

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 7

July 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

Marilyn is big into directions. "Which way to the pool? Which way to Papa and Go-Go's house? Which way are we turning next?" Last week, when we were in southern Illinois, she asked, "Which way to Carthage?" Karen and I both looked at each other, a bit puzzled. For a moment, I entertained the idea of explaining how we would need to get on interstate 64 which would head northwest and would then turn into highway 61 north leading us to US-36 which turns to 336 and then turn off on 136... but then I came to my senses. She's only three! "It's that way," I said, pointing off into a field of corn. Thankfully, her curiosity was quenched and she went on to something else.

A year ago, Karen, Marilyn, Benen, and I moved to Carthage and began a journey with you in ministry. To be honest, we had no idea where we were going! Sure, we map-requested the directions to Carthage, but when it came to this new chapter in our lives, we just trusted God and followed. Trusting and following... they can be scary, but this is what we are called to do. One of my favorite Bible verses, Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all of your ways, and He will make your path straight."

We have tried to do this to the best of our ability, and God has been faithful. As we settled into our home in Carthage, became a part of this family at Trinity, and as I began my life as an ordained pastor, God has made our path straight. We have been blessed abundantly and we are so incredibly grateful that God has led us here!

But... now what? What is next for Trinity? What is next for our life together? I feel a bit like Marilyn, going to God in prayer and asking, "Uh, excuse me God... what's next? And which way do we go to get there?" I can just imagine God entertaining the idea of laying out a detailed roadmap for us, but then laughing, realizing we are just human, and instead, just pointing and saying, "It's this way. Follow me!"

In my first sermon, last July, I shared that we are on a journey together. "I'm here to walk with you every step of the way, as we climb wonderful mountains, and maneuver challenging valleys. I'm here to trust with you, to put our trust in the Lord, and to help us recognize that God is walking with us every step of the way. And I'm here to receive God's trust with you, as we all are entrusted with God's great mission. So let's grab our staffs, the shoes on our feet and the clothes on our backs, and together let's live out God's mission – let's *Celebrate Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People.*"

What's next? And which way do we go? Together, let's trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, and lean not on our own understanding. Let's look to God in all that we do, and God will make our paths straight.

Thank you for all you have done to make our first year with you so wonderful. Thank you for all you do to live out our mission. And thank you for being ready and willing to journey together and discover where God is leading us next!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

July Birthdays

- 7/01 Helen Hartweg
7/03 Pam Edris
7/04 Linda Schmudlach, John Dittmer
7/06 Paxton Brown, Austin Brown,
Sarah Kohl
7/07 Lynn Fecht
7/10 Natalie Cole
7/14 Wilma Fecht
7/15 Tanna Ellefritz, Marcia McGaughey,
Brooke Gronewold, Abbie Lemley
7/16 Maressa Busboom
7/20 Donna Hills
7/21 Peggy Higgins
7/22 Steven Sargent
7/24 Jane Wills, Ashley Snyder
7/26 Bill Kirby, Regan Seaver,
Jackie Adkins
7/27 Ruth Ufkes, Kaci Ellefritz,
Amber Jacoby, Colt Vance
7/28 Ed Seaver
7/29 Brianna Hale, Barbara Hartweg
7/30 Gladys Rhodes, Norm Jurgens
7/31 Jennifer Duffy

July Anniversaries

- 7/05 Cory & Jennifer Clostermery
7/06 John & Pam Edris
7/10 Don & Phyllis Housewright,
Pastor Adam & Karen Dichsen
7/13 Bill & Teresa Geissler
7/14 Chris & Kim Nettles,
Ryan & Sarah Kohl
7/16 Jason & Cari Seaver
7/19 Ronnie & Traci Johnson
7/22 Tyler & Adrian Creasy
7/26 John & Shirley Manning

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 May 31, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$59,316
Amt. Received YTD - \$55,245
Amt. Spent YTD - \$60,111
Current Fund Balance – \$14,117

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$7,973
Amt. Received YTD - \$8,226

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

Due to the outstanding giving towards the Welcome Center, we have made our final payment of the Marine Bank loan, which is over twelve years ahead of our initial finance plan! Thank you for helping us attain our goal. There still remains \$62,000 of our own funds on loan to the Welcome Center.

