

## God at Work through the Word

*"The seed sows and grows...first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head" Mark 4:27-28*

*The seeds contain enormous power. Sown into the ground, these little "workers" take off their jackets and get busy. New plants emerge and mature.*

*People can prepare the soil, fertilize it, irrigate, and sow the seeds. But that is all they can do. They cannot put the germinating power into the seed itself.*

*That is the way it is with the Word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christians we proclaim it in our neighborhoods and to the world at large. We*

*prepare ourselves, speak words people can understand, use the media at our disposal, and the like.*

*But there is a limit to what we can do. When it comes to producing results in people - - creating the saving, heart-changing faith - - we can do nothing at*

*all. "No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him" (Psalm 49:7) We are powerless to redeem another from sin, and we are powerless to*

*implant the faith that brings such redemption. God the Holy Spirit does it all through the Word and the Sacraments. The Gospel has wonderful power "for the*

*salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). It creates new life in Christ, sustains the growing faith, and causes it to bear fruit in the believer.*

*The Word is effective because it transmits divine power - - the power of God the Father, who made us; the power of God the Son, who redeemed us; the*

*power of God the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith. The triune God effects our salvation.*

*Pray that God may preserve and prosper you in your faith in Jesus.*

## **THIS 'N' THAT:**

- 1) 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans are in high gear. Everyone is working hard to make this a “celebration to remember”! The week of August 29<sup>th</sup> is church property and church parsonage clean-up week. We ask everyone capable of doing any type of work, please sign up and work one of the days. Much outside work is needed to “spruce up” the church grounds, i.e., weeding flowers around the house, cleaning up the cemetery, trimming limbs, etc. Any one of the Trustees (David Johnson, Chuck Smith, Chris Jamison) can let you know what needs to be done. Just ask one of them. Also, cleaning projects within the church itself needs to be done. A sign-up sheet in the entry indicates many tasks. The kitchen and first-level bathroom will be used on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. These need to be thoroughly cleaned. Someone will be at the church each day the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> answer questions.**
- 2) The various committees are diligently working on the programs, meals, history book, memories, etc. Any one of them would welcome your help. Don't be afraid to volunteer! We plan to have a memorabilia table set up in the entry on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have older items pertaining to the history of Trinity, be sure and bring them. We ask that you mark each item with your name so nothing gets lost. Pictures, journals, etc. are needed.**
- 3) The float has been “retired”. MANY THANKS to all that helped with the various parades this past year. We started in October 2009 with the Covered Bridge Parade, the Raccoon River Parade, Freedom Fest Parade and ended in August 2010 with the Sweet Corn Festival Parade. Our float was well received at each of these events and attracted a lot of attention. Special thanks to Dale Golightly and Bill Jensen for the use of their tractor and pick-up in pulling the float. If any of the float committee members have bills to turn in, be sure and get them to our Treasurer, Jeff Koch, for reimbursement.**
- 4) We may be a little late with our church's website but have finally made connections to get it updated and plans are to keep it up-to-date on a regular basis. In the near future, we will have our Newsletter, church bulletin, pictures of our events, etc. on the website. Also, announcements in the event a service is cancelled due to inclement weather, etc. (OH, NO!).**
- 5) A history book for each family of Trinity is being printed. Extras will be available for purchase at a minimum charge. These should be available by September 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- 6) The Confirmation Reunion Committee sent out approximately 200 invitations for the September 11<sup>th</sup> Bar-B-Q and program. Invitations were not sent to our local members as we hope “word of mouth” was invitation enough. We are trying to keep postage expenses at a minimum. Also, please know that this is not just for the confirmand alone, but the families as well. Everyone is invited to have fellowship, a delicious meal and hear Christian music. It will be outside in the church yard. A tent, table and chairs will be set up for protection from the**

**weather, whether it be the sun or rain! The serving of the meal begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin at about 7:00 p.m.**

