

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 6

June 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

Ahhhhh... Summer! It's finally here! Look around you. God's creation is going through a great transformation! A transformation of new life and new opportunities! Growing up, I have so many memories of summer. Getting off of the bus after the last day of school, walking two feet above the ground because of the newfound freedom. Running out after supper to play with friends, making sure I was home "before the street lights came on." Hours spent in the creeks catching critters. Swimming and playing ball. Burgers on the grill and ear after ear of fresh sweet corn. Wonderful memories with friends and family!

Here at Trinity, there are no shortage of opportunities to have some fun and make memories this summer! In fact, I think that should be a goal of ours. As a family, let's find ways to have fun together and grow closer to one another. Here are a few of the opportunities coming up to put on your calendar...

- Graduation May 30 – Give a grad a hug, give them some encouragement, and think of what it was like when you were at that stage.
- Youth Mission Trip May 31-June 5 – Pray for our youth as they serve in Gulfport, MS, and hear their story in worship on June 6.
- Church Softball League – Sunday evenings in June, come out for a game of softball played between our churches. Grab your glove to play or a lawn chair to cheer us on. Either way, come out to the Carthage diamonds for some fun!

- Celebration of Praise and Worship by "HIS" on Sunday, June 13. Guest worship leaders, Bob and Marti Felgar (along with puppet friends), share Jesus' love in word in song. This is for all ages, but make sure to bring your children and invite friends!
- 4th of July Parade with floats from our VBS and Share the Harvest.
- Vacation Bible School here at Trinity from July 5-9 with VBS worship on the 11th. Come journey with Joseph and help our kids see God leading them on their journey on this exciting week together.
- Outdoor worship and congregational picnic on August 1st at Jaycee Park.
- "Lutherfest" on August 15th in Augusta – Just a reminder, we have last year's volleyball trophy... let's show everyone we own it!
- Movie nights on the first Saturday of each month with movie and discussion for all ages.
- And stay tuned for a youth campout and boating trip, spontaneous BBQs, and a trip to St. Louis for a Cardinal game... nothing against the Cubs though ☺

So this summer, enjoy the many blessings God has given us. The blessing of this beautiful world, the blessing of time to enjoy it, and the blessing of family and friends to share it with. And take the opportunity to make some memories. I sure look forward to making many wonderful memories with you!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

June Birthdays

- 6/02 Jennifer Clostermery, Dave Harrison,
Alexis Markham, April Lemley
6/03 Catie Harrell
6/04 Jason Waite
6/06 Mark Harrison, Marilyn Dichsen
6/10 Jason Lemley
6/11 Cindy Brown, Cody Ufkes
6/12 Tim Snyder
6/15 Chuck Ehlert
6/16 Chris Snyder, Matt Snyder
6/17 Diana Harrison
6/23 Phil Gronewold, Mike Menn,
Dorothy Wetterich, Don Schulz
6/24 Joel Ellefritz
6/25 Megan Lemley, Grant Clark,
Miranda Klingler
6/26 Josh Schulz, Nicholas Bruns
6/27 Travis Ellefritz, Chase Ufkes
6/28 Angela Schoch
6/29 Alyssa Young, Ryan Kohl

June Anniversaries

- 6/02 Jerry & Lynn Fecht
6/11 Bill & Wilma Fecht
6/12 John & Sandy Peterson,
Dan & Liz Snyder,
Kendall & Mary Sargent,
Jeff & Natalie Cole
6/15 Mike & Cindy Menn
6/16 Max & Elaine Gronewold
6/17 Keith & Terri Ellefritz
6/25 Dave & Judy Hartweg
6/30 Jim & Donna Hills

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 April 30, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$47,453
Amt. Received YTD - \$44,832
Amt. Spent YTD - \$41,273
Current Fund Balance – \$22,543

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$6,378
Amt. Received YTD - \$6,409

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 April 30, 2010, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$473,422. Of this amount \$22,018 was given through April 30, which compares to \$8,129 given through April 2009. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2010 we have paid \$495 in interest through April compared to \$1,920 in 2009. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$28,400 in 2010, leaving a loan balance of \$13,389. 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.

Church Council Highlights

May 13, 2010

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Linley Bartell led the devotions. John Adkins will lead the devotions in June.

