

Trinity



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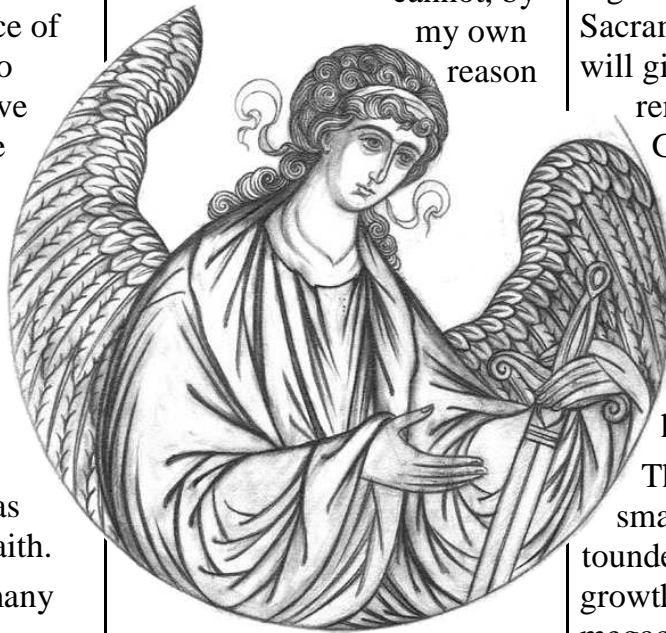
From Small Church to Mega Church

Over the years I would have to admit that there may have been times when I've been disappointed and discouraged over the fact that no matter how much we talk about the importance of being regularly in Church to hear God's Word and receive God's gifts it seems to have very little impact on our worship and Bible Study attendance on Sunday mornings. It seems to make no difference in the fact that parents seem to see very little value in bringing to Church every Sunday the children God has given them to raise in the faith.

And I'm sure you've had many of the same feelings when you've looked around the Sanctuary on Sunday morning and wondered about this person or that – or prayed that somehow something might be done by someone to turn it all around and make our Church grow like we think it ought to be growing.

The truth of the matter is that while we have been given the privilege and responsibility of confessing our faith to others as God gives us opportunity, the growth of the Church is really

God's business. As we confess with Dr. Luther concerning the explanation of the Third Article of the Creed: "I believe that I cannot, by my own reason



or strength, believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me in the faith," etc.

But whether or not our congregation is growing the way many of us might like to see it grow, it is growing, nonetheless in ways that are impossible to see without the eyes of faith. The following blog article by Chad Bird (who has written some of the hymns in our Lutheran Ser-

vice Book), takes a Spirit-filled look at what's really happening in the Church whenever and wherever God's people gather together around His Word and Sacraments. Perhaps this article will give you new eyes – and a renewed confidence – in God's work and Word among us. Perhaps it will renew your zeal to make sure your family and friends don't lose sight of this most important matter either. This is what Chad has written:

This is the story of how a small, country Church astounded the experts on Church growth by becoming a megachurch overnight – without even trying.

The gravel parking lot around St. John's began to fill early that morning. The shadow from the steeple cast the image of a cross on the western side of the Church. Families from miles around climbed out of Fords and Chevrolets to make their way into the sanctuary.

The pastor stood by the front door to greet folks. He asked about Aunt Susan's broken hip,

the Reynolds' new horse, and how the football game turned out in Sunray the other night.

The man of God who shepherded this flock wasn't much to look at. He had a bit of a gut. And he laughed too loud, especially at his corny jokes. But they loved the man. He had Baptized their children, buried their grandparents, and even preached a decent sermon on occasion.

By the time worship was ready to begin, it still hadn't happened – that shocking influx of worshipers I spoke of. In fact, things looked as ordinary as ordinary could be.

The Kirkpatricks, with their five children, squeezed into the next-to-last pew. The spinster organist, Ms. Schultz, played softly and hit, well, almost every note. Hymnals were opened to the page where the service would soon begin.

At 10:30 sharp, Pastor Baker walked up front and spoke the same words he did at the start of every Sunday service, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And the congregation responded with a hearty, "Amen!"

Then, without any warning, it happened.

