

# TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

A man goes to his doctor because he's been feeling very ill for days. The doctor examines him, shakes his head, and leaves the room. He comes back with an assortment of pills and the man is horrified! The doctor says, "Take the green pill with two big glasses of water when you get up. An hour later, take the white pill with another glass of water. Then, take the blue pill with a big glass of water after lunch. In mid afternoon, take the orange pill with plenty of water, and repeat that at dinner. Then, just before going to bed, take the red pill with several big glasses of water." The man is alarmed at the huge volume of medicine he has been given to take, and fears for his life. He nervously asks, "Doc, am I dying? What's wrong with me?" "You'll be fine, you're dehydrated."

We need water! We can survive for 2-3 weeks without food, but after 2-3 days without water we are in SERIOUS trouble. Could the same be true for us spiritually??? INDEED!!!

The world is a harsh environment, a desert of sorts, and it doesn't take long for us to become spiritually parched. We can reach for refreshment here and there, a vacation, a new toy, a night out with friends, but none of these will last very long. Fortunately, God offers us refreshment that will last – *Living Water!* As we read last Sunday during our Godparenting Sunday, John 4 describes Jesus' offer of living water, water that we can drink and never thirst again!

This Lent, you are invited to "*Come Thirsty.*" Come thirsty for refreshment and release. Come thirsty for God's grace that will become a well inside of you gushing up to eternal life. Come thirsty, but don't come alone! On February 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> we will be handing out "invitations," bottles of water for you to give to others. Invite them to join you in coming thirsty and to get involved in the many opportunities this Lent:

**Ash Wednesday** – Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22 with Ash Wednesday. We are offering two services to try to meet your busy schedule. If you work evenings, join us at 8am for confession, communion, and imposition of ashes. If you work days, join us at 7pm for our traditional Ash Wednesday service. Come and learn about why we repent "in sackcloth and ash" – why we "Come Thirsty."

**Lenten Book** – I invite you all to read Max Lucado's book, "Come Thirsty" this Lent. It is a book about our spiritual thirst and the refreshment we can only receive from Christ. It encourages us to head to the W.E.L.L. to receive Jesus' Work, Energy, Lordship, and Love. Pick up your copy in the Welcome Center for \$10. There are also "Come Thirsty" devotional books with a short reflection for the day. They are available for \$1.

**Midweek Worship** – "Come Thirsty" on Wednesday nights for a soup supper at 6 and Holden Evening Prayer at 7. The readings and message each night will focus on Lucado's "Come Thirsty" theme. Read his book to dig deeper or just come for a cool drink of God's Grace!

**"Fill the Well"** – Lent is a time for us to seek to have our thirst quenched, but what about others? People around the world are left without suitable drinking water. Children can't attend school because they must hike miles for water. Trinity has joined with the other CROSS churches in our conference to raise money for Lutheran World Relief's "Fill the Well" project. We have set a goal of \$1,000 at Trinity with a goal of \$5,000 across conference. Drop off your donation in the giant water jug in the Welcome Center.

**Love Packages** – Thirst is not just physical. People around the world are thirsting spiritually to read and learn more about God's grace, God's living water. We have joined with the other churches in our conference to collect Christian literature (Bibles, books, magazines, devotionals, and tapes/CDs/videos) to send to those in need. We will take them to a distributing center in Butler, IL where they are packaged and sent overseas.

**13hrs of Thirst** – The youth and Confirmation students are invited to a lock-in where we will spend "13hrs in Thirst." We'll start at 6pm with some salty pizza, spend time searching for refreshment in God's Word, and play games and do activities that will leave us parched... but no water... not until 7am! Participants can gather pledges to raise money for our Lenten "Fill the Well" project.

So please, consider this your prescription for Lent: read often from God's Word and Max Lucado's "Come Thirsty," participate in daily devotions, come on Wednesday nights for midweek worship, reach into your pockets and wallets to help "Fill the Well," find some Christian literature you can donate to the "Love Packages," and support our youth as they spend "13hrs of Thirst." I'm not doctor, but I'm fairly certain that, from time to time, we all find ourselves spiritually dehydrated. Come. Come thirsty. Come to the WELL. Come and receive Christ's living water. Come and receive water that will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life!

