

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 4

April 2010

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

There's a new game in the Dichsen household. All you need to say is, "Where's Benen?" and his hands slap up to his eyes, a big grin beaming from beneath. After a moment, an eye peeks out from between his fingers and giggles pour out. And with Marilyn, she's really getting into hide-and-peek – although frequent hiding places include under the table, on the couch, or just in the corner and facing the other way! Why do we like to hide so much? Is it the mischievous pleasure being out of sight? Is it the excitement of being sought? The thrill of being found? Lent is a time for all of these things, and as we journey through Holy Week they come to life in our lives as well!

We began Lent on Ash Wednesday, a day when we remembered our sin, recognized our tendency to "hide" from God, and accepted a cross of ash – a sign of our sin and need for God's forgiveness. Through Lent, God has been seeking. Our readings revealed to us God's faithfulness – through the Devil's testing, in the mercy shown to a fig tree, a prodigal son who is welcomed with open arms. This journey continues through next week, this "Holy Week."

On Maundy Thursday, we will gather to remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. It is a meal where Christ comes to us. We are hidden under the weight of sin, yet God seeks us and comes to us in bread and wine. And God comes to us showing us how to seek and serve others, by washing one another's feet. Please join us at 7pm as we share in this precious meal and act of service.

On Good Friday, we will gather to remember Jesus' crucifixion. It is a time when we remember the pain and agony of death, pain and agony that even caused Jesus to feel hidden from his Father! Please join us at 7pm as we gather at the cross, a place where we share both in Christ's suffering and victory.

And then, on Easter morning, the promise of Lent is fulfilled! The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word for "spring." The promise of "spring" is fulfilled when life bursts forth from an empty tomb. New life, fullness of life, life for you and for me! The trumpets will sound, the aroma of flowers will fill the air, and the Alleluia's will again be sung! Come and join us at 9am for our Easter celebration as we give thanks for this new life! Bring a friend and share this new life with them! Come early, at 7:30 for a fundraiser and breakfast served by our confirmation class!

Come, join us this Holy Week as we remember the game of hide and seek. Come and confess the mischievous pleasure of hiding. Come and experience the excitement of being sought by God's grace. And come and live the thrill of being found. It is a thrill, a thrill that causes us, like Benen and Marilyn, to be overcome with giggles and joy in knowing that we are loved.

May God seek and find *you* this Easter,
Pastor Adam

April Birthdays

4/01 Stephanie Stott
4/03 Heather Stevenson, Ryder Duffy
4/05 Anne Ufkes
4/06 Randy Geissler
4/07 Lance Stott, Rod McGaughey
4/08 Ashley Koster
4/09 Tyler Ufkes, Zach Lemley
4/13 Edith Galloway
4/14 Scott Harrison
4/15 Austin Ufkes
4/16 Nathan Wisehart, David Harrell
4/17 Crista Rainford
4/20 Dustin Ellefritz
4/22 Andy Redenius, Erin Markham
4/24 Gerrie Harrison, Travis Ufkes,
Ryan Biery
4/25 Denver Smith
4/26 McKenna Huls
4/28 Sally Swank, Margaret Rosenboom
4/29 Susan Pennebaker

April Anniversaries

4/09 Tadd & Carrie Markham
4/15 Rick & Lori Wildrick
4/22 Loren & Connie Schulz
4/24 Jim & Lori Ufkes

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.

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 February 28, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$23,727
Amt. Received YTD - \$28,938
Amt. Spent YTD - \$10,815
Current Fund Balance – \$24,653

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$2,438
Amt. Received YTD - \$2,005

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!

Welcome Center Update

As of February 28, 2010, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$463,532. Of this amount \$12,576 was given through February 28, which compares to \$6,104 given through February 2009. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2010 we have paid \$357 in interest through February compared to \$1,203 in 2009. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$24,000 in 2010, leaving a loan balance of \$18,789. In addition there are \$62,000 of our own funds on loan to the Welcome Center. Our goal for 2010 is to pay off our entire Marine bank loan. Let's continue to work together so we can pay off this loan twelve years ahead of our financial plan. 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.

Sewing Circle Needs Fabric

Sewing Circle needs fabrics, sheets, mattress pads or any type of fabric for sewing quilts for mission. When you're doing your spring cleaning, please keep this in mind. Any items may be left in the sewing room in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Wilma Fecht or Jackie Adkins.