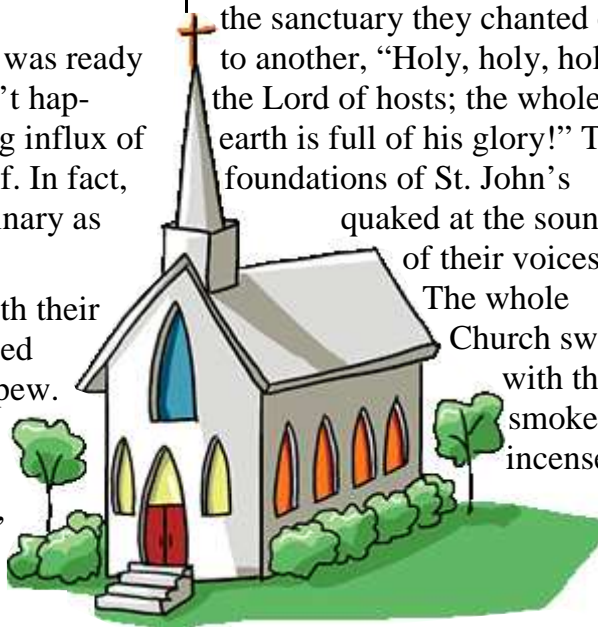
The floodgates opened. Worshipers streamed in. Before the congregation had finished say-

ing, "Amen," this rural Texas mini-church was transformed into the mega of megachurches.

Here's how it all went down.

Through the stained glass windows and the steeply pitched roof, seraphim swooped down from heavenly perches. Each sported six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And around the sanctuary they chanted one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" The foundations of St. John's quaked at the sound of their voices.

The whole Church swam with the smoke of incense.



But that was only the beginning.

Cherubim soon winged their way down from the heavenly city. Not the cute, chubby Precious Moments' angels, but manly warriors who stationed themselves like sentinels around the sanctuary. They belted out the words to the hymns, added their Amens to the divine words read and preached that day.

But the angels were not alone. With them came saints innumerable. Men and women who had fought the good fight, finished the race, and gone on to glory.

But here they were, back at St. John's on this Lord's day. They added their voices to the earthly choir of farmers and ranchers and coaches and teachers who still trod the pathway toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

The pews were packed. Standing room only in the aisles. Some perched on the rafters and peered down with serene gazes upon the Altar. There, wonder of wonders, was a throne. And on that throne stood a Lamb, slain yet alive, sacrificed but resurrected. Every face of every worshiper, angelic and human, earthly and heavenly, was fixated upon His face.

There they looked upon the countenance of the merciful Almighty.

With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, the people of St. John's lauded and glorified the name of that Lamb, their Lord Jesus, that day.

Sacred songs shook the building as the choirs wed their voices. The Lord's Supper was a reunion meal. The folks on earth and the saints in heaven dined on the feast of feasts and the drink that satisfies the deepest thirst.

It was a day to remember. A day to repeat.

The following Sunday it would happen again. And then again. This tiny rural Church would bulge at the seams with worshipers from realms seen and unseen, all mixed together in the

adoration of the Lamb whose kingdom is without end.

That's how a small, country congregation became a megachurch overnight—without even trying. They gathered around the word of Jesus, ate His Meal, sang His praises.

Jesus showed up, every Sunday, with all of heaven along for the ride.

And, I might add, that's exactly what happens every time the saints of Trinity gather together for worship. We are not alone, but are part of that innumerable number of saints from times past who have believed in the promise of the Lamb and call upon His name. To Him be the glory both now and forever!

Birthdays

Gabriel Sowell	7/12
Stacy Stout	7/14
Fred Walworth	7/15
Ben Augur	7/15
Colton Harris	7/17
Tanner Slawson	7/22
Dawn Riley	7/26
Tom Clemens	7/29
Rob Stone	7/30
Kenneth Rogers	8/1
Eldora Keller	8/1
Diane Strack	8/1
Blythe Larson	8/1
Vic Edwards	8/3
Jeremy Harms	8/3
Sydney Strack	8/5
Lisa Hoffman	8/8
Emily Goodroad	8/9
Lynn Wood	8/10
Darrin Abend	8/13
Grace Schroeder	8/13

