

**I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.**

**John11: 25-26**

## **PENTECOST (Acts 2:1-41)**

**Brett was born on New Year's Day. As a young child it seemed to him that the whole world was celebrating his birthday with fireworks and parades. When he grew older, Brett understood that his birthday was a special day for everyone -- the beginning of the new year. Still, Brett liked having a birthday on a holiday. "It's easy for people to come to my birthday parties because no one has to go to school or work, and people say my birthday is easy to remember because it's on a holiday," Brett says.**

**The birthday of the Christian church also happened on a holiday. Pentecost was one of the three great festivals of the Jewish people. Celebrated 50 days after the Passover, Pentecost means fiftieth. On the first day of the week, seven days after the Passover Sabbath, God's people were to celebrate with thanksgiving the gathering of the first of the grain harvest by presenting to God two loaves of leavened bread baked from the newly gathered grain. Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16), and the Day of Firstfruits (Numbers 28:26).**

**Consider the following description of Pentecost in Deuteronomy 16:9-12, which reads: "Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. 'Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. And rejoice before the Lord your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name -- you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, the Levites in your towns, and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows living among you'. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees".**

**NOW, complete the "exercise" below by putting the number of the verse from Deuteronomy 16 that:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. explains why Jewish people came from many different places to celebrate Pentecost at Jerusalem, the Old Testament center for the worship of the true God.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. places the Pentecost celebration seven weeks after the Passover.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. shows Pentecost to be an opportunity for the people to respond freely to God's goodness to them.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. tells who may be included in the celebration.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. calls to mind the bondage from which our loving God delivered His people.**

**NOW, use the clues to help you unscramble the words in the activity that follows to review more about the events of the birthday of the Christian church.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPITIR.** Provider of the power that enabled the people to speak in languages they hadn't learned. (Acts 2:4)

\_\_\_\_\_ **JELO.** Old Testament prophet who foretold this Pentecost event. (Acts 2:16).

\_\_\_\_\_ **DAVES.** Foretold condition of those who call on the name of the Lord as the Holy Spirit brings them to faith. (Acts 2:21)

\_\_\_\_\_ **REPTE.** Preached a sermon in which he explained God's Word and told the people of their sinfulness. (Acts 2:14)

\_\_\_\_\_ **RECITORNURSE.** Peter spoke about Jesus' death and about how David foretold this among all the events Christ would experience. (Acts 2:31)

\_\_\_\_\_ **TENPER.** When the people asked Peter what they should do, he told them to do this and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, promising that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

\_\_\_\_\_ **MISEROP.** As Peter explained it, this is for the listeners of his sermon and for their children and for all who are far off - - for all whom the Lord our God will call. (Acts 2:39)

**NOW, how would you compare the Pentecost celebration to the celebration of the birth of the Christian church? Both the harvest of the crops and the harvest of believers occur by the hand of our loving and gracious God, right? Both give cause for persons of ALL ages, situations and backgrounds to celebrate. Both remind us of the saving acts God has performed on behalf of His people - - the crossing of the Red Sea and the redemption Jesus won for us through the cross and the empty tomb. Both give reason to response gratefully to God.**

**The Holy Spirit uses the Word and Sacraments - - the means of grace - - to bring people to faith and to nurture the faith of believers.**

**NOW, locate your baptismal certificate and review it.**

**Prayer: Holy Spirit, who on that first Pentecost did establish by Thy outpouring upon the disciples at Jerusalem the Christian Church, we thank you that through Your Word and Sacrament You have continued Your Church through the ages and preserved the fellowship of the faithful throughout the years. We pray You, grant us so firm a faith in the Redeemer, and so steadfast a fruitfulness in Your service, that through us and our generation You might build Your Church among the children of men. Protect us from all falsehood and error. Heal all controversies and dissensions and hasten the day of a God-pleasing union of all Christian people. Grant all of us grace to be loyal to Your Word, resisting all efforts to set aside Your revealed truth. Take all indifference out of our hearts, and make us zealous instruments of Your church, and many souls to be added to Christ's kingdom through our testimony. May through Your grace young and old by word and deed bear witness of the hope within them and of Your glorious indwelling, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AT TRINITY**

**Trinity has 2 high school seniors graduating this year. They are Caitlyn Kinney and Chelsey Algreen.**

### **CAITLYN KINNEY**

**Caitlyn is the daughter of Wayne and Becky Kinney. She has one sister, Chelsea Dexter. Caitlyn will be graduating from Van Meter High School on May 29, 2011.**

