

# TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

Isn't it incredible how excited children get? Before Marilyn's birthday, she asked for *weeks* if it was her birthday yet. On nights before grandparents come to visit, she lays in bed, eyes wide as saucers, and you can almost see her brain turning and planning all the fun things to do the next day. And when we are going to go get ice cream, you should see all the jumping and whooping and hollering... and that's just me! Karen and the kids go crazy too!

I want to tell you about something I am very excited about. I've been wondering when the day will finally come. I lay awake at night thinking and planning for what it will be like. And I've been known to jump and whoop and holler too! I am excited about something that is happening here at Trinity.

In my conversations with members, both young and old, one thing kept coming up – "I remember the good ole days..." people would say, "The good ole days when Sundays and Wednesdays were for family and church, when families would gather together around the radio, or daily suppers, and when the Sunday School classes were exploding with so many children." Well, sadly, those days are over... sort of.

The culture today doesn't do much to encourage family time or faith development. Instead, it seems to pull families in all directions with countless activities scheduled every day and every hour of the week. Microwaves make it easy to eat the same meal at different times and in different rooms of the house. And our Sunday School classes have become disappointingly bare. What happened? And what can we possibly do to compete with the effects of our culture?

Well, our Christian Education committee has come up with an answer – create a new

culture! Over the years, the changing culture has not only separated church and state, but church and families as well. Churches have taken on a large amount of responsibility for educating and nurturing faith in our children, responsibility that has previously been held by the families. Churches have begun to provide Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Midweek Children's Church to do the best we can with a couple of hours a week.

At Trinity, we've realized that that isn't enough. If we want our children, families, and adults to live lives that are growing in active faith, we need to return some of this responsibility to where it belongs – in the home. In baptism, parents make a promise to "live with [their children] among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." That's a lot! What does the church promise? To "support and pray for them in their new life in Christ."

This is the new culture we want to create – a culture where families are living together among God's faithful people, reading the Bible together, praying together, and *growing in active faith*, and a culture where the church stops at *nothing* to encourage and empower our families in this growth!

It won't be easy. It won't happen overnight. But we aren't going to give up, because guess what? I *know* that God is excited about this too! God is looking forward to something, losing sleep with eyes as big as the moon, jumping up and down, whooping and hollering in excitement! God is excited about us, God's children spending time together, sitting at Jesus' feet and reading the Bible, praying together, and *growing in active faith!*

Okay, if when you read this, you started jumping and whooping and hollering too, come join in this effort! There are some incredible opportunities to get involved. First, talk about it with others! Share your ideas and enthusiasm! Second, join us at the Faith Conference in Springfield, October 7-8, to learn how to live your faith at home, in church, and in the community. Third, join Karen and I in Minneapolis at the "Faith 5 Summit" from October 10-13. It is an incredible conference to encourage and empower congregations to encourage and empower families to be reading God's word and praying together every night in every home.

So, if you hear some whooping and hollering in my office, don't turn and run, come and join me! Join in the excitement of what God is doing in our congregation and in our lives, creating a new culture where we all strive to live out our baptismal promises and grow in active faith. What a way to "Celebrate Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People!"

May God bless us on this journey,  
Pastor Adam

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/01 Dalton Cook  
 9/02 Robin Young, Casey Krieg,  
 Katie Biery  
 9/04 Tammy Snyder  
 9/05 Kyle Schulz, Kathy Ehlert  
 9/06 Kevin Cook, Rylie Harrell  
 9/10 Harold Weid, Bev Ufkes  
 9/11 Kristina Johnson, Liz Snyder  
 9/17 Jackson Klingler  
 9/18 Danelle Smith  
 9/19 Shellee Fecht, Abigail Livingston  
 9/20 Tyrone Jacoby  
 9/23 Daniel Harrell  
 9/24 Denise Schwartz, Tori Johnson,  
 Christian Livingston, Janet Rahman  
 9/26 Melvin Wetterich, Shelby Reppinger  
 9/27 Gary Vest, Phoebe Wilson  
 9/29 Mary Sargent  
 9/30 Billie Kirby, Ronald Garrelts,  
 Dean Fecht, Kirby Fecht

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/03 Phil & Susan Gronewold  
 9/04 Jack & Bev Ufkes  
 9/06 Ryan & Erin Biery  
 9/07 Sid & Kristin Huls  
 9/10 Ryan & Heather Stevenson  
 9/15 Shawn & Lydia Gutting  
 9/16 John & Arlis Dittmer  
 9/18 Travis & Jennifer Duffy  
 9/21 Gilbert & Barb Duffy  
 9/24 Robby & Jenny Robinson  
 9/30 Chuck & Kathy Ehlert

### 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.

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Ayden is a big brother. Cyen Lee Mayes was born June 15<sup>th</sup> to Alyssa Young. Robin Young and Parrish Young are grandparents. Great-grandparents are Loren & Connie Schulz.

