

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Trinity,

Out and around town, I get a lot of questions about the steeples and the fire this month. "What started the fire? How bad is the damage? Are you going to finish the renovations?" My typical answers are, "Heat gun... not as bad as it could have been (praise God!)... and YOU BETCHA!" As I shared with you in the sermon following the fire, those steeples have been a bit of a revelation for me. To see the siding come off and rediscover the beautiful woodwork brought me back in time to appreciate the rich history of "Old Trinity." Seeing one steeple engulfed in flame and many of you gathered in prayer and concern brought pain to my heart and tears to my eyes. And now, as the renovations continue, I see the steeples differently...

I see them help to make our church "Holy." "Holy" doesn't mean that it is better or bigger or more perfect than anything else, it means that it is has been set apart for a purpose. When I see the beautiful woodwork, white roofs, and cross, whether from across town, out on the highway, or in my own backyard, I remember that that building has been set apart from all the rest for a purpose, to be a place where God's children come to worship, are fed by God's grace, and sent out into a world of great need. Beneath those steeples, in a holy building, we too are made holy! We are set apart for a purpose, gathered as ordinary people, forgiven by an extraordinary God, taught, fed, encouraged, and sent out to "Celebrate Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People."

I see them as they "point to God." Now, I know that God is at much here in our midst as God is in the heavens above, but when I see those steeples, my attention is drawn to

God. It's sort of like what happens to me when I see a range of mountains, a rainbow, or, more recently, hundreds of acres with tiny corn plants beginning to grow. When I see them, I can't help but marvel at the awe-inspiring creativity of God. And again, beneath those steeples, something happens to us. We too are reminded that we are to "point to God." Whether it is by welcoming our steeplejacks with forgiveness, encouraging one another in our baptismal promises, or serving others through the Shepherd's Pantry, Feeding the FaithFULL, or in many other unseen ways, we point to God. As 1 Peter said last week, we have been chosen... to proclaim the excellence of Him who made us!

And finally, I see them as they remind us that "Old Trinity" for what it truly is. When I see those steeples, I see Trinity Lutheran Church... but not the building. In the words of a Sunday School from my childhood, "The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a meeting place, *the Church is the people!*" When I see those steeples, I'm reminded of the many people who have passed beneath them, arm in arm to walk down the aisle, with a baby to bring to the baptismal font, being carried as the bell tolls for a funeral, and every Sunday in between, lifting voices in prayer and song.

Yes, thanks to that fire, I will always see those steeples differently, as holy, pointing to God, and continuing our heritage. But thanks be to God that beneath those steeples we too are made holy, are called and sent to "point to God," and are made into a church – "Old Trinity" – that will continue to celebrate Christ's love.

God's blessings,
Pastor Adam

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/02 Jennifer Clostermery, Dave Harrison,
Alexis Markham, April Lemley
6/03 Catie Harrell
6/04 Jason Waite
6/06 Mark Harrison, Marilyn Dichsen,
Landon Gronewold
6/10 Jason Lemley
6/11 Cindy Brown, Cody Ufkes
6/12 Tim Snyder
6/15 Chuck Ehlert, Kyen Mayes
6/16 Chris Snyder, Matt Snyder
6/17 Diana Harrison
6/23 Phil Gronewold, Mike Menn,
Dorothy Wetterich, Don Schulz
6/24 Joel Ellefritz
6/25 Megan Lemley, Grant Clark,
Miranda Klingler
6/26 Josh Schulz, Nicholas Bruns
6/27 Travis Ellefritz, Chase Ufkes
6/28 Angela Schoch
6/29 Alyssa Young, Ryan Kohl

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/02 Jerry & Lynn Fecht
6/11 Bill & Wilma Fecht
6/12 John & Sandy Peterson,
Dan & Liz Snyder,
Kendall & Mary Sargent,
Jeff & Natalie Cole
6/15 Mike & Cindy Menn
6/16 Max & Elaine Gronewold
6/17 Keith & Terri Ellefritz
6/25 Dave & Judy Hartweg
6/26 Dillon & Ashley Darbyshire
6/30 Jim & Donna Hills

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 April 30, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$53,000
Amt. Received YTD - \$46,552
Amt. Spent YTD - \$40,727
Current Fund Balance - \$7,088

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$6,376
Amt. Received YTD - \$7,363

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 April 30, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$43,736. We have estimated our share of the total cost to be \$55,000. To date we have spent \$34,120 for the brick work and windows, leaving an amount needed of \$11,264 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 MAY 12, 2011

Present: John Adkins, Erin Biery, John Dittmer, Kirby Fecht, Connie Flesner, Shawn Gutting, Dave Hartweg, Terry Redenius, Mary Sargent, Delmer Schlueter, Jack Ufkes and Pastor Adam Dichsen.

