

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 5

May 2010

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

While we were home for Easter, my mom taught Marilyn a new song. It goes like this, "Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide. Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide." Now Marilyn sings it *all the time* and ends it with a final and boisterous, "DEEP AND WIDE!" It's a song about living water and God's grace that Jesus offers the woman at the well in John 4.

Jesus approaches a Samaritan woman at a well and ends up offering her a drink of water. She is confused, for the well is deep and he has nothing with which to draw water. Then Jesus clarifies, it is not well water that he is offering her, but *living water*, water that will quench her thirst forever, water that will become a spring within her, gushing up to eternal life!

We all thirst for this water. We look for it in all the wrong places – in our jobs, in our toys, on the internet, on the TV, even in our spouses (the woman at the well had seven husbands!), but the only water that will quench our thirst is the living water of God's abundant grace.

We gave thanks for this water at our "Celebration for God's Creation" service as we thanked God for the waters that refresh the earth and the living waters that refresh our soul. We remember this water at every confirmation class as we close by dipping our fingers in water, making the sign of the cross on one another, and giving a blessing. We are reminded of the importance of water as once again the fields are filled with seed, just as God has sown seeds of God's Word into our lives – together, we receive the water that Jesus offers to bring the seeds of the

field and the seeds of God's Word abundant growth and harvest.

And we have another reason to remember and give thanks for Jesus' living water. A family has come to us thirsty and God has helped us to give them water. Manuela and Sebastian Miguel, along with their four children (Faulina, Marisol, William, and Carina), are from Guatemala. Life has not been easy for them and Trinity has responded by offering water, support to help their physical needs. They have been amazed by this outpouring of grace, and have come to realize that it is part of the mission of this church, "To Celebrate Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People." But they also realize that it is part of the mission of God's Church, and that God has something even better to offer... *Living Water!*

On May 9, Faulina, Marisol, William, and Carina will be baptized. Their parents and God-parents will bring them to the font, much like the well in John 4. Here, Jesus will give them living water – water with the power to satisfy every thirst and water that will become an endless spring within them, gushing up to eternal life! And we will welcome them into the body of Christ and into the mission we share, a mission that can be summed up with a song: "Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide. DEEP AND WIDE!"

May you drink deeply of the Living Water Jesus has given you,
Pastor Adam

May Birthdays

- 5/01 Jeremy Housewright, Erin Redenius
5/02 Kathy Graham
5/04 Eileen Logan, Bill F. Geissler,
Linda Rendleman, Jeremy Schulz,
Erma Swank
5/07 Brandon Housewright, Erin Biery
5/08 Loren Schulz
5/11 Don Housewright
5/12 Marcia Ewing
5/13 Michael Harrell, Kyle Fecht
5/15 Suzan Stott
5/17 Randall Ruhs
5/19 Miranda Morrison
5/20 Katey Lunt, Meinert Gronewold
5/23 Lindsay Harrison
5/24 Adam Harrison
5/25 Traci Johnson
5/26 Susie Schulz, Hope Waite
5/27 Carole Bower, Kayla Shipman,
Lance Holtsclaw
5/29 Jamie Brown, John Adkins
5/30 Howard Emmert, Heather Swank

May Anniversaries

- 5/01 Robert & Shellee Fecht
5/04 Wayne & Erma Swank
5/08 Stephen & Barb Hartweg
5/12 Kam & Jody Miller
5/19 Gary & Carol Vest,
Steve & Karol Carr
5/25 Brent & Angie Ufkes
5/29 Brad & Diane Schardon,
Bud & Donna High

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 March 31, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$35,590
Amt. Received YTD - \$37,236
Amt. Spent YTD - \$31,555
Current Fund Balance – \$24,664

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$3,657
Amt. Received YTD - \$4,908

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 March 31, 2010, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$465,005. Of this amount \$15,074 was given through March 31, which compares to \$7,409 given through March 2009. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2010 we have paid \$436 in interest through March compared to \$1,571 in 2009. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$26,400 in 2010, leaving a loan balance of \$16,389. 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

April 8, 2010

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Galen Krieg led the devotions. Linley Bartell will lead the devotions in May.