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

June 10, 2010

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. John Adkins opened the meeting with devotions. Mary Sargent will lead the devotions in July.

The minutes from the regular meeting of May 13, 2010, were reviewed. Shawn Gutting made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kirby Fecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

There were no petitions or communications to discuss.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated May 31, 2010, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Miscellaneous Unbudgeted Receipts includes the Welcome Center donations, the Food Pantry, Sunday School, and Youth Group. Shawn Gutting made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated May 31, 2010. Dave explained a drop in the current fund due to an insurance payment. There was also discussion about money invested in the Tower Fund dwindling. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) – Erin reviewed plans for Vacation Bible School, which will be held July 5-9, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church. Other churches included in the Bible School are First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Baptist church. Furthermore, Erin spoke briefly about

work-in-progress concerning the Scope and Sequence in Sunday School. Pastor explained this further in his written report to council concerning Christian Education. Pastor and Erin have been working on outlining what is necessary to support and educate our children for their Christian walk. They are also working on putting together a team to further develop this structure for the Christian Education program at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) – No report.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) – Mary mentioned the Movie Night on Saturday, June 5 went well, with 8 people attending. There might not be a Movie Night in July because of the busyness surrounding the Fourth of July weekend. Mary also reports that fellowship refreshments have been taken care of for the past several weeks and is even taken care of into July.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) – Shawn presented his report and made mention of funds trending in a negative direction. Shawn reports that the Finance Committee did not meet this month as no requests for money were made.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – John Dittmer sent his report with Merlin Gronewold and mentioned that the tables and chairs have been ordered and should arrive soon. They are still working on the tablecloths. Concerning the emergency plan, John reports that two people, Sharon Ideus and Chris Nettles, have volunteered to work on further developing the plan.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) – Delmer mentioned that several bids for the renovation of the church have come in and they are reviewing the various bids. Many of the bids are for different aspects of renovation and/or rebuilding, so it is difficult to sort through the various bids and make recommendations. Delmer was hoping to have a church-wide clean up date recently, but the weather hasn't been favorable for this. A fall clean-up date was mentioned and discussed as perhaps a better time to get things accomplished. Furthermore, some of the bids for church

renovation/rebuilding include portions of what would be done at the church-clean up day, such as painting around the windows. It was mentioned that some contractors who have submitted bids made note of the lack of grass around the foundation of the church. Though well-intended, it appears as if Round-Up was used to kill the grass around the foundation. The company who submitted their bid recommended that grass, rock, or a plastic barrier of some sort be used so that the water doesn't seep down around the foundation and into the basement.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) – No report.

Stewardship (John Adkins) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley also sent her report with Merlin Gronewold and mentioned that she has received samples of fabric for the robes. She will go through the robes and will determine needs when she gets time to do so. Linley also reports that she is planning to get a list from Denise Schwartz regarding members that may have signed up to write letters to our sponsored children. Furthermore, volunteers who said they would be willing to operate the sound system during church will meet with and be trained on how to do so by Dave Hartweg. They hope to have the training and a rotation set up sometime in July. There was a discussion regarding the use of artificial flowers to be placed on the altar for weddings held at Trinity. There have been some inquiries as to whether this would be permissible. Furthermore, there was an inquiry as to whether a CD of accompaniment music could be allowed to be played at a wedding rather than accompaniment from the piano. A discussion followed regarding the church's policy on these matters. John Adkins made a motion to table the discussion regarding artificial flowers and pre-recorded music until further information can be obtained regarding this rule, but that we grant temporary permission to those parties seeking to use artificial flowers or pre-recorded/CD music in the meantime. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) – Kirby spoke about their trip to Gulfport over the past week and

described how uplifting of an experience it was. Miss Dawn was very appreciative of the work the youth did for her and plans to share that with others in the community as well. Kirby said that they painted her house bright yellow, at her request, so that she may be a beacon in her community and let her light shine to others. The youth not only painted her house but replaced soffit, power washed mold, and mowed yards. One morning, due to the rain hampering some of their outside work, some of the youth went to work in a Soup Kitchen and were inspired by this experience as well. A discussion was held about the possibility of opening a soup kitchen here at Trinity for the economically disadvantaged in our community.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) – No report.