The minutes from the regular meeting of April 8, 2010, were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam received a request from the Christian Church for use of the church van for their mission trip to New Orleans March 12 -19, 2011. Discussion followed. John Adkins made a motion that the Christian Church be allowed to use the van for March 12-19, with the stipulation that if we need the van we will notify them at least 3 months prior to these dates. John Dittmer seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried. Pastor Adam will contact them.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated April 30, 2010, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Unbudgeted Receipts includes the Welcome Center donations, the Food Pantry, Sunday School, Easter breakfast donations, van gas and an insurance check for the roof. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2010. Dave explained the various items. Utilities are under what we estimated despite the cold weather. The Welcome Center loan is working down quite

nicely. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Pastor discussed VBS to be held July 5th to 9th will include the First Christian, Presbyterian, Trinity and perhaps the Baptist Churches. Erin is getting it well organized with committees. Each church is being asked to give \$100-150 for support. This will allow the fee for each child to be waived. They plan to have a float in the 4th of July parade with Joseph and the pyramid. They are looking for a camel. Pastor and Erin will meet this summer to focus on the scope and sequence of Sunday School. The confirmation season ended last Sunday. The youth will wait to go to Confirmation camp with Pastor next year. There were prior commitments with the 7th graders.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reported the roadside clean-up will be Saturday, May 22, 2010, at 10 am. Pastor, Connie, Jerry Bartell and Jack Ufkes have met to discuss our membership list. Pastor discussed that 4 individuals receive the CDs every week from the Sunday worship service. Thank you to Judy Hartweg for this mission. It is appreciated by those who are unable to attend.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary discussed the fellowship refreshments are still going week by week. She is in need of members to sign-up. The movie night went quite well with 18 people attending at some time. The next showing will be Saturday, June 5, *The Blindside*. There is hope to attend a Cardinal game and perhaps a canoe trip.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 11. They received several requests. Justin Neally will be on a mission trip to Los Angeles' homeless shelter and food pantries with the Christian Campus Fellowship. Shawn Gutting made a motion to donate

\$100 from the Marie Fecht fund to Justin Neally for this mission trip. Linley Bartell seconded. Motion carried. Shawn discussed the Sponsor Child Fund. Our sponsorship of 4 of our children is up for renewal. It is \$144 per child, twice a year. Shawn made a motion to renew this commitment for \$598 for the next 6 months. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried. There was follow-up discussion of letter writing to these children. Linley currently writes to one of the boys. Since no one was sure of others writing, she will put a note in the newsletter. Connie Schulz made a request for gift cards for birthday presents for the 16 residents of Carthage Terrace. Shawn made a motion to donate a total of \$160 for \$10 gift cards for each of the members. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. Jody Miller requested money for the Carthage 8th grade graduation party to help with children unable to pay. These requests generally go to the Agnes Geissler account. Brent Ufkes will talk with John Peterson.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John met with his committee last week. The thank-you note procedure was discussed. John mentioned that blank note cards are available. The current long, heavy metal tables were discussed. Many are in poor condition. John Dittmer made a motion to purchase 10 round tables (like those in the Welcome Center) for \$160 from Homestead Lumber. Mary Sargent seconded. These will be used in both the Parish Hall and Welcome Center. Motion carried. The tablecloths in the Welcome Center were also discussed. John Dittmer made a motion to purchase 6 matching tablecloths at \$80 each. Linley seconded. Motion carried. Since it would be nice to have tablecloths for the new tables also, John will look into a cheaper source. John reported that an anonymous donor is willing to purchase 100 new chairs at \$65 each. These chairs will match the existing ones in the Welcome Center. The Emergency plan was also discussed at the committee. There are 3 main stages: identify the threat (heart attack, intruder, etc.); identify resources (nurses, health

workers, firemen, etc.) and the action plan. An announcement will be in the newsletter asking for potential emergency resources. A plan for charts of phones, emergency supplies, etc. is underway. Once this is in place, a meeting will be held with the ushers to discuss the evacuation plan, safe areas, etc.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer discussed possible dates for a church wide clean-up date. The roof was also discussed at the Finance committee meeting. Hoerr, a group from Peoria does both design and building of new buildings and renovation of older buildings. Another company exists in Sterling, Illinois. Pastor will contact the Lutheran Church in Macomb to see whom they had. Delmer, Merlin Gronewold and Dave Hartweg will schedule a meeting with Hoerr for cost estimates for what needs to be done at church versus the cost of a new building.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen has no report at this time.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John had no report but would like some guidance with the fall banquet and dinner. He will work on the envelope procedure.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley discussed the white robes for the acolytes, assistant ministers and communion assistants. It was thought perhaps they could be made but the material is difficult to find, and at a cost of \$15 per yard, it will not be feasible. She is organizing the robes and still working with several companies on the sizing and ordering process.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported that 14 people (11 youth and 3 chaperones) will be leaving May 31 for Gulfport, Mississippi. They will help a lady with several children work on her house. A Hog Roast with games and a speaker will be held on Sunday, May 16, at noon, to help defray costs of the trip. It's estimated that it will cost \$100-150 per person. Each young

