

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 12

December 2009

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

On November 14th, my heart had its hardest workout in months. It was the second half of the Illini West football game against the Wilmington Wildcats. We entered the first half with a good lead, but after a couple of turnovers, the score was tied. Here's a bit of what went through my mind: "Ahh! I can't believe they tied it up! NOOOO! They just scored again! Wait, wait, YES, we just tied it back up! Wohoo! Uhh, wait, what's that, they just scored again?! We're down by seven with just two minutes to go. OH, incomplete pass, second down. What's going to happen? UGH, tackled, third down. Can we do it? AHhh, incomplete again, fourth down! How are we ever going to get out of this one. Wait, we're going for it? A pitch... a flag... he's going... he's still going... touchdown and the flag is in our favor... WE TIED IT UP AGAIN!!! Oh, wait, now there's overtime... my heart can't take it!" You know what happened next, our two-point conversion was good and the Wildcats couldn't reciprocate. Another Charger victory and on to the final round of playoffs.

Now, why am I telling you this story? It has a lot to do with Advent. Advent is about "coming" and "anticipation." It's about Christ's coming – Christ's coming in the humility of a little baby, and Christ's second coming, when God's reign will become reality for all of creation. It's about anticipating just what this coming means. But, let's be honest, very rarely do we live through the four weeks of advent with as much anticipation as do a Charger football game. We anticipate things like what gifts will be under the tree and who will be able to make it to our Christmas dinner, but we don't anticipate Christ's coming. We know that this year, just like every year, Jesus will appear in a manger. And we assume that this year, just like every year, Jesus won't return and life will continue, business as usual.

But that's not what Advent is about! Advent is about the anticipation of Jesus coming into the world, into our community, and into our lives!

Our Advent worship is going to focus on this anticipation. Together we are going to ask God to stir things up. On the first Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29), we will ask God to "**Stir us to Transformation.**" We can't sit still any more, but are moved and transformed by Christ's coming. The second Sunday (Dec 6), we will ask God to "**Stir our Baptismal Waters.**" We are rooted in the extravagant and abundant grace of God's love as it waters us through baptism. Sometimes these waters can grow stagnant, so we ask God to stir things up. On the third Sunday (Dec 13), we will ask God to "**Stir us to Fruitfulness.**" When God transforms us and waters us with love and grace, we can't help but bear the fruit of God's light. On the fourth Sunday (Dec 20), we will be **stirred to laughter and tears** by our Sunday School children and youth as we hear them sing, play chimes, and present a Christmas Program that will touch our hearts and souls.

So this Advent, don't go through the motions with little to expect. Don't just stand on the sidelines watching and cheering, but come and let God stir things up. Let God stir you to transformation, let God stir your baptismal waters, let God stir you to fruitfulness, let God speak to you through our children and youth... and then on Christmas Eve, let us all come together to celebrate that which we've spent all of Advent anticipating... the coming of Christ, Immanuel, "God With Us!"

And finally, thank you for the wonderful privilege of being your pastor. I am so excited to be anticipating and celebrating Christmas here in our new home, community, and congregation with you all.

May God stir things up for you as you anticipate Christ's coming, Pastor Adam

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
- 12/17 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

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.

Financial Update

As of October 31, 2009

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$119,022
Amt. Received YTD - \$97,736
Amt. Spent YTD - \$94,521
Current Fund Balance – \$14,823

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$15,530
Amt. Received YTD - \$15,080

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!

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.

Welcome Center Update

As of October 31, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$425,605. Of this amount \$24,651 was given through October 31, which compares to \$29,903 given through October 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$3,538 in interest through October compared to \$5,301 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$37,206 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$55,011. 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.

Church Council Highlights

November 12, 2009

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

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

Pastor Dichsen the devotions. Kirby Fecht will lead the devotions in December.

