

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 5

May 2009

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
5/30 Howard Emmert, Heather Swank

April Anniversaries

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

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!

Sewing Group

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

Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, May 5. 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 March 31, 2009

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$35,706
Amt. Received YTD - \$35,885
Amt. Spent YTD - \$22,920
Current Fund Balance - \$24,465

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$4,659
Amt. Received YTD - \$4,981

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!

Fellowship Hosts Needed

We need volunteers to host coffee fellowship on Sunday morning. If you would be willing to host, please sign up in the Welcome Center. Thanks!

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
- 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.

Welcome Center Update

As of March 31, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$398,734. Of this amount \$7,409 was given through March 31, which compares to \$14,964 given through March 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$1,571 in interest through March compared to \$1,776 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$13,666 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$78,551. 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.

Ladies Bible Study

There is a Bible Study that is held on the 2nd 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 May 14. 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

Thank You

The confirmation class would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations of food and money to make the Easter breakfast a huge success. We raised \$416. Thank you again for your generosity.

Conference Assembly

The 19 congregations of our Synod's Northwest Conference will meet for their annual assembly on Tuesday, May 5, at Trinity Lutheran in Golden. Jerry & Linley Bartell will be our delegates for the business meeting, including reports and elections for representatives to Synod council and committees.

Church Council Highlights *April 16, 2009*

Council members present were Merlin Gronewold, Dave Hartweg, Mary Sargent, Galen Krieg, Connie Flesner, John Dittmer, Angie Fecht, Linley Bartell, Ron Schulz, Dave Poland and Pastor Gayle Pope. Absent: John Schwartz, Kathy Graham, Ryan Schardon and Delmer Schlueter.

Merlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Devotions and opening prayer led by Galen Krieg. Mary Sargent will lead the devotions in May.

The minutes of the March 12, 2009 and executive session on March 12, 2009 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as presented by Linley Bartell. Seconded by Galen Krieg. Motion carried.

Petitions or Communications: Merlin read a thank-you note received from Pastor Joel Brown of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Crescent City. Pastor Joel extended his gratitude for the scholarship, kindness and generosity given to him from Trinity and the Ruth Geissler Estate. Merlin also shared a note received from the Katrina Mission Group. In appreciation for the use of Trinity's van, they included a gift certificate for an oil change and detailing.

Financial Secretary's Report – Financial Secretary Report dated March 31, 2009 was reviewed. Motion to approve the financial secretary report by Angie Fecht. Seconded by Linley Bartell. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2009 was presented and explained by Dave Hartweg. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Linley Bartell. Seconded by Mary Sargent. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Angie reported that Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, July 13 through Thursday, July

16, 2009. It will be one day shorter since there is a wedding on each weekend. As of the meeting, VBS will include the Christian Church and Trinity. Confirmation will be held June 7, 2009, for our five confirmands.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – Connie asked if members had seen the Easter ad in the paper. Dave H. reported that we have received a renewal bill for the Trinity sign at the ball diamond. It will be good for five years. Connie also asked about the signs at the corner of Main and Highway 94 South and at Circle K. Ron said he would help research replacements.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) – Mary reported that the Lenten suppers went well. There are sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center for Sunday coffee fellowship.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – The investment sheets were reviewed with the financial reports.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – No report.

Property (John Schwartz) – Merlin reported that all 7 stools have been replaced in the Parish Hall. Thanks to Lance Stott and John Schwartz for doing this work. Hopefully the water bill should be greatly improved.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) – Galen reported the Social Ministry Committee has met and decided to present the Financial Peace University. Chris Nettles will lead this program; it will begin in the fall. Galen made a motion to buy the Leadership packet for \$299. Second was made by Angie Fecht. Discussion followed that included conversations others made from their own participation. Motion carried.

Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley reported May 24 is the last Sunday the choir will sing before summer break. The choir would sing at a service for the new minister,

if that were to happen. The organ installation is progressing. An electrician was needed to do some rewiring and John Massey has already done this work. The pipe room was a job well done. Eileen and Linley will meet on Monday to plan the music through the end of June.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – No report.

Call Committee – The call committee met with the ministerial candidate on Monday. After a meal and the interview, the committee requested a second interview. They are awaiting his return call.

Carthage Ministerial Alliance Report (Ron Schulz) – The Illini West weekly Bible study is going well. There has been an average of 8-12 students the first lunch and 3-4 students the second lunch. It will be our turn to sponsor the lunch on either May 7 or May 14. Ron will take care of this. Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, May 10, at 2 pm in the Illini West High School gym.

