

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

The building is complete! This past month, we have focused on a different sort of building campaign, one not of brick and mortar, but of flesh and blood – we have talked about building up the Body of Christ that is the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church! We poured a foundation (1 Cor 3 – “Christ is our foundation!”), the pillars are up (Mark 12 – we respond by loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength), the beams and roof add strength and stability (1 Cor 12 – we are a Body of Christ, a family that loves one another), and the bricks are laid (1 Peter 2 – we are living stones built into a spiritual house). So... now what? As we enter the season of Lent, we recognize two things: 1) it is a time of transformation, 2) it is time for some Spring Cleaning.

1) Lent is a time of transformation... Look around you. The snow has melted, irises are poking through the soil, robins are returning, the world around us is beginning to show signs of new life. Lent (which actually is translated “spring”) is a time of transformation for the world around us, but it is also a time for transformation within!

On Wednesday, March 9, we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services at 7pm. On Ash Wednesday we are forced to be brutally honest with our sinfulness and mortality as we come forward to receive a cross in ashes on our forehead. We cry out to God, confessing our sin and asking for mercy, and God responds! God responds by transforming our lives!

On Sunday, March 13, we will talk about what it means to take the “Lenten Journey” together, to repent, to turn, and to be transformed by God’s grace. Then, on the next four Sundays, we will reflect on Bible stories like Nicodemus asking what it means to be born again, Jesus

offering the woman at the well “living water,” a blind man healed, and Lazarus being raised from the dead. These are stories that teach us what it means to be transformed by God’s Grace.

2) Lent is a time for Spring Cleaning... Look around your home and you will likely see dust, cobwebs, trash, dirty clothes, maybe a piece of food here and there (this is just the floor by my side of the bed!). Spring is a time to clean up our homes a bit, but just as our building campaign looks not at brick and mortar but flesh and blood, at Trinity, “Spring Cleaning” is not about brooms and dustpans, it is about cleaning up ourselves, the Body of Christ. During our Wednesday Lenten services, we will be focusing on Spring Cleaning for the Body of Christ. Dust, cobwebs, and garbage can accumulate within our lives. Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 6pm for a soup supper and stick around from 7-7:30 to let God do some Spring Cleaning in our lives.

And finally, I just want to thank you. Thank you for being such a wonderful, welcoming, and supportive family! Thank you for being a Body of Christ that strives to stand firm on Christ as our foundation, to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have celebrated Christ’s love by welcoming, encouraging, and serving God’s people. We have welcomed new members who want to be a part of this family and participate in this mission. And the Holy Spirit is at work in this family, building, transforming, spring cleaning... I thank you and I thank God for giving us such a wonderful mission in which to share!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/01 Ron Schulz
3/02 Sally Cook
3/03 Kyle Jacoby
3/06 Max Gronewold, Carrie Markham,
Brent Ufkes
3/08 Blaine Creasy
3/09 Jenny Robinson, Sandy Peterson
3/11 Kelum Fecht
3/14 Kaylee Kreckel, Heather Disney
3/16 Haiven Harrison
3/17 Heath Marmion
3/18 Brittany Ufkes
3/19 Haeli Johnson
3/20 Megan Harrell
3/22 Vonda Jacoby
3/23 Shirley Manning
3/24 Caiden Rainford
3/27 Debbie Johnson, Angie Fecht
3/29 Molly Ufkes
3/30 Suzan Harrison
3/31 Kendall Sargent, John Morrison

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/14 Bill & Mildred Marshall
3/22 Dale & Edith Galloway

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 January 31, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$22,500
Amt. Received YTD - \$21,837
Amt. Spent YTD - \$10,789
Current Fund Balance – \$12,311

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$1,594
Amt. Received YTD - \$1,871

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 January 31, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$35,612. 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 \$19,388 for this part of the project. Please continue to achieve our goal for this project. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

GAME NIGHT AT TRINITY

Calling ALL ages for a night of fun, food, and fellowship! We are hosting a Game Night on Saturday, March 19th at 7pm. No meal will be served, but feel free to bring some snacks. Also bring your favorite board game, a deck of cards, or just come and play.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 10 2011

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

Absent: Kirby Fecht and Mary Sargent.

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Adam led the devotions. Kirby Fecht will lead the devotions in February.

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 11, 2011 and the special meeting of January 23, 2011, were reviewed. Galen Krieg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam had received a thank-you note from Pastor Chris and Amy Hales from the Assembly of God Christian Church. The Hales thanked us for our help with their upcoming ministry in Prague, Czech Republic.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated January 31, 2011, was reviewed. The unbudgeted receipts were discussed. Erin Biery made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. John Adkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2011. Discussion followed. John Adkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported they were expecting 6-7 children at the PASS GO babysitting on Friday. Four babysitters will be present. A Bible School planning meeting is in place. There have

been low numbers at Sunday School in January. Discussion followed about how to we encourage families to attend? We have agreed to start a Cradle Roll, so how do we reach out and support these families?

