

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 10

October 2009

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity, I was talking on the phone the other day with a college friend of mine who is a Methodist pastor. I was telling him all about Trinity, Carthage, and all the fun we have had settling in, and he asked, "so what big plans do you have for Trinity?" My response – "I have no idea!" I explained to him that I see myself as sort of a farmer. Before jumping right in and planting, it's good to check the soil to see what crop would grow best, to spend some time preparing the land, and then work together to sow the seeds. "Oh," he said, "I guess that makes sense." He's not much of the farming type!

I did, however, say that there is one thing that I would like to see. I would like to see as many of our members as possible spending time in God's Word, the Bible. I see this as crucial to preparing the soil (our hearts and lives) for the harvest that God is working in us. And when we are in God's Word, we can see more clearly what God is doing in our community and hear more clearly how God is asking each of us to participate.

And I just wasn't quite sure how our congregation could dive right in, but then God answered my prayer! The leadership retreat I recently attended was all about opening the "Book of Faith" – helping congregations to get more involved in reading the Bible. It gave some great suggestions, but also asks members to get together and come up with fun and creative ways for us to engage scripture.

So, here we are! At a time when our farmers are preparing to harvest, we at Trinity look out over an open field and talk about sowing! I believe that the soil is fertile and the time is right to plant seeds of faith in the lives of our

members and community. So if you would like to join me in helping our congregation open the "Book of Faith," please let me know. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few," but I'm proud of the laborers we have in our congregation and I'm excited to discover what God has in store for us as we live out our mission: *celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people!*

God bless,
Pastor Adam

Youth News

What do you get when you mix baptism, water balloons, the Simpsons, and sculptures created out of piles of partially chewed tootsie rolls? Youth Group! That's right, our Youth Group met for the first time on September 20th from 5:30-??? We talked about what it means to be a Baptized Child of God, were reminded by way of water balloons of how important it is to be playful in our baptism, and even learned something about it from our good friend Bart! Oh, and the tootsie roll sculptures? Do you really need a reason to get gross? This was just the beginning of the fun for our High School (and beyond) Youth Group, so don't miss out on what is coming up!

October 4th – Youth Activities and more Gross Games at "Share the Harvest"

October 18th – Youth trip to Fun City

Lock-in for 5th-8th graders!

Surrounding Lutheran Churches are hosting a lock-in at the Quincy YMCA from 4:00-10:00 on Saturday, October 17. We'll have fun, games, swimming, music, Bible Study, and pizza. Please RSVP at the office by October 11th.

October Birthdays

10/01 Debbie Housewright, Kristin Huls
10/03 Jody Miller
10/04 Wade Nolden, Arlis Dittmer
10/07 Kam Miller
10/08 Connie Flesner
10/11 Philip Weid
10/14 Jessica Ruhs
10/16 Stephen Weid, Melissa Moore,
Stephen Hartweg
10/17 Karen Gronewold
10/19 Darlene Harrell, John Malloy
10/21 Karol Carr
10/22 Brenda Seaver, Gerald Brown
10/24 Brad Schardon, Jack Ufkes
10/27 Caitlin Clostermery, Kenny Sargent
10/29 Bailey Boyer
10/30 Carol Schoch, Karen Dichsen

October Anniversaries

10/04 Dean & Angie Fecht
10/06 Harold & Beulah Weid
10/07 Michael & Melissa Moore
10/20 Josh & Michelle Schulz
10/21 Ron & Susie Schulz
10/22 Alan & Debbie Housewright

Financial Update

As of August 31, 2009

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$95,849
Amt. Received YTD - \$83,235
Amt. Spent YTD - \$65,609
Current Fund Balance – \$29,245

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$12,424
Amt. Received YTD - \$12,662

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!

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, it would be appreciated.

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.

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.

