



TRINITY TIDINGS

A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Athens, WI

Happy Easter! Christ has Risen!

When I looked at the weather forecast for the week on Monday... they were predicting another Northern Wisconsin Spring to remember! On Monday, snow was being forecast for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday! Now, Tuesday, we're down to just an inch of snow on Saturday. Thankfully, what goes on outside cannot diminish the importance and joy of what we celebrate on the inside. No amount of snow can take away our desire to gather together of Good Friday to thank Jesus as we remember his death on the cross for our sins. No amount of snow can diminish our desire to shout, "Christ is Risen!" at 6:00 a.m. on Easter morning! Let nothing stand in the way of our need to praise Jesus for his life, death, and resurrection!

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! – Luke 24:5b-6a

This past Lent season has given us the opportunity to reflect again on our need for a savior, and how God the Father perfectly met that need in Jesus. Easter celebrates the perfect victory that God promised His Son would win for us 6000 years ago. Now, 2000 years after Jesus accomplished this victory we add our voices of thanksgiving for the victory that is now ours:

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 15:57

Traditional Easter celebrations use objects like:

Easter Lilies - trumpets celebrating Jesus' resurrection

Easter eggs – New life coming from the "tomb"

Butterflies – The caterpillar transformed into the new life of a butterfly

As residents of Northern Wisconsin, we have one thing to add to the celebration of Easter: snow. As we heard on Palm Sunday, a snow crystal may be small, but when billions of them fall – they join together to cover the ugliness of this world with a blanket of white that makes it pure and beautiful. So, also with each of us, even though we have been made "ugly" by our own sins – have been covered in the purity and righteousness of Jesus Christ – our Savior, Victor, and Friend!

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. – Isaiah 1:18

Let it snow! it only helps us share the message of Easter with joy and gladness! Amen!

May God bless you and your family as you gather to celebrate the endless joy of Easter!

Pastor Mark & Kaye

Our Mission:

To Know Christ...
and make Him known.

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

With Holy Communion
every 1st & 3rd weekend

Bible Study

Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday 10:00am @

Athenian Living

Wednesday 6:00pm

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Trinity Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Mark Schwalenberg
Pastor

Dean Frick
Principal / 7th & 8th Grades

Karen Trench
Teacher / 4th, 5th & 6th Grades

Becky Van Rixel
Teacher. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grades

Deb Frick
Teacher / 3K, 4K & Kindergarten

Judy Weise
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski
School Cook

Mark Schroeder
Sarah Lemmer
Organists

Courtney Hartwig
Child Care Administrator

Debbie Balz, Julie Erickson,
Sharon Myszka,
Elizabeth Gomez
Child Care Teachers

Trinity Elders

Chris Czech – 715-257-1417
John Punke – 715-680-6668
Kevin Kottke – 715-257-9971
Kin Punke – 715-257-9312
Dwight Tolk – 715-581-8090
Robert Riemer – 715-257-7312

*A congregation of the
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

www.trinityathens.net

Principal's Message

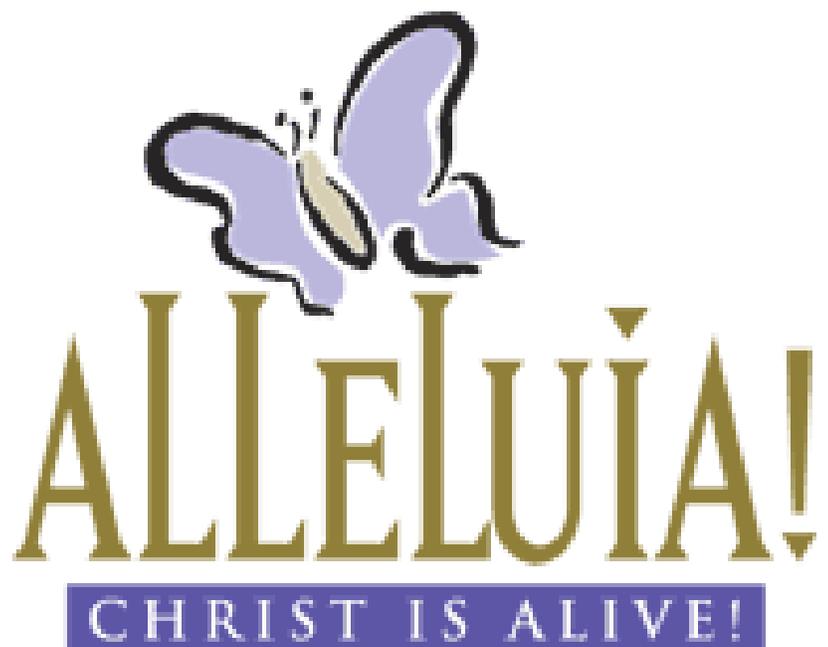
It's hard to believe we are in the last quarter of the school year. Easter is passed, and now we have two months to wrap up the 2017-18 school year. It may seem much longer than that with the weather we have had to end March and begin April. All spring activities will be on hold for a while.