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Pastor reported that the New Member class had 7 members. They have had a luncheon last Sunday and this next Sunday with orientation involving key Bible stories. Four people, including 3 children and 1 adult, will be baptized. The Family Fair was a wonderful event at the Extension Center. Sixty people came to Pastor's table. They planted grass and he passed out Faith 5 information. Thirty people signed up for Bibles and 12 were passed out. Some people were new to town.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –The next movie, *Fireproof*, will be February 19. The meal will be at 5:30 and the movie will begin at 6:00. There are openings for fellowship refreshments. The Young and Young at Heart will go ice skating on Saturday, February 12 in Macomb.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported that Mike Jurgens was unable to meet this month and next month with the Church Council and the Finance Committee. After discussion, the next church council meeting will be held March 17 at 6:00 so we can meet with him. Shawn Gutting made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to give \$100 to the Safety Pup Program of Drug Education to help purchase materials for educational purposes to children ages 5-12. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried. Shawn Gutting made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to donate \$100 to the Warsaw/Nauvoo After-Prom Program. Terry Redenius seconded. Motion carried.

Shawn discussed how the mutual funds rose and we had another strong month. The passport account went down since checks were written.

Dave Hartweg discussed the copyright laws involved with recording the church services involving music not covered by the hymnal copyright. There is a \$185 fee that would cover this. Discussion followed. More information will be presented at the next meeting. Dave Hartweg made a motion to upgrade the software on the computer for \$169. John Dittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The budget approved at the annual meeting failed to reflect the child health care. The corrected numbers are as follows: Pastor's salary, \$68,800; Workman's Comp, \$800; Insurance, \$11,000; and Fellowship, \$200. The total Current Budget is \$144,526. Dave Hartweg made a motion to amend the budget to reflect these changes for a total budget of \$163,661. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –The committee will be working on thank-you notes. Discussion followed on the new tablecloths and the restocking fee.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that we have received lots of help cleaning the sidewalks and parking lot. Thanks to all who have volunteered and helped in this task. One member mentioned he really liked doing this help for the church. There has been a discussion with Church Mutual for the roof. Shawn reported the van is slated for starter repair on Wednesday and a new windshield donated by Cook's Glass.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –no report.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John explained we are making strides with the offering envelopes. New members can get envelopes from the office.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry reported Ada Bair will be the substitute organist on February 20. Pastor, Terry and the committee are scheduled to meet on February 16th. Pastor Adam and Karen will be attending a continuing education for a

Couples' Marriage Encounter. This will enable us to have an encounter for our area. Thus a substitute minister will be needed on March 6th.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Pastor reported that the Super Bowl party included 8 youth. It included a Bible Study, eating and continuing at the Stott's.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor reported the Ministerial Alliance met and discussed the Lenten services and community services. There will be a community Good Friday service over the lunch hour. The Alliance continues to discuss the needs of our community are like a well; they are deep. They have had the discussion about a store front, but the Shepherd's Pantry and the Clothes Closet are working well. So the discussion has now focused on the accompaniment ministry such as the Stephens Ministry or Barnabas Ministry. They will ask 2 people from each congregation to help with that to give the spiritual help as well.

Pastor's Report –Pastor discussed Isaiah 43:19 that involved "new things". Waves come in a congregation, like a "surfer", we need to be ready. How can we do that? Like Legos, we need to overlap, intertwine and build a stronger, connected group. So it is important to target each generation, but it is also important to target intergenerational ministry. The obvious place to start is with the children, to surround, support, protect and show God's love. Each Sunday we will discuss the foundation, the pillars, the beams and the bricks. Chris Nettles will help with the Nursing Home and shut-in visits. Council installation will be Sunday, February 13.

Old Business:

Church Building –We are waiting for Inspired Heights.

Bibles—Discussion was held about the placards and purchase of Bibles. Pastor will look into this.

Soup Kitchen—A lot of work was put into the Feeding the FaithFULL on January 30. They will regroup, put more information out there in new ways and new places. This is a great outreach. The next one will be February 27, with serving from noon to 2 p.m..