God bless,  
Pastor Adam



## February Birthdays

- 2/01 Lydia Gutting, Marisol Sebastian
- 2/02 Sandi Watts
- 2/03 Kim Krieg, Jacob Clostermery
- 2/04 LeAnn Fecht, Jacob Ufkes, Delmer Schlueter, Elton Holtsclaw
- 2/06 Jared Schwartz, Carl E. Hartweg
- 2/08 Darin Kohl
- 2/9 Scott Shipman, Benen Dichsen
- 2/11 Aaron Brodie, Cara Clostermery
- 2/12 Jesse Holtsclaw, Emily Kohl
- 2/13 Jerry Bartell
- 2/14 Cindy Menn
- 2/16 Cory Clostermery, Leanne Pollock
- 2/18 Kyle Kirby
- 2/19 Brad Ufkes
- 2/20 Helen Seigfreid, Jolene Gronewold
- 2/23 Ethan Johnson
- 2/24 Trey Geissler
- 2/25 Carol Vest
- 2/27 Angie Ufkes
- 2/29 Alex Bentzinger

## February Anniversaries

- 2/08 Bill & Tiana Kirby
- 2/10 John & Linda Hartweg
- 2/14 Lawrence & Marge Harrell
- 2/24 Mark & Traci Harrell
- 2/27 Eric & Tonya Boyer
- 2/28 Melvin & Dorothy Wetterich

### **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 December 31, 2011

#### **Current**

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$144,526  
Amt. Received YTD - \$130,972  
Amt. Spent YTD - \$136,122  
Current Fund Balance: (\$3,886)

#### **Benevolence**

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$19,000  
Amt. Received YTD - \$21,023

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!

### **BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE**

As of December 31, 2011 there remains \$38,900 of our own funds on loan for the Welcome Center. We have received \$23,100 of the original \$62,000 loan. Please continue to support the Welcome Center fund so we can continue to pay off these borrowed funds. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

### **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.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

## **January 12, 2012**

Council Members Present: Galen Krieg, Erin Biery, John Dittmer, Kirby Fecht, Pastor Adam Dichsen, Terri Redenius, Jack Ufkes and Dave Hartweg, Mary Sargent

Council Members Absent: Connie Flesner, Delmer Schleuter

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order. John Dittmer led the devotions on the topic of New Year's Resolutions citing Bible verses chosen to help guide us as a congregation and council in the New Year. Specifically verses from Colossians Chapter 3, Matthew Chapter 14 and Chapter 25, and Mark Chapter 12 were read. A discussion followed about the decisions we make as council members in respect to our financial responsibilities as Christians. How can we use finances to love God? How can we as a church use our financial resources to show God's Love?

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor presented his written report and gave special thanks to Mary Sargent, Galen Krieg, Delmer Schleuter, and Dave Hartweg as this is the last meeting for these council members. Pastor acknowledged many challenges throughout their tenure as council members, but thanked them for their leadership. However, new beginnings are upon us as Pastor reported that this past Christmas was very special. The many evangelism activities from the last year were highlighted, such as the living nativity, week-night meals, craft sales, and the creation of welcome bags that include magnets and mugs from 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary to promote the church. Pastor made mention of upcoming evangelism activities such as a living last supper that is planned for Holy Week and a review of Christian Education Faith Stepping Stones classes. A new Faith Stepping Stone Bible class just started for elementary-school age students with parents in which Bible verses are highlighted each night followed by a discussion. In other Faith Stepping Stones class news, Pastor told the council members that a reunion is coming up for the participants of the first class in which the needs of infants were addressed. Furthermore, Karen Dichsen will conduct a class for preschool-age students this spring. Pastor also made mention that a grieving class will begin soon.

Pastor Adam also shared the upcoming theme of Lent which is "Come Thirsty" in which he will encourage members to come thirsty to church and to God for his word and living water. He also discussed his plans to illustrate the many ministries our congregation participates in that allow us to get in touch with God's grace. Hopefully many of these examples will be in

place by Easter. In other upcoming events, Godparents will be reminded of their promises to those they sponsor in Holy Baptism on January 29<sup>th</sup> and a Marriage Encounter commitment will have Pastor in Quincy on February 17-19<sup>th</sup>; a supply pastor is needed. Jack Ufkes will contact Dan Wilson to fill in.

The Secretary's report from last month's council meeting was reviewed and stands approved as printed.

**Petitions and Communications:** A card was received from Arlene Lantz in appreciation for the evening meals. Pam Edris sent a card thanking everyone, including the kitchen committee, for the support during the loss of her mother. A thank you card was received from Kassi, a recipient of angel tree presents. Bob Borger (from Food for the Poor) thanked us in a note for the gift of \$757 from which a large number of meals was able to be prepared and a separate letter from Food for the Poor was received thanking us for the donation and our involvement. Ron Schulz sent appreciation for letting him lead worship. Child Fund International sent a progress report for one of the children.