Absent: Galen Krieg.

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Adam led the devotions. Terry Redenius will lead the devotions in June.

The minutes from the regular meeting of April 14, 2011, and the special meetings of May 1 and May 8, 2011, were reviewed. John Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Jack had a request from the Chamber of Commerce for a float in the July 4th parade. VBS will not have a float since the parade is after the time VBS will be held. Hopefully Share the Harvest will have their float. The registration deadline is June 24th.

Pastor Adam had received a letter from Barb Sallee in appreciation to the kitchen committee for their meal for Harold Weid's funeral. Pastor also received a thank-you note from JoAnn Diercks and Christine Murphy for the church usage for their recital. Pastor had also spoken with Fran Swarbrick about the tower work, fire and repairs. She was glad he called and pleased the work would continue.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated April 30, 2011, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the unbudgeted receipts were the building, Welcome Center, Easter Breakfast, kitchen, Thrivent, Food Pantry, Sunday School, Feeding the FaithFULL, and book purchase. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as

printed. John Dittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2011. Discussion followed. The current fund improved this last month. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported that planning has continued for VBS to be held June 19-23. Volunteers will be needed for food items, helpers, etc. and there will be sign-ups in the Welcome Center. May 22nd will be the last Sunday School before the summer break. There is a plan to have Sunday School the first Sunday of the month before we begin again in the fall.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie thanked those who helped with the roadside clean-up. John Schwartz picked up 17 bags of trash from that day.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported we still need sign-ups for fellowship. There will be baptisms on May 22nd and May 29th. Delmer Schlueter and Kirby Fecht will help with fellowship on the May 22nd.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported that the Finance committee met prior to the church council meeting. Several requests were discussed. On recommendation of the finance committee, Shawn made a motion to give \$160.00 to Connie Schulz for 16 birthday gift cards for residents of the Carthage Terrace. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee, Shawn made a motion to give \$50.00 to the Work Share Garden Project at the Presbyterian Church. They have started a garden for people to work, get fresh produce and give fresh produce to the

Shepherd's Pantry. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee, Shawn made a motion to give \$500 to the Central Southern Illinois Synod Fund to help pay school loans to new pastors for their first 3 years. Pastors Adam, Jennifer and Joel have benefited from this fund in the past. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

A request was received from Connie Flesner to help a young man attend automotive training at Southeastern Community College. Discussion followed, including teaching a man to fish rather than just giving him some fish. Shawn Gutting, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, made a motion to give Francisco Manuel \$1,000 for each of two regular semesters and \$500 for the summer semester. The money will be given to Marcia McGaughey to manage. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Several more requests will be discussed next month. These include helping Avery LeJeune with a mission trip to Mexico. He will speak to the congregation on May 22. Other requests are to the Good News Radio and HUGS cancer support group. The financial reports were also discussed.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –John reported that thank-you notes for Mildred Marshall's memorials have been sent out.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that he, Jack, Dave and Pastor met with Tony's insurance adjustor. It was a positive meeting. The insurance company will take care of the housing since this will be a longer process. The adjustor also said that they will pay to put everything back to the way it was before the fire. There is no estimate at the moment. Friday they will come with the crane to take the roof off of the steeple since it is loose. Tony's crew thinks it can fix the rest of the tower on the roof. Tony has cut the cost of \$80/hour to \$60/hour.

The carpet has an ember-burn hole in the entryway. There are three options. One is to fix the hole with some existing carpet remnants. The color is slightly different, though, and it is in a heavy traffic area. A second option is to extend the new floor from the entry-way into the church and aisle. A third option is to re-carpet the whole church. The church would pay 20% of the cost because of depreciation. Discussion followed. It was mentioned the Property and Finance Committees should meet together.

The second tower is not as good as originally thought. In order to put the siding on the tower, some of the trim work had to be removed. The wood is also more hard and cracked. We can do the stripping, sanding and painting for the original cost of \$30,000, but it would only be a band-aid. To do it right will cost more. We do have a 10% contingency on the entire project. The crew needs to know what direction to go. More discussion followed.

Pastor Adam made a motion to have a congregational meeting on May 29 and to have an informational meeting on May 15 with a straw poll taken to indication the direction the council should proceed on renovation of the towers. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –no report.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –no report.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry expressed appreciation to JoAnn Diercks for her help with the choir music. A thank-you will be written. Terry will discuss with her committee some communion procedures. Erin Biery mentioned that Karen Clark had an organ to give away. Terry will check into that.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Pastor reported that an informational meeting was held for the trip June 26-30 to Kentucky. The youth are looking forward to summer softball.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor reported that Baccalaureate will be held on

Sunday, May 15, at 2 p.m. Pastor Kurt Hoover will give the sermon. The Praise Band will perform and a picture/CD slide show will be presented.

