

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 8

August 2009

Dear Members of Trinity,

It was nearly midnight when I pulled into town, driving an enormous truck packed to the brim with our earthly belongings. I found my way through the streets, pulled into our driveway, and eagerly jumped out of the truck. My heart racing, I walked up the steps of the porch, reached for the doorknob, and opened the front door to our new house. It was just a door and just a house, but when I looked inside, images of kids' birthday parties, Christmas celebrations, and meals gathered around a kitchen table ran through my mind. The same thing happened the next day as Karen and I walked to the grocery store. As we walked through Carthage, our minds were filled with excitement as we envisioned this town becoming our home. And then as I walked into Trinity Lutheran Church and saw its beautiful sanctuary, I saw the glow of candlelight on Christmas Eve, heard the trumpets blow on Easter morning, and felt both the sorrow and joy of funerals, weddings, and baptisms. In all of these places, my family and I have been filled with the excitement and anticipation of what the Lord has in store for us all.

Time and time again, Jesus heals the blind. He spits in some dirt and covers the blind eyes with mud, commands

them to wash, or simply says, "Go, your faith has made you well!" Each time, sight is restored. Each time, people are now able to see the glory of God. And each time, people are able to see more clearly what the Lord has in store. How wonderful it is that our God gives us new eyes!

During my first month here with you all, I feel that I have been given new eyes daily. Each day I see more clearly how a house is becoming a home, how a new town is becoming a home-town, and how a congregation is becoming a family. Each day I am filled with excitement and anticipation of what the Lord has in store for our congregation as we walk together in faith. And each day I give thanks to God for bringing us together.

How about you? Has Jesus rubbed a bit of mud on your eyes and washed them with waters of promise? I suspect that God has been giving you new eyes as well. It is my hope and prayer that you too are filled with the excitement and anticipation of all that God has in store for us as we share in the mission of *celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people.*

In Christ,
Pastor Adam

August Birthdays

- 8/01 Stephen Weid, John Hartweg,
Chris Nettles, Katy Miller,
Jacob Jacoby
8/02 David Ufkes, Tom Bragg
8/05 Nikki Bower
8/06 Vickie Livingston, Madison Harrison,
Doris Holtsclaw, Pr. Adam Dichsen
8/10 Kyle Miller, Mason Stevenson
8/12 Sara (Sargent) Brooks
8/15 Linley Bartell
8/16 Erin Brown
8/17 Shawn Gutting
8/18 Peyton Gutting
8/19 Ramo Stott, Jeff Cole
8/20 Jadon Johnson
8/21 Christian Holtsclaw
8/25 Karla Johnson, Katelyn Jacoby
8/27 Brandy Fecht
8/28 Amy Housewright
8/29 Braxton Boyer
8/30 Russ Schoch, Gilbert Duffy,
Bria Repplinger
8/31 Malysa Galloway

August Anniversaries

- 8/01 Tyrone & Vonda Jacoby
8/02 Darin & Samantha Klingler
8/09 Andy & Terry Redenius
8/13 Dan & Peggy Higgins
8/15 John & Denise Schwartz
8/17 Carl A. & Helen Hartweg,
Greg & Maressa Busboom
8/26 Ed & Gerrie Harrison,
Galen & Kim Krieg

Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, August 4. No meetings have been scheduled at this time.

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.

Financial Update

As of July 30, 2009

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$71,413
Amt. Received YTD - \$64,480
Amt. Spent YTD - \$43,009
Current Fund Balance – \$32,920

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$9,318
Amt. Received YTD - \$10,295

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.

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
Syrup
Laundry Soap
Baby Food & Formula

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

Finance Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet on August 13 at 6 p.m. right before the council meeting. Mike Jurgens is planning to update us at that meeting.

Welcome Center Update

As of June 30, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$414,368. Of this amount \$13,414 was given through June 30, which compares to \$21,317 given through June 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$2,271 in interest through June compared to \$3,335 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$21,703 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$70,514. In addition there are \$62,000 of our own funds on loan to the Welcome Center. Our payments 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.

Sewing Group

The sewing group will meet on August 3 at 9:00 a.m. School Bag-o-rama will be held August 13.

Thank You

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to play the organ rededication at Old Trinity. It was an honor to be there again to perform for the congregation. I would like to thank you for the generous honorarium and motel costs you provided. Carol and I always enjoy revisiting Carthage!

With our best wishes, William and Carol

Ladies Bible Study

The last session for the summer will be "Mary Among the Disciples." We will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 13 in my home. As usual, copies of the study will be in the organist mailbox.

A new Bible Study will start in September.

You won't want to miss "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans." If you would be interested in a different day, time or place please contact me.