Alan Rhea	8/15
Shane Strack	8/16
Ryan Schmidt	8/18
Sammy Harms	8/19
Caroline Mayes	8/19
Judy Goodwin	8/20
Erma Altis	8/20
Bob Marchert	8/22
Lauryn O'Grady	8/23
Gary Schmidt	8/26
Debbie Abend	8/26
Sarah Schroeder	9/1
Drew Newman	9/2
Alex Abend	9/2
Ben Starkebaum	9/2
Curt Henke	9/5
Yvonne O'Grady	9/7
Jessica Blunk	9/7
Jackie Augur	9/10
Shelby Starkebaum	9/10

Baptisms

June Ramer	7/11
Jr. Darmstaetter	7/13
Samuel Goodroad	7/14
Andy Fairhurst	7/22
Kari Goodroad	7/25
Jim Wornson	7/25
Mary Wornson	7/28
Colton Harris	7/30
Alpha Wiese	8/1
Sean Williams	8/1
Samantha Slawson	8/9
Curtis Mayes	8/12
Penny Harris	8/16
Melvin Altis	8/19
Kelly Schmidt	8/20
Larry Goodroad	8/21
Alex Abend	8/21
Lynn Wood	8/24
Eldora Keller	8/26
Blythe Larson	9/1
Kimberly Murphy	9/2
Sammy Harms	9/5
Ryan Schmidt	9/7
Tanner Slawson	9/7

Diane Strack	9/8
Wyatt Mayes	9/9
Jeremy Harms	9/10
Gabriel Sowell	9/10

Anniversaries

Steve & Adyline Christensen	7/11/1965
Tony & Ellen Propst	7/11/1987
Sam & Dana Goodroad	7/13/2012
Norm & Kay Sowell	7/18/1971
Scott & Lacey Mayes	7/23/2011
Rick & Diane Strack	8/10/1996
Terry & Lynn Wood	8/13/1972
Roy & Eldora Keller	8/14/1949
Hurshell & Sylvia Herrell	8/20/1960
Max & Judy Goodwin	8/30/1969
Gary & Diane Schmidt	9/6/1968

Elders

Vic Edwards
Larry Goodroad
Ken Meier
Dallas Hoffman
Peter Korondi
Bill Moore, Jr.

Acolytes

Aug. 7	Simon Korondi
Aug. 14	Eli Ramer
Aug. 21	Gabriel Sowell
Aug. 28	Ben Starkebaum
Sept. 4	Andrew Swain
Sept. 11	Joe Goodroad
Sept. 18	Tom Goodroad

Sept. 25 Colton Harris

Ushers

August 7 & 14

Keith Wornson, Mark Young

August 21 & Aug. 28

Darrin Abend, Tony Alshouse

September 4 & 11

John Barth, Chris Blunk

September 18 & 25

Andy Fairhurst, Tim Brammeier

Greeters

August 7

John & Carol Diaz

August 14

Andy & Michelle Fairhurst

August 21

Bryan & Kristi Fent

August 28

Dan & Emily Goodroad

September 4

Larry & Kari Goodroad

September 11

Sam & Dana Goodroad

September 18

Max & Judy Goodwin

September 25

Jim & Karen Hargrave

Altar Guild

Aug. 7 & Sept. 4

Pat Owens, Mary Ellett

Aug. 14 & Sept. 11

Korondi & Goodroad

Aug. 21 & Sept. 18

Dee Hoffman & Leslie Young

Aug. 28 & Sept. 25

McCubbin & Clemens

Board of Directors

June 13, 2016

Members present: Connie Brammeier, Tim Brammeier, Mark Fairhurst, Dan Goodroad, Nelson Hayes, Dee Hoffman, Â

Bob Marchert, Norm Sowell, and Lisa Starkebaum.

Tim called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Will, Amy, Garrett and Erik Israel request transfer of membership to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf, Iowa. Norm moved we accept, Dan seconded, passed by vote.

Dan moved we approve the minutes, Norm seconded.

Pastor: N/A

Vice President: Bob moved we grant a \$1,000 one-time scholarship to Pastor Sturdevant of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lisa seconded. Passed by vote. Also, got a proposal for a small audit.

Treasurer: Mark moved we receive the report, Norm seconded, passed by vote.