### 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.

### STUDENT ADDRESSES

If you have a student away at college that would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the church office with their address.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of July 31, 2010

### Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$83,043  
Amt. Received YTD - \$68,588  
Amt. Spent YTD - \$75,809  
Current Fund Balance – \$11,762

### Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$11,163  
Amt. Received YTD - \$10,808

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!

### **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.

### **DISCIPLESHIP CORNER**

The past two months, we've talked a lot about discipleship, about spending time in God's Word, serving, praying, giving, worshipping, and building relationships. This corner encourages you to live these out! Did you notice the calendar of daily Bible readings in this newsletter? Tear it out, stick it in your Bible, and put it somewhere you won't miss it every day... on your table, by your bed, on your pillow, in the middle of your living room floor! Let's all take 15 minutes each day to sit at Jesus' feet, read God's Word together, and grow as disciples!



## SCHOOL BAG AND SOAP TIME

This the time of year when we fill our finished school bags with school supplies and send them off to Lutheran World Service for mission use. We will be putting out 100 bags for filling this year. Each kit will contain:

- \*Notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper totaling 150 to 200 sheets. If using 70-sheet notebooks, please include three. Please do not get loose-leaf paper.
- \*One pair blunt scissors
- \*One 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with inches one side and centimeters on the other.
- \*One pencil sharpener
- \*Six new, UNSHARPENED #2 pencils with erasers
- \*One eraser approximately 2 1/2 inches long
- \*One box of 16 or 24 crayons

The containers for collecting wrapped bars of soap for mission will also be available for use on Sunday, August 15. They will remain out for your donations of wrapped bar soap until October, when we start boxing up supplies, health kits and quilts for shipping. Any type/size of bar soap may be donated, except for the size you might collect from hotel rooms.

### **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Choir will once again be preparing for worship this church year. We will start rehearsing on Wednesday, September 1 at 7 pm in the choir room. We will meet each Wednesday evening at 7. Our first Sunday back will be Rally Sunday, September 12.

### **HIGH SCHOOL FAITH STUDY**

The free two course meals are being served again for our High School students! One course is the lunch, the other is a healthy helping of faith! Join us at Calvary Church (across the street from the High School) on Wednesdays during your lunch hour for a free lunch and an interactive video study with a chance to feed your stomach and your faith.

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**AUGUST 12, 2010**

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Erin Biery led the devotions. Merlin Gronewold will lead the devotions in September.

The first order of business was to discuss the purchase of a new computer for the church office. The approval of the computer was given several months ago, but the computer had not been purchased; a new computer needed to be purchased soon due to problems with the current one. A package deal was available in which a Dell computer tower, monitor, and printer, complete with a 2-year service plan, could be purchased for \$1109.46. John Dittmer made a motion to purchase the Dell computer, and Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. The motion carried. The computer was to be purchased that evening (August 12, 2010) and to be installed soon.

The minutes from the regular meeting of July 13, 2010 were reviewed, as well as the minutes from the special meeting held on Sunday, August 8, 2010 concerning wedding guidelines. John Dittmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the special council meeting on August 8. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried. Shawn Gutting made a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on July 13. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam reported that he has received positive feedback regarding the CD copies of the church services distributed to those who cannot attend church regularly. Currently, he distributes about 4 or 5 of those CDs, and

reports that those receiving them are thankful for the service.

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

The Financial Secretary's Report dated July 31, 2010 was reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report as presented. Delmer Schlueter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2010 and expressed some concern that net income had declined. However, he mentioned that since we started the year on a positive note, current funds are still okay. We should continue to watch the funds as the year progresses. Furthermore, it was noted that the balance of \$106.50 designated as Sunday School funds was actually to be given to the Ministerial Alliance as the Adult Sunday School class had collected them for. Linley Bartell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education (Erin Biery)** - Erin reported that the Christian Education committee of Pastor Adam, Karen Dichsen, Kristin Huls, and Erin Biery had met to discuss and make decisions regarding the goals and objectives of Christian Education. A new Sunday School curriculum is in the process of being established. Rally Day for Sunday School has been set for Sunday, September 12. Pastor Adam reported that the Youth are interested in holding a fundraiser on Rally Sunday as well.

