

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2011

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

Earlier this afternoon, I was out in our backyard preparing our vegetable garden. It is about a 22'x 22' plot (we doubled the size from last year so we could have extra produce to preserve for winter... thanks to Marilyn and Benen, none of the raspberries even made it into our house, just kids with red fingers and lips!). I was using a tiller that had been given to us, and man, is it a beast! Gas powered, about 24" wide, weighs over two tons and is at least 100 years old (maybe I'm exaggerating). As I was tilling, I was trying to lift the handle so the wheels were off the ground, letting the tines really work the soil, but it was me that was getting worked over more than the soil! That tiller threw my body all over the place, my shoulders bouncing up and down in their sockets. It was a battle... and I was losing!

But then I let the wheels down and let the tiller do its work. The tines spun, breaking up a little soil at a time, and it slowly moved down the garden while my body gently followed it along. It may not till up the soil as quickly or aggressively, but I'm not going to get a dislocated shoulder either!

Watching the clods of dirt break up into loose, fertile soil, I started thinking about Lent. We've talked about Transformation and Spring Cleaning a lot these past few weeks. About how Lent is a time to be transformed, to be born from above, to receive living water, to have our eyes opened, and to be given new life. Lent is a time to wash the stain of our sin, toss out our rusty treasures, take out the trash in our lives, sweep up those cobwebs that entangle us, and remove those dirty clothes that hide who we really are.

And if we do these things alone, relying on our own power, it's like that tiller. I want to break up the hardened dirt so I'm going to lift up those wheels and make those tines tear through it... but I'd better be ready for a bumpy and dangerous ride! Instead, if we let those wheels down and let God be the one who transforms us and the one who helps us in our spring cleaning, the tines spin, breaking up a little soil at a time, it moves slowly through our lives without shaking us to pieces. But we can't just let go and let it do its thing... then it would just run across the yard and threaten to till the swing set (trust me, I tried it!). Instead, we work together, God tilling, us following, watching the transformation take place as packed dirt becomes loose and fertile soil.

As we journey through the remainder of Lent, take your place at the tiller, come and worship, follow along in your daily readings, hear the stories of the Christ's Passion – events that changed the world, *and us*, forever! Discover again the promise of new life through a cross.

It is a peculiar thing how new life is granted through a cross, but working in the garden, it makes sense. *"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* (John 12:24)

Take your place at the tiller and allow God to till your life, preparing the soil for seed – for God has plans for much fruit in your life!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/01 Stephanie Stott
4/03 Heather Stevenson, Ryder Duffy
4/05 Anne Ufkes
4/06 Randy Geissler
4/07 Lance Stott, Rod McGaughey
4/08 Ashley Koster
4/09 Tyler Ufkes, Zach Lemley
4/13 Edith Galloway
4/14 Scott Harrison
4/15 Austin Ufkes
4/16 Nathan Wisehart, David Harrell
4/17 Crista Rainford
4/20 Dustin Ellefritz
4/22 Andy Redenius, Erin Markham
4/24 Gerrie Harrison, Travis Ufkes,
Ryan Biery
4/25 Denver Smith
4/26 McKenna Huls
4/28 Sally Swank, Margaret Rosenboom
4/29 Susan Pennebaker

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/09 Tadd & Carrie Markham
4/15 Rick & Lori Wildrick
4/22 Loren & Connie Schulz
4/24 Jim & Lori Ufkes

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 MINISTRY 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 February 28, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$34,200
Amt. Received YTD - \$29,593
Amt. Spent YTD - \$21,624
Current Fund Balance – \$9,232

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$3,188
Amt. Received YTD - \$3,537

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
Paper Towels & Kleenex

Shepherd's Pantry would appreciate any donations that members are able to make. Thank you for your help.

BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

As of February 28, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$36,375. We have estimated our share of the total cost to be \$55,000. To date we have spent \$29,120 for the brick work and windows, leaving an amount needed of \$18,625 for this part of the project. Please continue to give to achieve our goal for this project. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 17, 2011

Present: John Adkins, Erin Biery, John Dittmer, Kirby Fecht, Connie Flesner, Shawn

Gutting, Dave Hartweg, Galen Krieg, Terry Redenius, Mary Sargent, Delmer Schlueter, Jack Ufkes and Pastor Adam Dichsen.

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Kirby Fecht led the devotions. Erin Biery will lead the devotions in April.