Trinity Youth!

April 4, Sunday – Easter Breakfast – For all Confirmation students and their families, this is our big fundraiser for confirmation camp. Please join us at 9am, April 3rd to set up and be here by 6:30am on Easter to prepare and serve our breakfast. More details have been sent out.

April 17, Saturday – CROSS Event – “True Love Waits” – Middle School and High School youth are invited to attend a youth event sponsored by our Lutheran CROSS congregations. The theme of the event will be about sexual purity. It will be held at the Mt. Sterling YMCA, so come dressed for basketball, volleyball, and racquetball, and ready for a great evening!

April 18, Sunday – HS and Beyond – Our room is almost ready! The projector is up, the speakers are wired the couches are... old but comfy, so come for a multimedia kickoff! Do you have a video game you could bring and share like Guitar Hero or Dance-Dance-Revolution? Let us know and bring it for a time to give thanks for our new space and have a wild time!

Young Adults

If you can throw a ball, swing a bat, or look pretty cheering (if you struck out, you are still welcome!) come join us as we get a head start on a softball league. We will be challenging other churches to a softball league this summer so we will be kicking it off with a BBQ and practice. The date is subject to field availability, but let's shoot for April 10... we'll keep you posted!

Got Graduates?

If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or college, please let the church office know.

Thank You

The family of Naomi G. Jurgens would like to express their sincere gratitude to the congregation for all of the kindness shown at her passing with cards, calls, visits, memorials, flowers, food, thoughts and prayers. A very special Thank You to Pastor Adam for all his many visits and support before and after her passing, and Evelyn Briley, Jackie Adkins, Mary Ann Garrelts, Eileen Logan, Gerrie Harrison, Erma Swank, the Kitchen Committee and all of the many who brought food for the incredible special Lenten dinner provided to us. Thank you to Eileen Logan, Lance Stott, Chuck Ehlert, Shawn Gutting, Merlin Gronewold, Steven Sargent, Dave Harrison, and Jason Hartweg for assisting with the service. Mom/Grandma always knew she had an awesome church family.

Church Work Planning

The church council is extremely pleased with the contributions towards paying off the Marine Bank loan on the Welcome Center. With the potential for this to happen this year, the council has begun to focus on the exterior needs of our church building. We are in the process of gathering bids to repair the steeple and roof from damages sustained from the hail storm. We are also going to acquire bids for repairs to the brick and stone materials that are showing signs of decay on the outside of the church. The needs and costs of maintaining an older structure like we have will be ongoing and expensive. The council is collecting bids on all of these items, so that a plan of action can be developed. Thank you for your continued support.

Church Council President
Merlin Gronewold

Church Council Highlights
March 11, 2010

Present: Merlin Gronewold, Connie Flesner, Mary Sargent, Galen Krieg, Kirby Fecht, Dave Hartweg, John Dittmer, Erin Biery, Shawn Gutting, Delmer Schlueter, John Adkins, and Pastor Adam Dichsen. Absent: Linley Bartell.

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Erin Biery led the devotions. Galen Krieg will lead the devotions in April.

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 31, 2010, and February 11, 2010, were reviewed. Galen Krieg made a motion to approve the minutes, noting Erin Biery's name change from Krieg. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam received a thank-you note from Heather Stevenson for the baptism service and cake during Fellowship.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated February 28, 2010, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Unbudgeted Receipts includes the Welcome Center donations, the Souper Bowl and the Benefit Concert. John Dittmer made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report. Kirby Fecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2010. Dave explained the various items. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Erin Biery seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin discussed a new program in Sunday School called, One Room Schoolhouse. Lydia Gutting taught the first class. It is geared for 3 -12 year-olds. She likes it. It has lots of activities and is geared towards all: readers,

nonreaders and beginning readers. There were 7-8 in Sunday School last Sunday. Karen Dichsen and Erin will meet soon for planning. They hope to have a middle school and high school program up and running.

The Confirmation students are planning the breakfast. There is a change from Thrivent and their funding and money distribution. Matching funds will not be available. Thrivent members may have to go on-line or telephone in their requests for where each would like donations to go. Thrivent will not finalize their plans until June or July. There was discussion about letting the congregation know before the Easter breakfast. There are 3-4 students that would be going to Confirmation camp this summer. There is also a potential mission trip for the youth this summer too.