Welcome Center Update

As of August 31, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$419,428. Of this amount \$18,474 was given through August 31, which compares to \$25,201 given through August 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$2,893 in interest through August compared to \$4,487 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$27,905 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$64,311. 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

September 10, 2009

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Angie Fecht led the devotions. Kathy Graham will lead the devotions in October.

The minutes from the regular meeting of August 13, 2009 were reviewed. Angie Fecht made a motion to approve the minutes; John Dittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Merlin Gronewold read a thank-you note from the ELCA to World Hunger from July 26. \$300.00 was given by the Youth from Trinity when they were in New Orleans.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary Report dated August 31, 2009, was reviewed. It was very helpful that it had been received via e-mail prior to the meeting. Kathy Graham made a motion to approve the financial secretary report. Linley Bartell seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report dated August 31, 2009 was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the "Change for Change" deposit of \$88.98. It was collected on the Sunday the Youth discussed their New Orleans' trip. There was a discussion about a need for emergency gas money or cash for an immediate need of a meal. Galen Krieg made a motion to use the "Change for Change" money for emergency needs/help at the church. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried. If there is an even bigger need, Pastor will call Merlin or Dave.

The First Call deposit of \$340.00 was a special collection from Pastor's installation. This money will be used for those continuing

education classes required by the Synod but not funded by them. The Youth Fund is still down. They would like to have another fund raiser to help with the New Orleans' expenses. John Dittmer made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, dated August 31, as presented. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Angie Fecht) – Angie mentioned that Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 13, with a Pet Blessing and Potluck. Meat will be provided.

Confirmation will begin on August 30 for 8 students (7 from Trinity and 1 from Nauvoo). The youth will be divided into 2 groups of 4. Pastor Adam and Tiana Kirby will be the leaders. Addison Ufkes and Luke will be the Jr. Guides. Tonya Boyer will be in charge of the food. It is important that there is family involvement with readings, blessings, and prayer. Sunday School will have a new curriculum, Spark. Each lesson involves a Bible lesson followed by a special session in cooking, music, science or games. Lydia Gutting is helping with this curriculum along with 9-10 other teachers.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – Pastor Adam reported that the Youth will gather the trash at 9 AM on Saturday, November 14. Connie will check with John for another fall day.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) – Mary had pictures from the potluck for Pastor's Installation. She needs people to sign-up for fellowship refreshments. Pastor mentioned that Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26, the Dichsens and the Guttings will be camping at the Carthage Lake. It will be a casual get-together. They will also have their kayaks.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy reported that the numbers are up slightly. The CIT bond is moved into the Mutual Funds of the Marie Fecht Accounts. There were no requests.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – John reported the committee has divided up the list to write the thank-you notes for the memorials. Angie mentioned that a project could involve replacing the heavy, bulky, long tables with lightweight, hard plastic ones.

Property (John Schwartz) –Pastor mentioned that the Food Pantry Board would like a short wall partition to be built in the Sunday School room. This would help out our pre-school class and the Food Pantry and show our support for both.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen reported that the teacher wanted to wait until after harvest to start the class, Financial Peace.

Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer asked the council about the date for the Stewardship Dinner to be held in November. After much discussion, Sunday, November 22 was set. Time and talent folders will be put together and picked up on prior Sundays and returned on that Sunday. Delmer's committee will discuss a speaker and the meal.

Pastor mentioned a program "Simply Giving" from the ELCA is an online program for automatic donations. Pastor has mixed emotions about this program. He would like people to come to church to give their offerings, but at the same time for those that aren't always able to attend, this gives them other options. There was discussion that stewardship is not just about money but giving your time and talents.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) –Linley reported that David Kool has been here to repair a few glitches on the organ. Pastor mentioned that there will be two Pulpit Exchanges. Jim Trutwin from Golden will be here on September 27. He was originally scheduled for July, but Pastor had just arrived. Tom Kamprath from Mendon/Coatsburg will be here on October 11.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported that Pastor Adam, Jason Hartweg and Stephanie