The "beautiful" blanket of white snow (others may have a different opinion) reminds us of the fact that our sins are washed clean because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Personally, I would like to skip the "brown" time between snow melt and everything turning green in the spring. Just like Jesus' suffering and death could not be skipped, each spring we must wait for the flowers and green plants to appear after the snow. Without His suffering and death, there could be no resurrection. We must endure the bad with the good.

Just as we are sure that spring will eventually come and things will green up again, we can be sure that our sins are forgiven through Christ's death and resurrection. Spring is a time of new life and we can be confident that one day He is coming back to take us *home* to our new life in heaven.



Mr. Dean Frick, Principal



Church News & Events

Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML met on March 14 at Athenian Living Center. Pastor Mark led the Bible Study entitled "Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People". Mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and Peace Campus Center were gathered. Spring Rally will be April 28 at Trinity in Spence r. Registration will begin at 9 AM. Ingathering will go to House of Mercy in Loyal. Confirmation banners were discussed. New kettles and pans have been purchased for the church kitchen.

Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary



March Memorials

Thank you for your gifts!

In Loving Memory of Elmer & Margaret Nimmerguth, gifts were given to Trinity Lutheran School by Bob & Shirley Huebner, and toward Trinity's Debt Fund by Don & Marlene Westfall.

In Honor of Esther Mueller's 95th Birthday, a gift was given to the General Fund by Clark & Bonnie Callahan.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Planning Meeting

Mark your calendar – April 25th at 7:00pm. Your help and ideas are needed! Trinity has offered the only Vacation Bible School to the community of Athens for many years. In keeping with our mission of "Knowing Christ personally and making Him Known", we need to continue this tradition.

In the past we have brought Jesus to over 80 children each year through Vacation Bible School. ***How can you help make that a reality again this summer?***

Prayerfully consider how you can help with planning, music, snacks or advertising. We are in need of a craft leader, teachers, group leaders, aides. Perhaps you can't actually help during the week of VBS, but you can help with planning. Whatever your ability – ***we need you!***

Please join us on April 25th at 7:00pm to make Vacation Bible School extra special here in Athens.

2018 VBS ~ "Splash Canyon!"

Based on -

"God's Promises on Life's Wild Ride!"

July 16 – 19, 2018 9:00am – 11:30am

Official Acts & Monthly News

Baptisms, New Members, Births, Released, Weddings: none

Baptism: James Logan Boushon, son born to Grant Boushon and Phillicia David February 28, 2018, was baptized before our altar on Saturday, March 24, 2018.

Wedding: Mark Punke & Kristi Harder were united in marriage before our altar Friday afternoon, March 9, 2018.

Death: Leonard Stauske was called to his heavenly home Saturday, March 31st, 2018. His funeral will be held Thursday, April 8th, 2018.

Hospitalized: Cheryl Lenz, Joe Scheithauer, Leonard Stauske, Frank Tiffany

LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally

An invitation has been extended to all to attend the upcoming **LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally** hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer, on Saturday, April 28th, 2018. Trinity is located 3 blocks west of the stop light at the corner of Highway 13 and Clark Street. Registration and coffee will be from 9:00 – 9:30am. The registration cost of \$5.00 includes refreshments, luncheon, materials and speaker. The rally will begin in the church proper at 9:30am.

Speaker will be Judy Morrow, coordinator of the **House of Mercy** in Loyal. HoM is a shelter for homeless women and children. "Gifts of the Heart" include items needed at the shelter.

Anything donated would be appreciated!



Be sure to bring along your canceled postage stamps (leave 1/4" margin—no Christmas or flag stamps), General Mills Box Tops for Education, and used eye glasses.