Pastor's Report –Pastor shared his written report of happenings. He explained that “there are still many things I feel God calling us to do to be ‘Old Trinity’ in new and relevant ways in the future, but I am grateful for who we have been and are today.” Jack and the council expressed what a nice service we had after the fire.

Pastor reported that Chris Nettles and Ron Schulz have been helping as Eucharistic Ministers. Dan Wilson, SAM (Synodically authorized minister) will be here on Sunday, May 15, while Pastor and Karen attend Marriage Encounter. The Faith Stepping Stone will have 3 classes. Each will focus on the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of a Healthy Baby. They are scheduled May 25, June 1, and June 8.

Old Business:

Bibles – On four consecutive Sundays, there will be volunteers sharing why it is important to proceed to have Bibles in the pews.

Delegates to Synod – Ron and Susie Schulz will be our delegates to the Synod meeting.

Copyright - Dave Hartweg explained that he just read a book, *The Church Guide to Copyright Law*. It seems to contradict what the council had discussed before. Dave wanted to go on record that anyone that tapes the services with the music should realize they are breaking the law and the fines are horrendous. Discussion followed which included that we had confirmation from a lawyer and a license agent from OneLicense.net (an agency that holds copyright licenses on 60 different publishers) that we are exempt from copyright law when we tape the services for shut-ins and distribute them for free. The issue arises in that not all of the music we perform is covered by OneLicense.net. Pastor discussed that this doesn't seem to be a black and white issue. There is information on both sides that either convict or make

exempt. He recommended that we follow through with the council's decision made last month to walk in the gray area and continue taping the services with music. Again it should be mentioned that anyone who doesn't feel comfortable taping the services will not be forced to do so.

New Business:

Church Secretary--Pastor brought to the council that Denise Schwartz has given a four-week notice to end her duties on Thursday, June 9. Denise has worked as the church secretary for over 10 years. She would be available to help the new person. She's been compiling a list or manual to assist the new person with her job. We will miss her greatly but it is time for a change in her life.

Pastor would like to put together a team of three people to help with a job description, the hours, recommendation of pay, and potential candidates. Please pray for the right person for this job.

Extra cleaning—Connie and Dave mentioned that we had discussed the paying of janitors for extra time cleaning for meetings and other activities at the church. Pastor will check into our procedure.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 7 p.m.

Since there was no other business, John Adkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Oil up those gloves and break out the bats, were heading to the diamonds to take on other churches in softball this summer! June 5 we take on the Methodists at 6:30, June 12 vs. Calvary at 6:30, June 19 the Baptists at 5:00, and June 26 the Methodists at 5:00. Come to play, cheer, and have a good time!

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – “HOMETOWN NAZARETH: WHERE JESUS WAS A KID”

This summer, take a trip to Nazareth as our children learn that Jesus was a kid just like us... sort of. He lived, played, had friends, and worshipped just like we do, but we will celebrate that he was more than a child, he was God's Son. VBS will be held June 19-23. The schedule is Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-8:00 (registration beginning at 5:00 on Sunday) with the closing be held at 7:00 on Thursday. All events will be at Trinity this year. Churches involved are the Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, and First Christian Church. Last year we had about 80 children. Please spread the word and invite a child to discover again just who Jesus is! And if you are interested in helping in any way, please let pastor know. A signup for food donations is in the Welcome Center.

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. Please consider supporting this effort to lift up the importance of God's Word in our worship and daily lives.

FAITH STEPPING STONE – HEALTHY BABY

Faith doesn't happen overnight, it incubates over years. We want to help families incubate faith in their children, so we are offering a program to educate and encourage our families with new or "almost here" babies. It's called "Faith Stepping Stone – New Baby." It is a three-night program, on Wednesdays, May 25, June 1, and 8. Krista Carle, a local pediatrician, will present on the physical needs of babies, Karen Dichsen will present on emotional needs, and Pastor Adam will present on spiritual needs. We will meet from 6:30-8:00. Childcare, snacks, and gag-gifts will be provided. This is open for members of Trinity and the community, so please spread the word!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

School is out, but not at church! The Adult Bible Study will be reading a book and watching a DVD by Philip Yancey on "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?" Come join us in the Library after worship. As for the kids, we will not be having summer classes, but the fun will continue – join us once a month for music and games following worship. We will meet on May 29, June 12, July 24, and August 14. And don't forget VBS June 19-23! Have a great summer!

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

This past month we welcomed Cara Raine Clostermery (daughter of Cory and Jennifer) and Holton James Darbyshire (son of Dillon and Ashley) through the waters of Baptism. Please pray for them and their families as we live out our promise to support them in their faith. Also, please pray for our babies to be... Tim and Sara Brooks, Wayne and Patsy Hodges, and Ryan and Erin Biery are all due in the next month!