

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

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Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

This summer, a book has come out that has really taken the country by storm. It's a book called, "Heaven is For Real" and it's about Colton, a four-year-old boy that is faced with life threatening surgery. He pulls through, but over time, tells his parents about what happened to him during the surgery – he went to heaven and came back! He tells of his experiences, seeing his grandfather and unborn baby sister. He describes what it was like to meet Jesus and see the angels. Essentially, the book is saying to the world, "Hey, you know that heaven thing we all talk about? *IT'S FOR REAL!*"

We've discussed it for a few weeks in the adult Sunday School class, comparing the book's information with what we read in the Bible. I've talked with people who participate in book clubs where some are deeply moved and others are very skeptical. A lot of people have asked me, "What do you think? Is it real? Did Colton really go to heaven and back?" Even at our last pastor's conference meeting, with me being the only pastor with a four year old, suddenly I became the expert on discerning if Colton's experience was true. My answer? Yes! Heaven is for real!

If there's one thing I've learned about toddlers it's that they are incredibly open to experiences that us adults might not be so receptive to. We've developed filters over the years, a subconscious response of weeding out what is reasonable and what is not. We have developed some sort of an alarm within us that begins to flash and beep whenever we hear of something that is hard to explain. And children, they experience emotion and feeling every bit as much as we do, but without the maturity to process it and deal with it in "adult" ways (sometimes they respond with temper tantrums and tears when we would probably like to do the same, but it would not be appropriate for someone of our age!).

For example, Marilyn has a "Fancy Nancy" book about a little girl's trip to the art museum. She sees a painting of a field of lavender by Claude Monet and she says, "It's hard to describe, but I like the way it makes me feel inside." She experiences something very real, but can only describe it in the terms of the way it makes her feel inside. It is clear that the boy in "Heaven is For Real" has experienced something far beyond our normal day-to-day world. Is his description exactly what it will be like in heaven? I don't know. The title of the book is not, "The Definitive Guide to Heaven," or "Heaven is Like This," it simply claims that heaven is for real. A boy experienced it and he is trying to describe it in ways that we can all relate.

Yes, much of the inspiration of the book comes from the assurance it gives us that we will be with our loved ones in heaven. There is peace in the picture Colton says is what Jesus *really* looks like. And to many, they are most pleased to read that in heaven, no one is old! But the real inspiration of the book should be in Colton's conviction and desire to share his experience with the world! Guess what, heaven *IS* for real, and so is God's incredible grace and forgiveness that has the power to transform our lives and the entire world through us! In Jesus, God is giving us something *REAL*, and I hope that this book inspires us to be so bold as to tell others about it, to tell the world about it, to write a book about it!

Sometimes it takes a child to help us see things more clearly. Marilyn and Benen open my eyes all the time. In this book, Colton helps us to see what lies ahead. And God shows the world God's incredible grace through a child, a child born in a manger, a child who has the bestselling book of all times written about him, a child who gave his life for all... Jesus. May we be so inspired by this child that we would proclaim it to all the world.

God bless,

Pastor Adam

September Birthdays

- 9/01 Dalton Cook, Aydan Sitzmore
9/02 Robin Young, Casey Krieg,
Katie Biery
9/04 Tammy Snyder
9/05 Kyle Schulz, Kathy Ehlert
9/06 Kevin Cook, Rylie Harrell
9/10 Bev Ufkes
9/11 Kristina Johnson, Liz Snyder
9/17 Jackson Klingler
9/18 Danelle Smith
9/19 Shellee Fecht, Abigail Livingston
9/20 Tyrone Jacoby
9/23 Daniel Harrell
9/24 Denise Schwartz, Tori Johnson,
Christian Livingston, Janet Rahman
9/26 Melvin Wetterich, Shelby
Repplinger
9/27 Phoebe Wilson
9/29 Mary Sargent
9/30 Billie Kirby, Ronald Garrelts,
Dean Fecht, Kirby Fecht