- 7) The Special Worship Service on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, will be at 10:00 a.m. as opposed to our regular 9:00 a.m. service. Rev. Justin Laughridge will present the morning's sermon. Following the service, there will be a short time before the catered noon meal is served. A continuous running DVD will be set up so members as well as visitors can view much of Trinity's history on film while they wait to be served. A baby grand piano will be set up in the front of the church and our organist has arranged for music to be played as you watch the film. Instrumental music will also be presented by some of our members and "word on the street" is that a piano/organ duet might be in the works. At any rate, it promises to be a very enjoyable morning. Again, the meal will be served outside.**
- 8) At 2:00 p.m., a Celebration Service will begin. Sue Heldt and her committee have been working diligently on putting together a special afternoon service. Following the service, a light reception of cookies and drinks will be served in the church's fellowship hall.**
- 9) If you know of former members or people from the community that would like to attend either day of our celebration but have no transportation, we ask you to invite them, offer to pick them up and bring them. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL THE ACTIVITIES! We want everyone to know that Trinity Lutheran at Van Meter is a vibrant church and we welcome everyone to come hear the Word of God as written in the Bible. We don't make up our own rules.....we stick to the Scriptures!**
- 10) CONFIRMATION STARTS: It is September and that means area schools have begun. September 15, 2010 begins the new year for confirmation classes. Pastor Melz will conduct the confirmation class for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.**
- 11) BARN PARTY! September 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for the annual Barn Party and dance. Plans are for it to be held at Stone Haven Barn on Highway 169 south of DeSoto. If this location does not work out, it will be held at Merlyn and Janice Hartz's home. The details will be forthcoming. Bring finger food to be shared with others.**

<b><i>SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS</i></b>		<b><i>OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS</i></b>	
Denton Hopkins	3	Marissa Scadden	4
Beth Albrecht	12	Denise Ory	6
Peggy Eichner	14	Midge Grisso	7
Anne Berg	15	Michael Ory	13
Chelsea 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
<b><i>SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES</i></b>		<b><i>OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES</i></b>	
Wm. D. and Lorraine Martens	7	Daniel and Carla Porter	2
Wayne and Becky Kinney	14	Darrell and Joyce Jamison	11
<b>Jim and Margaret Koch</b>	15	Lawrence and Marguerite Lienemann	23

### **Isaiah 65:24**

This is a story written by a doctor who worked in Africa.

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator).

We also had no special feeding facilities.

Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool the baby would be wrapped in.

Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress, to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates).

“And it is our last hot water bottle!”, she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles.

They do not grow on trees and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

“All right”, I said. “put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm”.

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During prayer time, one ten-year old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please, God", she prayed, "send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon."

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, "And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say "Amen?". I just did not believe that God could do this.

Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home.

Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator!

Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there on the verandah was a large 22-pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored.....Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend.

Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the .....could it really be?

I grasped it and pulled it out. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried.

I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could.

Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!"

Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted!

Looking up at me, she asked, "Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

'Of course', I replied!

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday School class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator.

And, one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child – five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year old to bring it 'that afternoon'.

**'Before they call, I will answer.'** (Isaiah 65:24)

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. There is no cost, but a lot of rewards. Let's continue praying for one another.

### **Some Christian Humor:**

Pastor Jordan, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave for part of the service. After church, Pastor asked the man where he had gone. "To get a haircut", the guy said.

"But," asked Pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman replied, "I didn't need one then."

---

During a visit with a friend at an assisted living center, we were invited to stay for lunch. As we entered the cafeteria, our friend leaned toward us and whispered, "They have two lines here. We call them cane and able."

---

As an assistant high-school track coach, I recorded the results of each home meet and made copies for all the coaches. Because our track shed did not have electricity, I had to use carbon paper. A freshman team member offered to help, and I showed her how to place the carbon paper shiny side down so that the image would transfer to the sheet beneath it.

"What will they think of next?" she said in astonishment. "Pretty soon we won't need copy machines anymore."