

# TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 1

February 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity

Happy... Lent? We are more accustomed to saying Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, or Merry Christmas, but Happy Lent?! Lent is the time in the church year where we “bury the Alleluias” and clothe the sanctuary in purple (the traditional color of repentance). During Lent, the Bible readings call us to examine our lives, show us our sin, and encourage us to repent. And get this, when I asked someone if they knew what Lent was, they replied, “Isn’t that when you have to give something up?” So really, what is there to be happy about in Lent?!

Maybe we all should remember where the word “Lent” comes from. It comes from an Old English word for “Spring.” We’ve just endured a painfully harsh stretch of winter, and during the season of Lent, the days are growing longer as the sun climbs back up in the sky. The grass will begin to green, buds will emerge on the trees, and flowers will break through the soil, and the robins will return in search of a new year. But this is what happens in the world around us. What is happening within?

For us, Lent is a time for spring as well. Just as the world around us is being transformed, God seeks to transform our lives as well! Lent is a time for repentance, and the purpose of repentance is the renewal of our lives. In our baptisms, God gave us new life. But life’s challenges come along as winters that think they can freeze those baptismal waters, but it can’t be done! During Lent, we ask God to renew our baptismal identities as God’s called and claimed children, to transform our lives into life-giving Spring.

But it doesn’t happen overnight. Spring

comes each year due to the earth’s tilted axis resulting in more and more time spent in the sun. So we shouldn’t be surprised that this same transformation comes to our lives when we spend more and more time with the sOn – Jesus (notice the “O” in the middle!). This Lent, experience a bit of Spring in your lives, experience God’s transformative presence, and spend some more time in the Son. There are LOTS of ways you can do this:

- Pick up a devotional booklet from church or find one on your own.
- Find a little bit of time each day to read your Bible. If you are always on the go, google “ELCA Daily Bible Reading” and subscribe to daily Bible emails.
- Bring your children to Sunday School (10:15-11:15) to learn about the significance of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
- Come to Adult Sunday School (10:15-11:15) to dig deeper into our Lenten Bible stories and see how they impact our lives.
- Come to our Wednesday night Soup Suppers and “**Late Night Catechism**” where we will rediscover the power of Luther’s Catechism in a light-hearted way and conclude with a time of worship.

So, this Lent, as winter continues to rage outside, know that Spring is on its way! Spring is on its way outside, and God is bringing Spring to our lives as well!

May God bless you this Lent with a time of Transformation,  
Pastor Adam

### February Birthdays

2/01 Lydia Gutting  
2/02 Sandi Watts  
2/03 Kim Krieg, Jacob Clostermery  
2/04 LeAnn Fecht, Jacob Ufkes,  
Delmer Schlueter, Elton Holtsclaw  
2/06 Jared Schwartz, Carl E. Hartweg  
2/09 Scott Shipman, Benen Dichsen  
2/11 Aaron Brodie  
2/12 Jesse Holtsclaw  
2/13 Jerry Bartell  
2/14 Cindy Menn  
2/16 Cory Clostermery, Leanne Pollock  
2/18 Kyle Kirby  
2/19 Brad Ufkes  
2/20 Helen Seigfreid, Jolene Gronewold  
2/23 Ethan Johnson  
2/24 Trey Geissler  
2/25 Carol Vest  
2/27 Angie Ufkes  
2/29 Alex Bentzinger

### February Anniversaries

2/08 Bill & Tiana Kirby  
2/10 John & Linda Hartweg  
2/14 Lawrence & Marjorie Harrell  
2/24 Mark & Traci Harrell  
2/27 Eric & Tonya Boyer  
2/28 Melvin & Dorothy Wetterich

### 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 December 31, 2009

#### Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$142,826  
Amt. Received YTD - \$121,619  
Amt. Spent YTD - \$116,612  
Current Fund Balance – \$18,920

#### Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$18,500  
Amt. Received YTD - \$16,874

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 December 31, 2009, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$450,956. Of this amount \$50,002 was given through December 31, which compares to \$50,509 given through December 2008. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2009 we have paid \$3,310 in interest through December compared to \$6,165 in 2008. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$49,428 in 2009, leaving a loan balance of \$42,789. 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.

