

January 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Every new year that comes our way marks the time when many of us resolve that this year will be different than last year. We treat the new year like a new beginning, and well we should! We could use a “do-over” once in a while. So we try to break habits, curb indulgences, and let go of things that clutter our minds. But they all have a nasty way of creeping back into our lives, don’t they? Old routines are reestablished, refrigerator doors are opened more often, and familiar patterns of thinking are chiseled back into our brains. Frustrated, we give in and call the whole thing a useless endeavor. Even the best of intentions can be undermined by the comfort and assurance of well-worn paths often trod.

You could consider your backsliding to be abject failure. I like to call it “being human”. Isn’t that what we are? We fumble through life making mistakes and messes wherever we go. Maybe that’s our job. Perhaps it’s our duty to be human, and gloriously so!

Christmas was the celebration of the meeting of human and divine in the person of Jesus. Is it too much to say that Jesus did things that were very human, like hitting his thumb with a hammer or chiseling a piece of stone incorrectly? Jesus did many great things, and we read about those in the Bible, but we are not told about the minute details of his life. I often wonder if Jesus ever ate too much, or told a joke that bombed, or ran a footrace and lost. Would it be okay if he ever did those things? If not, why not? What’s wrong with portraying Jesus as human, and gloriously so?

I believe this makes God all the more wondrous, that He would take on human flesh in the first place. The fact that God would do this shows us that God doesn’t have a problem with humanity, and he never did. But God did have a problem with human sin. He had a problem with what human beings tend to do to each other. So God became human so the He could be... well... human! He is the solution to our sin. And He didn’t do it by destroying the human race. He did it by making us His brothers and sisters so that we can partake in His divine nature.

God did not defeat human sin by driving humans into the ground, but by making humans divine and holy! Gloriously human!!

And THAT is love! Happy New Year!!

Pastor Hoag

# January 2013

Apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. The copier was tired after printing 450 Christmas Eve bulletins and decided it needed a break. It has now been patched (again) and is willing to print some more. The copier fixer (Mike) said he would return and treat it again before we run Easter bulletins.

Special thanks to all of the leaders of the various groups who were able to provide the dates for THE YEAR so you can mark up your fresh calendars!

In no particular order then, we will jump right in and give you those dates and information:

## **BLOOD DRIVES:**

The dates are **2/12, 5/21, 9/3, and 12/17**. Now, think on this: if you donate at each of them, you will save 12 lives this year. Not a bad resolution to make! (You will also lose some weight – until you drink again.) ☺

## **CHANCEL:**

Meetings are: **1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, 9/9, 10/1 – setting up for luncheon on 10/2, 11/4, and 12/2**. All meetings are at 6:30. All women of the church are invited to attend.

## **MORNINGSTAR SERVICE DATES:**

The time is always 3:45 pm and the contact person is Judy Wilmsen 815 462 1374.

These dates: **1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 7/1, 7/15, 8/5, 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16**. This is an opportunity for service hours, but we realize the timing is difficult. MorningStar, however, has many other opportunities for service.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE:**

Their dates are set for the year, more on the programs below. All times are at 12:30 unless otherwise noted.

**1/29, 2/26, 3/26, 4/30, 5/28, 9/24, 10/29, 12/5(time tba), 12/6 (set up for Cookie Walk and lunch), 12/7 Cookie Walk 8:30-11, 12/10**

1/29's meeting is the planning meeting which will determine what the above meetings will consist of, so... you'll definitely want to come and see what hostesses Cheryl Mork and Karen Dickson are serving you to help the process along!

2/26's meeting is the Anniversary Luncheon – this time at **WILLIAMSON'S**. Separate checks will be issued. Please contact Pat Fuerst 815 485 6441 or Judy Wilmsen 815 462 1364 for reservations.

3/26 will see Pastor Hoag as the speaker. Marge Dykstra and May Schrank are the hostesses. As always, all ladies of the church are invited.

Women's League would also like to thank Dan Bay for purchasing a portable microphone for Women's League with memorial monies from Dorothy Seehafer, as this was her wish. We hope this will also benefit the church and ask that it NOT BE REMOVED from the church.