Please bring a friend, former member, or other church ladies!

Come, and enjoy the day with new friends, and also old friends. *Thank you!*



Words to Ponder....
from Mark Jeske

There was a professor of religion in a secular college teaching a required class of about 35 students. Most all of the class members were there to get the credit required and they were bored, they looked bored. All except one student, a young man names Steve. He was a grade A student with an athletic build, even playing football as a freshman. He was handsome and well liked by his classmates. One day, after class, the professor asked Steve how he stayed in shape. Steve replied, "The best think I do is push-ups every day, two hundred of them." The professor was amazed and asked, "Could you do three hundred?" "I don't know", said Steve "I've never tried it."

After talking with him, the professor came up with an idea that he shared with Steve. The young Christian man willingly accepted his part of the plan for the last day of class for the semester.

The professor ordered donuts for that last day party. They were not regular donuts. They were beautiful donuts with filling and frosting swirls. When the class came in they were excited to see the treats.

The professor began the day by asking his first student, "Mary, would you like a donut?" She was happy to reply, "I sure would." The professor called on Steve and asked him to do ten push-ups so Mary could have a donut. Steve gladly did the push-ups and Mary took a beautiful donut.

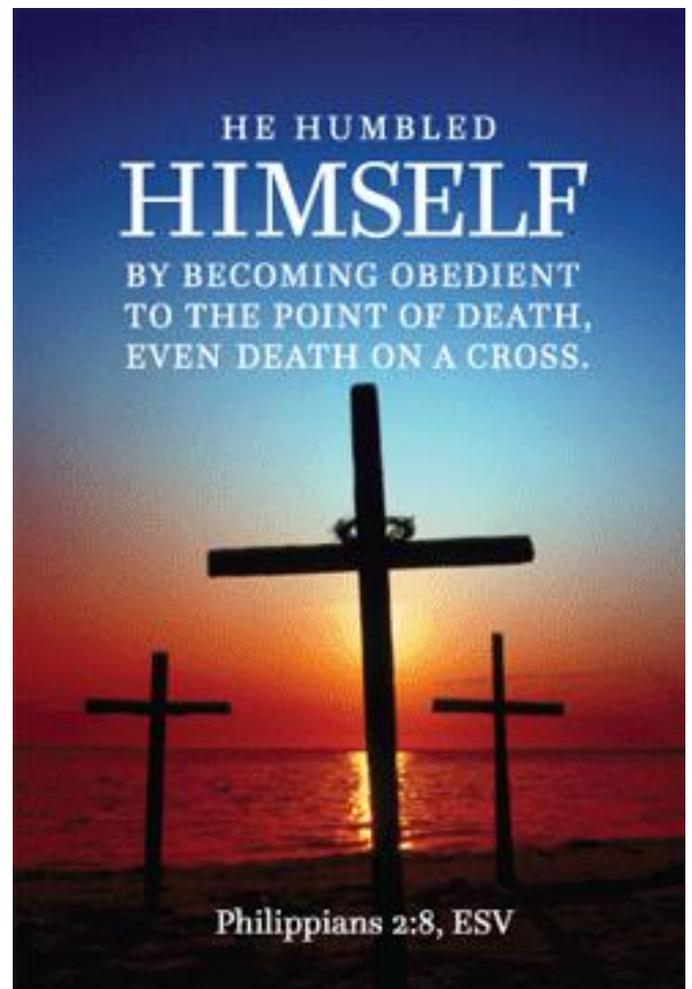
The other students were quiet as the professor offered a donut to each student and each received it after Steve first did ten push-ups.

As the hour passed by the remainder of the class who had not received a donut noticed that Steve was getting more tired with each donut given. Now the class was not quiet any longer. They begged the professor to stop but the donuts were given as Steve worked hard to do ten push-ups again and again. The roomful of angry students yelled, "Stop, the rest of us don't want a donut." But Steve worked his body tirelessly to finish so that all students received a donut. All 35 students were given the treat and Steve completed 350 push-ups that day.

The loud confusion in the classroom brought passers by to stop to see what on earth was going on! The class members shouted, "Don't come in, Steve's done enough!"