### More Interior Signage

Look around! Gary Vest has made and installed several more signs. Denise Schwartz suggested that we should have some Office and Rest Room signs to help visitors find their way around. The signs look great, and should further enhance our visitor's experience in our buildings. Thanks, Gary!

## Church Council Highlights

January 14, 2010

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

Absent: Delmer Schlueter

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

Connie Flesner led the devotions. John Dittmer will have the devotions in February.

The minutes from the regular meeting of December 10, 2009 were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the minutes. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Petitions and Communications**

Pastor Adam had received a thank-you note from the ELCA thanking the church for the \$200 gift for missionary work. A thank-you note was received from Vickie Livingston for the Angel Tree Project thanking the church for their support. A Christmas meal and party were held in the Welcome Center.

Pastor Adam has been inducted as a member of the Carthage Chapter of Kiwanis International. There was discussion about the dues of \$110. It was agreed that this was an outreach project since Pastor will talk about our church, the Ministerial Alliance and the work we do with the youth group. Linley Bartell made a motion to pay Pastor Dichsen's dues of \$110 from the Marie Fecht Fund for Outreach. Angie Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

A petition was received from the Charger Center about purchasing seats in the auditorium for \$250 apiece. Discussion followed. It was decided to table this discussion.

The ELCA Global Disaster Relief for the Haiti earthquake was discussed. There will be inserts for the bulletin. 100% of the monies given go to this relief program. John Schwartz made a motion to give \$500 from the Marie Fecht Fund towards the ELCA

Global Relief. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried. Pastor will make the announcement for a special offering for the next couple of weeks.

Merlin Gronewold received a note from the Food Resource Bank thanking both Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John's from Springfield for their combined gift of \$11,500 to the Guatemala Project from our Share the Harvest project.

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

The Financial Secretary's Report dated December 31, 2009 was reviewed. Discussion followed. Angie Fecht made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report. Kathy Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2009. Dave mentioned that we were considerably under budget, about \$25,000, mostly due to a difference in the Pastor's salary. The current fund is in good shape. The Marine Bank loan for the Welcome Center is down to \$43,434. Kathy Graham made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education (Angie Fecht)** –It was mentioned that Lydia Gutting would like to step down as Sunday School Superintendent. She still wants to teach and help. Karen Dichsen would like to help with the organization of the Sunday School. They will work together in this position. Karol Carr would also like to help with the Youth. She has a Peer Ministry program for listening skills. Some students are interested, but scheduling has been a problem since this is an 18-week program.

**Evangelism (Connie Flesner)** –The Craft and Bake Sale raised \$606.70 for the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor reported that the Ministerial Alliance receives 70% of the Kettle Campaign from the Salvation Army for Hancock County. This money is in the form of vouchers.

**Fellowship (Mary Sargent)** –The “30-somethings Group” had a meal in December. These young people want to try to meet every month.

**Finance (Kathy Graham)** – Kathy had prepared a comparison of the finances from the last 3 years to compare the before, during and after the market crash. Discussion followed. Discussion also included the repaying of the Welcome Center loans from the endowment and other funds.

**Memorial (John Dittmer)** –The Welcome Center tablecloths were discussed.

**Property (John Schwartz)** –Church Mutual has contacted Bill Kirby for a new estimate about both sides of the church roof, excluding the East room. Discussion followed.

**Social Ministry (Galen Krieg)** –Galen announced that Tim and Tammy Snyder will be the teachers for the Financial Peace program. There was discussion about helping people attend this workshop. Pastor and Galen will meet to brainstorm some ideas.

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

**Worship & Music (Linley Bartell)** –no report.

**Youth (Kirby Fecht)** –Kirby reported that the Youth have discussed ski trip possibilities. Pastor and Kirby also reported the Youth have had a brainstorming session about using the space in the Fellowship Hall. They would like to use the first two to three south sections. Discussion followed about furniture, shelving, etc. It was agreed the Youth need a visible place to show them and others that Trinity cares about our young people. Their use of the room would be such that if there were need for more space in the Parish Hall, items could easily be moved to accommodate the need.

**Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam)** –The Ministerial Alliance would like to sponsor

youth rallies. Between 6 and 15 youth attend the Bible Study on Thursdays at lunch. It was thought that perhaps 4 rallies per year with live music would help to reach more students.

