

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

I've been visiting a lot of the families of Sunday School students recently, and I've been asking the kids, "Are you ready for school to start up again?" More often than not, their response is, "YES!" How wonderful! Our children are so eager and excited to engage in being challenged with new ideas and skills and to head back to the classrooms to expand their knowledge... but then I ask them why they are so excited and the truth comes out – "I'm bored!"

How about you? Are you looking for an opportunity to be challenged with new ideas and skills? Do you want to expand your knowledge? Are you bored? If you answered yes to any of these (and even if you didn't), we've got some opportunities for you.

Last year when we sold Lutheran Study Bibles, some of you asked if we could have an opportunity to learn again some basics about what is in the Bible and how to use it. We would like to offer such an opportunity. It's called, "The Greatest Story" – a journey through the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, learning and reviewing the many stories that make up *the greatest story*, all the while discovering that we are part of the story too. It is both an opportunity to learn for the first time about just what is in those pages of God's Word as well as to deepen your understanding through study and discussion. It will be offered in the library on Sunday mornings after fellowship.

And for our youngsters, we are offering a similar opportunity. It's called Faith Stepping Stone "My Bible." It brings our 3-6 graders and their parents together for 8 nights to

explore the scriptures, discover the greatest story, and discover that it is a story for us! We'll highlight 120 key scriptures, including one from every book of the Bible (even those weird ones we can't pronounce!). We'll eat food, act out skits, and play games, all while planting seeds of faith that will bear fruit for the rest of our lives.

And don't forget children's Sunday School! We will begin with Rally Day on September 11th with music, games, and a fundraiser lunch.

So, I'd better not hear anyone say, "I'm bored!" ☺ Crops of corn and beans flourish when they receive the proper amount of water, sun, and nutrients – we too grow in our Christian faith when we daily remember the water of our baptism, soak in the Son, and are fed by God's grace. Let's head "back to school," whether it be in personal devotions or group study, as we continually learn of the incredible gift of God's grace in our lives.

God bless,
Pastor Adam

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/01 Stephen Weid, John Hartweg,
Chris Nettles, Katy Miller,
Jacob Jacoby
- 8/02 David Ufkes, Tom Bragg
- 8/05 Nikki Bower
- 8/06 Vickie Livingston, Madison Harrison,
Doris Holtsclaw, Pr. Adam Dichsen
- 8/10 Kyle Miller, Mason Stevenson
- 8/12 Sara Brooks
- 8/15 Linley Bartell
- 8/16 Erin Heaton
- 8/17 Shawn Gutting
- 8/18 Rob Gronewold, Peyton Gutting
- 8/19 Ramo Stott, Jeff Cole
- 8/20 Jadon Johnson
- 8/21 Christian Holtsclaw
- 8/25 Karla Johnson, Katelyn Jacoby
- 8/27 Brandy Fecht
- 8/29 Braxton Boyer
- 8/30 Russ Schoch, Gilbert Duffy,
Bria Repplinger
- 8/31 Malyssa Galloway

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/01 Tyrone & Vonda Jacoby
- 8/02 Darin & Samantha Klingler
- 8/08 Tim & Sara Brooks
- 8/09 Andy & Terry Redenius
- 8/13 Dan & Peggy Higgins
- 8/14 Erik & Kaylee Krekel
- 8/15 John & Denise Schwartz
- 8/17 Carl A. & Helen Hartweg
- 8/21 Wayne & Patsy Hodges
- 8/26 Ed & Gerrie Harrison,
Galen & Kim Krieg
- 8/28 Cody & Erin Holst

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 June 30, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$71,393
Amt. Received YTD - \$67,844
Amt. Spent YTD - \$65,013
Current Fund Balance – \$4,094

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$9,564
Amt. Received YTD - \$11,062

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
- Hand & Bath Soap
- Laundry & Dish Soap
- Baby Food & Formula
- Paper Towels, Kleenex & Toilet Tissue

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

BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

As of June 30, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$57,102. This amount has surpassed our initial goal, but due to the increased costs we will incur due to more deterioration of the towers our estimated out of pocket cost has increased to \$65,000. To date we have spent \$81,261 leaving an amount needed of \$7,898 to achieve our goal for this project. Please continue to support this fund so we can avoid borrowing funds.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 13, 2011

Present: John Dittmer, Kirby Fecht, Connie Flesner, Dave Hartweg, Galen Krieg, Terry Redenius, Mary Sargent, Delmer Schlueter, Jack Ufkes, Pastor Adam Dichsen and guests Max Gronewold and John Peterson.

