

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 3

MARCH 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity

Life in the Dichsen household just made a dramatic change... this past week Benen learned to walk! It was a very interesting progression. At first, he would just stand, little bowed legs and all, doing a little dance to keep balance. Then he took a step here and there, followed by a prompt "PLOP." Then he discovered the bear crawl – up on hands and feet, tearing around the room like the cheetah. But finally, he left his four-legged friends behind, stood on two solid feet, plastered an enormous smile on his face, and took off... look out world!

As I watched this progression, it actually made me think of our lives as Christians. You've probably heard the phrase, "If you want to talk the talk, you have to walk the walk." As Christians, it is not easy walking the walk, and it takes time, encouragement, practice, and a whole lotta grace. This Lent, we acknowledge all of these.

As we learn to "walk the walk..."

- *It takes time...* During Lent, we are called to take some more time to be with God. Spend time in prayer, God's Word, or simply apart from the busyness of life. God desires to fill us to fullness with love and life that can be celebrated and shared with others, but sometimes we need to just sit and receive it.
- *It takes encouragement...* Just like Karen and I would sit, just inches away from Benen, making silly faces and gobbily noises to get him to take a step towards us, we are about encouraging one another in our Christian walks. We visit one another, cook for one another, lend a hand for

one another, and lift one another up in prayer.

- *It takes practice...* Just as Benen would take a step here and there, hold onto a cart for support, and watch his big sister prance around him in circles, we too practice our faith in the many ways we use our gifts to serve God. During Lent, we are called to "give alms" – in other words, give of ourselves to others. Maybe it is cooking, teaching, leading, playing, planning and participating in worship. When we practice our faith, our walk grows stronger, more confident, and we become an encouragement to others.
- *And most of all, it takes a whole lotta grace...* Benen is fortunate to have a nice padded diaper to break his fall and a family who will help him up to try again. We are fortunate to have a God who knows that we fall, but still reaches out to us. We can't hide our sin from God, yet God chooses to look beyond it, to quench our thirst with living water, feed our hunger by becoming the bread of life, and to pick us up, dust us off the ashes of our lives, and lead us to a cross.

This Lent, let us "walk the walk" together. With time, encouragement, practice, and God's grace, we will journey to the cross and be witnesses to God's promise fulfilled in an empty tomb. And together we will join Benen in his new phrase – "*Look out world, here we come!*"

God bless,
Pastor Adam

March Birthdays

3/01 Ron Schulz
3/02 Sally Cook
3/03 Kyle Jacoby
3/06 Max Gronewold, Carrie Markham,
Brent Ufkes
3/08 Blaine Creasy
3/09 Jenny Robinson, Sandy Peterson
3/11 Kelum Fecht
3/14 Kaylee Menn, Heather Disney
3/16 Haiven Harrison
3/17 Heath Marmion
3/18 Brittany Ufkes
3/19 Haeli Johnson, Luke Busboom
3/20 Megan Harrell
3/22 Vonda Jacoby
3/23 Shirley Manning
3/24 Caiden Rainford
3/27 Debbie Johnson, Angie Fecht
3/29 Molly Ufkes
3/30 Suzan Harrison
3/31 Kendall Sargent, John Morrison

March Anniversaries

3/05 Eldon & Darlene Harrell
3/07 Wade & Helen Nolden
3/14 Bill & Mildred Marshall
3/22 Dale & Edith Galloway

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 January 31, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$11,863
Amt. Received YTD - \$19,031
Amt. Spent YTD - \$12,192
Current Fund Balance – \$25,824

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$1,625
Amt. Received YTD - \$1,292

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 January 31, 2010, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$460,686. Of this amount \$9,730 was given through January 31, which compares to \$4,645 given through January 2009. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2010 we have paid \$178 in interest through January compared to \$603 in 2009. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$10,000 in 2010, leaving a loan balance of \$32,789. 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.

Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, cards and phone calls from my church family after my surgery. Your kindness is appreciated.

Marjorie Harrell

Church Council Highlights

February 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 7:02 p.m.

John Dittmer led the devotions. Erin Biery will lead the devotions in March.

Merlin welcomed the new council members: John Adkins, Erin Biery and Shawn Gutting.

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 14, 2009, were reviewed. Dave Hartweg said there was a clarification of the Welcome Center loan. The amount would be \$23,434, if the money from the bank account were applied. John Dittmer made a motion to approve the minutes with the clarifications noted. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam received a thank-you note from Trinity Lutheran Seminary for the \$700 to help with their funds.