Elders: N/A

Properties: Norm writes, 'I want to thank the large number of members of the congregation who have helped with dozens of maintenance related activities. Thanks be to God for those who serve to keep the Lord's house and properties in order. A special thanks to the men who cleaned the pond.'

Evangelism: Is going to look into replacing our road signs and do some website updates when Pastor is back from vacation.

Education: N/A

Stewardship: Wrote an article.

Youth: The Higher Things trip is in 3 weeks, they are leaving the morning of the conference

start and doing extra activities on the way home. There will be 2 pre-trip Bible studies.

Public Relations: nothing new to report.

Planning: N/A

Services: Delivered the basket for the Goodroad's wedding.

Secretary: Nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business: The Scouts are currently working on a materials list for the shelter renovation project.

Norm moved we adjourn, Dan seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Goodroad

* * *

July 11, 2016

Members present: Connie Brammeier, Tim Brammeier, Dan Goodroad, Nelson Hayes, Pastor, Norm Sowell, Lisa Starkebaum, and Leslie Young.

Tim called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer and continued with our study of the Augsburg Confession.

Norm moved we accept the amended minutes from last meeting, Dan seconded.

Pastor: Nothing new to report.

VP: N/A

Treasurer: Dan moved we receive the report, Nelson seconded, passed by vote.

Elders: N/A

Properties: Current issues being worked on include: groundhog problems, have two bids on

the tuck pointing around the building, water issues in the sanctuary continue and a door for the back door entrance to keep the animals out are on the list. Issues that have been resolved include: the ants in the kitchen and the air conditioners went out but are now fixed.

Evangelism: N/A

Education: Sunday School teachers are needed. VBS was cancelled.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

Youth: They had a great trip! There are four options for next year and registration is typically completed around the first of the year.

Public Relations: Nothing new to report

Planning: N/A

Services: N/A

Secretary: nothing new to report

Unfinished Business: Dallas has started on the shelter renovation.

Dan moved we adjourn, Nelson seconded. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Goodroad

Upcoming Events

Family Fellowship (which includes people of all ages and “families” of every type, including singles, young people, older members, etc. – in other words, *everyone*) will be hosting an

evening of Yard Game Olympics, Saturday, September 10, 5:00 pm at Church. Bring your favorite yard games, lawn chairs, side dish & dessert. Meat & drinks will be provided. If yard games aren't for you, bring your favorite table game. Everyone is invited & encouraged to come! Please sign up on the kiosk so we know how many to plan for. Hope to see you there!

Ladies Night Out will meet on September 19 at the Ventana Grill in Excelsior Springs at 6:00 PM. There is a signup sheet posted on the Kiosk in the upstairs Narthex.

New Bible Study

Beginning the middle of September I will be leading a Bible Study on Sunday mornings (even if we aren't finished with the Gospel of John) addressing the issues we, as Christians, ought to consider when stepping into the voting booth in November.

This Study as recently released by CPH and was written by one of the pastors in our Missouri District, the Rev. Ken Schurb, of Moberly.

We all know that this year's election has been, shall we say, fraught with controversy and a lot of people have had some very strong feelings on both sides of the aisle.

As Christians we have an obligation to look at these matters taking into consideration what Holy Scripture has to say about

government and those who lead our nation.

I pray that a great many of you will be joining us for what I hope will be a very enlightening study of God's Word.

Early Church Fathers

“The bread and the wine are not merely figures of the body and blood of Christ (God forbid!), but the deified body of the Lord. For the Lord has said, ‘This is My body,’ not, this is a figure of My body, and ‘My blood,’ not, a figure of My blood. And on a previous occasion He had said to the Jews, ‘unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.’ ‘For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.’ And again, ‘whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me’ (Jn 6:53, 55, 57).