Absent: Erin Biery, John Adkins, and Shawn Gutting

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. John Dittmer led the devotions. Galen Krieg will lead the devotions in August.

The minutes from the regular meeting of June 9, 2011, the special meeting of June 19, 2011, and the special meeting of July 3, 2011, were reviewed and discussed. Dave Hartweg made a motion to approve the minutes of all 3 meetings. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Jack explained that he had asked our guests, Max Gronewold and John Peterson, to be present at our meeting. Max had a telephone conversation with Byron Geissler and John was the chairman of the Agnes Geissler Missions Fund. Jack read a letter from Byron and his sister Sara Austin. They would classify the tower restoration as a mission, both local and global, and that it would greatly please their mother, Agnes Geissler, to use her fund to help with this restoration. Discussion followed. John Peterson presented a summary of missions the fund has helped with. Many of the same type of missions are helped with the Endowment Fund and the Marie Fecht fund. Pastor had contacted the synod's interim bishop. He suggested we discuss this at one meeting, pray about it and then discuss it at the next meeting. More discussion followed. Dave Hartweg made a motion to table a decision until next month. John Dittmer seconded. John Peterson asked that Jack or Max speak with Byron informing him of our discussions. Jack will make the contact. Motion carried.

Pastor Adam passed around a thank-you card from the Loveland's for the use of the fellowship hall as their temporary home. Pastor expressed how both families were very appreciative and also read from our Bibles and Sparks Bibles to their children.

Pastor had passed around a brochure from Church Mutual about a van prevention rollover device. Jack received a letter from the Director of Alumni Relations at Carthage College for the celebration of their 165th year. They will visit Carthage on Saturday July 23rd, touring the Charger Center and Carthage Veterinary Service. They will then have a dinner and presentation at 5:00 p.m. in our Welcome Center. Our congregation is invited, but reservations are needed since the meal is catered. Those interested need to contact Jack or Pastor by Sunday, July 17. Some of the alumni will stay over and attend worship on Sunday, July 24.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated June 30, 2011, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the miscellaneous receipts included \$1800 from scrap copper, two transfers, the building, Welcome Center, Sunday School, Bibles, auction, flood victim /local

outreach and book purchase. Dave also explained that Jack and family cleaned the copper to salvage it. Galen Krieg made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Kirby Fecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2011. Discussion followed. Kirby Fecht made a motion to consolidate the checking and money market accounts into a Super Now account since interest rates are so low. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried. John Dittmer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Pastor had met with Erin today. They discussed the Cradle Roll and the Splash packet that goes out once a month to the 0-3 year –old children. . Another packet follows for the 4-year olds to 4th grade. This covers around 30 kids in the 2 age groups. The Sunday School Rally is set for Sunday, September 11th. It will include music, games and a youth kick-off fundraiser for next year's Louisiana trip. It will be from 10 am – 1 pm since the Ministerial Alliance will be having a memorial service on the square. They also discussed the curriculum and teachers for Sunday School. They had also discussed the Faith Stepping Stones for the babies, preschoolers and early elementary children. They hope to concentrate on the elementary stepping stones now since it is an 8-session course with about 80 Bible stories. The 3rd graders receive their Bibles and then will hopefully use them all the way through Confirmation. They also discussed a new adult Sunday School course, the Greatest Story Ever. They are hoping to offer it Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, either/or both.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reported that she met with Ron Schulz, Pastor Adam, Paul Ewing and Marcia Ewing. The group would like to sponsor a concert with Matt Dibler on Sunday, October 30. He will be at Golden that week-end too. More will be coming later. We will also sponsor a craft and bake sale at the Carthage Christmas Open House, with the proceeds going to the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor will check with the other churches to see if they would like to participate too. The committee is also making plans to have a Living Nativity. Connie also read about evangelism from the *Seeds for the Parish* newsletter.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported the refreshments are going well. Jack and Bev Ufkes and Pastor and Karen Dichsen will serve on July 31st.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –no report.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –no report.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that work is continuing on the towers. Discussion followed. We have received a bid from Heartland Carpet for the carpet

