

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 11

November 2009

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

What were you for Halloween this year? I remember Halloweens spent as a child, filled with the excitement and magic of being anything I wanted to be – a clown, a robot, a dinosaur, a shark. As I grew older, the sense of this potential to dream big seemed to fade, ending in my sophomore year in high school when I dressed up as a lamp – just a shade over my head with a pull string attached to a battery operated light. So, did you take advantage of the opportunity to be something different this year? Did you dream big and be anything you wanted to be? If you are like me, I left that to my kids. Maybe an opportunity lost, but no big deal. Right?

But maybe there's an opportunity here that we shouldn't pass up. Reformation Day and Halloween fall on the same calendar day. Coincidence? Probably, but it gives us something to think about, and it begs another question: What were you for Reformation Day this year?

When Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg church, he wasn't out to start a new denomination... he was calling for reform. He saw a church that didn't line up with what he understood as God's dream for God's church. He saw the opportunity for all of Christianity to be filled with the excitement and magic of God's incredible grace. He wanted the church to be reformed, to see the potential for it to be changed into what he was convinced that God wanted it to be.

And so in this same spirit, as Lutherans, we see ourselves as part of a reforming church – a church that is always dreaming big and striving to be the church that God would want it to be. At times there is noticeable disagreement over the ways we see this happening. Most recent is that of the ELCA's change in policies regarding sexuality. But as we see today and as we saw with Martin Luther, to be committed to a reforming church is not easy. It will undoubtedly draw criticism that will seek to divide.

But it also gives us a wonderful opportunity! As reforming Christians in a reforming Church, we have the opportunity to strive to be the Christians and the Church of God's dreams. Not by putting on a mask or costume that changes our appearance, but by being transformed through and through by God's grace. We have the opportunity to be Christians and the Church who in the midst of difference commit to making God's dreams a reality for us and our community. To always bear witness to the good news of what God has done for all of creation. And when we do this, especially in the midst of difference, together we proclaim the words of Luther, "Here I stand, I can do no other!"

Thank you for standing firm in our commitment, even in the midst of difference, to "Celebrate Christ's love as we welcome, encourage and serve God's people."

God bless,
Pastor Adam

November Birthdays

11/02 Beulah Weid, Wyatt Fecht
11/03 Barb Duffy
11/04 Adrian Creasy, Paul Ewing
11/05 Jesse Disney
11/06 Larry Ellefritz, James Ufkes
11/08 Donna High
11/09 David Hartweg, Caroline Hartweg,
Evelyn Briley
11/10 Bob Fecht, Naomi Jurgens
11/11 Sandi Morrison
11/13 Dale Galloway
11/14 Carl A. Hartweg, Dillon Darbyshire
11/16 Mandy Bruns
11/17 Sarah Donley
11/18 Jacqueline Galloway
11/20 Marjorie Harrell, Paul Hartweg
11/23 Phyllis Housewright
11/24 Brig Duffy
11/25 Alan Housewright, Else Aden
11/26 Bill Fecht
11/28 Kenny Gronewold, Suzy Holtsclaw

November Anniversaries

11/03 Jerry & Sharon Ideus
11/04 Paul & Marcia Ewing
11/06 Tim & Mandy Bruns
11/10 Merlin & Jolene Gronewold
11/14 Gary & Sarah Donley
11/18 Joel & Tanna Ellefritz
11/21 Elton & Doris Holtsclaw
11/24 Rick & Debbie Johnson
11/25 John & Jackie Adkins
11/28 Tom & Suzy Holtsclaw
11/29 Lance & Stephanie Stott,
Dave & Diana Harrison

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 September 30, 2009

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$107,119
Amt. Received YTD - \$89,950
Amt. Spent YTD - \$79,791
Current Fund Balance – \$29,245

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$13,977
Amt. Received YTD - \$13,763

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 September 30, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$423,333. Of this amount \$22,379 was given through September 30, which compares to \$28,163 given through September 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$3,198 in interest through September compared to \$4,867 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$30,013 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$62,204. 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

October 8, 2009

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

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

Kathy Graham led the devotions. Kirby Fecht will lead the devotions in November.