The minutes from the regular meeting of March 11, 2010, were reviewed. Dave Hartweg made a motion to approve the minutes. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam received a thank-you note from a couple receiving help from a Lenten collection. A thank-you note was also received from a woman receiving a couch and some furniture through members of the church. The Souper Bowl sent a thank-you for the \$1400 and 100 non-perishable food items donated through the collections and benefit concert. A request was received from Justin Neally for a mission trip. Merlin Gronewold had a note from Marilyn Walker on behalf of the Christian Church. They sent a thank-you and gift certificate for an oil-change and detailing for the use of the van during their mission trip to New Orleans.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated March 31, 2010, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg mentioned that the Unbudgeted Receipts includes the Welcome Center donations, the Food Pantry, Sunday School and Easter breakfast donations. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2010. Dave

explained the various items and we are close to budget. The water bill was high; perhaps there is a problem in the bathrooms in the East room. Galen Krieg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –no report.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie discussed the front sign. Tyrone Jacoby and his staff worked on cleaning it, drying it out and repainting it. The vinyl covering did not work. Kent Flesner put the sign back in and John Schwartz will replace the light. This should last for several years. Pastor mentioned road-side clean-up has been scheduled for Sunday, April 18, at 4:00 with the Youth group. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, April 14, to plan about visitors, possible new members and connecting with old members. Pastor discussed a new-member class to be held during the month of May; time and dates are tentative.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary discussed the fellowship refreshments are going week by week. There will be a movie night, held once a month, with a potluck planned. It is thought to be held the first Saturday of each month.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn discussed the nice growth the accounts had during March to April. There had been no finance committee meeting since there were no requests prior. There was a discussion about a revision to the budget. Dave Hartweg made a motion to change the Housing Allowance from \$9,000 to \$14,000 and thus also reducing Pastor's salary by \$5,000. This is an adjustment for tax purposes. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John mentioned that note cards are available. A discussion followed about the need for more white

robes for the assistant ministers, acolytes and communion deacons. Linley will pursue this.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –no report.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen discussed the Financial Peace program. It is open to the community. Pastor mentioned it has been discussed in the Ministerial Alliance. It will be a fall program. Advertisements will go out this summer. Hopefully we could get 25 people. A preliminary sign-up will be held. Galen mentioned that there had been help for the individual needing furniture and another with the offering. There was discussion about a sub-committee to help with special needs of individuals. John Adkins made a motion that Pastor Adam be in charge of this committee and find several members to help him. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John discussed information about paying pledges through a Master Card/Visa credit or debit on-line. VanCo Services created the site and it is approved by Thrivent. However there are many charges with this service: \$25.00 registration, transaction charges, plus a per cent of the donation and a website hosting charge. John recommended that we ignore this service at this time. Linley mentioned there is Bill Pay that is much better and available.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley discussed the compliments and comments about the wonderful Easter service and beautiful banner. David Cool will tune the organ since he will also be in Golden working.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported the youth room is wired with the TV projector. The youth had been to St. John's. There is a possibility of a mission trip to the New Orleans area. Pastor discussed there is group that provides lodging for \$5.00 per person per night. It was thought that it would take 1 ½ days to go each way and then they

would work for 3-5 days. Perhaps this would be the last week of May or the first week of June. There is a lot of interest. The middle school CROSS event will be held on April 17 at the YMCA in Mt. Sterling.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –The Ministerial Alliance had a Good Friday service and lunch for the community with 7 of the local pastors participating. Linley mentioned it was a very meaningful service, with each pastor leading a station of the cross. Hopefully the pastors will do this service again and word of mouth will get more attendees.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Adam passed out his written report. He discussed how we each have so much to praise God for and so does our congregation. We should be thankful that we stay focused on our mission and our commitment to the faith of our youth and children as we plan VBS, a mission trip and the leadership lab. Pastor discussed the various items that have taken place and will be taking place. He will be gone on April 12-13 for the First Call Theological Education in Springfield. *Amazing Grace* will be the movie on May 1st and the Nursing Home Service will be on May 2nd. Pulpit exchange will take place on April 11. There was a discussion about the number of exchanges held per year. It was a consensus of the council that perhaps these could be lessened. Pastor agreed and will take this request to his meeting. Pastor mentioned that there is a cost for the CROSS youth event to be held. Linley Bartell made a motion to provide \$25.00 for this event. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Share the Harvest—A Share the Harvest meeting will be held on Monday, April 5 with a follow-up meeting on Monday, April 12. This is a "growing" mission—we have 35 acres now for this program.

Church Building –Zion Builders have not returned a bid. Krause Konstruction

Company from Coon Valley, Wisconsin, has given us four different bids on the exterior: roofing, painting, masonry and steeple work. Much discussion followed. Should we do this work in phases or all at once? The property and the finance committees will need to meet. It was agreed that we need more bids before we can pursue any avenues. Dave Hartweg will call for more bids. We want to investigate all our options so we can make wise decisions.