Before dismissal, the professor spoke to a quiet room of students. He said, "Your heavenly Father send His only Son to die for each of us, and on the way to pay for our sins, Jesus was spit upon, beat, mocked, and led like a sheep to the slaughter and finally was crucified. The Son of God went willingly so that each one of us who believe in Him would have eternal life. What Steve did willingly so that you could have a donut, cannot compare to what Jesus did willingly for you. It cost Him His life to take your sins upon Himself so that heaven could be won for you.

Now we live in the joy of our salvation without marrying about whether I've done enough to pay for my sins. The greatest gift you'll ever receive has been given to you, a sinner, after forgiveness, so that each one who believes in Him will be save. **Share the joy!**



**He is
RISEN
INDEED!**

April Acolytes

<u>Easter Sunday, April 1</u>	6:00am
Cody Murkowski & Blake Hein	
<u>Easter Sunday, April 1</u>	9:00am
Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski	
<u>Easter Sunday, April 1</u>	10:30am
Celina Ellenbecker & Jacob VanDerLinden	
<u>Saturday, April 7</u>	7:00pm
Caden Decker & Cody Murkowski	
<u>Sunday, April 8</u>	9:00am
Ava Zettler & Andy Schaer	
<u>Saturday, April 14</u>	7:00pm
Emma Ford & Paige Westaby	
<u>Sunday, April 15</u>	9:00am
Anna Nowicki & Jenna Handschke	
<u>Saturday, April 21 (Prom)</u>	4:00pm
Siarra Hart & Addison Lavicka	
<u>Sunday, April 21</u>	9:00am
Kenesha Schug & Jacob VanDerLinden	
<u>Saturday, April 28</u>	7:00pm
Ava Zettler & Blake Hein	
<u>Sunday, April 29</u>	9:00am
Andy Schaer & Paige Westaby	



April Birthdays

- 1 - Perry Haehlke
- 2 - George Stauske
- 4 - Linda Murkowski
- 5 - Marcy Scheithauer, Virgel Weiler
- 6 - Lois Balz
- 8 - Helen Schreiber
- 9 - Ashley Kottke, Rachel Ostrander, Linda Westfall
- 10 - Kian Ellenbecker
- 11 - Adnay Luetschwager, Deb Sprotte
- 12 - Connor Lewandowski, Dominic Lewandowski
- 13 - Mary Miller, Michele Swanson
- 16 - Mark Mroczenski, Carmen Woiak
- 17 - Luke Sprotte, Derek Wheatley
- 18 - Glenn Belanger, David Frahm IV, Kasandra LeSieur, Easton Thom, Stacy VanDerLinden
- 19 - Cassie Call, Jenna Handschke
- 20 - Kim Kottke, Matthew Wassmann
- 23 - Patty Riske, Sheila Scheffler
- 24 - Gerald LeMay
- 25 - Tyler Brodziski
- 26 - Caden Frandsen, Donald Punke
- 28 - Rachel Gilles
- 29 - Bitsy Ewan, Natalie Salber
- 30 - Shannon Boesl, Russ Schneveis



April Baptism Birthdays

- 1 - Betty Baumgartner, Ed Schultz, Jr.,
- 2 - Suzanne Rudolph, Dan Schield
- 3 - Heidi Denzine, Larry Sprotte
- 6 - Parker Tischauser
- 7 - Norma Heier
- 8 - Denise Bunkelman, Esther Mueller, Wallace Walters
- 9 - Jeremy Hart, Kaylee Hardt
- 10 - David Nowacki, Carol Roesler
- 11 - Karen Guralski
- 12 - Brody Lipinski, Mary Schreiber, Tasha Stencil
- 13 - Jordyn Kralcik
- 15 - Rebecca Van Rixel
- 16 - Ryan Tolk, Marjean Zubke
- 17 - Gary Belanger, Ben Hartwig
- 20 - Shirley Denzin, Perry Haehlke, Judy Weiler, Evan Thurs
- 21 - Joe Kepner
- 23 - Ava Ford, Andrew Schaer, Brooklyn Westfall
- 24 - Taylor Albrecht, Archie Becker, Ty Bunkelman, Linda Murkowski
- 25 - Joel Mroczenski, George Stauske
- 26 - Gage Punke
- 27 - Sandy Koeller
- 28 - Allison Halvorsen
- 29 - Lois Balz, Mike Dahl
- 30 - Connor Lewandowski, Ava Zettler, Dominic Lewandowski, Daniel Trimner, Donna Houlihan



