

July 2012

Dear Friends of Trinity,

What would you do with \$10?

If you're thinking of what to buy, you're probably having a hard time. So let's change the thinking here a little bit.

What would you do to make \$10 grow into \$100? The possibilities depend on your own knowledge and creativity. In that case, the sky's the limit!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, July 15**. Come to church on that day because you will receive \$10. In fact everyone present will get \$10, including me. Our task will be to make that \$10 grow to \$100 in a period of 3 months.

Why, you ask? Well, consider this:

It takes \$2500 to train and equip one church planter in India. If we hand out \$1200 worth of ten dollar bills (120 people) we can potentially raise \$12,000. That could pay for the training and equipping of four, possibly five, church planters in India. These church planters will be sent throughout India transforming villages and changing lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Friends, I've been to India. I've seen firsthand the work that is being done. India is ready to receive the Good News of forgiveness, life, and salvation through Jesus Christ. More and more people are receptive to hear about the true God who actually loves and doesn't need to be appeased.

Mission India is at the forefront of a new paradigm of mission work in India: train and equip willing and able Indian Christians for ministry. We can help them in a BIG way. There will be no out-of-pocket expenses for our church or for you and me. All it takes is some creativity, ingenuity, and a lot of love!! The money we raise will go directly to train and equip church planters. We will even receive profiles of the church planters for whom we've raised funds. Through Mission India they will give us reports and updates on their activities in the classroom and in the field. Then YOU will be able to get a taste of what God is doing in India.

And just think... they will be OUR missionaries! Church planters of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Lenox, Illinois in India! How awesome is that?! AND... we will not be responsible for ongoing support. The churches planted are expected to be self-sufficient from the get go.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm eager to hear about what you'll be doing with YOUR \$10!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

JULY 2012

An Amazing and Awesome Desert Journey...

Vacation Bible School had an Awesome and Amazing Desert Journey on June 11-15. Our enrollment exploded this year with 173 students! For the first time ever we had to close registration early. What a Privilege to be able to teach so many children about Jesus!

I must thank everyone who helped with VBS. We are truly blessed to have faithful volunteers who return each year to help, people who helped make extra crafts on short notice, and church members who gladly pitched in or even took vacation to help when they heard we would need extra helpers. God has truly blessed our congregation with loving hearts.

Our theme this year was the Lord's Prayer. If you were in the vicinity of the church you could hear the song "Our Father" wafting through the air. Pastor Hoag told us this year's stories seemed to encourage lots of interesting questions and comments from the children.

We have had so many compliments from parents about our VBS. One mother told us that everyone is talking about our VBS at the kids' baseball games.

We've had requests for a second week of VBS and inquiries about Sunday School and Confirmation. I wanted to share some of the e-mails I received:

"Thank you so much for all of your hard work. My kids had the best time at your VBS. They were sad when it ended today. Thanks again to you and to all of your hard working volunteers. We will definitely be back next year and will spread the word about how wonderful your program is!"

"Hi Mrs Hoag, Just wanted to thank you for a great week at VBS. Both my kids learned a lot and had a great time! (My daughter) said to me 'Didn't our songs at the end sound amazing?' In fact, they did!"

"My boys loved every minute of VBS this week. Thank you! They asked to go back on Monday. :) "

It is always a privilege, an honor, and quite frankly, fun to work with all the children and amazing volunteers. To all our volunteers: Job well done! Enjoy your summer!

Michelle Hoag

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN – We concluded our congregational support for this organization on June 24th after helping them to reach incredible heights with our friends at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Frankfort. More than 25 members of our congregation volunteered to spend two hours of their time helping to pack manna pack meals, which are in turn sent to starving children in more than 70 countries across the globe. With approximately 18,000 children dying from starvation each day, the people behind Feed My Starving Children work tirelessly to bring that number down with the help of volunteers from all walks of life who pack up nutritionally balanced and universally accepted meals. If you see the phrase “Chicken, Veggies, Soy, Rice” on t-shirts around town or people out in public wearing hairnets, ask them to tell you about Feed My Starving Children – they are sure to be among the large group who lent a hand on June 22-23 in this project. One of our members summed up his experience by saying “This was without question the most rewarding two hours I have ever spent volunteering and it is definitely something I would do again. Showing starving children across the globe through our efforts that there is a God, and he cares for them, too, was a very humbling experience. My hat is off to the folks who organized this event – it was time incredibly well spent!”

When the dust and powdered chicken settled, it was determined that this two-day event packed a grand total of **116,640 meals!** The initial goal was 100,000, but that goal was increased to 109,000 prior to the event thanks to the outpouring of volunteer support that signed up to help. They then ended up with enough material to pack more than 116,000 meals and with volunteer support from more than 500 people, they got all of this packed. **In fact, they had to turn away as many as 50-60 volunteers who contacted them the week before the event to help out as there simply wasn't room for them.** The extra cost of the additional meals drove up the amount of money needed for this event to \$25,660. With help from our congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church totaling \$1,656, we were able to help them raise 100% of the funds needed for these meals.

Thanks to all involved for another very successful mission project here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Let's help keep this momentum going and make our next project an even greater success!

THRIVENT NEWS

THRIVENT MEMBERS: Did you know that Thrivent has a program called Thrivent Choice where you can donate money to our church or other Lutheran organizations **AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU?** Most members are eligible. You can call 1-800-THRIVENT and say "Thrivent Choice" at the voicemail prompt, or you can log on to your account at Thrivent.com to sign up. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Hoag.

Also, our church can have several "Congregational Advocates", who receive e-mails from Thrivent about fraternal/charitable events and share the news with the congregation. It's that easy! As a bonus, you also get extra Thrivent Choice dollars to donate to your favorite Lutheran organization (like Trinity!). You must be a Thrivent member. Talk to Michelle Hoag to sign up.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

After a busy year, Social Ministry is also pausing to enjoy the summer. Meetings will resume in the fall. They have graciously agreed to keep the summer coffee hour going however! Some things must go on!

We are still looking for a volunteer (or a group) of volunteers to take over the 2nd Sunday of the month for coffee hostess. Please contact Midge for details. 815 485 6527.

Please continue to sign Virgil's card and/or take a label to send him greetings yourself. We have verified that the mailing labels may be used.

CHANCEL NEWS

Serving the Lord and keeping our church looking beautiful and our Communion ware filled this month are:

- 1st weekend of July: Doris Klemm, Jeri Sandt
- 2nd weekend of July: Jeri Sandt, Jan Prospero
- 3rd weekend of July: Jan Prospero, Deb Nick
- 4th weekend of July: Deb Nick, Allene Bachmann
- 5th weekend of July: Ann Romadka, Doris Bay

MORNING STAR SERVING DATES:

July 2 & 16 at 3:45 pm. Signups on table.

TPCG

After spending the last two months working on the VBS crafts, the portable crafting group gets to return to "selfish" endeavors and we can now pursue our own interests! Bring your own portable craft, a snack to share, and \$2 (now you see what the \$2 goes toward) and come for any or all of the evening on Friday, July 13. We meet in the NON AIR-CONDITIONED gym from 5-11pm. We also meet in August. The only month we don't meet is December.

A reminder for those in the Today's Light Bible Study: it begins Sunday, 7/1. E the secretary if you want to set up an on-line chat forum.