The minutes from the regular meeting of February 10, 2011, were reviewed. The software cost was \$269 not \$169. Galen Krieg made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction. Delmer Schlueter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam had received a thank-you note from Kim Nettles thanking us for the help with the moving project of items from Springfield to the Kibbe Museum. John Adkins discussed the project and the school groups that have visited.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated February 28, 2011, was reviewed. The unbudgeted receipts included the renovation, welcome center, food pantry, Feeding the FaithFULL, Thrivent, Global Barnyard, auction and memorials. John Adkins 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 February 28, 2011. Discussion followed, including the insurance for the roof. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported a meeting was held this afternoon for Vacation Bible School. They have a good start and are checking on dates to hold it. Members from the Presbyterian Church, Christian Church and Trinity were present. Adult Sunday School began a new class, "24

Hours that Changed the World". Galen Krieg is the leader. Pastor announced that Confirmation Camp will be June 13-17. One student is unable to attend and Pastor has recommended the Leadership Lab for this student since Confirmation Camp is a requirement.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Discussion was held about the cost of advertising ads for Easter. We will try to pass out invitations on Palm Sunday instead. Discussion was held about the front sign. Road side Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary needs people to sign up for fellowship and Lenten soup suppers. Mary, Tonya Ufkes and Pastor Adam met to discuss Fellowship hour. It was discussed to have Fellowship only once a month in the summer. Delmer suggested council members take one Sunday a month. After some discussion, the council agreed to host Fellowship the last Sunday of each month. Bev Ufkes, Delmer Schlueter and Terry Redenius will host on March 27.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported the Finance Committee met at 6:00 before the joint meeting at 6:30 with Mike Jurgens, the Finance Committee and the Church Council. Shawn reported that there is \$10,664 in the Welcome Center account. Shawn made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to move \$10,000 from the Welcome Center fund back towards the John Dulak renovation fund. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. Shawn made a motion, on recommendation of Mike Jurgens and the Finance Committee, to move \$6,000 from Europacific Growth Fund and \$4,000 from the Growth Fund of America and to exchange 100% of Washington Mutual into American Mutual. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried. A request was received from Justin Neally for a mission trip to Romania. Shawn made a motion to give Justin \$100 for his mission trip. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John reported the committee has adapted the table cloths to fit. Thank-you notes are being written for memorials for Gary Vest and Mildred Marshall. Wilfred Ufkes has donated his Thrivent money to Trinity in memory of his wife. John will send a thank-you note to him as well. Connie will send a note to Cook's Glass for the windshield repair to the van.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that there was water damage where the Welcome Center meets the East room. Dave Hartweg and Delmer have looked at the roof and believe it was a result from the roof repair and the roof vents. Dave has caulked around the vents. Once repaired, it will need to be painted. Delmer has talked with Larry Dighton and his work on the ornamental pieces for the tower spires. Dave has talked with Inspired Heights. There was discussion about some spring cleaning at the church on April 16th.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –no report.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –no report.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry reported the committee met on February 16th. Holy Week will include foot washing on Maundy Thursday. We will have Good Friday services. Joan Dierks will be our pianist while Linley is gone. The Lenten service is the Holden Evening Prayer with the theme of transformation, spring cleaning and cleaning out the garbage in our lives. Nails were passed out on Sunday. We will commune by tables 3 times during the Lenten season.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported the Youth continue to meet the first and third Sundays. Pastor and Kirby discussed an idea for a mission trip this summer. Perhaps the youth would go 3 days to Kentucky for leadership, canoeing, rock climbing and other activities. Then the group would return to Carthage to do mission/community service.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –no report.

Pastor's Report –Pastor discussed the theme for Lent and how it is such a powerful time. He grieves for the empty seats in the pews. He is trying to put together a visitation team. How do we continue to support our children and our Cradle Roll? We would like to display a tree with nests showing their journey through baptism, their first Bibles, first communion, confirmation and on. Our goal is to have children involved for a lifetime. We have generational blessings but our bottom line is God's salvation. Pastor shared his written report of notable happenings and upcoming events.

Old Business:

Church Building –discussed in Property.

Bibles—Pastor shared the placards and letters to be in the newsletter, bulletins and on the table to purchase 100 Bibles for the pews.

Soup Kitchen—Several people went door to door to invite people to Feeding the FaithFULL on February 27. Fifteen people attended. The next one will be March 27, with serving from noon to 1 p.m. Several people from Immanuel have volunteered to help. Other churches and businesses would also like to help.