<i>Mike & Nancy Pecher</i>	<i>04/01/1978</i>
<i>Ed & Donna Sandle</i>	<i>04/02/1988</i>
<i>Tim & Jamie Diethelm</i>	<i>04/04/2008</i>
<i>Adam & Vicki Halopka</i>	<i>04/05/1997</i>
<i>Ken & Kathy Brice</i>	<i>04/06/1968</i>
<i>Don & Cindy Hardt</i>	<i>04/07/1993</i>
<i>Brian & Kandi Lavicka</i>	<i>04/08/1995</i>
<i>Glen & Lynn Luetschwager</i>	<i>04/08/1978</i>
<i>Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker</i>	<i>04/09/1965</i>
<i>Wallace & Lorna Walters</i>	<i>04/11/1970</i>
<i>Ryan & Karen Ellenbecker</i>	<i>04/13/1996</i>
<i>Derek & Michelle Urmanski</i>	<i>04/13/2013</i>
<i>Gerald & Linda Murkowski</i>	<i>04/19/1975</i>
<i>Jeramie & Katrina Penney</i>	<i>04/21/2000</i>
<i>Don & Marlene Westfall</i>	<i>04/24/1965</i>
<i>Larry & Ronda Frane</i>	<i>04/26/1986</i>
<i>Tom & Tanya Schaer</i>	<i>04/28/2001</i>

Youth News

Crusaders for Christ 5th & 6th grade Youth Group



Crusaders for Christ met for their monthly meeting on Sunday, March 11th. Meeting opened by youth reciting the Crusader Pledge.

Judy opened the meeting with prayer and devotion about *Being Nice!* Secretary Minutes were ready. Financial report noted \$256.65 is the balance in the savings account at the Athens Area Credit Union. There was no Scrapbooker report.

Old Business – none

New Business – Matt Maher Concert will be Sunday, March 25th. We will be leaving Trinity at 4:00pm to go for pizza before the Concert. Our Lock-In will be Wednesday, March 28th, 7:00pm – 7:00am. Our special guest, Ellen Czech, will join us to continue marking our Bibles, then Minute-to-Win It games and activities will be played up until midnight pizza. After that it will be movie time! We will be making Easter give-a-ways throughout the night to give out Easter morning. We will be volunteering at New Life Pet Adoption Center Wednesday, April 18th. Cancer Walk at the Athens High School will be Friday, June 1th, 7:00pm – 7:00 Saturday morning.

Closed the meeting reciting the Crusader Pledge, and going around the room saying what's on our hearts. Next meeting will be Sunday, April 8th, 6:30pm.



A HUGE Thank you!!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Lenten meals!

Thanks to Thrivent, youth made a significant profit (not yet determined) which will be used for expenses for the Mission Trip to Red Lake, MN in June.



Twenty youth and two chaperones will be going on the trip – Makenna Anderson, Gracie Balz, Sammie Daniel, Andrew Frick, Tori Halopka, Gary Peel, Javon Penny, Kierra Penney, Shayla Schreiner, Mitchell Schreiner, Alex Thompson, Abby Van Rixel, Elizabeth Van Rixel, Heidi Verpoorten, Anna Wheatley, Kristen Wickman, Matt Wiebe, Mariah Zinkowich, Daniel Zoromski, Michael Zoromski, Judy Weise, and Mike Verpoorten.

Youth and chaperones meet the 3rd Sunday of each month leading up to the Mission Trip for Bible study, and to build relationships in preparation for the trip.

**Thank you for the support,
From our Mission Trip families!**



Easter Morning Breakfast

Thank You from Team Trinity Youth, who hosted the **Easter Morning Breakfast** served after our 6:00am Sunrise Worship Service April 1st!



Proceeds from the Breakfast will help with expenses for flowers on Mother's Day. Thanks again!

Council Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Guralski, and opened with prayer.