#### **Financial Secretary's Report**

The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed and Dave Hartweg discussed the miscellaneous receipts. Kirby Fecht made a motion to approve the minutes and Galen Krieg seconded. The motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report. He made mention of the current fund being \$3,886.84 in the red. Discussion followed regarding fund balances. Pastor moved to accept the Treasurer's report as printed. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

#### **Christian Education (Erin Biery)**

Erin Biery expressed appreciation to all who were involved with the Christmas Program. A wonderful Sunday morning program was held for the congregation members. Since Christmas, Sunday School is underway with good attendance and new Faith Stepping Stones classes are in progress as well.

#### **Evangelism (Connie Flesner)**

Pastor Adam further explained the plans for the Living Last Supper that will be held in place of the Maundy Thursday supper. The Living Last Supper, along with Communion will occur in the sanctuary. In preparation, John Schwartz is making tables and Carol Vest is making costumes. A script is being written and there are many people lined up to participate. Pastor also made mention of plans for an Evangelism seminar in which training will be given for members on how to share their faith.

#### **Fellowship (Mary Sargent)**

Mary reported that the Annual Meeting of the congregation is planned for January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will take place in the sanctuary right after church (kids will go to Sunday school). A potluck will follow in the parish hall.

Sunday morning fellowship duties have been signed up for at this time.

#### **Finance (John Dittmer)**

John presented and explained the current balances of the investment funds. He is finding more information as he is stumbling along.

John also expressed a motion of the finance committee to give \$1,000 to those victims who lost their homes in Hamilton from the fire. Specifically, \$350 will be given to the family of the deceased infant and \$650 will be given to the other families combined. Terry Redenius seconded. The motion carried.

#### **Memorial (John Dittmer)**

No report.

#### **Property (Delmer Schleuter)**

Jack Ufkes spoke about a problem with the lights in the Parish hall going out from time to time. Delmer Schleuter and Jack investigated replacing them with brighter lights to help the various committees that use the hall. It was reported that John Schwartz from Homestead Lumber would be willing to install new lights at a cost of approximately \$500-700, with no charge for installation. Dave Hartweg made a motion to replace three lights and consider the possibility of asking the Memorial Committee to later furnish the rest of the lights, at a time that is convenient for John. Mary Sargent seconded. The motion carried.

Plans for snow removal were discussed and it was reported that Kevin Cook volunteered to remove the snow from the parking lot. Discussion followed regarding the removal of snow from the sidewalks. Jack reported issues that have arisen regarding debris in the rain gutters on the church. Apparently, the downspouts are plugged with shingles and nails from work done on the church's roof. Discussion was held regarding a plan to get the gutters back to working order.

#### **Social Ministry (Galen Krieg)**

Galen referenced the Love Packages project he mentioned last month in which unused Christian materials are collected and shipped around the world. Mention was made of the older green hymnals that are currently in storage. Discussion followed about how some of these assets of the church would be handled. Galen talked about the specific requests of the organization including used or new Bibles, reference books, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, all Christian books, magazines, Sunday School supplies, quarterlies, etc. The organization does not want handiwork, crafts, or busy work. The project will be suggested to the new chair of Social Ministry and Galen will help to keep the project going.

#### **Stewardship (John Adkins)**

No report.

#### **Worship and Music (Terry Redenius)**

Terry reported that the committee met to plan worship hymns and discussed training and recognition of the acolytes. She also mentioned that the blue hymnals seemed to be getting damaged since the church

pews are so full. They have been taken out and stored near the sacristy. Terry also reported they are working on getting tile for the entry way. A discussion was held about payment for substitute musicians at our church. Dave Hartweg made a motion to seek the guidance of the worship and music committee regarding payments to substitute musicians and have them make a recommendation back to council. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried with no opposition. Kirby Fecht made a motion to allow Debbie Housewright to take over the duties of choir director until Linda Hartweg can resume in the fall. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Youth (Kirby Fecht)**

Kirby highlighted the activities of the youth group and made mention of his intent to hand over the duties of scheduling the acolytes for duty. Pastor Adam will help him find someone to schedule these duties.

#### **Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam)**

None

#### **Old Business:**

In old business, the council discussed the nominations for new positions in leadership.

#### **New Business:**

It was mentioned that only one person has signed up to operate the sound system. Pastor Adam and Terry Redenius will discuss how to handle sound system duties.

Pastor Adam appreciated the work of the council members again and gave each outgoing council member a card to acknowledge the church's thanks. The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012.

