

# TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 9

September 2009

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

Have you ever noticed how places change? Take Carthage, for instance. A couple of weeks ago, as Karen and I drove back into town from Tim and Sara Brooks' wedding reception, I saw the lit courthouse tower shining in the distance. Instantly, I could envision where Trinity was located and looked for its steeple. I could picture where our house was, the nursing home, the park, and the homes of many we have visited over the past two months. I was shocked! It used to be that when I drove into town, all I saw were a bunch of buildings, but now, the buildings, and the entire community, were coming to life.

Well, maybe the town of Carthage hasn't changed in the past two months, but Karen and I certainly have! Through the many ways that you and others in this community have reached out and welcomed us, with cards, gifts, pies, fruits, vegetables, and even a good amount of elbow grease as we have been putting our house in order, in all of these ways you have changed us so that now, when we drive in to town, we don't see a bunch of buildings – now we see our home. We see a house that has now become a home. We see a community in which we are excited to get involved. And we see a congregation in which we joyfully

experience the love of God. All this culminated last week at my installation and Benen's baptism, where Karen and I were filled with joy and pride to introduce our family to 615 Walnut Street, the town of Carthage, and Trinity Lutheran Church as our new home. Thank you, so very much, to all of you for making this change happen in our lives!

And it got me thinking, all of this happened because each of you has been living out our mission, to *celebrate Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people*. All that you have done for us – the welcoming, encouraging, and serving – has been a celebration of Christ's love. And if what you have done for us has had this big of an impact on our family in a few short weeks, think of the impact that you are having and will continue to have on all of God's people in Carthage and beyond! It makes me excited to be here, to discover the wonderful things that God is doing in our midst, and to walk and work with you as we find ways to take part in it all.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you as you continue to celebrate Christ's love by welcoming, encouraging, and serving God's people!

In Christ,  
Pastor Adam

### *September Birthdays*

- 9/01 Dalton Cook  
9/02 Casey Krieg, Katie Biery,  
Robin Young  
9/04 Tammy Snyder, Lester Lantz  
9/05 Kyle Schulz, Kathy Ehlert  
9/06 Kevin Cook, Rylie Harrell  
9/10 Harold Weid, Bev Ufkes  
9/11 Kristina Johnson, Liz Snyder  
9/17 MiKayla Janssen, Jackson Klingler  
9/18 Danelle Smith  
9/19 Shellee Fecht  
9/20 Tyrone Jacoby  
9/23 Daniel Harrell  
9/24 Denise Schwartz, Tori Johnson,  
Christian Livingston, Janet Rahman  
9/26 Melvin Wetterich, Shelby Repplinger  
9/27 Gary Vest, Phoebe Wilson  
9/29 Mary Sargent  
9/30 Billie Kirby, Ron Garrelts, Dean Fecht,  
Kirby Fecht

### *August Anniversaries*

- 9/03 Phil & Susan Gronewold  
9/04 Jack & Bev Ufkes  
9/06 Ryan & Erin Biery  
9/07 Sid & Kristin Huls  
9/10 Ryan & Heather Stevenson  
9/11 Meinert & Kathryn Gronewold  
9/15 Shawn & Lydia Gutting  
9/16 John & Arlis Dittmer  
9/18 Travis & Jennifer Duffy  
9/21 Gilbert & Barb Duffy  
9/24 Robby & Jenny Robinson  
9/30 Chuck & Kathy Ehlert

### *Committee Night*

Committee Night is Tuesday, September 1.  
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 31, 2009

#### Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$83,315  
Amt. Received YTD - \$72,113  
Amt. Spent YTD - \$57,844  
Current Fund Balance - \$25,905

#### Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$10,871  
Amt. Received YTD - \$11,378

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.



### *Sewing Group*

The sewing group will meet on September  
14 to resume their regular weekly sewing.  
Anyone wishing to help is welcome to join  
us.

### *Welcome Center Update*

As of July 31, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$415,808. Of this amount \$14,854 was given through July 31, which compares to \$23,597 given through July 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$2,616 in interest through July compared to \$3,826 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$25,770 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$66,446. 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*

The 9-month session of the Bible Study is "To God's Beloved, Paul's Letter to the Romans." It will begin on September 10, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in my home. All ladies are welcome to this informal study where there are no right or wrong answers but where we share our questions, feelings and understanding of the Bible.

The first session is on being mutually encouraged. As women of faith, how do we give—and receive—the gift of encouragement? The theme verse is Romans 1:16.

The Bible Study group last year was very enjoyable and some had never attended a Bible Study before. I would like to welcome the previous members again and also some new ladies. If the time and location is a problem, or you have questions, please let me know. Maybe some other day of the week or time of day would be more suitable. I would love to hear from you.

