



**St. Trinity  
Lutheran Church**  
Bringing the Light, Life and Hope  
of Jesus to South St. Louis

# An Easter Update From St. Trinity

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It seems like just a few weeks ago I was working on a Christmas letter to share with St. Trinity members, friends, partners, supporters, volunteers and prayer partners. Now, we have already journeyed through Lent and are joining with the angels in proclaiming, "Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!" St. Peter explains the amazing benefit that comes to those who believe in a living Jesus Christ: <sup>3</sup> *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* <sup>4</sup> *and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)*

We have been "born again into a living hope." It's that hope which helps us face difficult days, struggle through overwhelming problems and see the "silver heavenly lining" of the storm clouds of life. At St. Trinity, we believe God has also given our community of faith a new birth and a living hope in the heart of urban St. Louis to continue being the hands and feet and heart of Jesus in our neighborhood, our city and even the world.

Because of God's rich blessing and because of your prayers, encouragement, service and financial support, those who make up the community of faith at St. Trinity are filled with hope that God indeed has a future and a purpose for St. Trinity and for the people who make it what it is. This brief newsletter is our way of keeping you up to date on some of the things going on and to say "thank you" for your partnership in the good news of Jesus with us.

A Blessed and Happy Easter Season,

**Pastor David Lewis**

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## **Celebrations:**

God is fulfilling the vision he has given us for St. Trinity. That is to be a "joyfully diverse community of Christ followers who are committed to making and growing disciples and extending God's kingdom in our neighborhood, city and world." God is truly building a community of diverse people at St. Trinity into a loving, caring, unique body of Christ. Over and over again we hear people talk about the relationships and the people of St. Trinity. "Everyone is welcome." "I feel at home here." "This is my church." Here are the few of the things happening that are strengthening relationships and community.

## **Servant Groups**

A variety of servant groups continue to come and spend time at St. Trinity working both in the community and around our facilities. This past month we were again blessed by a group of young people from Western Illinois University under the leadership of Pastor Mike Burdick. The WIU group partnered with **EPIC Ministries** headed up by Pastor Larry Bell. Their extended weekend of work produced much fruit. The lower parking lot made usable, gravel shoveled, tables assembled in the parish house, building cleaning and reorganization, painting, doors stained and much, much more.

Another group is expected in April partnering with **Extreme Faith**. They also will be focusing on projects both around the facility and our neighborhood. WE are grateful of the service and passion these young people and the adult leaders have for ministry and

## **Parish House Nears Completion**

After five plus years of effort the former Parsonage is nearing completion and ready for use by the congregation and community. It is already being used to house interns who work with the LCMS' Young Adult Job Corp program. The hard work, donations and countless hours given by many people have made this building a beautiful place and it will provide opportunities for gathering and community building for many in the years to come.

## **Congregational Meetings**

It's unusual for **Congregational Meetings** to have exciting accomplishments but a recent meeting at St. Trinity did just that. At first glance it looks like "business" but in reality it helps keep things moving forward and helps us stay focused on the people ministry God has given us.

In January, we **approved a budget** for the current year. That budget showed an increase in financial support from a variety of sources. It also helped us in form a ministry plan which helps us direct our efforts for the year ahead.

The second accomplishment was the **adoption of new governing documents** (constitution and bylaws). Yes, seems rather boring, but was as crucial step in helping us function in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We pray God blesses the new structure in making us more faithful and efficient managers of the gifts he has given us.



Parish House Kitchen

## Celebrations Continued . . .

**Official Calls Issued to Pastor Drew Bayless and DCE Heidi Lewis.** First, a quick background: About a year ago, Pastor Dave (with the permission of the Church Council) took on some additional responsibilities working with AL1GN. AL1GN is a collaborative partnership of the Missouri District and looks for ways to further mission and ministry efforts in the St. Louis region. Due to this work, the Missouri District provided funding for Pastoral Assistance at St. Trinity. Previously that was carried out by Seminarian Dan Chrismer until he took his first call'.

Pastor Drew and Deaconess Ashley Bayless moved to St. Louis and began attending St. Trinity. Ashley works at Lutheran Hour Ministries and Drew cares for two year old son, Judah. Pastor Drew filled in for Pastor Dave a number of Sundays this summer and in February he became a regular pastoral assistant helping especially with Sunday preaching and discipleship. Even though he was connected to St. Trinity he did not have a call.

