

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5

MAY 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Trinity,

I'm sitting on my parent's couch, admiring the woods filled with dogwoods blooming in the post-rain sun. It seems that the world around me is waking up to a new birth. And inside, my heart and soul are still charged up from our glorious Easter celebration yesterday. And after a good night's sleep, I feel like I've woken up to a new birth as well!

When I woke up this morning, I came upstairs to find my mom and oldest brother, Eric, eating hot-crossed-buns for breakfast. "Do you know what?" said Eric, "I've got a song in my head..." and he proceeded to sing a song my mom taught us when we were little (she led our Sunday School opening and has lovingly been dubbed the "Singing Ya-Ya" by her grandkids... I predict a similar fate for me). It goes like this...

"Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Every days resurrection day the past is over and gone. Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance! Hello Lord, hello sun! I am one of the Easter people. My new life has begun!" It's true! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! And because Christ is risen, God gives us new birth, living water, new eyes, new life, *every day!*

Then the song goes on... "Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Every days resurrection day the past is over and gone. Daily news is so bad it seems the good news seldom gets heard, get it straight from the Easter people, God's in charge spread the word!" It's true! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! And because Christ has risen, we have good news, *great* news, to share!

Every morning *is* Easter morning, resurrection day, a gift of promise that is fulfilled for each of us through a cross and an empty tomb. What do we do with a gift? We open it, we give thanks to the giver, and we use it, allowing it to be a part of our lives. May you receive this gift, this incredible gift, open it, give thanks to God, and allow it be a part of your life. May it be so much a part of your life that your entire life would be shaken to the core, transformed, and never be the same again.

And now, let's share it! Let's seek to always live and share this gift, to overcome the daily bad news with God's good news. Let's "Celebrate Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People," because... "Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Every days resurrection day the past is over and gone!"

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!
Pastor Adam

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

In the past two months, we have grieved the loss of Mildred Marshall (March 3) and Harold Weid (April 5). In death, we know there is new life, and we give thanks for God's grace and promise. We also give thanks for the gift of new life in Trinity Jaelynn Marmion who was baptized on March 13.

GAME NIGHT APRIL 30

Game night was a success last month (despite a few pulled muscles from Twister and bruises from hurling catchphrase around the circle)! Come join us this Saturday from 6-8 for board games, card games, and some fun fellowship.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/01 Jeremy Housewright, Erin Holst
5/02 Kathy Graham
5/04 Eileen Logan, Bill Geissler,
Linda Rendleman, Jeremy Schulz,
Erma Swank
5/07 Brandon Housewright, Erin Biery
5/08 Loren Schulz
5/11 Don Housewright
5/12 Marcia Ewing
5/13 Michael Harrell, Kyle Fecht
5/15 Suzan Stott
5/17 Randall Ruhs
5/19 Miranda Morrison
5/20 Katey Lunt, Meinert Gronewold
5/23 Lindsay Harrison
5/24 Adam Harrison
5/25 Traci Johnson
5/26 Susie Schulz, Hope Waite
5/27 Carole Bower, Kayla Shipman,
Lance Holtsclaw
5/29 Jamie Brown, John Adkins
5/30 Howard Emmert, Heather Swank

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/01 Robert & Shellee Fecht
5/04 Wayne & Erma Swank
5/08 Stephen & Barb Hartweg
5/12 Kam & Jody Miller
5/19 Steve & Karol Carr,
Ron & Sally Cook
5/25 Brent & Angie Ufkes
5/29 Brad & Diane Schardon,
Bud & Donna High

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 March 31, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$44,000
Amt. Received YTD - \$35,766
Amt. Spent YTD - \$31,544
Current Fund Balance - \$5,485

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$4,782
Amt. Received YTD - \$5,433

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 March 31, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$39,103. 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 \$15,897 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

APRIL 14, 2011

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

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Erin Biery led the devotions. Pastor Adam Dichsen will lead the devotions in May.

The topic of copyright licensing was reviewed with a discussion led by lawyer Kameron Miller. He isn't convinced that what we are doing is illegal. He talked about the law being "...as clear as mud" because there are very few cases that deal with it. The "Fair Use Doctrine" was explained to mean that if we are recording our church service we are still conducting a religious service. We are exempt from copyright violation because it is considered a religious service. We are safe because we are not making any profit off of it.

