

## WORDS FROM PASTOR KENNETH SCHMIDT

What excitement there has been in my family these past couple of months as we moved to a new congregation and home in Van Meter! Everything is new and different and it is always an adventure when we set out in our car and try to find our way around, finding which roads “go through” and which don’t, locating stores, barbers and hairdressers, dentists, doctors, the Cub’s ball park, and the list goes on. How exciting it is to be in a new church home, getting to know each of you and your families.

It seems like everything is new! Well, maybe not quite everything. We do recognize some of the store and restaurant names because they are part of regional and national chains we have become familiar with around the state and country. We do still read in the newspaper and watch on the evening news what seem like the same stories we saw in Sioux City, just the names and places have changed. We do still find that most of our old habits, likes and dislikes, have followed us too. In fact, when it gets right down to it, things really aren't that new after all. We might be in a different place, but we haven't changed and we still carry all the same old personal baggage with us.

What has been your experience with "new beginnings" in your life? Is it the same as ours? New houses, new schools, new jobs, new relationships, but many of the same old habits, problems, and difficulties? Were your “new beginnings” really “new” beginnings, or did you find that, behind the façade of newness, the same old baggage followed you around too?

As it turns out, the "new beginnings" this world offers are really not "new beginnings" at all. They just boil down to our same old baggage in a new place with a few surface changes at best. The personal issues that dog us and wear us down are seldom cured or left behind by moving to new locations, or changing the people we live and work with. Contrary to the television commercials and other consumer ads that would have you believe you can "start over," or that you can get that "new start you deserve" by using their product or service, the world never really lets you "wipe the slate clean" and start all over with a truly "new beginning." At best the world only allows you to update the façade behind which to hide the personal baggage that has accumulated.

Listen to the Good News! Jesus offers you something the world cannot! With Him your old baggage is truly left behind. With Him you truly have a "new beginning." A truly "new beginning" that began with your new birth in Baptism when you were washed clean by the water connected with the promise of His Word, a new birth into His death and resurrection. Jesus told Nicodemus, "...No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit, flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit" (John 3).

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther teaches that this "new beginning," this new birth in the Spirit occurs not only at your baptism, but is renewed daily in the lives of those who live in your baptism, that it is new every day for you who daily experience sorrow for their sins and who daily repent of them! Luther writes, "...the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and a new man daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

The Good News is that there is a "new beginning" for YOU who has accepted Jesus as your Savior! The Good News is that there is a "new beginning" everyday for YOU who feels the weight of your sins and repents of them! The Good News is that there is a "new beginning" for YOU in Christ and in this "new beginning the old is truly gone and the new has come" (2Cor. 5)!

Come join in Divine Service Sunday morning as together we worship Him, as together we hear His word in truth and purity, as together we rightly celebrate His life saving Sacraments, as together we thank Him for His great and abundant blessings, as together we celebrate the true "new beginning" that He gives YOU in His Son, Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Schmidt

#### Little Notes

A BIG thank you to those that have served as greeters. Volunteers are appreciated! Greeters for the month of September are Jon, Micah and Joe Dallman. Do you have a particular month you could give a few minutes each Sunday morning for just one month? Let Larry Ory know if you could help out.

Our Adopt-A-Seminary Student, Adam Onken, from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis will be visiting Trinity on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. He will share and proclaim God's Word among us. We look forward to his message.

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 7, 2011. These classes are for young people entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Class begins at 5:30 p.m. and is one hour in duration. On the first night, one or both parent is asked to attend with their child. The purpose is to review an outline of the study material to be covered, and discuss the schedule, expectations and goals for the year.

The annual Barn Party will be Saturday, September 10, 2011, at Stonehaven Party Barn located approximately 3 miles south of DeSoto on Highway 169. It will be held rain or shine and the fun begins at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The Merry Makers will furnish hot dogs and drink. If you plan to sit outside by the fire, bring your lawn chair. So.....dust off those dancing shoes and join your friends and neighbors in a fun evening. Bring a friend or two.

Don't forget our members that are on the prayer list! Remember Mildred Brott in the death of her sister, Norma Johnson, and Monte Hopkins in the death of his grandmother, Mona Lee Barnes. We ask God to comfort those that mourn these losses. Continue to pray for healing for Vicki Russell, Dale Dippold and Russ Wearmouth. Also, remember Fern Kneuper, Walter and Inez Marquardt and Bill Radke in nursing homes. Keep all our members safe as they work to bring in the harvest that God has blessed.

Did you know we have a new copy machine in the church office? It works pretty slick...but, it comes with a little warning. I saw this little “ditty” in my new magazine today and thought I would share it with you.

“A young salesman was leaving the tractor dealership one evening when he found the manager standing in front of a paper shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. The boss was looking confused. ‘Listen, everyone else has left for the evening and this is important’, the manager said. ‘Can you make this thing work?’ ‘Certainly’, said the salesman, who was a little too eager to please. He turned on the massive machine, inserted the paper and pressed the start button. ‘Excellent,’ said the manager as the paper disappeared into the machine. ‘I just need one copy’.

So, my advice to you is....know the difference between a paper copier and a paper shredder!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS		OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	
Denton Hopkins	3	Marissa Scadden	4
Beth Albrecht	12	Denise Ory	6
Peggy Eichner	14	Midge Grisso	7
Anne Berg	15	Michael Ory	13
Chelsey Algreen	18	Frederick W. Martens	15
Cindy Koch	21	Diane Cross	16
Janice Hartz	23	Joseph Ory	18
Yvonne Ory	23	Nathan Berg	19
Brenda Clifton	25	William Jensen	25
Benjamin Koch	29	Jean Howell	26
		Marvin Scadden	26
		Kevin Holcombe	31
		Linda Marquardt	31
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES		OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Wm. D. & Lorraine Martens	7	Daniel & Carla Porter	2
Wayne & Becky Kinney	14	Darrell & Joyce Jamison	11
Jim & Margaret Koch	15	Lawrence & Marguerite Lienemann	23

Another “borrowed” piece.

Shortly after his wife’s funeral service was over, a little old man stood beside her grave with his pastor. As he reflected on his life with her, there was a tremendous bolt of lightning, followed by a massive clap of thunder and even more rumbling in the distance. The old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, “Well, she’s there”.

A few things that happened during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2011 included Pastor Schmidt’s installation on July 24<sup>th</sup> and our voters assembly meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that Lucas Radke, son of Greg and Kellie Radke was baptized on May 29, 2011. Ashlee Glienke was confirmed at Trinity on May 29, 2011. Transfers in to Trinity included Kyle Glienke and Jon, Micah and Joe Dallman.

A word of “thanks” was extended to the Call Committee for their diligent work this past year. We feel God granted us patience as He had a special candidate in mind all the time and that special person was Pastor Schmidt.

A question was asked whether we could move some of the money from the memorial account to the cemetery account. Business included sending \$2,000.00 interest money from the Endowment fund to Gary Thies at Mission Central.

It is time to consider serving as an officer at Trinity. Our Nominating Committee is Jim Koch, Merlyn Hartz and Chuck Smith. Please give it prayerful consideration if anyone from the committee asks you to serve.

Our next Voters meeting will be October 26, 2011.

As we get closer to the fall and winter, please keep handy this list of Elders. The weather this year has been rather sporadic. In the event services need to be cancelled, it will be shown on WHO-TV, KCCI-TV or WOI-TV.

Our Elders are:

Ted Albrecht – 996-2650

Robert Radke – 996-9067

Warren Brott – 996-9967

Gary Smith – 996-2718

Kevin Holcombe – 758-2940

Jon Tyler – 996-2966