

TRINITY'S GOOD

Volume 9

Issue 5

May 2008

Waiting for the Spirit of God

Pentecost usually occurs in the month of May, but sometimes holds off until June. This year, just as Ash Wednesday and Easter were early, so is Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the three primary festivals in the Church calendar—Easter and Christmas occupying the top two spots respectively.

The Church celebrates its “birthday” on Pentecost as we remember the *ecclesia*, those “called out” to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ being given their power by the Holy Spirit 50 days following his resurrection. This is the last Sunday that the Paschal candle is lit in observance of the presence of the Risen Christ among the people. It will be lit again during next year’s Easter season (and during baptisms, All Saints Day, and the Baptism of our Lord).

Pentecost took on other meanings during Jewish times. First of all, it was primarily a harvest festival, the Feast of Weeks, marking the 50th day following the Passover. Thousands of Jewish pilgrims descended upon Jerusalem from all parts of the mid-East to participate in the annual celebrations and to share in the first (or second) fruits of the new growing season.

In Luke’s time, Pentecost took on the added meaning of the traditional time when the law was given to the prophet Moses. Thus Pentecost had celebratory as well as solemn observances.

For us today, Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter events, “the risen Christ, having shown himself to the disciples and having ascended [ten days prior], sends the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to the expectant church. The coming of the Spirit gives the church the power and the necessary gifts to carry the glad news of the resurrection from Jerusalem to Galilee to the ends of the earth.” (from *Manual on the Liturgy* © 1979, Augsburg Publishing House)

There was more than one miracle that occurred on Pentecost Day. The first was the ability of the disciples to speak in languages other than their everyday Aramaic. Some who heard them thought they might have been having something “extra” in their morning Orange Juice.

The other, and in my estimation, more important, was the ability of those assembled to *hear the Gospel in their native language*. It was as if I was attending the United Nations and hearing every foreign ambassador to the UN speak in English without the need for an interpreter in my earpiece.

The Scriptures remind us that the Holy Spirit came to the people as if it was the sound of a great wind. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit manifests itself by becoming as flames on top of every person. The Church of 2007 has this same Spirit to lead us, to breathe life into us, to compel us to leave our lives of doubt, hate, negativity, and evil behind us on the cross. We walk with newness in our step and proclaim Good News to our neighbors with the confidence and giftedness of being Spirit-ed people.

In the prayers for Pentecost and its accompanying Vigil, we pray that God would “send your Spirit” to the church, to those in need, to the communities of faith, to the nations and creation, to us who follow in the footsteps of the saints gone before us. We cry out, “Come, Holy Spirit,” in Latin, “Veni Sancte Spiritus.” Pray with me . . .

“Shine forth with your glorious light.
Come from the four winds, O Spirit,
Come breath of God;
Disperse the shadows over us,
Renew and strengthen your people.
Come to our poverty.
Shower upon us the seven gifts of your
grace.
Be the light of our lives
You are our only comforter, peace of the
Soul.
In the heat, you shade us;
In our labor, you refresh us,
And in our trouble, you are our strength.
Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love
That in the darkness of the world
It may glow and reach to all forever.”
(Portions of *Veni Sancte Spiritus* ©1991
Ateliers et Presses de Taize)

Happy Pentecost,
Pastor Chris Hale

May Birthdays

- 5/01 Jeremy Housewright, Erin Redenius
5/02 Kathy Graham
5/04 Eileen Logan, Bill F. Geissler,
Linda Rendleman, Jeremy Schulz,
Erma Swank
5/07 Brandon Housewright, Erin Biery
5/08 Loren Schulz
5/11 Don Housewright
5/12 Marcia Ewing
5/13 Michael Harrell, Sharadyn Janssen,
Kyle Fecht
5/15 Suzan Stott
5/17 Randall Ruhs
5/19 Miranda Morrison
5/20 Katey Lunt, Meinert Gronewold
5/23 Lindsay Harrison
5/24 Adam Harrison
5/25 Traci Johnson
5/26 Susie Schulz, Hope Waite
5/27 Carole Bower, Kayla Shipman,
Lance Holtsclaw
5/29 Jamie Brown, John Adkins,
Laurine Gronewold
5/30 Howard Emmert, Heather Swank

May Anniversaries

- 5/01 Robert & Shellee Fecht
5/04 Wayne & Erma Swank
5/08 Stephen & Barb Hartweg
5/10 Ralph & Eileen Logan
5/12 Kameron & Jody Miller
5/19 Gary & Carol Vest, Steve & Karol Carr
5/25 Brent & Angie Ufkes
5/29 Brad & Diane Schardon,
Bud & Donna High

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, May 6. The following meeting has been scheduled:
7:00 p.m. – Evangelism Committee

Financial Update

As of March 31, 2008

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$35,909
Amt. Received YTD - \$35,657
Amt. Spent YTD - \$32,564
Current Fund Balance – \$9,865

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$4,659
Amt. Received YTD - \$4,880

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 April 13, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$356,557. Of this amount \$15,296 was given through April 13, which compares to \$17,969 given through April 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653 plus interest to date of \$23,868.94. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$39,357 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$117,343. 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.