Dave's Report – Dave Poland gave a report on hospital visits. The mid-week Lenten services went very well. It was agreed the series was very well received. Dave will be gone on Sunday, April 19. Pastor Gayle will lead that service.

Pastor Gayle's Report – Pastor Gayle had a report about her visits and confirmation. There is a new activity being planned. She is also beginning pre-marriage counseling with a young couple.

Old Business:

Organ Fund: The organ is in the process of being put back together. There was discussion of a rededication of the "new" organ, perhaps on Sunday, April 26. We are still short \$5,070 to meet our obligation. Merlin will address the congregation with a pulpit talk on Sunday.

Geographic Parish: The parish met and decided not to proceed with the secretary position. It will remain a volunteer job with the Liberty secretary taking on most of the responsibility. There was a discussion about splitting the geographic parish so that the

northern congregations are more together and the southern are grouped together. There was a discussion about where does Trinity fit in this process. Are we an anchor for the others? Would we need to work with other parishes to help lighten the load for a serving pastor to go out in all directions? What will our position be when we have a new pastor?

Synod Assembly: Merlin reported that Ron and Susie Schulz will be our delegates for the Assembly to be held June 11-13, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. We still have an opening for one youth (21 or younger). The deadline is April 19 for the lowest rate.

Northwest Conference Assembly: Linley and Jerry Bartell will be our delegates to the meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Golden.

Emergency Strategy: John Dittmer will now chair this committee. In case of a fire, storm or other emergency, questions include: What is the best way to exit the sanctuary? Where is the best place to go? What about emergency lighting? John will ask his committee to help.

New Business:

Unlocking the Church: There was a discussion about the procedures for locking and unlocking the church. There was also discussion about the thermostat settings for church use and down time. Merlin will ask Denise to send a note to the members undertaking this job outlining the procedures.

Church Building: There was a discussion about the maintenance of the exterior of the church building. What are our long range plans for the main church building including the brickwork, foundation, steeples? There was a discussion if hiring an engineer to check the building would be appropriate.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Connie Flesner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. David Harweg seconded. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Connie Flesner,
Council Secretary

Congratulations to our Graduates!

*Ashley Snyder will graduate on May 10 from Illinois College in Jacksonville with a Bachelor of Science and Chemistry degree.

*Justin Schwartz will graduate May 14 from Carl Sandburg College with an Associates in Art degree. He will be attending Western Illinois University in the fall pursuing a Business Management degree.

*Austin Ufkes will graduate from Illini West High School. He plans to attend Spoon River College in Macomb for 2 years then transfer to Western Illinois University with a degree in Ag Business.

*Ashley Ufkes will graduate from Iowa Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

*Dillon Darbyshire will graduate from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science. Degrees include a major in Agronomy and a minor in Animal Science. Dillon has accepted an offer from Remington Hybrids as a management trainee in Hastings, Minnesota.

*Andrew Hills, son of Jeff and Lois Hills, will graduate from Lakota East High School in Liberty Township, Ohio. He plans to attend Ohio State University in the fall. He is the grandson of Jim and Donna Hills, Linda Schudlach and Vern Schudlach.

*Jacob Dittmer is graduating June 12 from the University of Oregon with a Masters in Communication and Society.

*Jacqueline Galloway has been accepted to the Department of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University and has been accepted into the W.I.U. Centennial Honors Program. She was named Student of the Month for Fine Arts at Illini West and an Illinois State Scholar. She has received; W.I. U. Centennial Honors College New Freshman Scholarship, Captain Earl G., Evelyn M. and Lynn Earl Pogue Scholarship-Department of L.E.J.A. W.I.U., WIU 4 Year Foundation Scholarship and W.I.U. Residential Scholar Initiative Program Room Waiver. She was named to the West Central

Conference Band, first chair saxophone, and won a first place rating at the WCC Art Competition- oil painting.

*Malyssa Galloway will graduate from Cottey College, Nevada, MO May 17 with Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. She will be attending Northern Illinois University in DeKalb this fall majoring in Computer Sciences.

Pictures Submitted for Directory

If you have given me a picture for the directory, please tell or call me. I want to make a list of those who have given me a picture, and make sure I have a picture for everyone on the list! Thanks.

John Peterson 217-746-9000

You're Invited

The families of Jacqueline Galloway and Emily Cunningham would like to invite their friends to an open house, Saturday May 23, 3-6pm, in the Welcome Center to celebrate their graduation from Illini West High School.

Organ Fund Update

The organ is repaired and we are enjoying the benefits. We met our goal to pay this in full when the work was completed. Your contributions were greatly appreciated! Thanks for your help!