

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 8

August 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

Have you ever heard the phrase, "All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten?" It's the title of a bestselling book by Robert Fulghum. It suggests that the most important lessons of life are learned at a young age – share, play fair, forgive, hold hands and stick together.... Now, we all realize that some of the things we've learned from first grade on have been pretty important too, but he's got a point! And I wonder, is this statement true about our faith as well? Hmm, I'd like to suggest yes!

Children are like sponges, constantly soaking up knowledge, values, and behaviors. For example, a few months ago, while putting Marilyn to bed, I decided to try to teach her the Lord's Prayer. To my surprise, she already knew it! Apparently she has been paying attention in church when I thought she was just wondering why everyone keeps standing and sitting and plots to distract Mommy and others from whatever Daddy is saying! Our children are learning from everything around them, so why not surround them with God's love?

This is our philosophy as we take on the challenge of Christian Education. We are striving to immerse our young ones in the Bible, God's Word. We want to surround them with prayer and teach them how to talk to God. And we want them to grow up rooted in the sacraments, sustained by the promises of their Baptism and nourished by Holy Communion. But do you know what? Our children are only at church an hour or two each week! To rely only on the Church to educate our children would be like entrusting our farm or all that we have to someone else to take care of it, but only giving them an hour a week to do so. Recognizing this, we've also made it our philosophy that we are not here to take over Christian Education. We are here to encourage and empower families to surround their children with God's love through reading God's Word, praying, and remembering their Baptism. We will

do our best to provide quality Sunday School, First Communion instruction, Confirmation, and other programs, but our greatest responsibility is to encourage and empower families to walk with God every day!

This is a passion that God has placed on my heart, and I sense it growing and spreading every day. God is hard at work here at Trinity, and as we follow where God leads, we can expect great things to happen! But, following means more than reading the newsletter in your lazy-boy and tossing it aside. It means participating! It means committing yourself to discipleship! It means opening your heart and your life to what God is just itching to do in and through you!

If you are itching too, here is an awesome opportunity for you. There is a "Faith Conference" in Springfield, sponsored by six Lutheran Churches in the area, on October 7th-8th. Its focus is on *Connecting in Christ*, at home, at church, and with your neighbor. If you want to come and let God scratch that itch, let me know by August 15th and we'll register you (only \$25, meals included!). And if you have got an itch to get involved with what we are doing with Christian Education, come and talk to either Erin Biery or me.

In the meantime, immerse yourself in God's love! Follow the marks of discipleship we've been talking about: read God's Word, serve, pray, give, worship, and be in relationship with one another. Be a sponge and soak up all that our incredible God has to give! We may not be in kindergarten anymore, but God has a lot in store for us!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

August Birthdays

- 8/01 Stephen Weid, John Hartweg,
Chris Nettles, Katy Miller,
Jacob Jacoby
8/02 David Ufkes, Tom Bragg
8/05 Nikki Bower
8/06 Vickie Livingston, Madison Harrison,
Doris Holtsclaw, Pastor Adam Dichsen
8/08 Mildred Marshall
8/10 Kyle Miller, Mason Stevenson
8/12 Sara Brooks
8/15 Linley Bartell
8/16 Erin Brown
8/17 Shawn Gutting
8/18 Rob Gronewold, Peyton Gutting
8/19 Ramo Stott, Jeff Cole
8/20 Jadon Johnson
8/21 Christian Holtsclaw
8/25 Karla Johnson, Katelyn Jacoby
8/27 Brandy Fecht
8/29 Braxton Boyer
8/30 Russ Schoch, Gilbert Duffy,
Bria Repplinger
8/31 Malysa Galloway

August Anniversaries

- 8/01 Tyrone & Vonda Jacoby
8/02 Darin & Samantha Klingler
8/08 Tim & Sara Brooks
8/09 Andy & Terry Redenius
8/13 Dan & Peggy Higgins
8/15 John & Denise Schwartz
8/17 Carl A. & Helen Hartweg,
Pr. Greg & Maressa Busboom
8/26 Ed & Gerrie Harrison,
Galen & Kim Krieg

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.

August HUGS Meeting: Survivor Story

Pastor Paul Schwartzkopf will reflect on his experiences as a prostate cancer survivor, from diagnosis through treatment and after, at the August 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, August 3, at Memorial Support Services, 402 S. Adams St., Carthage (former hospital building). Pastor Schwartzkopf has been a Lutheran pastor for 40 years, most recently serving Christ Lutheran Church in Quincy, from which he retired in 2009. He will talk about the challenges of making treatment decisions, dealing with side effects and other aspects of the journey. His wife, Ann, will also share from her perspective and both will answer questions.

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.

Church Council Highlights

July 13, 2010

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Mary Sargent led the devotions. Linley Bartell will lead the devotions in August.