The minutes from the regular meeting of September 10, 2009, were reviewed. John Dittmer made a motion to approve the minutes; Linley Bartell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

A letter with \$500.00 for the continuing education for first- called pastors was received from Christ Friends in Community from Pastor's hometown. Pastor Dichsen will send a thank-you note from him, the congregation and the council.

An invitation to the Ordination for Kurt Hoover on October 24, 2009, in Newton, Iowa, was received. He will be the new pastor at Immanuel and Faith Lutheran Churches.

A thank-you note from the IW Student Council was received. They were appreciative of the use of the Parish Hall and church parking lot for their Homecoming parade.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary Report dated September 30, 2009, was reviewed. There was a question about the unbudgeted receipts from September 30, 2009, and September 30, 2008. Linley Bartell made a motion that the financial secretary be accepted. Delmer Schlueter seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2009, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg checked to see if everyone received the report in an e-mail. He noted that income is up slightly from a year ago. The Welcome Center Fund was discussed. It was mentioned that it is doing well despite having the Organ Fund campaign. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, dated September 30, 2009, as presented. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Angie Fecht) – no report.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – Connie asked about the Christmas on the square held by the Carthage Chamber. Members of the Evangelism committee would like to pursue this. Ideas were hashed around. Connie will meet with the committee to finalize plans. Connie also asked about the sign in front of the church. The backdrop and letters are deteriorating from the southern sun. She will check into replacing those. The highway clean-up will be Saturday, November 14, 2009, at 9 am. The Youth will be the main workers, but any are welcome to help.

Pastor Adam received an e-mail from "Living Waters" that they would be willing to play a Christmas concert for a \$250 donation. Our congregation could sponsor and perhaps work with the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor will check into this for dates.

Pastor also mentioned that it would be nice to have a bulletin board in the Welcome Center for articles such as the pictures from the Pet Blessing, Share the Harvest, the Youth and their outreach. Connie will check into that.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –no report.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy reported that there have been no requests. The

\$25,000 CD came due and it was suggested to invest it at 2.35% for 3 years. The monthly numbers are up slightly.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – John reported the memorial thank-you notes are out. The procedure still needs to be finalized. Memorials should come to the church office and then the committee will try to get them out within 2 weeks.

Property (John Schwartz) – A bat inspection has taken place. There are still questions about the roof.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) – no report.

Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter) – Delmer has been working with Denise to prepare for the Stewardship breakfast, Sunday, November 22. Council will serve breakfast casseroles.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – no report.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) – Kirby reported that the Youth met on Sunday, September 20 and had a good time. The trip to Fun City has been postponed. A final fundraiser for the New Orleans' trip has been set for Saturday, November 28. It will be a spaghetti supper in preparation for Advent.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) – Pastor Adam reported that Eric Ziegler built a donation box kept at County Market. It has had great response. Six donation boxes have been placed around town. Over 120 families have been served including more than 450 individuals. An appreciation supper will be held Monday, October 19, at the Welcome Center. Spaghetti, salads and desserts will be served.

The high school Bible study has begun. The first lunch had six – seven students. The second lunch had no one. Signs are placed around the school, but it has not been in the announcements. Two Pastors are present each time.

The community Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 25. Pastor Sue Roper, Presbyterian Church, is in charge. Pastor Adam will preach.

The Ministerial Alliance has had discussion about how to reach out to the Carthage Community and the immigrants coming in. Ideas include renting a store front for clothing.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam expressed things are going well. He has enjoyed his visits, including combines and harvest, members' homes and learning their histories. Pastor Adam will be in a pulpit exchange with Pastor Tom Kamprath on Sunday, October 11. Pastor and his family will be on vacation on Sunday, October 25. He will check if Pastor Jennifer Hartweg Brown would be available.

Pastor asked about what are our big plans for the church. What are our gifts, needs? He wants to help nurture and open the Book of faith. Galen has done very well with the adult Sunday School class. He has offered to step down and let Pastor take over.

Pastor also mentioned the Human Sexuality open forum held in Sunday School recently. It was helpful with the sharing, the questions and the requests for resources to look at Bible passages. He is also grateful for the respect this congregation has to hold together with God's love.

Old Business:

Geographic Parish – Pastor Adam reported there is discussion about mission and vision statements. There will be a lock-in for youth in Quincy on October 17. Joint Lenten services are also being planned.

Share the Harvest—The Share the Harvest celebration went very well. Around \$875.00 was received in the offerings. There was interest from the media. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 pm.