The minutes from the regular meeting of October 8, 2009, were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the minutes; Kathy Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

A letter requesting help monetary help for Operation Santa was received from affiliation with the West Point Christian Church. Angie Fecht made a motion to give \$120.00 to help with 60 Christmas stockings as we have done in the past. John Dittmer seconded the motion. Kathy Graham will check into the program. Motion carried.

The First Christian Church has requested the use of the church van for their mission trip to St. Bernard's Parish Project, Louisiana, the week of February 27 to March 6, 2010. John Schwartz made a motion to approve this van use. Kathy Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Vickie Peterson Livingston requested permission to have an Angel Tree from the Carl Sandburg Family Literacy program in the Welcome Center. Linley Bartell made a motion to grant this permission. John Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Adam showed the picture and frame he and John Adkins made from some wood from the East room. He expressed his and Karen's appreciation for this picture.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary Report dated October 31, 2009, was reviewed. There was a question about the unbudgeted receipts. Angie Fecht made a motion that the financial secretary report be accepted. John Schwartz seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the treasurer, there was no report.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Angie Fecht) – no report.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – Connie reported the Evangelism Committee had met and would like to have a craft and bake sale during the Christmas on the Square Open House. It will be Thursday, December 3, in the Welcome Center. Two bulletin boards have been ordered and received. Pastor and John Schwartz will make frames for them. The front sign is still a work in progress to repair. The roadside clean-up will take place on Saturday, November 14.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) – Mary reported that all is well.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy reported that budget proposal sheets have been handed out and need to be returned by November 22, 2009. There will be a finance meeting on Monday, November 23. There was discussion about the use and cost of offering envelopes and telephone service costs. A request was received from the local Christian radio station, Good News Radio, KMDY, 90.9 FM. After discussion, Galen Krieg made a motion to donate \$180.00, the equivalent of the cost of one day, to the station. Pastor Dichsen seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – no report.

Property (John Schwartz) – John also discussed the roadside clean-up. He has the orange vests, gloves, and bags. There was discussion about the roof repairs and receipts for both the church and the Parish Hall.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) – The Nursing Home would like some help with their birthday celebrations for the month of November. Kathy Graham, Karen Dichsen, Angie Fecht and Galen Krieg will make cakes for this celebration. Pastor will deliver the cakes on November 20, for the party at 11 AM. Galen is

also looking for a teacher/leader(s) for the class on Financial Peace. He asked for discussion on possibilities of how to proceed. It was discussed that it might work well to have this program with other churches and to begin with the New Year.

Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer has been working with Denise Schwartz and Mary Ann Garrelts to prepare for the Stewardship brunch, Sunday, November 22. Council will serve breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, cereal and drinks. In 2008, 95 people attended. Jerry and Sharon Ideus will share their experiences through Jerry's illness.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley reported that the fall decorations were up thanks to several people. Christmas decorations will be placed on Sunday, December 6, after church service. There was some discussion about a different time, but it was felt that the most help was available then. There was discussion about the payment of substitute organists, who are in short supply and do travel distances. Linley Bartell made a motion to increase substitute pay from \$50.00 to \$65.00. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried.

The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 20. Janet Rahman will lead the chime choir. It will be a multigenerational choral program including song and drama. Christmas candy was also discussed.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Pastor reported that a final fundraiser for the New Orleans' trip has been set for Saturday, November 28, at 5 p.m. It will be a lasagna supper. The evening will include a slide show presentation and Family Feud. The youth have a good strong core in their Sunday evening gatherings. There will be a trip to Fun City on December 6. Jason Hartweg would like to step down from his position in helping with the youth. Karol Carr has offered to help since she has had training in youth and family ministry. Advertising space on a sports calendar was discussed.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) – Pastor Adam reported that Kurt Hoover, the new minister at Immanuel Lutheran will be the president of the alliance. Bell ringing for the

Salvation Army will be held on Saturday, December 12, from 3-8 p.m. Sign-ups will be in the Welcome Center. There will be a lock-in with the church in Golden on December 20. The community Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 25. Pastor Sue Roper, Presbyterian Church, is in charge. Pastor Adam will preach.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam presented a hand-out of the various activities, visits and workshops he has attended recently. This included preaching at Oasis, the Veteran's Day Service, the Shepherd's Pantry supper, HUGS meeting, etc. It was a general consensus that this was a great and exhausting list. The Dichsens will be visiting family in O'Fallon November 26-28.