“Therefore, with all fear and a pure conscience and certain faith let us draw near and it will assuredly be to us as we believe, doubting nothing. Let us pay homage to it in all purity both of soul and body; for it is twofold. Let us draw near to it with an ardent desire, and with our hands held in the form of the cross let us receive the body of the Crucified One. Let us apply our eyes and lips and brows and partake of the divine coal, in order that the fire of the longing, that is in us, with the additional heat derived from the coal may utterly consume our sins and illumine our hearts, that we may be inflamed and deified by the par-

ticipation in the divine fire. Isaiah saw the coal (Is 6:6). But coal is not plain wood but wood united with fire. In a similar way the bread of the communion is not plain bread, but bread united with divinity. But a body which is united with divinity is not one nature, but has one nature belonging to the body and another belonging to the divinity that is united to it, so that the compound is not one nature but two. "The body and blood of Christ are for the support of our soul and body, without being consumed or suffering corruption, not for excretion (God forbid!), but for our being and preservation, a protection against all kinds of injury, and a purging from all uncleanness. Should one receive impure gold, the body and blood of Christ purify it by the critical burning lest in the future we be condemned with this world. They purify from diseases and all kinds of calamities; according to the words of the holy Apostles, 'If we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world' (1Co 11:31-32). This too is what he says, 'For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself' (1Co 11:29). Being purified by this, we are united to the body of Christ and to His Spirit and become the body of Christ." (From John of Damascus)

Youth

Three of our youth attended the 2016 Higher Things "Bread of Life" Conference in Cedar Falls, IA, on July 5-8. Pastor Newman and Lisa Starkebaum chaperoned the trip this year and were very fortunate to have Kevin, Julie and Sarah Schroeder join us one day to participate in the day's activities. Following the conference, the group headed to Des Moines, IA, to stay over that night and take in some of the sites on Saturday, July 9th. The group enjoyed eating at Zombie Burgers (recommended by Sarah Schroeder) and Tasty Taco's (a Joe Goodroad favorite). We also visited the Science Center of Iowa and toured the Iowa State Capitol building and surrounding monuments. One of the biggest treats of staying overnight in the hotel was enjoying the air conditioning, after staying three nights without air conditioning in the residence halls of University of Northern Iowa. I think we all learned not to take those simple pleasures for granted. We will be planning a thank you breakfast in a few short weeks to share what we learned. Watch the kiosk and bulletin for details.

Rather than three conferences as in past years, there will be four conferences to choose from next year: June 27-30 Trinity University, San Antonio, TX; July 4-7 Mars Hill University, Mars Hill, NC; July 18-21 Montana State University, Bozeman, MT and July 25-28 Valparaiso Univer-

sity, Valparaiso, IN.

Another school year is about to begin. I am going to schedule a parent / youth meeting for Sunday, August 14th to discuss thoughts for activities and fundraisers for the upcoming year. Please watch Facebook for an exact time as that date draws near. I am also looking for volunteers to assist with the youth group, specifically to assist in the coordination of various outings, family fellowship snacks, service activities that the youth participate in throughout the year such as Lenten and Advent dinners, Hanging of the Greens, to mention just a few.

Trinity's youth group consists of 6th – 12th graders. We would love for you to come join us!! Please watch the bulletin and kiosk for updates on upcoming events. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Lisa Starkebaum,
Youth Director

Lutherans for Life

The Northland Chapter meets the quarterly at the home of Fran and Marsha Szarejko. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Murphy, 628-6815. Everyone is invited to join us at these meetings.

It Is To Laugh

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things

down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. "Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?" he asks.

"Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?"

"Sure," he says.

"Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" she asks.

"No, I can remember it," he replies.

"Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?"

He says, "I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries."

"I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?" she asks.

Irritated, he says, "I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream – I got it, for goodness sake!" Then he toddles into the kitchen.

After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs.

She stares at the plate for a moment, then says: "Where's my toast?"

Martin Luther Academy

Martin Luther Academy is adding a second Kindergarten class for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are now being accepted for this position. Qualifi-

cations include a valid teaching certificate in Early Childhood for the state of Missouri and Synodically trained or have completed their colloquy. If interested, please submit a resume to the school office, in care of Ann Arndt, Principal

Trinity Care Group

Do you need assistance because of illness, birth of a baby, death, hospitalization, etc.? Trinity Care Group can help. We would be happy to arrange for providing meals, doing errands, visiting with the family, etc. Please contact Dee Hoffman at 320-2490.