September Anniversaries

- 9/03 Phil & Susan Gronewold
9/04 Jack & Bev Ufkes
9/06 Ryan & Erin Biery
9/07 Sid & Kristin Huls
9/10 Ryan & Heather Stevenson
9/15 Shawn & Lydia Gutting
9/16 John & Arlis Dittmer
9/18 Travis & Jennifer Duffy,
Dustin & Erin Heaton
9/21 Gilbert & Barb Duffy
9/24 Robby & Jennifer Robinson
9/28 Cody & Erin Holst
9/30 Chuck & Kathy Ehlert

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 July 31, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$80,600
Amt. Received YTD - \$75,613
Amt. Spent YTD - \$77,117
Current Fund Balance: (\$240.18)

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$11,158
Amt. Received YTD - \$12,950

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!

THANK YOU

Our family would like to thank the church members for their prayers, concerns, and support during Elton's illness and after his passing. We appreciate the use of the welcome center for the visitation. We would also like to thank the ladies for the delicious luncheon after the funeral and especially Jerry Fecht for fixing one of Elton's favorites,

homemade ice cream for dessert. All of your help and Pastor Adam's support was greatly appreciated during this difficult time for our family.

Doris Holtsclaw Family

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 July 31, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$61,113. This amount has surpassed our initial goal, but due to the increased costs we will incur due to more deterioration to the towers our estimated out of pocket cost has increased to \$65,000. To date we have spent \$81,261 for the brick work and windows leaving an amount needed of \$3,887 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 **AUGUST 10, 2011**

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

Absent: Shawn Gutting

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Galen Krieg led the

devotions. Pastor Adam will lead the devotions in August.

The minutes from the regular meeting of July 13, 2011, and the special meeting of July 17, 2011, were reviewed and discussed. Dave Hartweg made a motion to approve the minutes. Erin Biery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor had received an oral thank-you from Francesco Manuel, Jr. for the help with his college. He has been away working in a factory for the summer and is anxious to get back and get started at SEC.

Pastor also received a thank-you note and donation from Irma Anderson for the Carthage College Reunion. She lived here and was a member of Trinity from 1951-1962.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated July 31, 2011, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the miscellaneous receipts. John Adkins made a motion to approve the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2011. Discussion followed. The water and electric bill were considerably higher and the current fund is low. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Terry Redenius seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported that the Sunday School Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11. Activities for the kids include the bounce house and fun and games. The Youth will also have their spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Barb Hartweg and Mary Sargent will be the main teachers for the younger children. The Faith Stepping Stones material will have sessions for the preschoolers, the middle and upper elementary students, confirmation students and for the high school graduates. Pastor Adam explained that since Pastor Gayle has

moved to the Quincy church, Nauvoo does not have a pastor to lead their confirmands. Pastor Hoover expressed interest in working together for confirmation. Pastor Adam and Pastor Hoover will have 9 students altogether: 4 from Trinity, 2 from Immanuel and 3 from Nauvoo, along with their adult sponsor. The Adult Sunday School Class will be using *The Greatest Story Ever Told* book series.

Erin reported that MOPS (mothers of preschoolers) are no longer meeting in Burnside because of the drive. The other nearest MOPS group is in Hamilton. They would like to meet in Carthage and have expressed interest in meeting at Trinity in the Parish Hall. They meet one Friday a month with a speaker, child care, and a Bible study.