Old Business:

Share the Harvest—The Share the Harvest committee met November 3. They are looking to "grow" the program and visit with our farmers. Pastor has discussed the program with the Ministerial Alliance. We have also looked at 15 other churches to join with us. A meeting and meal is being planned for Monday, January 11, to explain the program to those interested. Joan Furnetti and Rose will be in attendance.

New Business

Nominating Committee

The terms of Angie Fecht, Kathy Graham, John Schwartz and Kirby Fecht will expire at the end of this year. The Nominating Committee is John Hartweg, chairman; Kathy Graham and Angie Fecht.

Photo Directory

A bill was received from Olin Mills for the photo directory. After much discussion, John Schwartz made a motion to wait to pay this bill until the booklets are received and approved. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.

John Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Assisting Ministers Needed

Being an assisting minister can be an enriching worship experience. It would be really nice to have twelve assisting ministers so that you are assigned just once a year and, at the present time, we are a little short of twelve. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry can contact Linley Bartell (357-2304) or the church office.

Stewardship Packets

Stewardship packets are available for pickup in the welcome center. If you have not yet picked yours up, please do so and return to the church office as soon as possible.

For God Loveth a Cheerful Giver!

The Carl Sandburg Family Literacy Angel Tree is returning to Trinity this holiday season. The tree will be standing in the Welcome Center. Tags for local kids will be hung on the tree, with suggestions for gifts that are needed, including clothes and toys, as well as food items for a family dinner. If you can help provide some items for these needy families, please remove the tags, and attach the tags to the gifts. Please leave your wrapped presents under the tree before December 16. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Livingston at 217-491-5522. Thank you for helping to serve some of the families in our community!

Address Changes

Tim & Sara Brooks
3614 S. 46th Street
Quincy, IL 62305-8643

Carrie D. Johnson
P.O. Box 31
Denmark, IA 52624-0031

Parish Young
P.O. Box 7
LaHarpe, IL 61450-0007

Longest Night Service

On Monday evening, December 21st, the Carthage Ministerial Alliance will host a "Longest Night Service" at 6:00 p.m. here at Trinity. This special holiday service is especially intended for those dealing with grief, loss, or loneliness during the Christmas season. All are welcome to attend.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Trinity's day to ring the Salvation Army Bell is Saturday, December 12, from 3 to 8 p.m. Please sign up in the Welcome Center if you are able to help.

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve Service of Candlelighting and Holy Communion will be held on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us on this most holy of nights!

High School Youth Fundraiser

The youth will be hosting a lasagna supper on November 28 at 5:00 p.m. There will be lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. We will also be playing Family Feud! Bring your families of all ages to this fun event and help support the high school youth!

Poinsettias

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. Please look for an order form in the church bulletin or stop by the church office to fill one out. Cost is \$10 each.

High School Youth Group to FUN CITY!

The High School youth will be going to Fun City and out for pizza in Burlington on December 6. We will leave the church at 3 p.m. and return around 8 p.m. All high school and college age kids are welcome to attend and bring a friend! So that we have an idea how many we'll have, we'd like you to sign up on the sheet on Pastor Adam's door. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Adam, Stephanie Stott or Kirby Fecht.

Trinity Youth Group

The Trinity Youth Group meets the first and third Sunday every month at 5 p.m. for bible study, fellowship, games and activities! All high school and college youth of the church are invited to attend. In December we will be meeting twice. December 6 to go to Fun City and our Christmas Party on December 20. This month would be a great time to come and see what we're all about! Bringing a friend or two is always encouraged!