Pastor discussed VBS. The Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church and Trinity would like to work together for a week in July, juggling around 4-H, Band camp and Football camp. Pastor also discussed Leadership Lab for 8th graders through college. It is a week-long camp to train young people to be leaders in youth ministry. We do have one young person interested and hopefully there will be others. It will cost \$350 for the week-long camp. Pastor will talk with the young people.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie discussed the front sign. She has been working with Tyrone Jacoby to find a replacement. Last week she talked with several members of the committee and all were in agreement to purchase a new board for around \$500, plus shipping. In the meantime, Connie talked with Tyrone and he thought they could cover the board for between \$250 and \$300. He would like to try that, and if they couldn't make it work, then we would order a new board. Connie Flesner made a motion to have Ben Franklin recover the board. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary mentioned the Lenten soup suppers are going well. They have been wonderful.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn discussed the Financial meeting held on Tuesday, March 9. He had a request from Ramo Stott that came after the finance meeting. Ramo will be joining Students Today, Leaders Forever at ISU on a mission trip over spring break. They will be working in various locations in Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The cost is \$450. After discussion, Dave Hartweg made a motion to donate \$100 from the Marie Fecht fund. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried. Shawn discussed the Finance report. The trends are up, although the CDs did go down a little, which is typical for February. On recommendation from the Finance committee, Shawn made a motion to donate \$100 each to the Warsaw and Illini West after-prom committees. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Shawn also reported that the Christian Fund International has sent a report. Sylvia has graduated. The money we have sent has helped her for medicines, check-ups, school supplies, etc. She has plans to take a trade and enter the work force. We have paid through April, so our monies have been transferred to Alfredo, Sylvia's brother. We do sponsor 5 other children. Their pictures are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Pastor's salary was under budgeted because of the way the line items had been written. Pastor and Karen receive their health care through the synod, but had chosen to keep the children's health care with their own policy. This had been negotiated when Pastor was hired, but had been overseen in the budget. John Adkins made a motion to amend the budget to include the \$4356 for health care to cover the pre-existing item in the contract. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John mentioned that another 250 note cards have been ordered. These are blank inside so that we

can use them for memorials and for notes to visitors. He had quotes on the costs of additional tables. The committee will be writing notes for the memorials received lately.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) – Delmer expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers for snow removal and scooping. A spring clean-up day will be set soon. There was discussion about smoke detectors, mice and moth balls. A special thanks goes to John Adkins for hanging the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen discussed the Financial Peace program's need of a teacher. We have a new teacher interested, but he would like to know how many would attend and would like 17-20 for good discussion. He would like to start in the fall and finish before Thanksgiving. The scholarships were discussed at the finance committee meeting. More discussion followed. There are videos for previewing and introducing the program. Galen would like council to help discuss the program and give interested names to him. It was mentioned that the videos should be shown several times, since people's schedules are varying. It will need to be discussed in the bulletin and newsletter. There is a website, too, to get information.

Pastor mentioned a need for some furniture for a member. If anyone has any items like tables, etc., they could contact him.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John has discussed the envelope purchase and procedure with Denise. John Adkins made a motion to buy 50-75 less envelope boxes and take the names of those not using the boxes off the list. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Much discussion followed. This would be a good first step to reduce the number of boxes further; perhaps boxes that have not been used could be reassigned. Dave Hartweg made a motion to amend the motion to purchase 110 boxes (or half the original number) rather than 50-75 less, and

strike the names from the list. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – no report.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported the furniture from the basement has been cleaned and moved to the Parish Hall. There was an estimate for new projection and speaker system that would cost \$3-4,000. Instead, Lance and Stephanie Stott have donated speakers and we will use what we have. Wiring will start on Saturday, so the system doesn't have to be moved. This should cost between \$500-600. There is hope for a mission trip. Possible time is 2-3 weeks in June or July.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –The Ministerial Alliance will have a Good Friday service and lunch for the community. This will be the Seven Last Words of Jesus. Lunch will be during an intermission.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam mentioned the midweek Lenten services have been fun with the skits and fellowship. He has enjoyed the sermons with the “guest visitors,” and has only heard positive comments. Pastor presented a handout of the various activities, visits and meetings he has attended recently. Since Lent also means “spring” there is anxiety for the work to be done. Share the Harvest is gearing up; the Souper Bowl of Caring was a huge success despite the weather. Holy week services include Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion on April 1, Good Friday service and Easter Sunday Service with breakfast by the Confirmation class. There will not be Easter Vigil on Saturday. Pastor has been invited to participate in Leadership Lab, Sunday, July 19 to Saturday, July 24. This will not interfere with our worship. He needs to let them know by March 20.