Copyright—A long discussion was held about copyright law and fair use. Michael Moore from Augsburg was helpful with explaining the law. We already purchase a license from Augsburg to make copies of our liturgy in the bulletin. We have paid \$40 per year for the blue book. It is \$109 per year for both the red and blue hymnals. Dave Hartweg made a motion to pay the remaining balance, \$60, to Augsburg for the permission for the red hymnal. Pastor seconded. Motion carried. For movie night, Confirmation videos, etc., it is \$190 per year for CVLI. For recording and distributing cds, it appears there is no one license to cover all music. We want to do what is right, to be

good stewards of our church's resources, and continue ministering to our shut-ins. After more discussion, Galen Krieg made a motion to contact Kameron Miller to clarify the Fair Use and copyright law for us. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

There was no new business.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Dave Hartweg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Over the past year we have struggled to find helpers to serve at fellowship hour, so we are implementing a new practice. In an effort to keep it simple, we ask that volunteers just bring a couple of packages of cookies, prepare the coffee and Kool-Aid that is provided in the kitchen, and set up/clean up. We fear that some do not volunteer to help because it looks like so much is expected of them. This fellowship time is important to many of us, so please consider volunteering to provide a simple snack and the opportunity for all of us to enjoy the company we share in the Body of Christ.

PASTOR SWARBRICK UPDATE

On Sunday, February 20, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon, IL, gathered to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor William Swarbrick, who

is a member there and is now in his 90th year.

During his ministry, Pastor Swarbrick served churches in Anna, Dubuque, and then in Pekin, where he established a new congregation. After that he served in Carthage, which was like a home-coming to him and his wife, as both had been active at Old Trinity when they were students. Pastor Swarbrick was also a Regional Director for two years of the Lutheran Evangelism Mission, and finally served 15 years as senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon.

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten worship continues through April. On Sunday mornings we look at the ways God's grace transforms us. On Wednesday evenings, during Holden Evening Prayer, we ask God to help us do some "Spring Cleaning" in our lives. During Holy Week, join us for Maundy Thursday service (April 21, 7pm) where we are reminded again of Jesus' command of loving service and as we receive Christ's Body and Blood, the grace necessary to live out this command. On Good Friday (April 22, 7pm) we are reminded of the cost of God's sacrifice and discover again the power of the cross. Please bring the nails you have carried with you throughout Lent to lay them at the cross. Then, join us on Easter Sunday as we gather around an empty tomb to see the ultimate act of transformation – Alleluias raised to the sky, nails created into art, a cross of torture transformed into a cross of life, and our lives renewed through the promise pouring out from the empty tomb! Please bring fresh cut flowers from your gardens to lay at the cross and celebrate this day!

EASTER BREAKFAST

Come celebrate the resurrection over a delicious breakfast served by our Confirmation class and help support their trip to Confirmation Camp this summer.

Breakfast will be served on Easter morning at 7:30am. We are applying to have all donations matched through Thrivent to help raise funds necessary for their summer camp. We are also asking for the following items to be donated. A sign-up sheet will be in the Welcome Center.

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

CHURCH SOFTBALL

The Church Softball League is gearing up again. If you are interested in sharing your ideas at a planning meeting, join us on Tuesday, April 12 at 7pm here at Trinity. If you want to play, we'll keep you posted about practices starting in May.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Mississippi? Mexico? Where will the youth be headed for mission work this year? ... Carthage! That's right, we'll be doing mission work in our own backyard. The High School and College Youth will be heading to Kentucky for three days of leadership training and group building while camping, canoeing, rock-climbing, and learning to trust God and one another on a high and low ropes course. Then, we will take our leadership and group skills back home to Carthage to do some mission projects around our own community. If you are interested in helping with a project, please let us know. The entire congregation is welcome to participate. Also, if you know of a project in the community that could use our help, let us know. It is our hope to proclaim the glory of God and be missionaries right here in our own town! If you would like to support us financially, we will be holding fundraisers soon.

GAME NIGHT

Game night was a success last month (despite a few pulled muscles on twister, and bruises from hurling the catchphrase computer around the circle) so let's do it

again! Join us on Saturday night, April 30, from 6:00-8:00 for board games, card games, and some fun fellowship.

CRADLE ROLL

Guess how many kids we have at church who are in middle school or younger? 20? 30? How about 41! (With four more expected this summer!) In baptism, parents make promises to raise their children in the faith, and we as the Church promise to support and help them. We are reinstating a "Cradle Roll" that will help us as a congregation to remember our children so that we can pray for and encourage them. Look for a display coming this month that will help remind us of the promise we made in their baptisms. We will also be sending materials home to these families and offer events to help teach them ways to live out their promises.

YOUNG ADULTS

Bowling in the dark... sounds dangerous doesn't it... that is unless the bowling balls are glowing! Join us on Friday night, April 15th as we head to Keokuk for "Glo Bowling." The lanes are open from 10:00-11:30, but we may want to get a bite to eat before hand. Check the facebook group page for more information as we get closer.

SPRING CLEANING...AT CHURCH

We've spent Lent doing some spring cleaning in our lives, now let's work on the church! Grab a rag and a paint brush and we'll spiffy things up for Easter. Also, celebrate Earth Day this year by chipping in and picking up trash along our adopted highway. Meet at church at 9:00, Saturday morning, April 16th.