Adult Sunday School with Pastor Adam

During Advent, we'll be stirring things up a bit with a new Bible Study. Pastor Adam will be leading a study on the four Gospels, what they say about Jesus' birth, and what it means for us today. We will be meeting on Nov 29, Dec 13, and 20th. And stay tuned for another new study beginning Jan 3! So please come and join us – all are welcome!

Share the Harvest

Plans are already being made for next year's "Share the Harvest." Our committee will meet next on Dec 1 at 7pm. We will be inviting farmers from other churches in Carthage and the surrounding communities to a supper meeting on Monday, Jan 11th, with Joan Fumetti, Director of Growing Project Support with the Foods Resource Bank.

Nursing Home Wreath & Tree Lighting

The Hancock County Nursing Home cordially invites everyone to a Wreaths & Trees Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Nursing Home, 403 South Adams St., Carthage. Refreshments will be served and Holiday music provided. What a wonderful way to share the holidays! Please join us! Or stop by any evening throughout the Holidays to view the beautiful display of more than 100 lighted wreaths and trees donated in memory or in honor of some very special people! Funds raised through this project will be used to provide a physical therapy room for the nursing home residents.

HUGS in Hancock County

HUGS (Helping Us Give Support) in Hancock County, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their care givers and loved ones, will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 709 Main St., Carthage. A soup and sandwich supper will be provided, after which everyone is invited to stay for the annual "Longest Night" service at 6 p.m. at the church. For more information about HUGS, contact Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, 217-357-8565. The Longest Night service, sponsored by the Carthage Ministerial Alliance, is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part one's life in the past, but that are now changed or gone. It's a quiet, meditative worship service with scripture and song, encouraging participants to reflect, remember and pray. Anyone who has experienced a loss – job, financial, divorce, family, illness, etc. – or is grieving the death of a loved one is welcome to attend the service.



Living Water Concerts

"Emmanuel, God with Us," a concert by "Living Water" the worship band from Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo, IL, will be presented at several area locations in December. Come and experience the story of how God left Heaven to come and save us, told in song, Scripture, images and story. Enjoy contemporary Christmas music and sing along with some old favorite carols. Dates and locations are: Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at the Golden, IL, Town Hall; Sunday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, Quincy; Saturday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Chapel, located in the River City Mall, Keokuk; Sunday, Dec. 20, at River of Life Fellowship in Dallas City, and Wednesday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. at Grandpa John's Theatre in Nauvoo. A free will offering may be taken.

Christmas Program

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's choir chimes, children singing, and the Christmas Drama from our Christmas Program! Come and listen to the beautiful music, be inspired by the message of a Christmas Carol, and be fed at the Lord's Table as we anticipate God's stirring power in Christmas. The program will be on Dec 20 at 9am. If you are interested in singing, chiming, acting, anything, talk with Daniel Harrell, Janet Rahman, or Pastor Adam. Rehearsals will be after church on Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, and Saturday Dec 19 at 5pm with a pizza part to follow.

The Tree That Points to Heaven

The Christmas tree is ever green
Just like the life God gives.
It points up high to heaven above
Where God, our Father, lives.

It shines with shimm'ry strings of lights
Just like the sky shone bright
When angels sang and shepherds ran
On the first Christmas night!

Letters From Our Sponsored Children

Lovely Trinity Lutheran Church,
How are you my dear? I am fine, healthy,
happy and grateful for the love, care and
support you render me. May the grace of
our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always! I
was very happy for the birthday gift, from
which I bought a shirt. Thank you so much.
God bless you.

Love, Deric Watala

My name is Daniel. I am 16 years old. I
started my education at primary school and I
am in class 8 now. In my exam I usually
pass well. I wish in my last exam I will pass
with flying colors. My vision is to be a
doctor. I like playing football and basketball.
My parents were very happy to see my
second term papers because I have passed
well.

Daniel Salau

Dear Sponsor,
I want to thank you for making possible,
every day, for our children to have a
childhood, allowing them to play, learn and
grow.
Thank you for taking care of them through
your gesture of sheltering.

Love, Brendon Luiz Cunha Da Silva