Old Business:

Share the Harvest—A Share the Harvest meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, at 7 PM. We would like to finalize our numbers and take them to the Blessing of the Seeds at St. John's in Springfield. They want to

grow, too, with sponsors from other churches. The Youth are planning on going on March 21, too. The Fall Harvest Gathering will be on Sunday, October 17. This is the date that would work with St. John's.

Audit Committee—Ryan Kohl has agreed to be on the Audit Committee.

Church Building – The exterior of the church has been discussed for several meetings. We have the money to repair the roof and some money in the tower fund for its repair. We are also in need of brick tuck pointing and basement work. Dave Hartweg has contacted Steeplejacks of America in Strongsville, Ohio. They renovate churches and have done work in Geneseo and Quincy. Nick America is the manager and they will be in Quincy this summer. He estimated the steeple work would cost \$77,750. He would give us a firmer estimate for \$2500. He would come with a lift and look everything over. If we would use his company, then the \$2500 would come off the price. It was discussed that we would need to look at all our options. Zion Church Builders estimated for a 200-seating church, you would need 20-square-foot per person, at a cost of \$90-100 per square foot. A new brick-exterior building would cost around \$400,000. John Schwartz had told Dave previously that he would estimate that the roof would cost about \$7500 to repair. We would then have about \$20,000 extra to apply to repairs and about \$25,000 in the tower fund. There is only a 6-month period to get the roof repair work done once the deal is closed. Much discussion followed. It was agreed we need to pursue this and make a decision soon. Pastor Adam will get information from St. Peter's on their recent tuck pointing project. Dave Hartweg will contact Zion Church Builders to meet with Delmer, Merlin and him since they will give an estimate for free.

Van—There was discussion about the license required to drive a church van. Dave had contacted the Driver's license bureau. The van and the driver need to go the facility

to take a driving test and become qualified. A sticker will then be issued for the driver to put on his/her license. This needs to be done for future use. Pastor will go this week to get his license.

New Business

Emergency Safety Strategy—The safety strategy plan is a work in progress. The safety lights, evacuation routes, etc., are being discussed. Also they will check into an AED machine, CPR/first-aid training. It was noted that several members are certified, but it was also mentioned they could be absent when this skill was needed. Perhaps those people could be identified, so it was known they would be in church.

Worship CDs –Judy Hartweg has been making copies of the service. This could be done in the office, but not with the current computer. A new computer may need to be discussed in the future. So far, the current process is fine.

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

Since there was no other business, Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

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.

Easter Breakfast

The confirmation youth will be serving breakfast on Easter Sunday beginning at 7:30 a.m. The menu will consist of pancakes, breakfast casserole, fruit and drink. A free-will offering will be collected to help offset costs for the youth to attend confirmation camp. Congregational matching funds will be applied for through Thrivent.

We are asking for donations of the following food items. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase additional items that will be needed. For those of you willing to donate food items, there is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Monetary donations may be left at the church office.

Please have food items in the parish hall kitchen by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 3. Thank you!

- 10 – 2 lb boxes pancake mix (just add water)
- 9 – 24 oz bottles of syrup
- 6 gallons orange juice (pre-made)
- 2 gallons milk
- 1 – 1 lb. can coffee

Church Basement Ladies - Thursday, April 22

Join us for a rip-roaring hilarious time as we head to Circa 21 Playhouse in Rock Island for the dinner theater presentation of "Church Basement Ladies." "Set in the basement kitchen of the fictitious West Cornucopia Lutheran Church of the Prairie in rural Minnesota, the musical finds its four hard-working ladies – and its one frequently befuddled pastor – cooking meals and solving problems during a Lutefisk dinner, a funeral, an Easter fundraiser, and a wedding. The seasons may change, but the ladies' tireless energy and ceaseless good humor never does, as the ladies spread hope, cheer, beautiful singing, and huge laughs not only to their parishioners, but to the audience as well." We will car/vanpool departing at 8:30am to return by 7pm. Cost is \$50/person. Sign up in the Welcome Center.