**While in high school, Caitlyn enjoyed participating in choir, golf, basketball and volleyball. Caitlyn was also a member of the homecoming court her senior year.**

**In the fall of 2011, Caitlyn will be attending Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa where she plans to major in Creative Writing and play volleyball for the Warriors.**

### **CHELSEY ALGREEN**

**Chelsey Marie Algreen is the daughter of Alan and Teresa Algreen. She has a sister, Megan, and a brother, Andy.**

**Some of Chelsey's accomplishments while attending Earlham Community High School were basketball, golf, volleyball, softball, student council, and "A" honor roll.**

**Chelsey loves children and babysits as often as time allows. She has volunteered at Methodist Hospital as a nursing assistant. She spends free time watching shows like "House" and "ER". Chelsey is a quiet leader.**

**Chelsey will be attending Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa this fall. She plans on getting her RN and BSN in nursing to be a part of the healthcare system. She plans to earn a minor degree in Psychology.**

**We wish Caitlyn and Chelsey "Good Luck" as they pursue their new endeavors. May God keep them both in His loving arms.**

**Heavenly Father, who Yourself are Wisdom and gives light to the understanding of mankind, shine into Caitlyn and Chelsey's heart with the knowledge which will give them a fuller appreciation of Your Word, a saner outlook upon life, and a surer confidence in Your over-all guidance through the days ahead. Give them a greater measure of faith, and by that faith, peace of mind, hope, and stability for tomorrow, and an escape from the uncertainties and doubts arising again and again in their youthful heart.**

**Pour out upon them Your benedictions, and grace their day with Your presence. Take them by the hand and lead their footsteps into the paths of Your righteousness. Let them find joy in their studies and help them to understand the subjects for which they are preparing. Above all, let them grow in grace and be firmly established in Your Word. Amen.**

**HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY:** The first quarter of 2011 was very active with Lenten services and Easter festivities. Palm Sunday's "**Fill the Pews**" was a huge success with an attendance of approximately 90 people. After worship service, members and guests were invited to indulge in the muffins, cinnamon rolls, bars, fruit pizza and other goodies furnished by several members.

Easter breakfast was provided by the Men's Club on Easter Sunday. Delicious pancakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, juice/milk and coffee were prepared and served by the men. The members of Mary & Martha Society decorated the tables and window sills of the Fellowship Hall with Easter decorations. What a treat!

The Call Committee met several times during the quarter and a call was put out in February but was declined in March. Another call was issued on April 27<sup>th</sup> and we are patiently and prayerfully waiting for a response. Pastor Melz keeps reminding us Jesus already knows who our new leader will be and has a special plan for Trinity, Van Meter. (Patience is not one of my virtues!).

There were no baptisms, weddings or transfers during the quarter. A graveside service and burial of cremains for John H. Westphal was held at Trinity on March 5, 2011. An April 30, 2011 memorial service and burial of cremains was held for Susan Jordan. The Mary and Martha Society ladies served a lunch after both of these services. (Sue's obituary can be found on another page of this Newsletter.)

Rusty Daniels has been on our prayer list for many months as he waited for a liver transplant. He recently received that transplant and his mother-in-law, Mildred Brott, reports that Rusty is recovering remarkably well from the surgery.

Eli Horn, grandson of Bill and Janice Jensen, has also been on our prayer list for quite sometime. He has been fighting cancer for much of his young life. Eli has been declared "cancer free at this time". **PRAISE THE LORD FOR THESE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS!**

We continue to keep our prayer list active for Dale Dippold who entered hospice recently; Fern Kneuper, Walter and Inez Marquardt who are currently residing at West Bridge Care Center; Larry Ham (Mildred Smith's son-in-law) who is recovering from the effects of a stroke; Noah Laughridge (Bill and Lorraine Martens' great-grandson) who is being treated for infantile glaucoma; and Pastor Jordan's improvement in health matters.

Pastor Melz informs us the confirmation class went well this year and is "winding down" for the year. There are six young people enrolled.

You may have noticed a new wireless microphone has been installed. No more falling asleep during the sermon because of not being able to hear!

The receipts for the first 3 months of 2011 totaled just over \$25,000.00. Expenses amounted to about \$16,500.00. This may be a good time for each member to review their contribution total for the quarter.