Stott had met to plan goals for the youth since many have graduated. They would like to increase attendance. September 20 will be a kick-off for the youth with a trip to Fun City. Ideas have been tossed around about Bible studies and a youth hang-out area. Kirby mentioned that any and all ideas are welcome.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) – Pastor Adam reported that the Ministerial Alliance met two weeks ago with lots of new faces. Pastor Beth Rupe will leave the Christian Church at the end of November. She has said that this is a time of hope and promise for Carthage. There has also been discussion of an appreciation dinner for the Food Pantry Volunteers to be held at Trinity.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam expressed his appreciation to all for the Baptism, Installation and potluck. Their families loved coming to Trinity and Carthage. The "Old Trinity" picture will have a frame made of old pine from Trinity's renovation. There is excitement with the youth meeting, Sunday School and confirmation curriculums. Pastor has met with many families and their pets. Our members have many gifts and talents.

Pastor will be at a Leadership Retreat for Pastors and SAMS on September 21-23 at Carlinville. September 28-29 Pastor will be attending a pre-marital counseling seminar, Prepare and Enrich, in Chicago. There will be a Social Ministry seminar in October.

Pastor discussed the reflections from the Synod Assembly. He would also like to discuss this in Sunday School on September 20. The key questions are: What happened? What does this mean for the ELCA, our church and me? What is next? Pastor passed out brochures, "A Brief Summary of Actions". He will also have these available at church.

Old Business:

Geographic Parish – Pastor Adam reported there will be a meeting in two weeks.

Youth – New Orleans' Deficit – There was discussion about how the youth can take

care of their New Orleans' deficit and yet begin this new year with a fresh start. Not all of the participants have earned the required amount. The youth will have one more fundraiser to erase this debt.

New Business

Share the Harvest—The Share the Harvest celebration will be held on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 p.m. at Minor and Mary Ann Garrelts' home. St. John's has sent an additional \$2500, including \$600 raised from their VBS. Several Ag businesses have been contacted for donations of money and equipment. Grilled rib eyes with the side dishes and homemade ice cream will be served. We have 11 acres of beans and 1 fat heifer donated. It would be nice to have 20 acres since we have the input costs for all that. The local papers and the radio will be notified. There is a list of projects from the Lutheran World Relief that will be considered.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m.

David Hartweg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

Shepherd's Pantry Appreciation Dinner

The Carthage Ministerial Alliance is hosting an appreciation dinner on Monday, October 19 at 6 p.m. at Trinity for all Shepherd Pantry volunteers. The pastors want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has helped make the Food Pantry mission project work so well. The pantry has provided many households with needed food supplies for the past 2 years and 5 months. Our pastors want to share a meal with the dedicated volunteers who have helped the pantry run smoothly. I hope our volunteers from Trinity will be able to attend. Mark your calendars now!

The Circus is Coming to Town

The Carthage Clipper Fire Department is bringing the Kelly-Miller Circus to town on October 5 for two shows, 4:30 and 7:30. This is a fund raising effort for the Fire Department and the circus is a family oriented show. It will be at the Saddle Club grounds. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids, but go up \$4 each the day of the show. Tickets are available at Menn's Firestone and J&R Tire, and some stores in town have free tickets for kids.

HUGS in Hancock County

The HUGS cancer support group will host a wiener roast Saturday, Oct. 3, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Craig and Jetty Calvert north of Carthage. All food is

provided at no charge. There will be no guest speaker for October, just an evening of friendship and support. HUGS supports people impacted by cancer by offering monthly meetings for fellowship and education. Financial assistance is also available through HUGS. For example, any resident of Hancock County who is undergoing cancer treatment is eligible for up to \$200 a year in the form of either a gas card to be used at any Casey's General Store or a gift certificate redeemable at any Hancock County pharmacy for medications or supplies. Additional assistance may be granted in cases of greater need. For more information about HUGS, or for directions to the Calvert home, contact Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, 217-357-8565 or Jetty Calvert at 217-357-3884.

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.