In Linley's absence, Pastor Hale provided a report. Richard's Electric said that the organ motor checks out and the problem may be in the switch. Gary Vest serviced the motor and it seems to be much better. Berghouse Organ representatives inspected the organ and will give an estimate on repair. Discussion followed.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – No report.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Hale distributed copies of a model constitution suggested by ELCA. Asterisked items are required to be included in all member church constitutions. It was suggested a subcommittee be formed to review and make recommendations.

1. Confirmation camp went well. There were approximately 60 attendees and they all seemed engaged and benefited from the experience. There was some discussion on possible changes and suggested feedback from the participants.
2. The Carthage Ministerial Alliance is considering a mission trip for New Orleans

relief work March 7-14, 2009. Several details need to be resolved such as expense, use of church van, and others.

3. The July 6 service will be on the courthouse square at 8:00 a.m. in connection with other churches in the community. The offering will go to needy students for back to school expenses.
4. Pastor Hale presented discussion items related to the geographic parish concept (next pulpit exchange is August 10), such as sharing support staff and other pastoral duties.
5. Pastor Hale to be on vacation June 29 to July 5. Dave Poland from Nauvoo will conduct services on June 29. Ministers for member visits has been arranged.
6. Pastor Hale suggested having a kiosk in the Welcome Center to provide information about Trinity. It could have a welcome packet and various brochures for hand out. Council agreed it was a good idea so there will be further exploration of the idea.

Old Business:

Council Retreat – Because of the busy time of the year and other church activities, plans for a council retreat will be discussed at some later time.

Food Resource Bank – The Springfield contact invited VBS youth to a morning program in Springfield. Council consensus was that this was too long a drive for younger VBS kids so the council respectfully declined the offer.

Merlin will make contact. Merlin also reported that the project is in need of a name and is seeking suggestions. The project will involve about 10 acres. Merlin will organize a future meeting with participants in Springfield and Carthage.

Sound System – There was discussion of the need for additional sound system operators. The ushers were suggested, but it was noted that they already have plenty to manage.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 24th @ 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by John Schwartz, seconded by John Peterson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Mark your calendars –
It's LutherFest 2008!

When: 4 p.m., Sunday, August 17

Where: Tentatively set for Weinburg King State Park near Augusta

What: A great time of food, fun and fellowship

· Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion

· Bishop Warren Freiheit will join us and preach the sermon

· Music by "Living Water" Praise Band from Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo

· A good old-fashioned Lutheran Pot Luck supper

Who: Member and friends of Lutheran churches in Hancock and Adams Counties
Come and get to know your Lutheran neighbors.

Non-Lutherans also welcome!

Thank You

The family of Ralph Logan would like to thank our church family for all your prayers and support during Ralph's illness and passing.

Thank you to Pastor Hale for his visits, prayers and his inspiring words at the funeral.

We also wish to express our appreciation for all the cards, visits, calls, memorials and the delicious food that was prepared and served by the women for the noon meal. Your love and support is outstanding!

Eileen, Connie, Lynnette, Kent, Rick, Amy, Ryan, Brian and Mira

Thank You

Three young people from our church walked all night during the Relay for Life, and then they stayed in the morning and helped the Luminaria Committee clean up the bags, candles and sand. A big thank you to Taryn Geissler, Kate Nettles and Steven Sargent. Also, thanks to all members of our congregation for their generous donations to Relay for Life.

The Luminaria Committee