Doris Holtsclaw (357-2737)

Address Changes

Nikki Bower
2562 N. Sycamore Haven Drive
Nauvoo, IL 62354

Pastor Adam & Karen Dichsen
615 Walnut Street
Carthage, IL 62321

Donald Schulz
1560 Main Street
Warsaw, IL 62379

Carolyn Ware
210 N. Vermont Street
Camp Point, IL 62320

LutherFest

Bishop Warren Freiheit will preside at worship at LutherFest on Sunday, August 9, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Community Park in Golden. LutherFest is a gathering of area Lutherans and friends for food, fun, and fellowship. Immediately following worship there will be a potluck supper. New this year is a volleyball tournament where teams from different congregations can compete for a traveling trophy. Join us and get to know your Lutheran neighbors at LutherFest!

Thank you from the New Orleans Youth Gathering group!

From the ten youth and three adults that joined with over 37,000 others in New Orleans to praise God, contribute over 150,000 hours of community service, raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities, hear from people just like us who God has used to change the world, and walk the streets and share God's love with everyone we saw... THANK YOU! Thank you for your prayers and generous support to give us this incredible experience. It has changed our lives and we want to share it with you. Please join us on August 9th as we lead worship and tell our stories. Then, following worship, please join us for

fellowship, and a time for us to show our appreciation.

Church Council Highlights *July 9, 2009*

Present: Merlin Gronewold, Dave Hartweg, Mary Sargent, Connie Flesner, Angie Fecht, Linley Bartell, Kathy Graham, Ryan Schardon, Delmer Schlueter, Galen Krieg, John Dittmer and Pastor Adam Dichsen.
Absent: John Schwartz.

John Peterson took a council picture prior to the meeting.

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Merlin led the devotions and opening prayer. Pastor Adam will lead the devotions in August.

The minutes from the regular meeting of June 11, 2009, and the special meeting of June 21, 2009, were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the minutes; Kathy Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Linley Bartell had received a note from Prof. Roth thanking us for the honorarium and hotel accommodations. He was hoping to return to Trinity and play again. Merlin Gronewold read a thank-you note from Connie Schulz for our help with "adopt a friend" and the kindness for sharing with residents on Sunday mornings. Merlin also read a letter from Kayla Bess and Shanna Smith from Girl Scout Troop 5054. They are looking for a final project for the Gold Award. The project needs to benefit an organization or the community but cannot include fundraising or general maintenance. The project needs to be completed by April 30, 2010. Their letter was taken under consideration.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary Report dated June 30, 2009 was reviewed. Angie Fecht made a motion to approve the financial secretary

report. Kathy Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report dated June 30, 2009 was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the report. Although our income is below budget, our expenses are also down, so overall we are doing well. There was discussion about the Welcome Center Fund being behind. However we had a big organ project that is paid for, so hopefully we will be on track soon. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Angie Fecht) – Angie reported that VBS will be held Monday, July 13, 2009, to Thursday, July 16, 2009. Three churches, the Christian Church, Presbyterian Church and Trinity will meet at Trinity each night. The final program will be held at the Christian Church at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. Pastor Adam mentioned that the worship service on Sunday, July 19, will have some of the Bible School lessons and songs presented. Pastor Adam also discussed confirmation. Pastor Gayle Pope will also help with confirmation. Holly Steinmates will continue to join the 7-8 confirmands from Trinity. It will hopefully start on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Angie brought treats for Ryan's last council meeting. He has been the youth representative for about 2 ½ years. There was discussion that we have had a youth representative for about 10 years.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – Connie mentioned that there has been no communication received about the roadside clean-up. However, several people have seen the signs recognizing Trinity on the interstate east of Carthage. There was a discussion about the Peace Corp Fellow and reaching the international population.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) – Mary thanked the council members and their spouses for the refreshments the last two Sundays.

Fellowship is covered through the middle of August.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy discussed the investment sheets. The markets have been down a little bit, but overall we have maintained the status quo. The housing loan will be in the investment section so that it can be tracked and reported in the newsletter. Two signature cards need to be updated: First State Bank (the lock box) and Edward Jones. Merlin Gronewold, Kathy Graham and David Hartweg will be on those cards. Kathy discussed an overview of all the funds, including how they were obtained and what they are to be used for. Kathy received a letter from Ramo Stott requesting some help to finance his work at Camp Summit this summer and then the Encounter Campus Ministry and the Students Today Leaders Forever organizations at ISU. Linley Bartell made a motion to give Ramo Stott \$250 towards this mission work. John Dittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mike Jurgens will meet with the Finance Committee. Council members are invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be held Thursday, August 13, 2009, at 6 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – John discussed the procedure for receiving a list for writing thank-you notes for memorials. After discussion, it seems that memorials would be turned in to Denise Schwartz, the church secretary. John could then get the list of names from her so that notes could be written in a timely manner.