New Business

New items were discussed earlier. There were no other items.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

HUGS in Hancock County

Pastor Jim Luder, Chaplain for Hospice of Central Iowa, will talk about Care for the Spirit at the November meeting of HUGS, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their caregivers and loved ones. The meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3 at Memorial Support Services, 402 S. Adams St., Carthage (former hospital building). Pastor Luder will share stories of interactions, both serious and humorous, that have occurred between himself and the patients and families he has served. He has been with Hospice of Central Iowa since 2007, and has also been chaplain for the Iowa Army National Guard since 1989. He served with the New York National Guard in Tikrit, Iraq in 2004-2005. A graduate of Grand Rapids (MI) Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1987 and served Ashton (IL) Bible Church until 1991. He and his wife, Rita, live in Dallas City, IL. HUGS supports people impacted by cancer by offering monthly meetings for fellowship and education. Financial assistance is also available through HUGS for any Hancock County resident undergoing cancer treatment, including up to \$200 a year in the form of either a gas card or a pharmacy gift certificate. For more information about HUGS, call Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, 217-357-8565, or Joyce Buckert at 217-357-8628.

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.

Foods Resource Bank Meeting

There will be a Foods Resource Bank meeting on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Picture Directory Update

The packet of information for the directory has been sent to Olan Mills. The next step will be for them to return a proof book that our committee will review and be able to make any last minute changes if necessary. Once the proof book has been approved, it will take 2 to 4 weeks for Olan Mills to print and send us the books. After the directory is finalized, we will be putting together pictures and descriptions for Visitor Information Brochures. They are free, being a part of the deal when buying directories. The brochures are intended to help visitors get an idea of what is happening at Trinity, with the hope that they will want to return and find out more.

PrairieLand Barbershop Choir

The Disciples Women of the First Christian Church invite Trinity members to join us for a program of music presented by the PrairieLand Barbershop Choir on November 1st at 7 p.m. in the Christian Church sanctuary. A love offering will be received and presented to this talented choir in gratitude for their gift of music.

Highway Clean Up

Trinity has adopted a section of highway to keep clean. A trash pick-up will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to help, so if you are able, please meet at the parish hall at 9:00!

Attention All Bakers and Crafters!

The Evangelism Committee will host hot chocolate and cookies along with a craft and bake sale during the Carthage Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 3. The proceeds will go to the Carthage Ministerial Alliance for their service projects. If you would be willing to bake or donate some craft items, please sign-up in the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, see Paul or Marcia Ewing, Ron Schulz or Connie Flesner. Thanks for your help!

Ladies Bible Study

The November Bible Study based on Romans 5:1-21 and 6:1-11 will meet in my home on Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m. The title of the study is "Hope Does Not Disappoint." The group will hear about Paul's understanding of baptism and share his joy at the gifts given by God in Jesus Christ. The sessions are informal and questions, answers and opinions are shared. Please come and join the group. Any questions or comments, please give me a call. Doris Holtsclaw 357-2737

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.

Love Jar

We are running low on candy for the Love Jar. If you have a chance to pick up an extra

bag or two of Halloween candy to drop off at the church office, it would be appreciated.

Assisting Minister Schedule

January	Edie Galloway
February	Kim Krieg
March	Connie Schulz
April	Connie Flesner
May	Chris Nettles
June	Ramo Stott
July	Ramo Stott
August	Linley Bartell
September	Ron Schulz
October	Stephanie Stott
November	Karol Carr
December	Edie Galloway

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, we remember with thanksgiving all those who have passed on and have now joined the Church Triumphant. We especially remember those members of our congregation who now rest in God's Easter promises: Raymond Rendleman, Myra Fleming and Wilber Johnson.

Community Thanksgiving Worship

The annual Community Thanksgiving Worship, sponsored by the Carthage Ministerial Alliance, will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. The speaker will be Pastor Adam.

Stewardship Packets

Stewardship packets will be available for pickup in the welcome center beginning November 1. Please be sure to fill out your information and return your packet to the church office or at the stewardship brunch on November 22!

Stewardship Brunch

Please plan on attending this year's Stewardship Brunch, which will be held on Sunday, November 22 at 10:15. We will have a brunch type meal, furnished by the church council. Please be sure to bring your packet to return!