Computer—A discussion was held about the office computer still not working well with the new printer. Merlin will look into it. Shawn Gutting made a motion to have Jason Hartweg work with Denise Schwartz to buy a new computer for up to \$1,000. Linley Bartell seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Van—The Christian Church called and wanted to use the van to go to Springfield. An executive council decision had been made to charge \$.25/mile and they would furnish the gas. There was discussion about how cheap that was and insurance questions. It was agreed that it was a good to let others use the van for mission purposes, but we need to be sure we are properly insured. John Adkins made a motion that Merlin Gronewold and Shawn Gutting work out the stipulations of van use by other churches and the forms needed for the insurance and liability purposes. This will then be discussed at the next meeting. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee—A letter was received from Gary Vest resigning from the Endowment Committee. Current members are Jackie Adkins, Steve Carr and Donna Hills. We would need to fill this vacancy until the next annual meeting. Kirby Fecht nominated Jerry Bartell. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

Synod Assembly—Linley Bartell will be providing the music for the Synod Assembly on May 20-22. Jerry Bartell will also be

attending and they will serve as our representatives.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 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.

Sewing Circle Needs Fabric

Sewing Circle needs fabrics, sheets, mattress pads or any type of fabric for sewing quilts for mission. When you're doing your spring cleaning, please keep this in mind. Any items may be left in the sewing room in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Wilma Fecht or Jackie Adkins.

Card Shower

A card shower is planned for Howard Emmert's 90th birthday on May 30. You may send your card to: 15 College Avenue, Carthage.

Movie Night at Trinity

Calling all ages to come for a free night at the movies – at the TLC Theater that is! Come Saturday, May 1st, from 5:30-8:30 for a potluck meal, movie, and discussion. This month we will be watching “Amazing Grace.” It is the story behind the classic hymn, “Amazing Grace” – the story of William Wilberforce, whose eyes were opened by God’s amazing grace and led anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament. Next month (June 5th) we will be watching the academy award winning, “The Blind Side.”

Young Adults Campout

May 14

Hey Young Adults! How about a night under the stars? We will be BBQing and camping on Friday night, May 14, at the Carthage Lake Campgrounds. We will gather at 5:30 to fire up the grills, so bring your favorite meat and a side/dessert to share. Stay late for some time around the campfire and s’mores, and stay all night if you can! If you will be staying all night, please RSVP so we can reserve enough space.

Soup Kitchen, May 15

The confirmation class will be participating in its final service project of the year by cooking and serving at a soup kitchen in Quincy. If anyone would like to come along and help, please let Sandi Morrison or Pr. Adam know. We will leave at 9am and return at 3pm.

New Member Orientation

Pr. Adam will be hosting a class for those interested in joining the church or those who would simply like to learn more about the Lutheran church, Trinity, and how we all share in our mission. The class will be held on Sundays in May from 12:30-2:00. Bring a bag lunch if you would like.

Church Softball League

Trinity has challenged the local churches to a summer softball league. It will be co-ed, slow pitch, and pretty laid back... but we’re still going to show those other churches what Lutherans are made of! To prepare, we’ll be practicing on Sundays from 2-4 until the games start on Sunday evenings in June. If you are interested in playing, please join us for practice – let’s have a great time!

Youth Mission Trip

What will take 1,600 miles on the road, five nights in a trailer (1 block from the beach!), and hours of blood (hopefully not much), sweat (probably a lot), and tears (we’ll all miss our mommies) working on construction for hurricane relief? A Youth Mission trip to Gulf Shores, Mississippi from May 31 through June 5! All high school and beyond youth as well as adults interested in chaperoning are invited to come to an information meeting on Sunday, May 2, at 5pm. Come and find out how much fun we will have while celebrating Christ’s love through service!

Adult Sunday School

Would you like to read a book about flames of the Holy Spirit, sermons that convert thousands, miraculous healings, a persecutor of Christianity getting knocked off of his horse and then becoming a missionary, shipwrecks, jailbreaks, and martyrdom? If so, join the Adult Sunday School class as we study the book of Acts! We meet in the Library from 10:15ish to 11:15ish. Please join us!

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Congratulations to Taryn Geissler, Carl Hartweg, Jesse Holtsclaw, Kyle Kirby, and Regan Seaver as they graduate this spring. We are proud of you and may God be with you in your future endeavors!