The minutes from the regular meeting of June 10, 2010, were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Merlin Gronewold received a thank-you note from Justin Neally for the monetary donation for his mission trip. Merlin also received a note from Connie Schulz on behalf of the Carthage Terrace thanking us for the monetary donation for the birthday gift cards.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated June 30, 2010, was reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as presented. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2010. Dave explained the various items. Both the income and expenses are under budgeted, but the current fund remains positive at \$14,644.00. The current giving is down about \$2,000 from a year ago but the Welcome Center principle is at \$0. This is remarkable. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin discussed VBS that was held July 5th to 9th at Trinity along with the First Christian, Presbyterian, and the Baptist Churches. Erin had 32 children pre-registered, prepared for 50 but had 72 show up the first night. These

children were from all over the community. The pyramid float and two Egyptians were great and beautiful advertisement in the parade. It was an incredible week. We are quite fortunate to have the space, facility and volunteers for this activity. There will be a post-planning meeting on Wednesday to go over what went well, ways to improve, etc. Many people and the churches donated various items; however there was a mix-up on Thursday night. Thankfully, Angie Ufkes came to the rescue for the evening meal. Linley Bartell made a motion to reimburse Angie Ufkes, \$52.57 from the Outreach Fund. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie had a meeting with Pastor Adam during the afternoon. The evangelism committee would like to meet and plan some activities. Perhaps they can help with the Sunday in the Park service and games. Church service will be held in the park on Sunday, August 1. A potluck and games will follow. Tickets for swimming in the Carthage Pool that afternoon will be provided. There is also discussion about the Sunday School Rally tentatively scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 29. Several members are interested in help with the soup kitchen ideas.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary discussed the fellowship refreshments are still going week by week. Hopefully there will be a movie night in August. The fellowship committee will provide drinks and table service for the August 1 picnic.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported the trends were upward for the accounts. No requests had been received.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –no report.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer discussed the various building proposals that includes windows, doors, brick work, caulking, towers and roof. John Hartweg, Dave Hartweg and Bill Kirby will climb into the bell tower on Saturday, July 17, to inspect the copper lining.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen mentioned there will be a meeting Sunday, August 1 at 6 p.m. for those interested in the Financial Peace University. This is an

informational meeting. He will put announcements in the bulletin and the newsletter. Pastor Adam also discussed the Soup Kitchen idea. The youth and several others believe there is a need in our area. He has had discussions with the ministerial alliance and Public Health since there would have to be inspections. Food could come from the River's Bend that also provides food for the Shepherd's Pantry. The thought is we should start simply, with once or twice a month. More information will follow.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –no report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley mentioned the letter writing to the children. She has not heard from anyone interested in writing these letters. Linley thanked Dave Hartweg for working with the sound system people. There are 8 people on rotation for worship services. Pastor Adam, Bev Ufkes, Eileen Logan and Linley met to discuss the wedding flower and music guidelines. Linley made a motion to adopt the policy “Flowers and Candles” and “Music” as presented. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. Motion carried. Linley discussed the robes and cinctures (ropes) that she found. She had a sample of the flax material. Linley made a motion to purchase 4 new robes, at a cost of \$86 each, and the 6 various cinctures, plus shipping and handling. Erin Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Pastor reported that a pool table has been given to the youth. The youth wanted to make sure it would be ok to have it in the Parish Hall. It would have wheels so it could be moved out of the way when needed. A board could be placed on top of it also. The pool balls and cues would be put away so as not to be out without supervision. Discussion followed that included ways to help our church grow and get more young people here. However our focus needs to center on our Savior. At the current time, the youth meet every other Sunday night. They have had interest in meeting every Sunday evening.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor mentioned that the 4th of July Service was one of the best turn-outs. It was estimated that approximately 150 people were in attendance.

The alliance discussed other possible times and ways to improve. High School Bible study will start again this fall.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Adam passed out his written report which began “How does what we are doing encourage and enable others to live lives of active faith?” He discussed the main area of Christian education, which includes Sunday School and VBS, but also how families can live lives of active faith. Carol Karr will help with the First Communion classes. There has been discussion of Christ Lutheran, Immanuel and Trinity working together with the confirmation classes. This focus will continue into the adult education with a 6-week series on the marks of discipleship. Other items mentioned included the winning of the silver softball by Trinity. (The Baptists won the gold.) Even though the season is over, games may continue for a couple of weeks. The Nursing Home service and Bible study are still held the first Wednesday of every month. Seven people have been attending the new-member class. Three are not current members and are interested in joining. Pastor will be at Leadership Lab July 18-24. Pastor Kurt Hoover will be filling in as needed. Lutherfest will be held August 15 at Immanuel with a volleyball tournament. Pastor also mentioned that this was his 13th council meeting and was incredible a year was already over. He was grateful that he had been here a year. Merlin expressed our gratitude as well.

Old Business:

Share the Harvest—Merlin reported that the land from CDC has been rented and planted. The float had been in the 4th of July parade and is available for use in parades in other communities. It was a consensus that both of our floats were very nice and represented Trinity very well.

Van—Country Companies and Church Mutual recommended not lending out the van to nonmembers. Galen Krieg made a motion to not rent the van to non-Trinity people and groups because of liability issues. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. Discussion followed. It was agreed this was a regrettable decision. Motion carried.