Doris Holtsclaw 357-2737

### *Confirmation – it ain't what it used to be!*

Over the past fifteen years, Lutheran confirmation curriculum has been changing dramatically in an attempt to more deeply impact the lives of our youth in meaningful ways. One such curriculum, the one used here at Trinity for the past few years, is Faith Inkubators. It asserts that you can't plant a strong powerful tree of faith in someone's life in two years, but instead, seeds are planted through out all of life that are nurtured and incubated so that their roots will grow deep, their trunk strong, and their branches reach wide. In Confirmation, we meet twice a month for instruction with multimedia (music, drama, game-show, etc.) to plant and nurture those seeds. We meet once a month for service projects and fellowship events. But the most important aspect of confirmation is the "*Head to the Heart*" program. It affirms that faith formation is not the sole responsibility of the Church, but primarily that of the family. Each night, families will be asked to spend 15 minutes together in scripture and prayer, both to head to the heart, and to move our faith from our head to our heart. Not only do we and our youth need to intellectually learn about our faith, but our hearts need to be opened and prepared for a deeper relationship with God.

As we begin this confirmation year, we need your help! First and foremost, pray for our youth and leaders. Also, if you are interested in helping with food or leadership for our gatherings, please let us know. And finally, if you and your family would like to *head to the heart* and discover God's desire for a deeper relationship with you, talk with Pastor Adam for some resources on how you and your family can participate in the "Head to the Heart" program as well.

## *Church Council Highlights* *August 13, 2009*

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Pastor Adam led the devotions and prayer. Angie Fecht will lead the devotions in September.

Kirby Fecht was welcomed to his first council meeting. He was thanked for his willingness to serve and be the youth representative.

The minutes from the regular meeting of July 9, 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 Sheriff John Jefferson and his department for our \$100 gift to the Child Safety and Drug Prevention Program for youth ages 5-12.

Kathy Graham read a note from Ramo Stott thanking us for help with Youth Hope and Camp Summitt for low income kids. Merlin also read an "update" letter with experiences from the Camp and the need to raise additional funds.

### **Financial Secretary's Report**

Merlin had discussed with Loren Schulz the possibility of e-mailing the financial secretary's report prior to our meetings. Kathy Graham and Dave Hartweg will also try to e-mail their reports. The Financial Secretary Report dated July 31, 2009, was reviewed. Discussion followed. Kathy Graham made a motion to approve the financial secretary report. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report dated July 31, 2009 was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the report. The youth account is -\$3,024.90. Angie Fecht made a motion to move the remaining \$418.59 CLASP money into the youth account for the New Orleans' trip. Kathy Graham seconded. Motion carried. The Youth are planning an additional fund raiser to help pay for this trip. Thrivent has matching funds for this also. There is a \$10,000 CD for the Youth to help start up their activities. There was a discussion about how the youth would have a budget. It is \$1,500. for the year. Angie Fecht made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Christian Education (Angie Fecht) –**

Angie, Lydia Gutting and Pastor Dichsen met. They would like to present Bibles to the younger children through the Spark Program. These would be \$16 each. The third graders will still get a study Bible. Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 13. Confirmation will begin on September 13 for 8 students (7 from Trinity and 1 from Nauvoo). There will be a meeting on Sunday, August 30 for students, parents and Pastor Adam.

**Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –** Pastor Adam reported that a request for an ad for Illini West sports programs was received, costing \$30. Pastor Adam will take care of that. Connie reported that John had received communication from the Highway Department for trash clean-up. We will need to organize this in September.

**Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –** Mary discussed the plans for the potluck for Pastor's Installation. BBQ meat will be purchased from Weber Meats for around 150 people. Notes will be sent to all the members. Rally Sunday will also be a potluck. Since it coincides with St. Francis Day and the first Sunday School lesson is on creation, there will be a blessing of pets outside.

**Finance (Kathy Graham)** – Kathy reported the Finance Committee held a meeting before the council meeting. Mike Jurgens explained several items. The CIT bond was sold for \$4,127.05. It had been \$10,000, and had originally been a good, financial investment, but had declined with the economic slump. The finance committee recommended the money should be reinvested. Kathy Graham made a motion to invest the \$4,127.05 into the Capital Income Builder's Fund. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. The finance sheet was reviewed. The Passport Money Market went from \$5088 to \$9014 because of the CIT bond being sold. The Pastor Housing Loan is added as a line item. The payment of \$262.93 is the principle plus interest. This payment will go back into the Marie Fecht Account.

A request from the Carthage Community Development for the Youth Working Group for school supplies was received. Although boxes are all around town, we do not put them up since we have the School Bag project by our Sewing Group. The Finance Committee recommended giving \$250. Kathy Graham made a motion to give \$250 to the Youth Working Group for school supplies. Angie Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

Kathy and Pastor Adam explained the Ministerial Alliance's help with the ESL babysitting project. Classes will be held twice a week for about 8 weeks at the Christian Church. They would like help with sponsoring the cost of babysitting. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Kathy Graham made a motion to give \$150 for the ESL babysitting. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried.

**Memorial (John Dittmer)** – John presented examples of cards, a message and prices for the thank-you notes for memorials. The Memorial Committee will meet after church on Sunday, August 16. He is continuing to work on the Emergency Reaction Plan.