**Evangelism (Connie Flesner)** - No Report

**Fellowship (Mary Sargent)** - Mary reported that fellowship refreshments are still being taken care of week by week. There will be a movie shown in August, and it will be Avatar. Pastor discussed the movie briefly and the connections that can be made from the movie.

**Finance (Shawn Gutting)** - Shawn reported that the accounts are ultimately trending upward despite market fluctuations. There was discussion regarding these fluctuations. Shawn reported that the Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 17, 2010. Pastor Adam made a request to the Finance Committee to purchase Bibles to be given to students at Rally Sunday for the Sunday School, as well as Bibles to be given to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students, Confirmation students, and to have for the Youth to use. A discussion was held regarding our role in Christian Education as a church and that one of the major goals of our Christian Education Committee is to teach that the Bible is the Word of God. Furthermore, discussion was held regarding having Bibles available in the church pews during worship. Twenty-two Bibles were requested for the Sunday School, eleven were requested for the Confirmation Students, and 19 were requested for the Youth, with a portion of these amounts of Bibles to remain on hand for future need. Erin Biery made a motion to purchase 52 Bibles from the Sunday School and Youth fund. Linley Bartell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Memorial (John Dittmer)** - John reported that new chairs and tables for the Parish Hall have arrived and will be set up soon. It was decided that a Silent Auction will be held for the older tables and chairs and miscellaneous items stored in the furnace room.

**Property (Delmer Schlueter)** - Delmer reported that no new bids have been received for the restoration work on the church. Pastor mentioned that the flower cooler wasn't working recently; the repairman who serviced it said that there was dust on the coils and that it should be cleaned once a year. It was mentioned that a list should be made of such yearly cleaning duties. Following a recent expedition to the tower, it was reported that it is in good shape, with no rotten wood visible. There was discussion about the various bids for the restoration of the steeple. Pastor Adam reported that the

water fountain in the Parish Hall was repaired by John Schwartz.

**Social Ministry (Galen Krieg)** - Galen reported that the information meeting for the Financial Peace University classes was held on August 1. There were 8 people in attendance, but the classes are scheduled to have 8-10 couples. Classes will begin Tuesday, August 24, 2010, and will be held from 6:30-8:30. Kevin and Kim Dietrich will lead the classes. Monday, August 16 is the last day to sign up for the classes.

**Stewardship (John Adkins)** - No Report

**Worship (Linley Bartell)** - Linley reported that the new robes have arrived and are ready to be used.

**Youth (Kirby Fecht)** - Pastor Adam reported that a "Pool (Billiards) Party" was held by the youth and a positive demonstration was given about spreading God's word. The next Youth Group Meeting will be held August 22. A Confirmation information meeting will be held on August 29. Six students from Trinity Lutheran Church and one student from Christ Lutheran will be in the class.

**Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam)** - Pastor Adam reported that the Ministerial Alliance discussed what could be done to increase the attendance for the High School Bible Study. They decided to have the High School Bible Study on Wednesdays at lunch time rather than on Thursdays. They will kick off the new Bible Study on this coming Wednesday, August 18, the first day of school. Pastor also reported that Hungerfest will be held in October. Trinity will host the Thanksgiving Service and will be held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Adam distributed his written report and spoke about how excited he is for the work being done with Christian Education, not only for the youth of our church but also for the adults as well. A First Communion Class will be held in September for those in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and those

whose parents wish for them to be involved. Karol Carr and Pastor Adam will lead the class. The classes will be held September 15, 22, 29, and October 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor made mention of a Fall Leadership Retreat he will attend September 20-22 in Carlinville. Furthermore, a discussion was held regarding a "Faith Five Summit" to be held in Minneapolis October 10-13. The "Faith Five" conference will focus on the five principles that are suggested for families to engage in daily: sharing highs and lows, reading and discussing Bible verses, prayer, and blessing one another. The cost for the conference for one person to attend is \$995, but in an effort to encourage more people to attend, the cost goes down to \$698 for two people. Furthermore, if 7 specific members of the congregation could attend this conference, the cost would be nothing. A notice will be put in the bulletin regarding this conference. Discussion was also held regarding an upcoming conference in Springfield, IL about connecting with Christ in the home and community. The cost for the conference is \$150, with an additional \$25 for each member attending. This will be held October 7 and 8. People can still sign up for this conference, although the deadline is this Sunday, August 15. Also, Pastor Adam discussed a "Fun Pack" or "Quiet Pack" that could be distributed to the young children of our church so that their parents could be more attentive during church services, as mention was made that more parents of young children would attend church services but their children often make it difficult to pay attention. The sewing ladies agreed to make bags for these packs. A brief discussion was held regarding putting our church contact information in the Illini West High School Fall Sports program for a cost of \$15. Galen Krieg made a motion to include our information. Linley Bartell seconded the motion. Finally, Pastor Adam made mention that Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo has been operating on a deficit budget and that Pastor Gayle will be employed part-time as of next year.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business:** There was no new business to attend to.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Linley Bartell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Dittmer seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Biery (Secretary Pro-Tem)