New Business:

There was no new business.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Galen Krieg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

February was a month of growth for Trinity as we welcomed seven new members to our family: Ashley Wiseman, Dan Yates, Darin and Emily Kohl, Diane Steffen, and Wayne and Patsy Hodges. We also welcomed Ava Hodges, Emily Kohl, Elizabeth Kohl, and Kenneadi Kohl into our family through the waters of baptism. On February 9 Cory and Jennifer Clostermery received the blessing of new life in the birth of their daughter, Cara Raine. We give God thanks for each of you for the blessing you are and we welcome you to our family!

YOUNG ADULT KARAOKE NIGHT

Rest up your vocal chords for some singing (or at least some cheering and laughing!) as we head to the Peacock for karaoke night on Friday, March 11. We'll eat supper at the Wood Inn at 7 and then head to karaoke at 8.

Calling all Men! What if you had one year to live and you knew it? What changes would you make in your life? Well, we don't know it, but why not make those changes anyway? You are invited to a "One Year to Live" retreat that encourages men to look seriously at their lives, their spiritual journey, and commit to working with other men to hold one another accountable. It's an opportunity to for men to explore the difference their Christian faith can make in their lives as they relate to families, people at work, and others in their community. We leave Friday, March 25th around noon for Poynette, WI, and return Sunday, March 27th by 10pm. Cost is \$175, but scholarships are available. Registration is due March 10th. Please let Pastor Adam know if you are interested.

FEEDING THE FAITHFULL

In January, we opened up the Fellowship Hall for a free meal for the community called, "Feeding the FaithFULL." It is an opportunity for those in need to come and be fed... but not just with food! There is a free meal served, but more importantly, guests are welcomed, served, and fed a healthy helping of faith by our volunteers as we visit and get to know them. Unfortunately, we did not have many come for our first meal. We have extended the invitation more broadly this month and will be serving another meal on Sunday, February 27th, from noon to 2pm. In talking with other soup kitchens, the best way to get the word out is through personal invitations. Many have asked how they can help and this is probably the most important way – please think of one person who could benefit by a meal of food and faith, invite them to come to Feeding the FaithFULL, and then come and eat with them. It would be a great way to build a friendship as well as celebrate Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people! We'll keep you posted about the date and time for our next meal.

MEN'S RETREAT - "ONE YEAR TO LIVE"

ODD JOBS?

Needing some work done around your home? Members David Vincent and John Malloy are offering their services for hire! If you are interested, if you are looking for work, or if you need work done, come talk with Pastor Adam and he'll get you in touch!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Our last few sessions have been learning about some of David's wives. While reading about Abigail and Bathsheba we learned more about King David. Then we read about Rahab, a prostitute, and found that she was in the lineage of Jesus. This month we will focus on Rebekah, mother of twins Esau and Jacob, and on April 14th the topic will be Rachel and Leah, mothers of the 12 tribes of Israel. We will meet on the second Thursday, March 10th, at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us with questions, comments and any additional information they might add. We have been learning about some of the women who were behind some of the great men in bible history. Interesting!

LENTEN WORSHIP

This Lent, open yourself to the transformative power of God's grace as we hear stories of transformation in Sunday Worship. Also, take part in a little Spring Cleaning on Wednesday evenings as we gather at 6 for soup and join at 7 for Holden Evening Prayer. The theme will focus on our need to do some Spring Cleaning in our lives. On Ash Wednesday, there will not be a White Breakfast this year, but for those who are unable to attend the evening Ash Wednesday service or would prefer to worship in the morning a brief service with imposition of ashes will be held at 8 a.m.

LENTEN ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Nearly 2,000 years ago, one 24-hour period changed the world forever. Come on a step-by-step journey through the last day of Jesus' life as we travel to the Holy Land via DVD to visit the sites where those events took place and as we discuss what they mean to us! There is also a book, "24 Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton, that can be purchased for \$10 if you would like to read along during Lent. Take advantage of this opportunity to be transformed by God's grace!

ACCOMPANIST NEEDED

The adult choir is looking for someone who would be willing and able to accompany the choir when the regular accompanist is gone. Linley will be gone Palm Sunday, April 17 and won't be back until May 15. She will also be gone for about two months every winter. We need someone who not only would be there on Sundays, but who could come to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. A fee per Sunday will be paid. If you know of anyone either in our congregation or from outside of the congregation who might be willing to help in this capacity, please let choir director Linda Hartweg know, or leave a name at the office with Denise. The choir is an integral part of our worship service each Sunday and we really don't want them to take a leave of absence for lack of accompanist. Thank you.

THANK YOU

The family of Gary D. Vest thanks everyone for all the kindnesses shown during his illness and following his death. We appreciate all the inquiries, donations to the memorial, help with the services and all who donated time, food and money to make the meal a success. The support we have received from Pastor Adam and the congregation has helped so much. Thank you all.

Carol, Sarah, Suzy and families