Erin explained to the council that when looking for a safe place to have games for the Rally Day and during VBS, they wondered about the grassy area between the Welcome Center and the Parish Hall. This would be a nice place to have a playground and even extend fellowship outside during nice weather. Ideas including safety around the air conditioners, basement steps, a south fence, etc. They even thought it could have a "Creation Courtyard" theme. John Adkins made a motion to have Erin continue with further planning and outline, then bring this back to the council. Terry Redenius seconded. Discussion continued, including insurance liability. Motion carried.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reminded the council the Matt Dibler concert will be held Sunday, October 30. She also discussed a welcome letter she and Kent received after visiting a church and that church's placement of Bibles in the pews.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported the refreshments are going well. There will be no fellowship on September 11, since the Youth will have their fundraiser spaghetti dinner. John Adkins and Erin Biery will serve fellowship on Sunday, August 28. There will also be a cake for Bailey Brooks's baptism. Cake will also be served on September 4 for Lucas Biery's baptism.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –no report.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –no report.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that work is continuing on the towers. Discussion followed. Delmer wanted to thank the volunteers, Dave and Rhonda Vincent and Connie Schulz, for trimming the shrubbery during this hot season.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen reported that Financial Peace is set for September 17.

Stewardship (John Adkins) – John reported that the Stewardship meeting will be in October, if there were no objections. He will try to get the date and a speaker.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry reported the hymns have been picked until September 25. Cassie from Heartland Carpets did come to church and offered some good ideas. She will be sending some bigger samples of carpets to look at. We will have a tower dedication and potluck when the towers are finished.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby reported that he and Pastor have met twice since the last council meeting. On August 17 there will be a meeting with the new Youth volunteers: Ryan Schardon, John Taus, Avery LeJeune, and Sarah Faust. The Youth kick-off will be Sunday August 21, at 5:00. They will have a BBQ and water games since the emphasis will be on Baptism and the Living Water. On Sunday, September 4, they will be going to Huck's Harbor at Fun City. The spaghetti fundraiser on September 11 is for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor reported they welcomed Robin Spurling, the new pastor at the First Christian Church. The Alliance meets the first Tuesday of each month at The Wright Place for breakfast. High School Bible study will be held during Wednesday lunch hours at Calvary. The first one is scheduled for August 24 with a BBQ and ice cream social. They will be picking the curriculum. The Bible study is growing. The memorial service is set for Sunday, September 11, at 1:00 on the Courthouse lawn. It will also have a community choir. The Praise Fest will

be held at the Methodist Church on September 27. The church bands will raise money for the Ministerial Alliance. Hunger Fest is set for October 23. The community Thanksgiving service is Sunday, November 20.

Pastor's Report –Pastor shared his written report of happenings and upcoming events and its connection of water with the baptisms, the Living Water and the River of Life. He has done many more visits this past month. He also will be at a Leadership Summit in St. Louis on August 11 &12. He has volunteered to help with the Tri-State After School program teaching guitar lessons.

Old Business:

Bibles –We have received money for 38 Bibles. Even though we do not have the 100 Bibles needed, Pastor would like to get the number we have now if Mustard Seed will sell them at the same price. Pastor Adam made a motion to buy the Bibles from Mustard Seed at cost of \$25 each. Erin Biery seconded. Motion carried.

Agnes Geissler Fund – Jack has talked with Byron Geissler. The letter from Byron and Sara Austin was again reviewed. The original documents from the Agnes Geissler Estate were also reviewed. Discussion included the importance of both the family's wishes to close the account and help with the towers and the original goal of helping with missions. John Adkins moved to put \$5,000 in the Endowment Fund and the remaining balance in the tower fund. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried, 10-1.

New Business:

Pastor Adam read a resignation letter from Shawn Gutting. There was discussion about the role of the council and the importance of being grounded in God's Word. Pastor Adam distributed devotions for council members to use during the upcoming month and asked if we could take time the next meeting to reflect on them. John Adkins made a motion to accept Shawn Gutting's resignation. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried. Connie Flesner made a motion to appoint John Dittmer as finance chairman until a replacement can be

found. Delmer Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, at 7 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Erin Biery made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

CHOIR NEWS

Choir will be re-organizing and beginning our fall church season soon. Rehearsals will start on Wednesday, August 31st and we will rehearse each Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We would like to welcome any new members who would like to join us.