### THRIVENT MEMBERS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You should have received in the mail, or will be receiving soon, a letter from Thrivent Financial indicating that you are eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice. It is very important that you respond to this letter, in order for our junior high and high school youth groups to receive as much funding as possible to help offset the expenses of confirmation camp and mission trips, as the "Care in Congregations" program funding used in the past years no longer exists. As indicated in the letter, please call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice", or log on to [Thrivent.com/choicedollars](http://Thrivent.com/choicedollars). When prompted for the organization to which you would like your dollars designated, please indicate Trinity Lutheran Church Carthage. If you say "yes" to the prompt for recurring funds, you should not have to do this again. Your letter should indicate approximately how many dollars you have to distribute. It only takes a few seconds and will help our youth immensely if we all designate our dollars to them. If you suspect you have thrown your letter away, you do not need it to participate. Just call or log on. Your participation in Thrivent Choice is appreciated! Please contact Traci Johnson or Angie Fecht if you have any questions.



## **RALLY DAY – GAMES, HOG ROAST, “LIVING WATER” CONCERT**

It's time to light the fire again! Maybe you know the camp song, "it only takes a spark to get a fire going..." We want to light a fire in our children, a fire that burns brightly for the love of God! This fire will best be fed and cared for by the way families nurture it at home, but in Sunday School, we want to set off a spark that will ignite the flame. Come and catch the spark on Rally Day on September 12. We will be giving Bibles to our three year olds, third graders, and confirmation class. Following worship, there will be songs, games, and activities for our children and adults. Stick around for a hog roast fundraiser put on by our youth group at 11:00, and then a concert at 12:00 with the fabulous "Living Water" band from Christ Lutheran in Nauvoo. Bring your children, bring a friend, and "light the fire in your heart again!"

## **FAITH CONFERENCES**

Two incredible opportunities are coming up for us to live out our lives of discipleship with one another. The first is the Faith Conference in Springfield. It empowers and encourages us to be disciples in our home, church, and community. It is October 7-8 and costs \$25 for the event and meals. The second is the "Faith 5 Summit" in Minneapolis. A four day event, from October 10-13, it emphasizes that faith is most powerfully nurtured not in the pews, but in the home. Not just one home, but every home, every day. Come join Pastor Adam and Karen as we learn ways to help our families incubate a strong faith in their lives. Cost is potentially free! The more people that go, the less they charge! If you are interested, please contact Pastor Adam.

## **MOVIE NIGHT – "AVATAR"**

Come see the sci-fi epic that has caught movie watchers by storm! Set in the future on a distant planet, humans exercise their greed to obtain unobtainium, an expensive mineral. They go through anything to get it, including working through avatars that allow them to roam the planet and pass as the nine-foot tall, blue skinned, locals. Unexpectedly, one of the humans finds that home amongst the Na'vi is more appealing than his old life. A film that has raised questions of military power and worshipping of nature, it is rich in baptismal imagery and the power of the Holy Spirit. Come for a potluck at 6, watch the movie from 6:30-9:30, then stick around for a discussion.

## **ADDRESS CHANGES**

Bart Ellefritz  
1027 Independence Ave. SE #8  
Washington, DC 20003

Lindsay Harrison  
15 Glenville Ave. Apt. 17  
Allston, MA 02134

Jared Schwartz  
1000 Brehm Lane – Unit C2  
Carbondale, IL 62901

## **WEDDING INVITATION**

The congregation is invited to the wedding of Erin Brown and Dustin Heaton on Saturday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m. here at Trinity. A reception immediately follows at the Carthage Eagles Club.

## **UNLOCKED DOORS**

There have been a couple of instances lately where a door has been left unlocked for building use by a person or group, only to have them find out when they arrive that everything is locked and they can't get in. If you come across an unlocked door, especially between 7am and 7pm, and no one is around, please leave it unlocked, as it has probably been done so for a reason.