Address Change

Sara Wisehart
301 S. 1st Street
LaHarpe, IL 61450

Carthage Farmer's Market
Carthage Farmer's Market will begin on Monday, May 19 from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. The market will be held every Monday through mid-October on the NW side of the Carthage Square. Fresh vegetables, fruit and craft items will be available. If you would like to become a vendor, call 357-2188, Ext. 110. Cost is just \$5 per week for a booth.

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.***

* **Ashley Ufkes**, a student at Iowa Wesleyan, was one of six juniors receiving the Iota Phi Award for academic achievement at a recent awards ceremony.

*At the 7th & 8th grade Hancock County track meet, **Addison Ufkes** received 1st in the discus, 2nd in shot put and was part of the 1st place 4 x 100 relay team.

*At the AGR House Spring Formal at WIU, **Dillon Darbyshire** was awarded New AGR of the Year.

***Kelum Fecht** was voted king at this year's prom.

*Congratulations to **Sid and Kristen Huls** on the birth of their daughter, McKenna Colleen, born at 4:51 p.m. on April 26. She weighed 7lb 8 oz and is 19 inches long.

Welcome New Members

We welcome to our church family Steve & Karol Carr, transferring to us from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Redwood, New York. Steve and Karol own the Fitz Randolph House Inn, which is the former home of Dr. James Coeur, and Steve also farms.

Church Council Highlights April 10, 2008

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

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions were led by Pastor Hale. Read Matthew 5-7, "confession and communion."

Minutes of March 13, 2008 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Angie Fecht. Seconded by John Peterson. No further discussion. Motion carried.

The following Petitions or Communications were reported:

1. A thank you was shared from the Synod for Benevolence.
2. A letter was received from Sheriff John Jefferson. A sex offender list is being offered to churches with youth programs. A copy will be requested to have on file.

Financial Secretary's Report – Report dated March 31, 2008 was reviewed. Motion to approve by John Peterson and seconded by Pastor Hale. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Report dated March 31, 2008 was reviewed. Motion to approve by John Schwartz. Seconded by Merlin Gronewold. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Confirmation date set for October 26. Several youth attended the Praise Band concert in Nauvoo recently. VBS date is pending as a conflict was noted with original date. Regular Sunday school will end May 18. There will be no Sunday school classes planned this summer.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – The Evangelism committee will be meeting next week.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – Coverage is still needed for this Sunday's fellowship.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Brent reviewed the investment and account balances from January through March 2008 in Kathy's absence.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – No report.

Property (John Schwartz) – John stated that the roof work will begin in June. He will begin to plan & organize in late May.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – No report.

Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley stated Eileen has requested May 11 off and she is working on a replacement. Organ repairs will not be cheap; however, no bid has been received at this time. A second opinion will be requested from a company out of St. Louis. A letter from John Basinger regarding the organ was reviewed.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – No report.

Call Committee – No report.

Pastor's Report –

1. The Regional/Geographical Parish Meeting was held March 27 at Immanuel Lutheran. Four members from our congregation attended. A total of 25 were in attendance. The pulpit rotation was discussed, which will begin this coming Sunday. This will be done on the 2nd Sunday of every other month. Other topic discussed: joint outreach to younger adults, Lenten pulpit rotation, Aug. 24 joint worship service "Luther Fest 2", Conference Assembly meeting May 6 and joint disaster relief programs.
2. Carthage Ministerial Alliance – good participation in Good Friday service. Joint "Fourth of July" worship on square at 8 a.m. Discussion was held as to services at Trinity as well on the 4th.

Possibly a later service could be held. Baccalaureate is May 11 at 2 p.m. at Illini West High School. CMA was asked to provide food at the Centennial Celebration of the Courthouse on October 18. Proceeds would go to the Salvation Army. No interest expressed at this time.

Old Business – *Youth Building*: No update. Still working on.

Council Retreat: No interest in joint retreat with Geographic Parish Churches. Pastor Hale will contact someone to lead a 3-4 hour session to discuss goals/vision/organ/fund raising/constitution/etc. Date will be set and those council members available are requested to attend. Possibly sometime in July.

Confirmation Retreat: May 4 from 2:30 – 8:30 p.m. The confirmation kids will go to the Ursa Retreat House.

Signage: John Peterson stated the signs are still in progress. A notice will be put in the bulletin regarding cry room with signage and directions posted at this time.

