

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

A few weeks ago, Karen set the tone in our household by declaring a family mission statement – “Show Love.” We had a morning devotion using the Spark Story Bible that focused on how God shows us love by giving us Jesus (John 3:16). On the kitchen table, Karen set up some blocks with letters on them that spell out “Show Love.” And we talked about ways we can show love to one another. In just a few short hours, whenever Marilyn would see someone do something helpful, she would say, “Look Mommy, that’s showing love!” Pretty soon, she was getting toys for Benen, picking up after herself, and giving hugs while saying, “Look, I’m showing love!”

A mission statement is sort of like a standard set for a community. All that we do should in some way support our mission, and when others see all that we do, they should clearly see our mission. Here at Trinity, our mission is “To Celebrate Christ’s Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God’s People.” How is this a standard for all we do and how is this visible to all who see us?

On my mind a lot recently are the children of our congregation. We are striving to welcome them to worship by offering a time just for them, the children’s message where we read from the Spark Story Bible. We also are encouraging them in worship by providing “Busy Bags” with crayons, coloring sheets, and books to help them focus on the day’s lesson and divert some of their busy energy ☺! And we are serving them in Sunday School, by supplementing what they learn at home with an opportunity to experience our living God with friends. And what a celebration it is – seeing the smiles on their faces, hearing their singing and

laughter, and seeing them learn about Christ’s love!

Our older children are learning about this mission as well. We are about to welcome three of our children to the Lord’s Table through first communion, we are encouraging our HS youth to get involved with the youth group so that they can be encouraged in their faith in the face of the world’s challenges. And we are all coming together to serve as we take on “mini-missions” throughout the community.

What about the more “mature” children at heart? Through quilting, crocheting, attending Bible studies, volunteering in many ways around the church, assembling school bags, and participating in worship, we are “Celebrating Christ’s Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God’s People.”

And something that is often overlooked, the church building can live out and show this mission as well! The Welcome Center has been a powerful tool to welcome, encourage, and serve this community and now we are taking steps to assure our sanctuary will continue to do the same. On September 19, the congregation voted to repair and renovate the masonry, roof, and steeples of our church building.

Karen and I are proud of Marilyn, how she has grasped the idea of showing love and tries to make it a part of all she does. Our congregation’s mission is the same for us. Let us join together, God’s children of all ages, and make sure that all we do and all we are will “Celebrate Christ’s Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God’s People!”

God bless,
Pastor Adam

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Debbie Housewright, Kristin Huls
10/03 Jody Miller
10/04 Wade Nolden, Arlis Dittmer
10/07 Kameron Miller
10/08 Connie Flesner
10/11 Philip Weid
10/14 Jessica Ruhs
10/16 Stephen Weid, Melissa Moore,
Stephen Hartweg
10/17 Karen Gronewold
10/19 Darlene Harrell, John Malloy
10/21 Karol Carr
10/22 Brenda Seaver, Gerald Brown
10/24 Brad Schardon, Jack Ufkes
10/27 Caitlin Clostermery, Kenny Sargent
10/29 Bailey Boyer
10/30 Carol Schoch, Karen Dichsen

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/04 Dean & Angie Fecht
10/06 Harold & Beulah Weid
10/07 Michael & Melissa Moore
10/20 Josh & Michelle Schulz
10/21 Ron & Susie Schulz
10/22 Alan & Debbie Housewright

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 August 31, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$98,062
Amt. Received YTD - \$79,813
Amt. Spent YTD - \$86,013
Current Fund Balance – \$12,784

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$12,757
Amt. Received YTD - \$12,918

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.

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.

NEW ADDRESS

Jared Schwartz
601 S. Oakland Avenue
Carbondale, IL 62901

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

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

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Merlin led the devotions. Pastor Adam will lead the devotions in June.