**Pastor Report**—Pastor Adam presented a hand-out of the various activities, visits and meetings he has attended recently. This included the new Adult Sunday School class theme, “Opening the Book of Faith”, the Printy Memorial Service, the Longest Night service, Christmas Eve, four funerals (3 for the Methodist minister on vacation) and many other activities. Pastor would like to talk with each of the council members (during this “quiet time before Lent”) to discuss their committees to help them grow and vision what God is doing through them.

#### **Old Business:**

*Geographic Parish—The CROSS*—The next meeting will be held January 28. Ron Schulz and Pastor Adam are spearheading a mission statement project.

*Youth* –The money for the youth is in a 6-month CD at Marine Trust until the youth need it.

*Share the Harvest*—Share the Harvest held a dinner and meeting on Monday, January 11, with 49 people attending. Joan Furnetti gave the presentation on the Food Resource Bank. Rose Moser, from St. John’s, spoke about her experiences and travels in Nicaragua. Merlin discussed the connections made with our rural community and the urban one. Jerry Bartell explained the procedures that Trinity had in place. Pastor spoke about doing God’s work. All mentioned that giving peoples the tools to build what they need, grow what they need and providing them those opportunities was rewarding on all sides. Kathy Graham was a gracious host for the two women. It was a wonderful night with many people interested. Some may join our group or start their own.

*Other—Printer*—There had been discussion that the printer may need to be replaced. Dave Hartweg reported that a \$500 wireless

printer, with rebates, could be purchased for \$300. John Schwartz made a motion to purchase the printer. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

*Other—Microphone*—There was discussion about the problem with the feedback from the microphone when used in the Welcome Center. The correct microphone needs to be used away from the wall the system is wired. Therefore items need to be projected out towards the main opening and a screen needs to be purchased. John Schwartz made a motion to purchase a new screen for up to \$200, using memorial money. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

*Annual Meeting*—Discussion about the Nominating Committee report was held. Dave Harrison is the chairman of the Audit Committee. Dean Fecht and Stephanie Stott are also on this committee. Some reports still need to be turned in to Denise. The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2010, following the worship service. A potluck will be held at 10:30 am with the meeting to be held at 11:30 am.

*Family in Need* – There was a discussion held about a family in the community that is in desperate financial need. Many ideas were brainstormed. Galen Krieg made a motion to help this family with the rent for January and February of \$375 each month from the Marie Fecht fund. John Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m.

John Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Kirby Fecht 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.

### *Address changes*

Robert & Heather Disney  
721 Lyon Avenue  
Carthage, IL 62321

Jared Schwartz  
2403 W. Springfield Ave. – Apt. Z-5  
Champaign, IL 61821

### *HUGS in hancock county*

Sheila Brune will speak on "The Power of Positive Laughter" at the February 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, Feb. 2, at Memorial Support Services, 402 S. Adams St., Carthage (former hospital building). Brune has been a registered nurse for 38 years and is currently director of quality and the Living History program at Memorial Hospital, Carthage. She has coached and taught customer service teams for over 10 years and believes that we must laugh to survive! "I'm passionate about having fun and laughing," Brune says. "Life is too short to take it too seriously!" 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.

*Many Thanks*

Many thanks to all who stayed behind to help take down Christmas decorations in the welcome center and sanctuary. Twenty minutes – tops, and we were done! Thank you especially to Dave Harrison, who totes his ladder to church every Christmas season, takes down boxes in advance, and comes back afterwards to hammer in nails on which to hang wreaths and do general clean up. The help of all who were there before and after Christmas is very much appreciated.

Linley Bartell, Chair of Worship & Music

#### *New Paint!*

If you haven't noticed yet, take a look on both south entrances to the sanctuary. After seeing that a lot of paint was chipping off the walls, Janet Rahman decided to scrape the walls and repaint them. They really look nice! Thanks, Janet, for making the improvements!

#### *A Huge Thanks!*

I wanted to thank all of you who brought joy to others through the Angel Tree this holiday season. Our families were very grateful for the gifts and food boxes. It's very uplifting to know that even in these troubled times, we can rely on each other when there is a need. We have certainly remembered Christ this holiday season. "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in. Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to Me." Matthew 25:35, 40

#### *Clip & Save*

Pastor Adam does not have a phone at home, so you will not be able to look his number up in the phone book. You might want to save these numbers for future reference.