Galen Krieg moved that since we purchased the Augsburg license that we use it exclusively and forgo any other license. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion.

Pastor Adam mentioned that he would like for it to be mentioned that anyone who does not feel comfortable recording the services should not be pressured to do so. Motion carried.

The minutes from the regular meeting of March 17, 2011 were reviewed. There was discussion regarding the wording of the previous minutes when discussing the borrowing of funds (such as the John Dulak fund). It was mentioned that the minutes should be specific in wording about "repaying" the John Dulak fund rather than "...towards the John Dulak renovation fund." John Dittmer made a motion to approve the minutes with the change of wording "repay the John Dulak fund". Galen Krieg seconded the motion, motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Relevant Ministry's Spring 2011 newsletter was shared with the council so

that members could see where the money we had given to them was being used.

Jack shared a message from Bishop Freiheit (who has decided to resign from the Bishop-ship and go into private ministry). An election for the new bishop will be held during the Synod Assembly, June 2-4, 2011.

Financial Secretary's Report

The financial secretary's report dated March 31, 2011 was reviewed. Shawn Gutting made a motion to accept as printed. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave mentioned the current fund has dwindled with a \$3000 loss for the month. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery)

Vacation Bible school has been planned for June 19-23 from 5:30-8:00. Hometown Nazareth is the theme. Kids can learn about Jesus as a child and learn that Jesus was a kid just like them. First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, and Trinity will be joining together for VBS again this year.

Confirmation camp is coming up the week before VBS June 13-17 at Augustana. We have four youth going including Pastor Adam, Jason Hartweg, and Edie Galloway. Pastor Adam's cost is covered by the church. Jason's cost will be covered by the camp. Edie's attendance cost will be covered with the money collected from Easter breakfast donations.

Sunday school has had a good turnout these last few weeks. Students have learned a number of new songs and enjoyed themselves as well.

Adult Sunday School has been going well with the discussion of the book *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Galen asked if a similar study could be found for future Sunday School classes as the movie segments have been especially helpful.

The cradle roll is under way. The tree is being planned for the entryway into the church. Different images will be added to the "Family Nest" as the children reach different milestones in the church. The goal is to have the tree finished by Easter.

A brainstorming group got together to brainstorm how we could reach out to kids in the church. Faith Stepping Stones will be a three-week course in which the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of infants will be the topic of discussion. The Youth Group has in the past provided an Easter Egg hunt for the kids. On the Saturday before Easter (April 30) at 10:00 a party will be thrown for the kids of our church and friends they might invite.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner)

Invitations were discussed for asking others to come to Easter Sunday. These will be placed in the bulletin on Palm Sunday for people to take and invite others to church. Congregational members will be asked to invite others to come to Easter Sunday Church Services and perhaps to the Confirmation breakfast as well.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent)

Mary reported that it is still difficult to find people to host the Coffee Fellowship though it is somewhat easier to manage with the suggested guidelines of purchased cookies rather than homemade cookies, muffins, etc.

A softball meeting was held with 4 other churches (and possibly 6 total). The league won't start until June, but the diamonds will be available from June until August 14th. There is a fee of \$150 for each church to participate.

Council members that will volunteer for the coffee fellowship on Palm Sunday will be Shawn and Lydia Gutting, and Mary and Kendall Sargent.

Finance (Shawn Gutting)

A discussion was held concerning the Passport Money Market account that is much larger than the balances shown in February and March. A CD came due early (Fireside Bank) -- this is the first time in 28 years that a

CD came due early. Mr. Jurgens recommended that the money be put into the capital income builder's fund at 3 ½% or could be reinvested into another CD at 0.55% or 0.95% interest rates.

John Dittmer moved that we proceed with Mike Jurgens' recommendations to put the money into the capital income builder's fund. Kirby Fecht seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was mentioned that the John Dulak fund has been reinvested into the market.