The minutes from the regular meeting of August 12, 2010, and the special meeting of August 29, 2010, were reviewed. Erin Krieg made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Dave Hartweg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam had received a request for membership transfer for Edith Pennington to a church in Rockford, Illinois. Shawn Gutting made a motion to accept her transfer; Erin Biery seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated August 31, 2010, was reviewed. The unbudgeted receipts included the Welcome Center, auction, food pantry and Sunday School. Discussion included the usage of the church buildings and their payments. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as presented. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2010. Dave explained the various items including the purchase of the new computer. John Dittmer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported that they have been getting ready for Rally Day. During church the Spark Bibles will be given to the 3-year-olds; the third graders will receive their Bibles and the confirmation students will receive their youth study Bibles. The day will include the meal/fund raiser by the Youth and the Living Waters Concert. Pastor and Karen Dichsen have been working on community building activities for the children. An inflatable jumping room has been rented. Karen Dichsen is the Sunday School Superintendent. We have approximately 18 teachers to share on a rotating basis. There will be two classes: preK through kindergarten; and first through fifth grades. Sunday School will have an opening session which will include a welcome, prayer, "wiggle" songs, offering, and birthdays for about 15 minutes. The children will then go to their classrooms for their lessons for about 30 minutes. Then there will be a closing for about 15 minutes. Erin showed a sample of the "Busy Bag" being made for church services. They will include coloring sheets, books and various items pertaining to the season. The bags will be filled by volunteers on a rotating basis. Special thanks go to the sewing ladies for making the bags. Also a big thank-you goes to John Atkins for preparing 2 stands for these bags. They will be placed near the entrances to the church.

Discussion continued that included how to get and keep the "spark" going and building community to make our children feel they are a part of Sunday School and Trinity Church. Erin would like to purchase T-shirts for the children and teachers to wear to Sunday School and for special events. They are white with a logo of Trinity Lutheran Church printed on the corner. Discussion followed. John Dittmer made a motion to purchase 50 shirts for approximately \$328. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reported that new letters for the front sign have been purchased along with new pens

for the pew pads. She asked if the council would like us to continue with the Carthage Christmas on the Square celebration and the consensus was yes. The roadside clean-up needs to be set. It was thought it could coincide with the youth "mini-mission" day. It will be held on Saturday, October 2, at 9 am. Everyone can meet at the church for donuts, drinks and a gathering before proceeding out to clean roadsides or do the mission work.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported that 10 people attended the movie *Avatar*. The October movie will be *Luther* at a date to be determined. Mary has a letter in the bulletin to help with coffee fellowship and scheduling.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported the tower fund money of \$18, 490.78 has been withdrawn from its Edward Jones account and moved to the tower fund at the bank. Discussion followed over the monies and their funds.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John reported the auction went well. The new chairs are here and some are in use in the Parish Hall. The new tables are nice and much easier to handle. There was a discussion about a chair carrier. The memorial committee would like to purchase new tablecloths. John Dittmer made a motion to purchase 15 tablecloths, at a cost not to exceed \$1100. Erin Biery seconded. Motion carried.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer discussed the congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 19. Commercial Contractors met with Dave Hartweg and Bill Kirby to bid the Welcome Center and garage repairs and to go over the bids with the insurance company. It was mentioned that perhaps the mini-mission day could involve washing windows, changing bulbs and various other odd jobs that need done. Pastor reported that the computer has been installed in the office, is working well and Denise is pleased. Special thanks to Jason Hartweg for his hard work and time.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Pastor reported that 16 memberships/households are attending the Financial Peace University. This represents 30-35 people. They have had 3 sessions. It is going well.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –Merlin reported that John will call a committee meeting soon. He would like to schedule the stewardship banquet. Possible dates are November 14 or November 21. He is seeking suggestions for speakers. Denise has ordered a reduced number of envelopes.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) –no report.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby mentioned the meal/fundraiser to be held Sunday. The youth went paint balling several Sundays previously. It proved to be great fun. The mini-missions work day will be held Saturday, October 2. The soup kitchen is still in discussion.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor discussed the high school Bible study had 35 attend the first week and 20 the second week. The alliance is trying to develop a way to help those with special needs. Currently only \$150 can be given to help someone with a need. There is discussion of opening a store front on the square so that a social worker can work with people; information about the public transportation rides, the health department and other various programs can be given. Hopefully this would be a more long-term help. The Hunger Fest will be held in November. The Thanksgiving Service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving here at Trinity.

Pastor's Report –Pastor distributed his written report. He is excited that we have the spark, the fires are burning, but we want to be sure that it lasts, that we have good "coals" to continue with our Christian education, discipleship and our commitment to faith. The Bibles in church is a great start. Shawn is willing to help with the purchase.

Erin mentioned that modeling the Bible use to our children is a good way to keep the fire burning. Pastor shared some examples of Bibles from the Mustard Seed and Augsburg Press. Confirmation with 7 young people will start Sunday night. The Leadership Conference in Carlinville will be his continuing education. Several couples have expressed interest in attending the Faith 5 Summit in Minnesota in October. Pastor also discussed having a discipleship brunch to go along with the discipleship challenge in our homes. Galen Krieg has volunteered to be the council representative. Discussion followed to get all church members involved.