A very grateful thank-you note was received and read from the family we helped with rent.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated January 31, 2010, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Unbudgeted Receipts usually includes the Welcome Center donations. This month it also includes Haiti relief monies and donations to the Shepherd's Pantry. Discussion followed. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2010. Dave explained the various items. The Welcome

Center principle has been paid down leaving a balance of \$18,789. Pastor Adam mentioned that the cost of the Prepare and Enrich online inventories for the 5 pre-marriage counseling couples will be \$30 per couple. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin has talked with Angie Fecht about the Christian Education Committee but they have not had a chance to meet yet. She is looking forward to this service.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reported that she has met with Pastor Adam about the committee's goals. The Evangelism Committee is working on a process to write notes to visitors, cards to the grieving and CDs to the home-bound. A special thank you goes to Dave and Judy Hartweg for taping the worship services and making copies. The committee will help the youth with their Souper Bowl of Caring Benefit Concert.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary mentioned there is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for the Lenten soup suppers. For the next annual meeting there was discussion about serving the meal in the Parish Hall and then having the annual meeting in the Welcome Center.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn has met with Merlin and Kathy Graham concerning his duties. He discussed our funds and stated our investments are doing better despite the down market. Dave Hartweg made a motion to approve Shawn Gutting for signing for our investments like Edward Jones, Thrivent and other funds overseen by the Finance Committee Chairman. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John mentioned that more round tablecloths and lighter weight tables were being looked into.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) – Delmer reported that Dave Hartweg, Pastor Adam and he fixed the duct work in the church basement. He has talked with John Schwartz for help. John will continue to work with the insurance company on the church roof. Delmer asked for the procedure for mowing and clearing the drive. Eddie Newman has been the mower. The drive and parking lots have been cleared by a variety of volunteers, working especially hard this winter! Pastor suggested when the committee meets to make a list of these volunteers. Merlin discussed that a plan for the exterior of the church and its issues needs to be on the committee's agenda. Dave added that while the roof and steeples needed repair perhaps other items could be done. There are several companies that specialize in church work. Perhaps this work could be done in phases. The bulletin board has also been purchased and John Adkins will help Pastor put it up.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen talked about the Financial Peace University. He explained that this program is from Dave Ramsey (heard on WTAD 930 AM daily at 10:00 AM), quoting Scriptures and motivating people to get their finances in order and free of debt. Galen would like to advertise this on the bulletin, the radio and paper. Shawn mentioned that the community web page, www.carthage-il.com, has free advertising. Scholarships offered for the program were discussed in great detail. The program costs \$95 per couple. Since many who need this program are in financial difficulty, how could we best help them? The Ministerial Alliance would like to offer scholarships but their funds are limited. The discussion continued. Pastor and Galen will continue to brainstorm.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John will visit with Merlin, Delmer and Pastor. The offering envelopes were also discussed. John will call those whose envelopes are still in the Welcome Center.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) –Pastor reported that Lenten services will begin. On

Ash Wednesday, there will be a worship service at 9 AM, afternoon service at the Nursing Home and evening worship at 7 PM. The theme will be "Late Night Catechism."

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported the room is on hold for awhile. Pastor asked Curtis Wilhite about sound recommendations. The Souper Bowl offering from the Confirmation students raised around \$600. There will be a Live Concert on Sunday, February 21. There will be no fee for admissions but there will be free-will donations for the Food Pantry and Haiti relief. The ski trip will be rescheduled since some were not able to go.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –The Ministerial Alliance is trying to be proactive. They have been tapped financially and yet have much spiritually to give.

Pastor Report—Pastor Adam mentioned he had met with two committees and would like to have committees meet again more regularly. Perhaps this could start after Lenten services. Pastor presented a hand-out of the various activities, visits and meetings he has attended recently. This included pre-marital counseling, baptism, 15 visits, and a meeting with Bishop Freiheit. He also discussed some of his plans for the Lenten services. Upcoming events include the CROSS service on February 28 with Bishop Freiheit. It will begin with a 5 PM soup supper and 6 PM service at St. Peter's Lutheran church in Coatsburg. Pulpit exchange will be held on Sunday, February 14.

Old Business:

Geographic Parish—The CROSS—There has been discussion about how all can work together with the youth. A video is in the works to share their mission. Another CROSS lock-in will be held in March.

Share the Harvest—A Share the Harvest follow-up meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, at 7 PM. This will lay the

foundation and platform for planning next year.

Rose has discussed having a Blessing of the Seeds at St. John's in Springfield. It will be on Sunday, March 21, for lunch. Their youth will have games and activities in the afternoon.

Other—Special Offering—A special offering of \$51 was received one Sunday and presented to a family in need. The Endowment Committee also gave \$1116 for this need. Marcia McGaughey is serving as the guardian of these gifts.

Other—Charger Center Seat Tickets—The \$500 seat tickets to the Charger Center Auditorium was discussed. It would be a nice gesture to have these seats and show our support about what is going on in the community. John Adkins made a motion to refer this purchase to the Finance Committee for their recommendation. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. Further discussion indicated that the Financial Peace Scholarships should also be discussed in the Finance Committee. Discussion followed on procedures to handling questions.

New Business

Audit Committee—A new person needs to be added to the Audit Committee. Current members are Stephanie Stott, Dean Fecht and Dave Harrison. There are three members on the committee, serving a 3-year term. The duties are one meeting for an audit with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Discussion followed.

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

Since there was no other business, Galen Krieg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 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

Joel & Jennifer Brown
P.O. Box 217
Crescent City, IL 60928-0217

Lindsey Harrison
7 Denby Road #1
Allston, MA 02134

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!