Memorial (John Dittmer)

The Memorial Committee is sending out thank you's for the Mildred Marshall memorials. The committee will do the same for the Harold Weid memorials.

The communion kits were discussed. John reported that the memorial committee wanted to use the money for more permanent things. Kits were purchased using funds from the budget (altar supply funds). Two kits were purchased for use by Ron Schulz and Chris Nettles when ministering to shut-ins for a total of \$100.

The memorial committee will send Kameron Miller a thank you note for his time tonight.

Pastor spoke about having a list of recommendations for families to choose from for any memorial money given to the church and having a memorial book rather than have plaques on items purchased with memorial funds. The memorial committee will put together a list of recommendations that can be offered for families when deciding what to designate memorial funds for.

Property (Delmer Schlueter)

The roadside clean-up will be held this Saturday for both the church property and the highway. All members who are able are encouraged and welcome to help with this.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg)

Galen is in the process of scheduling a Financial Peace class to start in September and information will be posted on Dave

Ramsey's website. As the class gets closer we will be advertising locally as well.

Stewardship (John Adkins)

A discussion was held concerning stewardship of congregation members including caring for all that God has given us including the church.

Worship and Music (Terry Redenius)

Terry reported that Joann Dierks will be playing the piano for Linley Bartell at the rate of \$30 each week. We will have three services this week and Joann will be reimbursed for each service (including the time Joann spends at practices as well). Shawn Gutting made a motion to pay Joann \$30 per service (three services) this week. Terry Redenius seconded. Motion carried.

Youth (Kirby Fecht)

Kirby reported that the youth continue to meet on the first and third Sundays of the month.

There were 24 people in attendance at the last Feeding the Faithful Soup Kitchen. This is an increase from the numbers that have attended in the past. The next one will be held on Palm Sunday. It had been opened up to the community for other churches to serve as well.

June 26th - 30th the youth will go on a trip to Kentucky. They will focus on training and being built up to come back to the area and do mission work in the local community.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam)

There will be a Good Friday service held April 29 11:30 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Baccalaureate services for Illini West graduating seniors will be held May 15 2:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

Pastor's Report

Pastor shared his report and discussed renewal he has witnessed in various areas of the church including Sunday school, home visits, and fellowship. Rather than rushing through Easter, Pastor Adam asked council members "What do we do with this gift of resurrection and new life that God has given

us?" A discussion followed concerning the things we are already doing and what we could be doing to share the gift of resurrection. Pastor shared his written report of notable happenings and upcoming events including numerous commitments made for this summer.

Old Business:

Church Building -- Delmer Schlueter has been working with the renovation company.

Bibles -- Bibles information will be put in the newsletter this month.

New Business:

Pastor spoke about his recent trip to a Marriage Encounter session with his wife, Karen. The purpose of ME is to renew the world one couple at a time through building communication and investing time in marriage. Pastor and Karen feel a need to help strengthen families by becoming a presenting couple for the Marriage Encounter sessions. There is a training event required and Pastor and Karen would need to commit to two weekends a year to present to other couples (one taken as allotted continuing education, the other as an outreach of Trinity). There would be no financial cost to the congregation, but Pastor and Karen would be physically away from the congregation for two weekends of the year (from Friday to Sunday). May 15th and 16th is the first training in Houston, TX. John Dittmer moved that the council support Pastor and Karen in their efforts to become a Marriage Encounter Presenting Couple. Shawn Gutting seconded the motion; motion carried.

Since there was no other business Kirby Fecht motioned to adjourn the meeting. Galen Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Biery,
Secretary Pro-Tem

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Kirby Fecht, who won the District FFA Swine Proficiency Contest in Jacksonville in March.

TRINITY'S CRADLE ROLL TREE

Did you notice the tree that sprouted at the north entrance of the sanctuary? It is *Trinity's Cradle Roll Tree!* When a child of God is baptized, God promises to be with them always with gifts of love and forgiveness, parents and sponsors promise to raise them in the church, and our congregation promises to do all we can to support and welcome them. This tree is a way for us to better live out our promise! On the tree are the names of the children in our congregation. Every child has a nest. At baptism, a dove takes up roost and their baptismal birthday is printed. At age three, they receive their Story Bible and there is a Bible by their nest. At confirmation, a flame appears on the dove's head, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. As we help to support these children and their families, pray for them, greet them, wish them a happy Baptismal Birthday, and remind them that God loves them and so do we!