Pastor's Report – Pastor's written report was reviewed in his absence. In his report, Pastor made mention of the Scope and Sequence project that he and Erin Biery have been working on. A team is being organized to further develop the outline of the Christian Education Program. Pastor mentions his excitement regarding the work involved with this project and the summer months ahead. Pastor and his family will be on vacation from June 11-19, and Pastor Kurt Hoover will be on call in Pastor Adam's absence. The next softball game will be on June 20. Pastor Adam will preach in Nauvoo on June 23. The wedding of Ashley Ufkes and Dillon Darbyshire will be held on June 26. The third softball game will be June 27. Vacation Bible School will be held from July 5-9. Pastor reported that there is a \$150 fee for the church softball team to be able to play. A discussion followed regarding which account to pay the fee from. Kirby Fecht made a motion to pay the \$150 fee out of the Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Account Fund. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried. Merlin reported that another request had been made for the use of the van, but that because of the insurance stipulations the request was withdrawn. Merlin called Church Mutual Insurance to inquire about letting others borrow the van and it was reinforced to him that they highly encourage us not to let others

drive the van. Upon looking at the insurance policy, it is written that the van should not be loaned or rented out to others. There was a discussion about this issue, especially since the Christian Church has been granted permission to use the van in March of 2011. Dave Hartweg will check into other insurance providers about their policy of renting or loaning out the van.

Merlin Gronewold requested on Pastor Adam's behalf that 8 plaques be ordered at \$25 each to be given to church members that have been married for 50 years. This has been done in the past, but the church has no more plaques at this time. There was a discussion about where the money should come from to purchase the plaques. Shawn Gutting made a motion to take \$200 out of the Special Fund to pay for the 8 plaques. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Adam will be on vacation this next Sunday, June 13 and there will be a puppet show in his absence. Ramo Stott is the assisting minister and will open the worship service. The puppets will deliver the message. The puppeteers do not charge a fee to share their message but do request that a table be set up for them to sell their merchandise. There will be a table set up in the Welcome Center for this.

Old Business:

Share the Harvest--Merlin mentioned that Share the Harvest group has rented 9 acres at the edge of town by Mcartney's Farm Equipment and plan to put a crop on it. They tried to purchase the land, but were unable to do so. They are renting it from the Carthage Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC). A sign will be made to advertise along the highway and there will be a float in the 4th of July Parade to advertise this as well.

Church Renovation/Rebuilding--It was mentioned that several bids have come in on the renovation or rebuilding of the church. There is quite a variance in not only what the bids are for, but also in the amount of money bid. A discussion was held about how the different companies are bidding for different things and place importance on different things that need to be done. The Finance Committee and the Property Committee will meet to sort through the bids and try to determine where to

go from here. This is a work in progress.

New Business – Merlin reported that the Youth CD at Marine Bank will mature on June 14. Shawn Gutting made a motion that we leave the CD at Marine Bank and renew it for 6 more months. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Erin Biery

Thank You

Thank you very much for attending our 60th anniversary open house. Also thank you for all the beautiful cards and well wishes. All were greatly appreciated.

Bill & Wilma Fecht

VBS Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-up sheets for volunteers and food needed for VBS are located in the Welcome Center. If you would be willing to volunteer or donate food, please sign up. Thanks!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be an ecumenical event with nightly sessions being held here at Trinity. We will move through the marketplace of Egypt as we focus on Joseph's journey from prison to palace. All children from age 3 – grade 6 are invited to participate. There will be Bible stories, crafts, games and supper will be provided. Dates: Monday July 5 – Friday July 9. Times: Monday 5-8 p.m.

Tuesday – Thursday – 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Friday – 5:30 p.m.

Closing Program – 7 p.m.