Officers

President – Rick Guralski (P)
Vice President – Neil Marthaler (A)
Secretary – Tanya Schaer (A)
Admin Assistant – Judy Weise (A)
Principal – Dean Frick (A)
Rev. Mark Schwalenberg (A)

Board of Elders - Present
Board of Christian Education - Absent
Board of Trustees - Absent
Board of Stewardship - Present
Youth Coordinator – Renell Wassmann (P)

Secretary Report: Renell made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Total income for February was \$35,387; total expenses were \$43,092, resulting in a net loss of \$7,705. Line of credit balance was \$9,365; Organ Fund was \$675; Major Building Repair Fund was \$17,634; Church Basement Fund was \$2,757. The balance in the checking account was \$14. Endowment Fund at Thrivent was \$103,087; Brokerage Account at Scott Trade was \$16,352; Special Interest Fund at LCEF was \$304. Motion made by Renell to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

Board of Elders: The Holy Week plans have been discussed and planned out. The Seder supper meal and service has been planned with a potluck to start the service.

Board of Christian Education: Chrome books and charging station have been purchased with FOCE funds. Staff computers are part of phase three of the technology upgrade and will happen over the summer. Long term goal is to hire a part time IT person and possibly share this with another school/church. Tuition will not increase this year. AED training has been completed with title money to offset the cost. 3K open house had 6 kids attend and 4 already registered for next year. 4K had two or three kids come for open house.

Principal's Report: None-see Board of Ed report.

Board of Trustees: 4 boxes of LED bulbs have been purchased for \$353 and they are getting the rest of the parts to switch over the 4-6 classroom. Adam is getting parts to repair the leaky faucet in the 7/8 room. The gym door/ramp lighting issues has been checked. They are planning on adding shaft collar or clamps to fix broken lunch table issues.

Board of Stewardship: The board discussed the sign up sheet similar to time and talents so people can sign up for things they would like to do. They are planning a community event related to financial planning. The craft show for November date will need to be changed to accommodate a wedding. The board is considering using the funds to help replace counters in the kitchen.

Youth: Team Trinity went bowling. They will be doing Easter breakfast and put funds toward Mother's Day flowers. They are planning a bingo day at The Athenian. They are planning a day for laser tag. Bible bowl has 6 kids signed up and will break into teams of boys and girls. Crusaders lock in will be March 28th and will be making Easter giveaways. April 18th they will volunteer at new life adoption in Marathon. Matt Maher concert is March 25th. The group continues to mark their Bibles. Mission trip kids are going to start making pizzas on the 25th as well. Mission trip kids are working on Lenten meals.

Pastor: None

Old Business: Strategies to build congregation pride were discussed, including coming up with a mascot for our congregation.

New Business: The basement/youth center project and lighting issues were discussed.

Motion made by Wendy and seconded by Rennell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanya Schaer, Secretary

PTL Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2017

President Randalyn Ellenbecker called the meeting to order. Dean Frick opened with prayer.

Committee and Officer's Report

The **secretary's report** was presented in the monthly bulletin and in the green sheet. The minutes were approved with no corrections after a motion by Laura Ford was made and seconded by Tanya Ellenbecker, all were in favor, motion carried.

The **treasurer's report** indicated an actual balance in the checking account as of 3/11/18 of \$5,192.76. The expenses paid out were \$1,930.00. The revenues were \$2,453.05. A motion was made by Deb Frick to donate the \$100 missions to Jena Zinkowich and Olivia Punke. The motion was seconded by Laura Ford, all were in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Tanya Ellenbecker to accept the treasurers' report, a second by Tasha Stencil, all were in favor, motion passes.

Principal's report – Lutheran Schools Week was a success. Students will be using the Chrome books soon. The 3rd – 8th graders have MAPP testing coming up and the 1st – 8th graders have IOWA testing soon.

Old Business –

- a. Seroogy's update – Money is due on March 12th. Most of the boxes of candy are sold.
- b. Update on charging cart – It has arrived at the school.
- c. Lutheran Schools Week recap – The kids enjoyed all activities.

New Business –

- a. Thank you letter from Fisher Transportation – read to the group
- b. Thank you/receipt from missions donation – read to the group
- c. Donation to Trinity's new AED? – A motion was made to donate \$500 towards the AED by Tanya E, second by Laura Ford, all were in favor, motion passes.
- d. Other - Randalyn suggested that the PTL do small things for the kids/parents during the school. Please brainstorm idea for the next meeting. Example would be Muffins and Moms or Donuts and Dads. Open to all ideas!

Tasha Stencil made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Laura Ford seconded, motion carried.

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 8, 2018

Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted by Tabitha Hartwig, Secretary

9 parents, 4 teachers