person will be asked to pay \$50. They are hoping to get donations for materials. They will work Tuesday through Thursday with a fun day on Friday. Saturday they will return home. There is much enthusiasm for this ministry. Pastor and Kirby were both thankful for the space in the Fellowship Hall. With the new technology, it has been a great addition for the youth, confirmation and now the whole congregation. What was originally estimated to cost over \$4,000, with donations was under \$400. It is a great use of space and very much appreciated.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam)—Pastor mentioned that the last Bible study was held today. Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2010, at 2:00 in the IWHS gym.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Adam passed out his written report. He discussed his highs and lows, with the highs being the great year of Confirmation, the church basement ladies trip and the baptism of Faulina, Marisol, William and Carina Sebastian. The low was the passing of Karen's grandmother. Yet this also provides opportunities for the gospel to be proclaimed. The new member class includes 3 people interested in joining. The young adult camp-out is scheduled for Friday, May 14 and the Youth soup kitchen work on Saturday, May 15. The first softball game will be June 6. Pastor and his family will be on vacation June 11-19.

Old Business:

Van—Shawn Gutting passed around a sample form to be used for renting the van. It includes a spot for additional drivers, to decline use of our insurance and a section for information on the driver's insurance. Discussion followed. Several questions were raised. Contact will be made with Church Mutual regarding our policies.

New Business—There was no new business at this time.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 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.

Emergency Response Plan

The Memorial Committee is in the process of developing an emergency response plan for Trinity. If you have any special skills or knowledge that would be valuable in the event of a fire, severe storm, or medical emergency, please contact the office or one of the memorial committee members (MaryAnn Garrelts, Eileen Logan, Judy Johnson, or John Dittmer). If you have experience as a nurse, EMT, fireman, law enforcement officer, or other emergency personnel we would like to list you as a resource in the event of an emergency. Once we have identified personnel and other resources available, we will prepare a plan or plans to deal with potential emergency situations. John Dittmer

Letter Writers Needed

Would you like to travel to other countries vicariously through corresponding with children who are a part of the Christian Children's Fund program? Trinity Lutheran Church sponsors six children from different parts of the world, supporting them financially and in doing so, giving them some advantages they would otherwise not have. It has been customary that members of the congregation correspond with the children, but somewhere along the way, with transitions from minister to interim minister to SAM and back to minister, this hasn't been taking place, as far as we can ascertain. Would you like to keep in touch with Daniel from Kenya, Israel from Brazil, Jaylander from Guatemala, Alfredo from Bolivia or Brendon from Brazil? If you are already corresponding with one of these children, please let Denise know. If you would like to write to any of these boys, once again, let Denise know, and she will assign you to a child. If we have more who want to write than we have children, there is no reason that more than one person couldn't correspond with a child.

I have been writing to Deric Watala in Kampala, Uganda for several years now. I chose Deric because my brother's name is Derek! I get the sweetest notes from him, always so appreciative of my letters to him, and the little bits and pieces I sometimes send along with my letters. He tells me how school is going, how he helps his family, what the weather has been like and he usually decorates his letter with artwork. He always asks about my family. He often signs his letters "from your son," or "love and smiles," or "I love you." He always thanks me for the support our church gives him, which helps him and his family immensely.

I have found that writing to Deric has been a real blessing and would encourage anyone to give it a try. I think it will light up your life!

Linley Bartell

Congratulations to Heather Swank, who graduated from Carl Sandburg in the Practical Nursing Program. We are proud of you and may God be with you in your future endeavors!

Address Changes

Wesley Harrison
214 N Scofield Street
Carthage, IL 62321

Nathan Wisehart
103 Cambium Avenue
Bellefonte, PA 16823-6412

News From Our Sponsored Children

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Congratulations due to our heavenly Father for giving me this golden opportunity to say a word of hello to you and the whole member of the church. I would like to inform the members of the church we are fine – the family of Daniel Salau. I am his mother who is writing this letter to inform you that for this time Daniel is at school because he was not going to school because I was very sick and he is the only one who can look for me but now I am well. So now Daniel is back to school and also in our country we have a lot of drought for a long time and that makes us to have a lot of problems because where we live there was no water, no food. So the problem was so much and make Daniel to stop going to school. In this year is when he went back to school and I know God will help him and also your help. With the money you sent for him I bought some text books and they did not buy enough books. So I am still looking for some but still problems too much. I will stop with a word of bye.

Your sponsor mother Daniel Salau

Congratulations to our Graduates!