Fix It Gang

The Fix It Gang, better known as the doughnut hole gang, began as a group of church volunteers to upgrade and repair the church and it's properties. We meet every Thursday at church at 9:00 AM. We have made major repairs to the church such as the Chancel lighting to taking inventory of the storage areas. Where it is possible, we put in LED lighting fixtures to reduce lighting expense and have put in exit lighting where needed. Every week we make progress, sometimes just a little. . or a lot. . some of which the congregation does not see and some that is noticed by everyone. Our work is based on I Corinthians 15:58, "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

LWML

June 13, 2016

Call to Order: Janet Miller

Opening Hymn: "My Faith Looks Trustingly"

Opening Prayer: Penny Harris led with prayer. LWML pledge was recited.

Attendance: June Lueckert, Dee Hoffman, Janis Bozarth, Janet Miller, Penny Harris, Kay Sowell

Minutes: May minutes were read and approved.

Correspondence: No correspondence was presented.

Treasurer's Report: A balance as of June 13, 2016, was \$1,185.15 (including \$137.93 in mites).

Mission Grant Story was presented Penny Harris entitled "Helping Hands Initiative \$100,000"

Quilting Report: Two Casserole covers were delivered for upcoming wedding baskets.

Unfinished Business: Picnic plans were put on hold until October.

New Business: Upcoming weddings were discussed. It was decided to reimburse Marlo, Kay and Penny for mite basket at convention in Cape Girardeau, MO.

Third Sunday Treats: 6/19: Judy Goodwin, Penny Harris, Dee Hoffman; 7/17: Marlo Howard, Joyce Lehning, Dianne Mischlich; 8/21 June Lueckert, Janet Miller, Dee Hoffman.

Next meeting will be Monday, July 18, Penny Harris is hostess. Business meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer and prayer requests. Bible Study was led by Janet Miller entitled "Who's on First, What's on Second" (from New Lutheran Witness).

Refreshments were served by Janis Bozarth..

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Bozarth, Secretary

July 11, 2016

Call to Order: Dianne Mischlich

Opening Hymn: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Opening Prayer: Pastor Newman led with prayer and LWML pledge was recited.

Attendance: June Lueckert, Dee Hoffman, Janis Bozarth, Janet Miller, Penny Harris, Kay Sowell, Diane Schmidt, Marlo Howard, Dianne Mischlich, Pastor Newman

Minutes: June minutes were read and approved.

Correspondence: A request for donations letter from Hawthorne School was read. A motion was made by Kay Sowell and seconded by Marlo Howard that we donate \$200. Motion carried. Kay will contact school for more information.

Treasurer's Report: A balance as of July 11, 2016, was \$1,266.77 (including \$152.55 in mites).

Mission Grant Story was presented by Penny Harris entitled "Rosa Young Academies & After School Programs".

Quilting Report: A baby quilt will be donated for the baby gift basket.

Unfinished Business: July 21 is the next work day at Ronald McDonald House. A motion was made by Janet Miller and seconded by Penny Harris that we no longer serve at wedding receptions but will continue to serve at Confirmation receptions. Motion carried. Marlo Howard will work on firming up picnic in October.

New Business: A motion was made by Janet Miller and seconded by June Lueckert that we sponsor a LMCS missionary. More details to come. Motion carried. A motion was made by Kay Sowell and seconded by Janet Miller that we purchase wooden hangars to be sold for a donation. Marlo Howard will contact seller of these hangars. Motion carried.

Third Sunday Treats: 7/1: Marlo Howard, Joyce Lehning, Dianne Mischlich; 8/21: June Lueckert, Janet Miller, Dee Hoffman; 9/18: Diane Schmidt, Kay Sowell, Dianne Mischlich. Next meeting will be Monday, August 8 with Diane Schmidt as hostess.

Business meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer and prayer requests. Bible Study was led by Pastor Newman entitled, "Things We Can Do to Witness

for Christ".

Refreshments were served by Penny Harris.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Bozarth, Secretary

Thank You Notes

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Concordia Theological seminary in Fort Wayne received proceeds from the Shearer Scholarship that your Council recently approved for me. This greatly helped make my summer class possible and I just this week finished that class online. I am another step closer to finishing my Master of Sacred Theology degree that I started back in 2001. Thank you for considering me for this scholarship, since I am involved part-time in a graduate program. With God's blessing, my further studies at the Seminary will be beneficial for the church and I thank you for your generous support!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark B. Stirdivant
Pastor Holy Cross
Kansas City