The Cookie Walk was a rousing success. Special thanks to Pastor and the Confirmation Class for setting up the tables and Michelle Hoag and the Youth for baking cookies, Chancel Members, and all the bakers and buyers. The profit: \$2459!!!!

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Meetings are held at Midge Meents' home at 7 pm on the following days:

**1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 9/16, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9.**

This crew is responsible for many of the fun events involving the congregation at all age levels. They also work tirelessly for many, many ministries outside of the congregation; among them, St. Matthew's inner city soup kitchen.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL:**

Meetings are **OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION.** They are held at 7 pm on the following days: **1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/19(?), 6/9(?), 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8.** The annual congregational meeting will be held on **1/27** immediately following the late service.

The Council Officers for this year are:

President – Jeff McDonald

Secretary – Denise Buchanan

Financial Secretary – Jan Prospero

Treasurer – Bruce Hasch

Director of Outreach – Randy Varju

Director of Parish Education – Judi Donovan

Director of Social Ministry – Midge Meents

Directors of Spiritual Life – Bob Look & Ed Tatro

Directors of Property – Paul Krol & Dan Bay

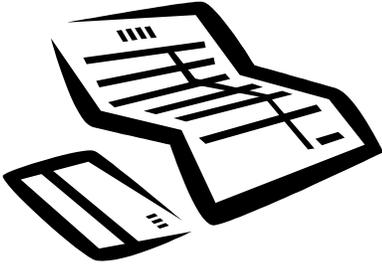
Director of Youth Ministry – Deb Aiken

## **CHOIR:**

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to make a joyful noise, Choir resumes their Wednesday night rehearsals at 7 pm on **1/9.** When Lent begins on **2/13,** well... guess you'll have to join to find out what happens, won't you?

## **YOUTH DOINGS**

First up: De-decorate the tree in the sanctuary on **1/6** at 3 pm. Other things as they are planned, BUT... please remember to keep them in your prayers when they attend the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio from **7/1-7/6.** There may be some fundraising opportunities as well?!?



### **STATEMENTS:**

Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Janice Prospero home #815-485-3558.

**EASTER** is early this year – next month's newsletter will bring news of our Lenten suppers and our Lenten series. Hard to believe with the Christmas tree still up and the refrains of Gloria in Excelsis Deo still reverberating. Just as there were Advent goodies on the sign-up table, watch for Lenten goodies as well.

If you need a church directory, please contact the office.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Betty Dunn	1	John McClaughry	25
Karl Backhus	2	Nancy Minnick	25
Dale Bormet	2	Deborah Koehler	26
Noreen Bormet	3	Thomas Ritter	26
Brittany McElmury	3	Reese Rourke	26
Ashley Renwick	3	Kyle Conrad	27
Cody Harbin	4	George Opiola	27
Erik Johnson	5	Samantha Pecoraro	27
Christine Bormet	6	Jacklyn Thompson	27
Samantha Buell	6	Adam Varju	27
Jeffery Niemann	6	Tim McCure	28
Bud Sherman	7	Madison Kosel	29
Jack Dobbs	8	Debbi Hodo	30
Patricia Porter	8	Rebecca Aiken	31
Duncan Bachmann	9	Mark Lorenz	31
Debra Look	9	Brandon McCure	31
Ben Toepke	10	Lindsey Woodcock	31
Ryan Jennings	11		
Kyle Pigney	11		
Rex Toepke	11		
Will Lyman	12		
Alexandra Sutton	12		
Ean Schultz	13		
Madeline Baxa	14		
Hunter Valentine	14		
Terry Anzalone	15		
Donna Brunmeier	15		
Valerie Zielinski	18		
Jeri Sandt	19		
Lucy Hartley	20		
Kim Huntington-Alfano	20		
Saanvi Ray Purnell	20		
Jane Schrank	20		
Samantha Sutton	20		
Cynthia Fandl	21		
Ernie Falk	22		
Tessa Valentine	22		
Cameron Lerner	23		
Andrea Valentine	24		
Rachel Fox	25		

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Mike and Sue Kunce	20
Craig and Nicole Black	22