Property (John Schwartz) –no report.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Pastor Adam mentioned that Luther Fest will be held Sunday, August 9, 2009, at the Golden Park, starting at 4 p.m. There will be a volleyball competition and wondered if we could have a team. Pastor also mentioned that Praise Fest will be held at the Methodist Church on Sunday, August 22, from 3-8 p.m.

Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter) –no report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley reported that all three pianos have been tuned. Pastor Adam, Linley and Eileen Logan met to discuss worship for the fall and advent services. There will be a committee to brainstorm ideas. Pastor Adam is excited about what is going on with Trinity and would like to let the public know more about what is happening here. Pastor Adam and Connie will work on getting information to the paper and the radio. Kathy would be willing to help with articles too. There was some discussion about communion wafers and the process of making the bread. Pastor gave an overview of worship for summer. July 19 will include the VBS children. Pastor will be with the youth on July 26. The youth will do the service on August 2 and there will be no communion. Communion will be held on August 9, 16, and 23 since the lessons focus on the Bread of Life. Sunday, August 30, will be a hymn fest featuring Trinity's top 10 hymns.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) –Ryan mentioned the youth have met with the Nauvoo students. They will all leave on Tuesday, July 21st at 4 AM, taking the van to Springfield. The van has been fixed. There are 6 youth from Trinity and 4 from Nauvoo, plus Stephanie Stott, Jason Hartweg and Pastor Adam meeting the youth from Springfield to go down to New Orleans on a charter bus. Pastor said it should be a fun trip.

Ministerial Alliance (Ron Schulz) – Pastor Adam reported that the Ministerial Alliance met on Tuesday, July 7. It was a “meet and greet” since there are so many new faces. Pastor Beth Rupe gave a reflection on Moses and the promised land with the relation of the new pastors and Carthage. They discussed the Peace Corps Fellow and the challenges facing new people in the area. They also discussed VBS, the group service on Thanksgiving and the community service on Good Friday. Perhaps Trinity could host that service. The Christian Church will be going to New Orleans in

February for 10 days for mission work. It will cost \$300 per person for food and lodging. They have extended an invitation to Trinity members. They would also like to use the van for this trip.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam expressed his thanks for the help with the transition, the welcome and moving. He is excited to be here, getting to know us and walk with us to see where God will lead us. He thanked Trinity for the loan, since it was such a huge help with coming out of seminary with loans. Thanks be to God.

The official paperwork has arrived from synod.

Installation date—The date has not been set since the Bishop is on vacation.

Baptism – Benen’s baptism will be held soon. It will be coordinated with the installation and the Dichsen families coming to Trinity.

Pastor and Karen feel it is important that he be baptized in the church family.

Old Business:

Church Building –Kathy Graham will check on the American Disabilities Act regarding the ramp(s).

Geographic Parish—Delmer reported there was a meeting last week.

Marie Fecht Will – A copy of the will was given to each council member. Kathy will also give copies to each Finance Committee member. Discussion followed.

Council Vacancy –Ryan Schardon resigned from the council since he will be going to college. This is his last meeting. Ryan nominated Kirby Fecht to be his replacement. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other—Merlin will work on getting reports via e-mails.

New Business

Installation –No information until the Bishop returns from vacation.

Supply Pastor – Since Pastor Adam will be with the youth, a pastor is needed for July 26. Pastor Otto is unavailable. Merlin will ask Ron Schulz if he is available.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Linley Bartell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Angie Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

Brainstorming Committee

We have put together a Brainstorming Committee to brainstorm ideas for fall and Advent worship. This team will meet with Pastor Adam on August 25.

New Grandchildren

Larry & Cheryl Buckert have a new granddaughter. Parents are Lance and Julie Buckert of Chicago, IL. New baby has been named Lydia Dorothy Buckert and was born July 23. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Amelia.

Corey Housewright and Tiffany Baumle are the parents of a son, Breckon Michael, born July 25. Grandparents are Don and Phyllis Housewright.

Confirmation

The classes for this year will begin Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Classes will meet the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month unless otherwise notified. We will be having a parent and student meeting soon to discuss service projects, sermon notes, etc. Watch bulletin for details. Pastor Adam and Pastor Gayle are looking forward to a fun and spiritual year!

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who made **Paul and the Underground Church** a huge success. We had 40+ children attend each night. The Market Place, fun music, great crafts and delicious food made the week fun for all. If you contributed your time or donated food or prayed for a great week, thank you! It can only happen with everyone working together.