**Susan Jane Garmatz Jordan  
1947 – 2010**

**In Loving Memory of**

**Susan Jane Garmatz Jordan  
January 19, 1947 – September 27, 2010  
Memorial Service  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Saturday, April 30, 2011  
11:00 a.m.**

**Officiating  
Pastor Arno Melz**

Susan Jordan was born in St. Louis, Missouri on January 19, 1947. The daughter of Robert and Florence (Gruber) Garmatz and sister to Ellen and John. She died unexpectedly on Monday, September 27, 2010 in Walnut Creek, California. Sue was baptized on February 16, 1947 at Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri.

Sue graduated from Seward High School, Seward, Nebraska in 1964. High school activities included gymnastics and she played the young servant and sang in French in the school play, South Pacific. As an adult, Sue worked many years for the Lutheran Layman League in St. Louis. Sue also worked for McCarthy Brothers Construction Company in St. Louis. She met Richard Jordan in St. Louis while he was attending Concordia Seminary. They married in St. Louis in June, 1981. Richard's first call was to a church in Sisseton, South Dakota. They also served in Ocheyedon, Iowa and lastly in Van Meter, Iowa. Sue was a loyal and faithful wife. While living in South Dakota, Richard and Sue rode a Harley motorcycle to Canada. She was known for her homemade bread and always had large bags of flour in her kitchen. She taught herself how to crochet and made many lovely doilies. Sue worked part time in the library in Ocheyedon, Iowa. She was the family historian, could tell you what each family member was doing and where they lived. Susan was very involved in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and attended many state and national conventions. In Van Meter, Sue worked for the election board and went to caucuses where she met President Bush. In her last years in Van Meter, Sue was caretaker of her brother, John, who had Alzheimer's until his death in February 2009. Richard and Sue moved to California in May, 2010.

## WHO ENTERS HEAVEN?

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door.  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp - -  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners  
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
Who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?  
I would love to hear Your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,  
So somber - - give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' He said,  
'they're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

### JUDGE NOT!!

Remember - - just going to church doesn't make you a Christian  
Any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a PAST - - Every sinner has a FUTURE!  
Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - - it has no point!

(Sent to me through a "forwarded" e-mail)

## JUDAS ASPARAGUS

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. This is amazing and I wonder how often we take for granted that children *understand* what we are saying and teaching?

### **Through the eyes of a child in a NUTSHELL**

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Dam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden .....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His top ten commandments. These include, don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'close the door! Were you born in a barn?') It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.') During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.....

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

<b><i>MAY BIRTHDAYS</i></b>		<b><i>JUNE BIRTHDAYS</i></b>	
Wayne Davis	3	Jon Tyler	2
Julie Ory	5	Charles Baker	3
Wm. D. Martens	11	Nick Berg	6
Nick Ziemann	11	Karen Johnson	9
Warren Brott	11	Megan Algreen	10
James Koch	15	Jacob Koch	10
Alan Algreen	16	JoLee Mapes	16
Sharon Tyler	17	Walter Marquardt	16
Phil Clifton	19	Robin Holcombe	17
Robert Radke	19	Dale Golightly	18
Marguerite Lienemann	19	Daniel Porter	19
Lindsey Ory-Mutchler	20	Zaiden Dean Ansley	20
Rose Baker	21	Chris Tyler	20
Sarah Mapes	23	Pastor Richard Jordan	21
Mildred Smith	23	Sam Mapes	21
Michael Koch	25	Nate Mittag	22
Julie Jamison	27	Carrie Garlich	23
Luana McAllister	31	Willis Jones	29
		Larry Ory	29
		Alisan Clifton	30
<b><i>MAY ANNIVERSARIES</i></b>		<b><i>JUNE ANNIVERSARIES</i></b>	
Don and Karen Johnson	15	Bill and Janice Jensen	3
Larry and Diane Cross	24	Jim and Linda Marquardt	3
John and Midge Grisso	24	Clark and Judy Brittain	5
		Merlyn and Janice Hartz	6
		Ray and Joan Hardy	7
		Ted and Beth Albrecht	11
		Nick and Anne Berg	13
		Dale and Vera Golightly	19
		Larry and Yvonne Ory	27

The tornadoes in Northwest Iowa and Mapleton, Iowa in particular, have left many people homeless and without necessities. Ellie Menz of Iowa District West office has sent out a message asking for any help people can give. If you want to contribute to the cause, you can purchase a gift card from WalMart for any denomination of money you want and send the card to Ellie. She will in turn, use the gift card to buy clothes, household items, or other items essential to the people in need. Her address can be found in the Lutheran Witness publication.