Food Resource Bank: Brent stated that a meeting was held and have agreed to farm 20 acres this year. On April 20, seeds, soil & water will be blessed during the “Rogation Days” service.

NW Conference Assembly Delegates: Two delegates are needed for the May 6 NW conference assembly meeting. Will include a dinner and worship service. A notice will be placed in the bulletin requesting delegates.

New Business – *Sharing of the peace*: concerns were shared regarding sharing of the peace during cold & flu season. For this reason, “Sharing of the Peace” will be removed during cold & flu season.

Contemporary Service: Christ Lutheran has added a contemporary service called “The Oasis” on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. This information will be included in our bulletin.

Hancock Cty. Centennial: Hancock County Centennial committee is preparing a book. A sketch of the church would be done along with a brief history of the church. Brent stated this costs \$251 and the church would receive 5 books to sell at \$35 each to help

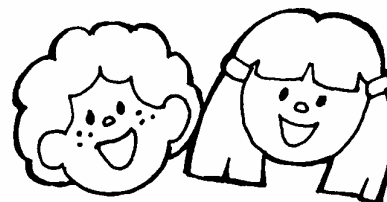
cover the costs. A motion to proceed with the sketch at a cost of \$251 was made by John Peterson, seconded by Pastor Hale. Motion carried. Brent will respond to the letter and contact Greg Gronewold regarding a brief history.

ELCA: ELCA has published a draft copy on the social statement on human sexuality. This information is available on the ELCA website or copies are available by Pastor Hale if anyone is interested in reading.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. 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



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. The week will end with a short program at the First Christian Church. Watch for more details and sign up sheets.

HUGS in Hancock County

May HUGS meeting to focus on psychological aspects of cancer: Dr. Tracy Knight, associate professor of psychology at Western Illinois University, will speak at the May meeting of HUGS, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their care givers and loved ones. The meeting is set for 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, in the executive board room. Dr. Knight will address the psychological aspects of dealing with cancer, including coping mechanisms for cancer patients and caregivers, plus the phases of grieving after being diagnosed. For more information about HUGS, contact Florine Dixon, CNO at Memorial Hospital 357-6565; Stephanie Willey at the Hancock County Health Department 357-2171; Jetty Calvert at Carl Sandburg College 357-3129; or Deb Limkemann at the Sherrick Drug and Medical 357-3353.

Congrats to our Graduates
Congratulations to our seniors graduating from Illini West High School: Brig Duffy, Kaci Ellefritz, Kelum Fecht, Amber Jacoby, Haeli Johnson, Chris Harrell, Lance Holtsclaw, Steven Sargent, Scott Shipman, Chris Snyder, Matt Snyder and Tyler Ufkes.

Congratulations to Victoria Livingston who is graduating from Western Illinois University with a Master of Science in Biology. She is the daughter of John & Sandy Peterson.

If there are any other college graduates, please contact the church office and it will be included in next month's newsletter.

Anniversary Open House

The church family, friends, and relatives of Ralph & Eileen Logan are invited to their 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Open House on Saturday, May 10 at Trinity's Welcome Center from 2 to 5 p.m. They request no gifts.

Join Us for Dinner & Music!

The Trinity High School Youth Group is hosting a fund raiser for the church organ repairs. On May 4 at 5 p.m. there will be a lasagna dinner with salad, garlic bread and jell-o cake. Following dinner at 6:30 there will be a concert featuring Suzan Stott and friends, Living Water praise band from Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo, the Trinity Church Choir and more! A free will offering will be taken at the concert and the funds given to establish a repair fund for the organ. If you would like to participate in the concert or make donations for dinner expenses, please e-mail Stephanie Stott at stephanie@heimerassoc.com. Please plan to attend this event and support our youth as they raise funds to keep the long-standing tradition of organ music alive here at Trinity!

Abraham Lincoln in Song
Chris Vallillo, a folk singer-songwriter who was inspired by Abraham Lincoln, is going to present a concert Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Macomb. Vallillo's inspiration resulted in creation of a one man show, "Abraham Lincoln in Song." Vallillo offers narration of this show in the "prairie poetic" style noted in the works of Edgar Lee Masters and Vachel Lindsay. A collection of folk music, mostly of the Civil War era, is used throughout the show. Some of the songs include "Battle Cry of Freedom" inspired by Lincoln's call for volunteers in 1862 and "Hard Times Come Again No More" by Stephen Foster. There are additional songs about a runaway slave, Lincoln's funeral, and songs Lincoln favored such as "Aura Lee." Chris Vallillo plays the six-string and bottle neck guitars, fiddle, mandolin, and harmonica. This show will both educate and entertain the audience. A CD of "Abraham Lincoln in Song" was released by Vallillo on the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, 2008. The CD received the endorsement of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission, which is overseeing two years of events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday in 2009.