**MISSION IN THE FORM OF MEALS –
“CELEBRATING CHRIST'S LOVE...”**

Every Wednesday night for the past few months, a celebration has taken place in 11 homes in Carthage and around the countryside. Members of Trinity have volunteered to prepare and deliver meals to 14 shut-ins, widows, and widowers. The meals are made at home by four families per month. Each family rotates through making a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert. At 4:30, they gather in the Fellowship Hall, divide up the food into containers, and head out to deliver them. In the homes, the meals and fellowship are met with smiles, much appreciation, and often the question, “What can we do to thank you?” The answer? “Give thanks to God! We are living out our mission, to ‘Celebrate Christ's Love by Welcoming, Encouraging, and Serving God's People!’” So, in 11 homes in Carthage, around the countryside, in kitchens, in the Fellowship hall, and in cars driving around town, a celebration of Christ's love is taking place. If you would like to join the celebration, please contact Angie Fecht or Linda Hartweg. And thank you to the many who have participated and prayed for this ministry!

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Thank you to all who played, cheered, and ate at our tournament! We had a great turnout, a great season, and a whole lot of fun – we even won the Silver Softball along the way! May God bless your conditioning in the off season.

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

This past month we welcomed Bailey Elizabeth Brooks, daughter of Tim and Sarah Brooks, to our congregation through the waters of Holy Baptism. We also clung to the hope of God's baptismal promise as we grieved the loss of Elton Holtsclaw and Rose Ufkes. We also celebrated Ruby's birthday by sending her off in a hot air balloon! Join us in fellowship on September 4th to see pictures and video of the flight!

PEW BIBLES

At the end of the month, we will be placing an order for our pew Bibles. We have received donations for 41 Bibles. It would take 100 to fill the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute, they are \$25 each. 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." Please consider supporting this effort to lift up the importance of God's Word in our worship and daily lives.

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year marks the 10th anniversary on the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City. Please join our community as we gather on the courthouse steps for a brief memorial service to spend time in song, prayer, and silence, asking God to help us in working for peace and forgiveness. The service starts at 1:00pm and is sponsored by the Carthage Area Ministerial Alliance.

RALLY DAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are kicking things off in Sunday School in a BIG way on September 11 with Rally Day. Immediately after worship, all kids and adults are invited down to the Fellowship Hall for

some music and fun. Kids will head off to meet their teachers and Pastor Adam will meet with the parents to explain more of the details of the Sunday School program and how parents can help by being involved. Then, join us for a delicious spaghetti meal to help our youth raise funds for the National Youth Gathering next summer. There will be a bounce-house and games for all, so plan on making a morning of it!

YOUTH NEWS!

It's here! The Trinity Lutheran Youth had a great kick-off last month as we learned about God's living water and remembered our baptism through water relays, whipped cream, water guns, and water balloons. If you want to see more, check out our new page on facebook – just head to facebook and search "Trinity Lutheran Youth Group." Coming up... we head to Huck's Harbor in Burlington on September 4, from noon to 6pm, cost of \$10. We have a National Youth Gathering fundraiser on September 11 as we serve spaghetti on Rally Day. We will set up at 5pm on Saturday and serve Spaghetti at 10:30 on Sunday. All who help will have funds from the event to use for the trip to New Orleans next summer. We will have another youth event on September 18 from 5:00-7:30. Thanks to all who have gotten involved – we've had a great start!

SHARE THE HARVEST

As summer winds down and combine gear up, make sure you have our Share the Harvest "Harvest Celebration" on your calendars for Sunday, October 9th. We'll be at the Garrelt's farm again this year for worship, food, games, and a great time for fellowship. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jerry Bartell or Merlin Gronewold.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

When it comes to finances and economy, the only thing we can be sure of is that we can't be sure of anything! We've all felt the financial crunch this past year, please take this opportunity to learn how to relieve some of the pain. We will be hosting another Financial Peace University class starting

Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30. Dave Ramsey uses Biblical teaching, smart planning, and life experiences to teach how to find peace in the midst of financial turmoil. Whether you are living paycheck to paycheck or are riding your retirement, it is for everyone and has good lessons for all! Please come and join us and spread the word!