Old Business:

Sound System—Discussion was held about the volume level on the sound system and the microphone programming.

New Business:

Special Congregational Meeting—The special meeting will be held Sunday, September 19, following the worship service. Merlin will explain the recommendations for the exterior renovations and explain the work the committees have done. A quorum is 10% of our membership. It will be a ballot vote. Tellers will be appointed. A simple majority is needed to pass. The masonry work may begin October first. Roofing work will be this fall too. The spires will be repaired next spring.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Erin Biery made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

This past month, some of our members took on the "Consequences of Discipleship Challenge." Their task was to take time each day to discover the consequences of discipleship. After committing to share their highs and lows each day, this is what some said... "At first it was hard, and it was easy to say that there wasn't a high or low, but then, when we were forced to pick one thing, it made us recognize the blessings and challenges of each day! We now see more to appreciate in each day!" Another said..."It took my spouse some time to learn how this works. At first, they shared their highs and lows, then got up from the table to leave. 'Sit back down,' I said, 'now it's my turn!' They also said their low was when I left and the high was when I came back... that'll only work once!" Thanks to everyone who is sharing their highs and lows every day in your home – I think you'll learn that the consequences are worth it!

PET BLESSING

Tell your pets to get out their church clothes, they are invited to their very own worship service! On October 3rd, we will be celebrating our pets with snacks, games, and a special Pet Blessing service during Sunday School. And we've got fun for our four legged friends too! Bring a turtle or toad to the races, visit our "Bow-wow Bake Sale," tell your dog to brush up its act for a talent show, and pamper those pets, showing God's love to "All Creatures Great and Small!" The service will start at 10:45 to allow parents to go home and bring their pets.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Ahh Halloween. Dressing up, running around all night, consuming tons of sugar... what is there that a kid wouldn't love... and drive a parent bonkers! We want to provide another opportunity for our kids to have fun, and hopefully not drive the parents nuts. On October 31st, immediately following worship, hit the Trinity parking lot for "Trunk-or-Treat." Members are invited to decorate their car trunks and hand out candy while our children show off their wild side in costume. And kids, wear your costumes to church too! It will be fun to experience again the fun of Halloween through your eyes!

SHARE THE HARVEST

The harvest is here, and even though it has been a rough year, there is much to celebrate! Join us at the farm of Minor Garrelts (1256 E Cty. Rd 1800) on October 17th, 2pm as we praise God in worship with local pastors and Living Water from Nauvoo. There will be activities for all ages as we offer combine and hay rack rides, Farm Bureau puts on their "Down on the Farm" program and petting zoo for children, and the youth from local churches gather for fun. And don't forget the delicious food and homemade ice cream! But most of all, we gather to share what God has given us, and that through Foods Resource Bank, we may share our harvest around the world!

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN

Hello,
Praise the Lord. I am Deric. Happy to write to you. Let me hope that everyone is fine and healthy.
My family appreciates for you love, care and support. I received a birthday gift of \$30. Out of this money my grandfather bought for me a goat for rearing. Thank you so much. However, in Uganda we experienced terrorism activities and over 64 people died. This happened away from the community, and of now we are safe.

Great love, Deric Watala

HUGS IN HANCOCK COUNTY

The HUGS cancer support group will host a wiener roast Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 5 p.m. at the home of Craig and Jetty Calvert north of Carthage at 1918 E. County Rd. 1670. All food is provided at no charge. There will be no guest speaker for October, just an evening of friendship and support. For more information, contact Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, Carthage, 217-357-8565. HUGS supports people impacted by cancer by offering monthly meetings for fellowship and education. Financial assistance is also available through HUGS. For example, any resident of Hancock County who is undergoing cancer treatment is eligible for up to \$200 a year in the form of either a gas card to be used at any Caseys General Store or a gift certificate redeemable at any Hancock County pharmacy for medications or supplies. Additional assistance may be granted in cases of greater need.

BUILDING FUND

You may notice some work being done on the main sanctuary building this month! On September 19, the congregation voted to begin repairs to the masonry, roof, windows, and steeples. All are in need of attention and insurance money will help pay for a portion of the costs. Money from the tower fund will also be used as the steeples will be restored to their original look. The total cost has been bid for \$115,000 with a 10% contingency to accommodate for unseen expenses. After applying insurance and tower funds, the congregation has committed to pay the remaining \$55,000. Please consider making a donation to the building fund. Envelopes labeled "Building Fund" can be found in the pews. Thank you all you do to make sure even our church building is a celebration of Christ's love!