Pastor Adam  
Cell: 357-5408  
Office: 357-2468

Trinity Lutheran Church,  
First and foremost is to thank our heavenly Father for giving us this chance of writing to each other.

It has been now a long time since we wrote to each other but in all God is great. Here now in our country the climate now is changing because we are getting rain. First our cattle died because of drought now everybody was left with some cattle and goats, but in all ways God is giving us others.

All in all I hope you're fine and doing well in your country. I usually pray for the church for the good things you are doing to me and am appreciating your kindness. May God bless you in everything you do.

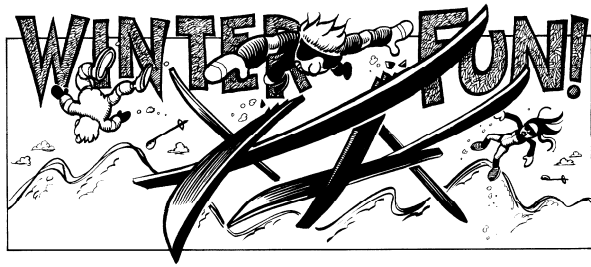
For now God has made us to wait and be grateful in this year and I wish you a good year full of prosperity. As we wait for it we hope that it will rain because now in this country we are hope that God will give us rain to stop famine.

This is because now everybody is not at home, they are looking for pasture and we are now hoping that it will rain.

Your sponsored child,  
Daniel Salau

#### *Ash Wednesday Worship*

Our traditional Ash Wednesday worship services, including the imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion, will be held on February 17 at both 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall and at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. On Ash Wednesday, Christians gather to be reminded of our need for repentance and renewal during the 40 days of Lent. Marked with a visible reminder of our mortality and sinfulness, we enter Lent prepared for the journey that lies ahead, a journey that culminates in our observance of Christ's death and resurrection on Good Friday, and finally, Easter Sunday.



### Youth News

On Saturday, February 6, the High School and Beyond youth group along with our Confirmation class will be heading to Snow Star in Andalusia for some skiing! We will leave at 1:30 from the church parking lot and return around midnight. Cost is \$25 and a bit extra for food and snacks.

The Church Council has approved that we use the south two or three sections of the Fellowship Hall as a youth room. We will be making some changes to suit our needs as well as keeping it multifunctional so it can still be used for large meals. A few things we are planning on so far: mounting our projector to use for Bible studies, Confirmation, and movies; updated speakers; bookshelves for a Youth Library; and various ways to decorate it and make it ours in a respectful way.

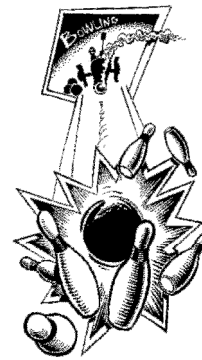
### Souper Bowl of Caring

Coming up, we will be participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" where we collect money and food to be used by our local Shepherd's Pantry and by our Confirmation class as they serve at the Quincy soup kitchen. Please bring your donations to church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, and place them in one of the Soup pots.

*You can make a*  
**DIFFERENCE!**

### Young Adult Bowling Trip

Calling all Young Adults! We are rallying the troops to get to know one another and have some fun. On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, we will head to Burlington KingPins Bowling at Fun City. We will leave the church parking lot at 6:30pm and return around 10. Cost is \$4.50/game and \$3 shoe rental. Oh, and what is a Young Adult? Well, basically, if you feel like you are young, and you feel like you are an adult, you're in! Hope to see you there!



### Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and "Late Night Catechism"

On the stage, "Late Night Catechism" is an interactive comedy show where six Catholic nuns give a very humorous catechism instruction to the audience, reminding them of the Latin Mass, meatless Fridays, and the good old ruler across the knuckles! Here at Trinity, we couldn't find any willing nuns, but thought it would be fun to gather for some lighthearted and meaningful Catechism instruction. Early in its history, the Lenten season became a time of education in the basics of the Christian faith. Martin Luther encouraged preaching on the catechisms, especially during Lent. This Lent, please join us as we revisit some of the basic teachings of the Christian community through Luther's Catechisms. Come at 6:00pm for soup and stick around for some fun with Luther's Catechisms and a time to worship at 7. So come, but don't be late – you might get a ruler across your knuckles!