Heidi Lewis was in a similar situation. Even though she is a certified Director of Christian Education by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and she uses those gifts regularly at St. Trinity, she also did not have a "official call." In January, the Church Council recommended that both of these certified workers be issued "calls" by St. Trinity." Pastor Drew Bayless was called as Assistant Pastor and Heidi Lewis was Called as Director of Education. Drew is paid a small stipend through a Missouri District Grant. Heidi continues her work as a volunteer.

Calling both of these talented workers both honors their service, allows them to remain active on the Roster of the LCMS, and blesses us at St. Trinity. They will both be installed during worship on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Upcoming Activities, Events and Blessings

**Sunday, April 15th at 2 PM** there will be a **Baby Shower** for Don and Debbie Overby's grandsons Myles, Jr. and Gage. These twin boys were born early and weighed less than 4 lbs each. In the last weeks they have made major improvement but time in the hospital caused the boys' dad, Myles to lose his job. We want to bless them by providing many of the day to day things they need. The St. Trinity women will host the shower. All ladies are invited. Men you can participate too with cash gifts to be used to purchase two car seats which are critically needed. If you would like to make a gift, place it in an envelope marked, "Overby Babies." Ladies, more details about the shower to come soon.

**Sunday, April 23rd** we will receive new members. If you are interested in taking this next step of commitment to what God is doing at St. Trinity please see Pastor Dave as soon as possible.

**Sunday, April 23rd** will will install Andrew Bayless as Assistant Pastor and Heidi Lewis as Director of Christian Education in our regular worship service. There will be a cake reception following church.

**Summer** seems like a long way off but **Vacation Bible School** is just around the corner. We will be doing something different this year so mark your calendars for Friday, July 6th, Saturday, July 7th and Sunday, July 8th for this year's VBS. Helpers are needed so start planning now.

**Identity Camp** is a week long opportunity for middle and high school students in the City of St. Louis. Hosted by Epiphany, St. Trinity and Timothy Lutheran Church last year's camp was an amazing success. We play a significant role in bringing a lot of different things together. The dates for this year's camp are June 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and yes there is a place for you to make a difference.

**Summer Servant and Mission Teams** will again be hosted at St. Trinity for six weeks this summer. Arrangements for teams are made through the partner organization of Extreme Faith and EPIC ministries, but we are blessed at St. Trinity. We will have close to 250 young people with us this summer. Watch for more details to come.

We would love to tell you more about what God is doing at St. Trinity, have you visit with us, or find a place to serve that gives you joy. For more information:

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## Projects, Dreams, and Wish List

A lot of projects both small and big keep moving forward at St. Trinity. Congregation President Alan Creek, keeps things moving forward. Here is a quick update on some of the projects on our current list:

**Audio Visual Upgrade** for the Sanctuary – In the next few weeks work will begin on a complete upgrade of the audio in the church. That will mean some changes, most hopefully for the good. A portion of this project is being funded by a grant from one our sister churches.

**Parish House completion** – continues to prove the point that the last few things are the slowest. We need skilled trim carpenters to complete woodwork and hang doors, painters with an eye for detail, and the funding and labor to construct a handicap ramp.

**Lower Parking Lot Paved** – A lot of muscle labor by the WIU group removed some hazards from lower parking lot. A load of gravel has made it more usable but ideally we would have it paved and stripped. In addition to being safer and more attractive this would add more usable parking spaces. At this point we don't have funding for this project or know of a local company that could assist us.

**Tuck Pointing the Sanctuary** - We saved the biggest for the last. 100+ year old buildings require a different level of care than newer ones, especially when it comes to tuck pointing. That is something that has not been possible at St. Trinity in recent years. However, now that ministry moves forward and remains viable, tuck pointing repairs around the Church Building (some at the highest levels) is required. Although we are still getting bids, a conservative estimate of the cost of this project is \$50,000. At this time, we are considering a loan from Lutheran Church Extension Fund for this project. We are also considering a special financial campaign to reduce the amount to be borrowed.