With no other new business to discuss, Galen Krieg made a motion to adjourn. Kirby Fecht seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Biery, Secretary Pro-tem

#### **“SOUPERBOWL OF CARING” AND “FEEDING THE FAITHFULL”**

This Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, the Confirmation Class will be collecting food for the food pantry and money donations for the soup kitchen “Feeding the FaithFULL.” They will then prepare and serve the meal at Feeding the FaithFULL on Sunday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a donation to church on Sunday to support this outreach. The past year has shown a sharp increase in people reaching out for help. The Shepherd's Pantry serves 150 families/month and the last Feeding the FaithFULL served 45 people! Thank you for your help in caring for those in need in our own communities

#### **NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members to council: Jackie Adkins, Carole Bower, Terri Ellefritz, Ashton Gronewold, Ryan Kohl, and Suzan Stott. Committee chairs are as follows: Christian Education (Erin Biery), Fellowship (Suzan Stott), Finance (John Dittmer), Memorial (Ryan Kohl), Property (Ashton Gronewold), Social Ministry (Terri Ellefritz), Stewardship (Jackie Adkins), Worship/Music (Terry Redenius), and Youth (Kirby). Connie Flesner will serve as President, John Dittmer as Vice President, Carole Bower as Treasurer, and Erin Biery as Secretary. Please hold the council in prayer as we strive to lead our congregation in “Celebrating Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's People!”

#### **FAITH STEPPING STONES: PRESCHOOL**

A child's transition from infant to toddler to full-blown preschooler is a period of constant discovery for parent and child alike. From the child's perspective, virtually everything they encounter is happening for the first time. Even the most experienced parent cannot help but be touched observing their child's innocent wonder at the way an ice cube melts, the way a baby bird is fed by its mother...or even their child's pride at successfully mastering the use of the toilet! With this Stepping Stone, young parents spend three weeks together sharing, laughing and growing as they learn about their preschoolers' physical, emotional and spiritual health...as well as their own. The course concludes with a group blessing of the preschoolers at the altar in worship. We will meet Tuesday nights, 6:30-8:00, in the Fellowship Hall, Feb 28 and March 6 and 13. Please RSVP to Karen Dichsen if you are interested.

Faith Stepping Stones is a process by which we equip parents to nurture their children in faith at home. Different stones are offered to different age groups. We have already offered classes for Baby, Upper Elementary, Confirmation, and Graduation. This has been part of the effort by the Christian Education committee to connect each

member to their Baptism through every stage of life.

### **LIVING LAST SUPPER —EXPLANATION AND HELPERS**

Last year's "Living Nativity" was such a success that we thought we would bring some new life to Holy Week with a "Living Last Supper." It will be a dramatization of Leonardo Di Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper." More details will come next month, but for now we are looking for volunteers. We need disciples (beards optional!), musicians, communion deacons, ushers, and greeters. If you are interested, please contact, Pastor, Connie Flesner, or Ron Schulz. The "Living Last Supper" will take place on Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week.

### **TUESDAY NIGHT MEAL "THANK YOU"**

Thank you all who have been cooking and delivering meals to us. We really appreciate it! - Laverne Schudlach and Larry Ellefritz

### **ATTENTION 3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!**

You are invited to our newest Faith Stepping Stone... "My Bible." You and your parents will take an interactive and engaging journey through the Bible, highlighting key stories and verses. There will be trivia, skits, and games to help discover or refresh our memory of God's powerful Word. We will be meeting on Wednesday nights, from January 4<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:00pm. If you can make it at 6, chip in a few bucks and join us for pizza!

### **LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Looking for the perfect gift for your spouse? How about a three-day, two-night, all expense vacation in Quincy? How about a gift that will last a lifetime and bring you closer together? Sound good? Then join us on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend on February 17-19, Friday night to Sunday noon. The cost is free, with the option to make a donation at the end of the weekend. For more information, ask Pastor Adam and Karen or check out the website at [www.Godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.Godlovesmarriage.org). To register, go to "Find a Weekend," select "Illinois," and

then "Quincy." Please consider this wonderful gift to one another, for Christmas, Valentine's Day, or for a New Year's resolution!

### **LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

The group has started a 9 month session on the gospel of Mark. We would welcome ladies of all ages because discussion with different viewpoints make the sessions more interesting. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the parish hall. Please feel free to join us as we ask questions and look for answers. Doris Holtsclaw (357-2737)

### **CHOIR NEWS**

Choir will be rehearsing each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We would like to welcome any new members who would like to join us.

### **KNITTING AND CROCHET GROUP**

We have started our knitting and crochet group and will be meeting at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, so come out and join us.