**Property (John Schwartz)** – Merlin reported that John and a second adjuster had borrowed Kevin Cook's manlift to examine the church building roof. There is hail damage to it and the tower siding on the west side. Council will receive two bids for this work. Kathy had checked into the Disabilities Act regarding the church ramp. As long as there is a handicap ramp access, like in the Welcome Center, we would not have to have the outside ramp.

**Social Ministry (Galen Krieg)** – Pastor Adam mentioned that communion is held the first Wednesday of every month at the Hancock County Nursing Home, with Bible Study following. He is hoping that all the churches will help support this. In addition, we take our turn for the Sunday services.

**Stewardship (Delmer Schlueter)** –no report.

**Worship & Music (Linley Bartell)** –Pastor Adam reported the worship schedule: Sunday, August 23 will be Installation and Benen's baptism; Sunday, August 30 will be Trinity's top 10 favorite hymns; Sunday, September 13 will be the Sunday School Rally, Animal Blessing and Potluck; and Sunday, September 27 will be a Pulpit exchange.

**Youth (Kirby Fecht)** –Kirby reported that he had met with Pastor Adam. The youth had a great time in New Orleans.

**Ministerial Alliance (Ron Schulz)** – Pastor Adam reported that the Ministerial Alliance will again host Bible study for Illini West students on Thursdays during the lunch hours at the Assembly of God Church. The Thanksgiving Community Service will be held at the Presbyterian Church with Pastor Adam preaching. ESL was also discussed.

**Pastor Report**—Pastor Adam expressed that it had been a great first month, albeit a busy one with a trip to New Orleans, several funerals and a wedding. He and Karen are feeling a part of this community. There is a

lot going on at Trinity; there is a lot of potential here and it is exciting to be a part of it. Pastor and his family will be out of town on September 3, 4 and 11 and 12.

### **Old Business:**

*Church Building* – Discussed in Property report.

*Geographic Parish* – Pastor Adam reported there will be a meeting Thursday, August 20. The Parish has chosen a name, The Cross, an acronym for congregations regionally organized for service and support.

*Installation* – The service will be Sunday, August 23. Four people will need to help with the worship service. Mary Sargent, Dave Hartweg, Connie Flesner and Merlin Gronewold will do this. The potluck meal will follow.

*Share the Harvest*—Merlin will organize a meeting.

### **New Business**

*Future Events* – Pastor asked what future events are already in place. The Stewardship meal will be held in November.

*Food Pantry* – There was a brief discussion about the storage of the extra food. Council will be thinking of ideas to keep that close to the pantry, yet safe.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Connie Flesner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Flesner  
Council Secretary



### *Choir Starting Soon!*

Choir will be starting their rehearsals on Wednesday, September 2. We will practice every Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the choir room. We will be singing on the Sunday after Labor Day, which is Sunday, September 13. If you haven't sung in the choir, but would like to – JOIN US! If you used to sing in the choir, but haven't lately – JOIN US! If you are a regular choir member, please – JOIN US! Hope to see you there.

### *HUGS in Hancock County*

Dr. Michael Veeder, oncologist with Illinois Cancer Care, will talk about "How to Communicate with Your Doctor" at the September meeting of HUGS, a support group for cancer patients or survivors, their caregivers and loved ones. The meeting is set for 12 Noon Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, at Memorial Support Services, 402 S. Adams St., Carthage (former hospital building). Dr. Veeder's practice is based in Peoria, and he sees patients in Carthage every Tuesday. A complimentary light lunch will be served. To make a reservation for lunch, or for more information about HUGS, call Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, 217-357-8565, or Joyce Buckert at 217-357-8628.

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.

## *Calling all Children... and Animals!!!*

There is a song I used to sing in Sunday School, it goes like this: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going... that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you spread God's love, to everyone, you want to pass it on." Well, that's what we'll be doing this year in Sunday School. We will be starting a new program, "SPARK", that lights a fire in our children. The curriculum will be for children preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It will focus on a theme Bible story for multiple weeks as children rotate through different workshops focused on art, Bible skills, games, computer lab, cooking, creative drama, music, science, and video. Our first topic will be discovering God's love through creation and will begin with Rally Day on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking of God's creation, we are going to celebrate God's creation through a special **Pet Blessing** on September 13<sup>th</sup> as well! St. Francis was a 12<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic Monk who set an example of love for all creatures, great and small. In honor of St. Francis Day, and to lift up God's love for us as well as our closest friends in the animal kingdom, you are invited to bring your cats, dogs, fish, frogs, or even ride your horses to the church yard to show them how much we love them and to give them a special blessing! (If you don't have any pets, teddy bears are welcome too!)

So stick around after worship for Rally Day games at 10:00, the Pet Blessing at 11:00, and then a pot luck at 11:30!

## *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.

## *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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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!



Another day is dawning  
As the morning star shines bright  
My soul with joy is waking  
As I look to Christ, my Light.

The moments of the day are there  
With toil, tears and grime  
And yet I fret not of the day  
I know that Christ is mine.

The moments of this day are His  
To do with as He would  
I know that He will lead me  
To do that which I should