removal and disposal, the carpet and tile, and installation for the sanctuary and two entry ways.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen reported that Financial Peace is registered on the website. The tentative date is set for September 17. Pastor will inform the Ministerial Alliance.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –no report.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry reported that several women were willing to help and they had met to divide the many duties Gerrie Harrison did for altar guild. The chimes will be dedicated on July 31st. Janet Rahman has led the group. Dedication of the towers will be held at a later time. Becky Barlow will be the organist on July 24th.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported that they are looking forward to the fall kick-off.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor reported there will be a community service on the square for the tenth anniversary of September 11. It will include a community choir and a moment of silence. Hunger Fest is scheduled for October 23rd with the money going to the ministerial alliance. All churches are invited to participate. The Thanksgiving service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Pastor's Report –Pastor shared his written report of happenings and upcoming events. The CROSS meeting will be held Thursday, July 14, which is why the council meeting was moved. Luther Fest will again be held in August. Several other groups have volunteered to serve the meal at Feeding the FaithFULL as follows: July – Calvary, August – Presbyterians, September – Confirmation classes, and October – the Methodist and Trinity Youth Groups. Sunday, July 17, will be the last Nursing Home Service. It will include the chimes. He is unsure of the future. The first Wednesday of the month Bible study will continue at Hickory Grove.

Old Business:

Bibles –Thirty-six Bibles have been purchased thus far. The goal is 100.

New Business:

Insurance Settlement —Discussion was held about accepting the settlement with the Insurance Company. Jack passed out a copy from the RAC Adjustments, Inc. More discussion followed. John Dittmer made a motion to accept the insurance adjustment of \$62, 516.00. Pastor Adam seconded the motion. Discussion continued and included appreciation for all those, including Jack, Dave, Pastor and Delmer, which have worked on this project. Jack restated that the insurance adjustor has been very good to work with. Galen called for the question. Motion carried 10-1.

Carpet—Discussion was held concerning the Heartland Carpet bid. Terry Redenius will get a group to check samples. The discussion was tabled until next month.

Christ Lutheran Church Secretary – Pastor reported that Christ Lutheran Church has a need for a part-time secretary. They made a request to share a secretary with us. We would need more information before making a decision.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, at 7 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Kirby Fecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - "HEAVEN IS FOR REAL"

We have finished our study on "Prayer" with Philip Yancey. Next we will reflect on the book, "Heaven is For Real." It's the story of Colton, a four year old, who pulled through life-threatening surgery with information that left his parent's speechless - he had been to heaven and back. We will discuss the book and look to scripture to reflect on God's promise of eternal hope, that heaven IS for real.

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The games continue through part of August. The tournament will be held August 14th (game schedule to be announced). Come to play, cheer, and have a good time!

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Come play in the volleyball tournament held at Lutherfest 2011 Sunday, August 28 at Christ Lutheran Church in Quincy, IL.

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

This past month we welcomed Bailey Elizabeth Brooks daughter of Tim and Sara Brooks, and we also welcomed Piper Mae Hodges daughter of Wayne and Patsy Hodges into the world.

PEW BIBLES

We recently began a campaign to collect donations to purchase Bibles to be used during worship. If you would like to contribute, they are \$25 a piece. There is a form on the table in the Welcome Center if you would like it to be given "In Honor," "In Memory," or "To the Glory of God." We will need 100 Bibles to fill the sanctuary. At this time, we've received donations for 29 Bibles. Please consider supporting this effort to lift up the importance of God's Word in our worship and daily lives.