Other—Dave Hartweg made a motion to reimburse Edie Galloway \$200 for participating

in confirmation camp. Erin Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

New Business— The East room has had trouble with the air conditioning. Delmer will contact a plumbing/heating person to check out the furnace when working on the water fountain.

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

Since there was no other business, Linley Bartell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

Church Softball League Continues

Congratulations to the Trinity Softball Team who took silver in the church softball league this year! It was a great season...but guess what, it's not over! All the teams requested we continue through the summer, so here we go: 8/1 – 5:00 with the Baptist Church, 8/8 – 6:30 with Calvary, 8/15 – volleyball break as the returning champions head to Lutherfest, 8/22 – 5:00 with the Baptist Church, 8/29 – 6:30 with Calvary.

Confirmation

Calling all 7th-8th graders...it's time for confirmation! Pastor Gayle and I are putting plans together and it looks like its going to be an awesome year! Please come to an orientation meeting on Sunday, August 29, 6pm. We'll be talking about expectations, activities, and having some fun too. And don't forget to bring your parents – we've got information for them too!

Lutherfest 2010!

Break out the potluck dishes, grab your lawn chairs, and freshen up your volleyball skills as we head to Weinberg-King State Park in

Augusta for Lutherfest on August 15! We'll begin with a communion worship service led by Bishop Freiheit and "Living Water" and 4:00pm. Then we'll dig in to an unparalleled potluck (there are eight Lutheran churches participating!) and be entertained by Klutzy the Clown, a puppet show, and games. And don't forget the volleyball tournament! We are the defending champions and want to hold on to that traveling trophy! So please, join us and all the churches of CROSS as we join for worship, fellowship, and some good spirited "no mercy" volleyball!

Thrivent Members important information

Thrivent Choice Dollars is a new program replacing Care in Congregation funds. Since this program replaces the funds we at Trinity have been getting for the High School Youth Mission Trips and Confirmation Camp, please consider designating Trinity to receive these funds. In late July, letters will be sent to eligible Thrivent members telling the amount of money each person can designate to a self-chosen organization. The letter is supposed to explain how to designate your funds online or over the telephone. Once the letters are received, we will try to help anyone with questions. \$25 per letter may not seem like much, but if we all participate the amount will add up quickly. If you have any questions, please contact Traci Johnson or Angie Fecht.

Youth Group Pool Party!

Don't grab your swimsuits, come to church on Sunday, August 8 for our own pool party... we've been given a pool table and need an opportunity to break it in! And what does the game of pool have to do with God? Come at 5:30 for food, fellowship, and fun to find out!

School Bag-O-Rama Day

On Thursday, August 12, all Women of Trinity are invited to School Bag-O-Rama Day. This is not an event for just the regular members of the sewing circle. On this day,

anyone who is interested in mission is invited, whether they can sew or do not sew. Especially invited are those who have a heavyweight sewing machine. Some will assemble and pin, some will sew and others will turn bags or do the finish work and inspection.

We will sew from 9AM until Noon, then again from 1PM until 3 or 4PM, when we will be finished or exhausted. You may come for half a day or for the whole day. Either is appreciated. We will have coffee and refreshments in the AM, and serve lunch at Noon. If you are coming for just 1/2 a day, please plan to stay for lunch with us, or to come in early for lunch. If you have any questions, contact Wilma Fecht or Jackie Adkins.

Thank You VBS Helpers!

Thanks to all who helped with our incredible VBS week! We had about 75 children and 25 adults helpers journey with Joseph through Egypt, learning about the hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness, and family that God gives to us. Thanks again for letting your light shine in the lives of our children.

Faith Conference

Come let God give your faith a boost at the Faith Conference! Guest speaker is Rich Melheim, founder of Faith Inkubators, and he will present on connecting in Christ at home, church, and with your neighbor. It will be October 7th-8th at St. John's in Springfield. Cost is only \$25, meals included! See Pastor Adam if you are interested.

School Bag and Soap Time

This the time of year when we fill our finished school bags with school supplies and send them off to Lutheran World Service for mission use. Since this is the time when

school supplies are on sale, we are providing the list of supplies needed for each bag. We will be putting out 100 bags for filling this year, hopefully starting on August 15. Each kit will contain:

- *Notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper totaling 150 to 200 sheets. If using 70-sheet notebooks, please include three. Please do not get loose-leaf paper.
- *One pair blunt scissors
- *One 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with inches one side and centimeters on the other.
- *One pencil sharpener
- *Six new, UNSHARPENED #2 pencils with erasers
- *One eraser approximately 2 1/2 inches long
- *One box of 16 or 24 crayons

The containers for collecting wrapped bars of soap for mission will also be available for use on Sunday, August 15. They will remain out for your donations of wrapped bar soap until October, when we start boxing up supplies, health kits and quilts for shipping. Any type/size of bar soap may be donated, except for the size you might collect from hotel rooms.

Marks of Discipleship

Pastor Adam has been preaching a sermon series on the Marks of Discipleship: reading God's Word, praying, giving, worshipping, and being in relationship with others. Through August, come and learn what it means to be a disciple, laying your life at Jesus' feet, and following where God leads.