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Local churches are gearing up for our softball league this summer, so we'd better hit the field! Meet at the diamonds on Sunday, May 1, from 5-7pm for practice and "conditioning" (bring your own meat to BBQ).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Congratulations to Austin Brown, Paxton Brown, Dalton Cook, Kristina Johnson, Jacob Jacoby, Zach Lemley, and Kate Nettles as they graduate this spring. We are proud of you and may God be with you in your future endeavors!

FAITH STEPPING STONE - NEW 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, another guest speaker 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! RSVP to the church office by May 22.

PASS GO! (PARENTS AFTER SOMETHING SPECIAL, GOING OUT)

Hey Dads! Don't miss this chance to score some Mother's Day brownie points... drop your kids off at church on Thursday night, May 5, 6-8pm, and take Mom out for a date! We'll provide the childcare, just go and have some fun. Please RSVP at the church office by Mon., May 2, so we know you are coming. Oh, and you're welcome 😊

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Pastor Adam and Karen recently went on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. It was a very positive experience and they want to share it with others! If you have already been on an Encounter weekend, they will be starting a group that will meet to encourage and renew some of the Encounter principles. If you haven't been on an Encounter weekend and are interested, come and talk with them. There is one in St. Louis on June 10-12, Peoria on October 12-14, or we will be hosting one in Quincy in February 2012. They are also undergoing training to become presenters at future weekends and would highly encourage couples to consider a weekend, no matter how "experienced" you are!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come join us for children's and adult Sunday School at 10:15. Adults will finish "24 Hours that Changed the World" and begin "God's Own People – a study in 1 Peter," on May 8. Children will learn about Doubting Thomas.

FEEDING THE FAITHFULL SOUP KITCHEN

God has blessed our efforts as we have reached out to the community offering a helping of hospitality and faith. Feeding the FaithFULL has served four meals so far on the last Sunday of the month. Our numbers have grown from two to over 25 and it is apparent that the meal we are serving is more than bread alone! At this time, we are inviting other churches and organizations to sponsor a meal. It will remain in our building, but others are invited to take a month to set-up, prepare, serve, and clean-up for the meal. The Presbyterian Church has volunteered for May and we are looking for volunteers for the summer months. If you know of anyone who would like to bring a group, please let Ashton Gronewold, Maddie Owak, or Pastor Adam know. And thank you so much to those who have already given so much to this ministry!

BRING THE WORD OF GOD TO LIFE

I once surprised Karen with an overnight get away and found myself packing an overnight bag for her: shirt, check... pants, check... do they match, close enough... Then I looked at her vanity at the incredible variety of creams, sprays, powders, and who knows what. I was lost! I had to call her sister to tell me what to pack. I have a hunch that for many of us, when we look at a Bible, we have the same feeling – a sense of overwhelming confusion. Where do I go to find this story or that? Where can I find help when I'm scared? Where do I turn to find strength, direction, or affirmation? The best way to learn is to spend time in God's Word. To help our congregation do this, the Church Council is encouraging you to use a Bible in worship. Each Sunday, by reading from the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament, and Gospels, the Bible will come to life for you!

Now, how can you help?

1. Bring a Bible to church and read it during worship. Did you know that we print the Lutheran Study Bible page number in the bulletin to make it easier for you? Even bring a pen and highlighter to make notes.
2. You can purchase a Bible to put in the pews for use during worship.

For \$25, you can purchase a large print, NRSV Bible to be put in the pew to help bring God's Word to life. In the cover, if you so choose, you may add a bookplate to remember someone, honor someone, or give glory to God. We need 100 Bibles to fill the sanctuary.

Please consider making a commitment to God's Word by bringing your Bible to church and/or purchasing a Bible for others to use. I am confident that the more time we spend in God's Word, the more it will take root and bring abundant growth to our lives!

God bless,
Pastor Adam