Thank You

To our family & friends at Trinity:
Words cannot express our appreciation for the blessings we've received of cards, gifts

and get-well wishes during my surgery, hospital stay and recovery at home in these last few weeks. Although this diagnosis and chain of events was certainly not in our “plan” as we transitioned to our new home, schools and jobs here in Oswego in the last six months, it’s been much easier to work through knowing that we’ve been supported by our family and friends during this difficult time. Day by day, little by little...we will move forward, and we have so much to grateful for! Thank you so much for the thoughts and prayers in these last few weeks – God bless each and every one of you!
Jason & April Lemley, Zach, Abbie & Megan

“Blessing of the Seeds”

Our congregation has been invited to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Springfield on Sunday, March 21 for a service of “Blessing of the Seeds” for this year’s Share the Harvest project. We will leave after worship and arrive there around noon for a meal and the service. Their youth have games and activities planned for the afternoon. Make plans now to attend this event with our FRB project partner. Food, fun and fellowship for all ages!

Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper

Christ Lutheran Church of Nauvoo is holding its fifth annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 17. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children age 12 and under. Supper includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, rye bread, beverage and dessert. (Hot dogs will be available for children who prefer them.) Tickets may be purchased at the door, or in advance at the Nauvoo Pharmacy. We’re happy to box up meals for takeout, too!
NOTE: The regular Wednesday night “Oasis” service at Christ Lutheran will be held at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES II

Want to take a spring break? Want a day of fellowship, fun and food? You can accomplish both by attending a matinee performance of Church Basement Ladies II,

at the Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island, on April 22 with a group from Trinity. You may have seen ads in our local newspaper offering a ticket/lunch/transportation package for \$99 per person to attend a performance. We have been able to procure 20 tickets, and can offer you a price of \$50 per ticket, which also includes transportation, a wonderful buffet luncheon and the matinee performance. This musical comedy is set in the basement kitchen of a Lutheran Church, and follows the events, lives, joys and sorrows of a group of church volunteers and their pastor as they journey through a life of service together.

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Welcome Center, along with more information about the play. Times have not yet been established, but the plan is for the van and cars to leave Trinity at mid-morning and return early evening on April 22.

Thank You

Thank You to those who braved the blizzard and came to our Souper Bowl of Caring Benefit Concert! The weather was horrid, but the music was rockin’ as we sang with Living Water, the Presbyterian Choir, and the United Methodist Praise Band. We raised \$468 for Haiti relief and \$276 for the Shepherd’s Pantry. Thanks again!

Thank you to all who have helped in removing snow throughout such a grueling winter... you deserve golden shovel awards!

Young Adults

Calling all Young Adults! Thanks to those who joined us for bowling last month and congratulations to our King and Queen of the Gutter and King and Queen of Spares! This month, we will be heading to “The Hawkeye” in Keokuk at 6:30 p.m. on March 16th.

Youth News

High School and Beyond – We will be meeting on March 7th for Bible Study, supper, and games beginning at 5:00. On March 21st, the youth of St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield have invited us to “**March Madness!**” There will be a whole host of video games to play and compete. We will depart immediately following worship, at **10:30am**. Bring a friend and join us for a great afternoon!

Confirmation – thank you for all your help with our Souper Bowl of Caring Benefit Concert! We raised nearly \$800 on this night alone! Combined with our Sunday morning collections, we've totaled nearly \$1,500! Thank you for all of your help. We will be meeting on March 14th and 28th for our learning events. We are also planning a “Lock-In” with the Baptist Church and our service trip to the Quincy Soup Kitchen in April.

News From Our Sponsored Children

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

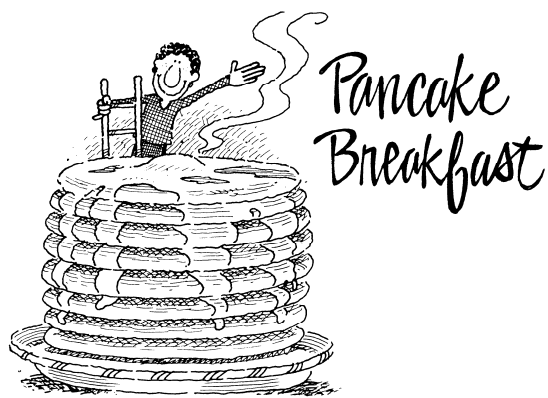
I hope you're healthy together with your family. I thank you for the gift you sent me.

I want to tell you that I finished school classes and now I really want to enter to the university. I'll study Auxiliary Infirmery, it's a short career. It only lasts 2 years. I hope to get good result with all my goals.

How are you? I hope you're fine. I want to use this letter to congratulate you for Christmas. Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year! I hope you have a beautiful time together with your beloved ones.

Well, that's all I can tell you. I finish this letter waiting to get news about you very soon. I send you kisses and hugs.

With affection,
Silvia



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 try to 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

Thank You

Thank you for the many cards, letters, calls, prayers, visits, food, flowers and all kindness shown to us. Special thanks to Pastor Adam for his calls and prayers and to our church family.

The family of Kathryn & Meinert Gronewold