



TRINITY TIDINGS

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

Pastor's Corner

*I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
 Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.
 Danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand;
 Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.*



Our Mission:

Knowing Christ personally...
 and making Him known.

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 7:00pm
 Thursday 7:00pm

(The Summer Schedule will begin
 Thursday, May 24th, and go
 through Labor Day – there will be no
 Saturday evening Worship)

Sunday 9:00am

With Holy Communion
 every 1st & 3rd weekend

Church Phone: 715-257-7526

School Phone: 715-257-7559

This past weekend we talked about the possibility of life on other planets and Jesus' statement in John 10:16a - "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also." Regrettably, these words of Jesus are not sufficient to answer the question, "Are we alone the Universe?" Admittedly, the possibility that there is alien life somewhere out there in the Universe is both intriguing and frightening.

Truth be told, there is alien life in the Universe – all of us! The writer to the Hebrews explains it this way:

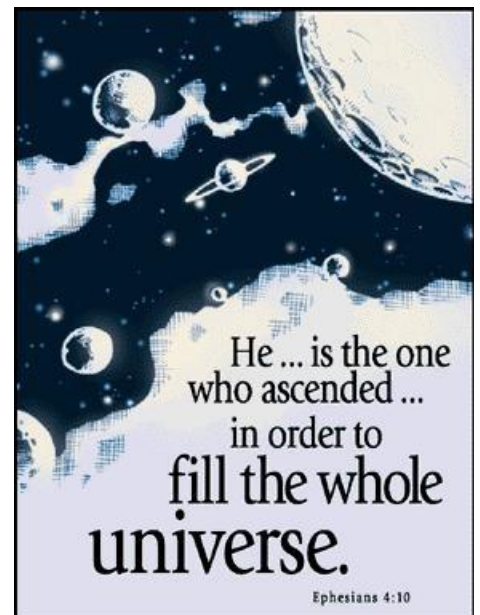
All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. – Hebrews 11:13

The writer is referring to all the saints who have walked the earth before us. However, these words also apply to you and me – because, by God's grace we are also numbered among the saints - we are also aliens in this world. Our real home is heaven – just like the song says above.

The presence, activity, and burden of sin (which has corrupted this world) is what changed the Earth from our home to an alien planet. Originally, we were created to live on the Earth forever! Sin changed all of that. That's why God had to send Jesus. Jesus conquered sin, death, and Satan. Through his victory on the cross, he has won for you and me a perfect, eternal home in heaven!

So, for now... fellow aliens, be patient. Some day we may find life on other planets... if now, that's okay, for we shall have eternal life in heaven with Jesus. It just doesn't get any better than that!

In Christ,
 Pastor Mark



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Trinity Lutheran Church & School

Mark Schwalenberg
Pastor

Dean Frick
Principal / 7th & 8th Grade

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

Becky Van Rixel
Teacher / 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade

Deb Frick
Teacher / 3K, 4K & Kindergarten

Sharon Myszka
3K Aide

Judy Weise
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski
School Cook

Mark Schroeder
Sarah Lemmer
Organists

Courtney Hartwig
Child Care Director

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

Ken Punke – 715-257-9312

Dwight Tolke – 715-581-8090

Robert Riemer – 715-257-7312

*A congregation of the
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

www.trinityathens.net

Principal's Message



Throughout this school year we have focused on our theme. ***“In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”***

During this year, students have conquered math, science, reading, English, social studies, and many other subjects. Students have conquered skinned knees, hurt feelings, and the pains of growing up. They have also learned that Jesus Christ has conquered sin, death, and the devil for them through His death and resurrection. Whether it is knowing that “Jesus loves me” for a preschooler or knowing that Jesus has “purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil” for a confirmation student, the students have all heard the good news of the Gospel. It is the Gospel that makes the difference in our school. It is the Gospel that comforts those who are dealing with the difficulties of this world. It is the Gospel that **“conquers” all things**.

Mr. Dean Frick



TRINITY'S LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

**** Friday, June 1st ****

Our end of the school year picnic will be on the last day of school at Erbach Park. Details for the picnic will be available soon. All families, grandparents and friends, are welcome!



Church / School News & Events



April
Memorials

Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML met on April 4th at Athenian Living. Bible Study "Struggling With the Influence of Technology" was led by Pastor Mark. "A Scary World" was read as mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and Orphan Grain Train were gathered. It was decided to close the Sunshine Fund and transfer the money to the LWML general fund to be distributed to our various mission projects. Confirmation banners will be completed by next week.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary



Confirmation – Sunday, May 6, 2018

Congratulations to the 7 young men and women being confirmed this month



Confirmation

Caden Riley Decker
Andrew Dean Frick
Siarra Marie Hart
Cody Steven Murkowski
Anna Rae Nowicki
Kenesha Joyce Schug
Elizabeth Kathleen Janet Van Rixel

Please keep these young men and women in your prayers as they begin their next journey of faith.



Happy Mother's Day!



In loving memory of Rusty Balz, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and to Trinity Child Care by Harvey & Donna Blaubach, Arnie & Carol Steidinger, and Neil & Karen Bergmann.

In loving memory of Leonard Stauske, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and Altar Guild by Neil & Karen Bergmann, Dave & Kathy Kulas, Lenora Hamann, Arnie & Carol Steidinger, Bruce & Connie Radloff, and other family and friends.

In loving memory of James Kalepp, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Eugene and Doreen Weise.

Thank you for your gifts!

Official Acts & Monthly News

Birth: Ava Fay Lemmer, daughter born to Alex Lemmer & Shannon Boesel, born Thursday, April 19, 2018.

Baptism: Ava Fay Lemmer, baptized before our altar Sunday, April 29, 2018.

Death: Jean Burmeister was called to her heavenly home Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

New Members / Released / New Members: none

Hospitalized during April: Jessica Frandsen, Norma Heier, Esther Mueller, Harvey & Marjean Zubke

Recipe for a Family Pie

- 1 Handful of **FORGIVENESS**
- 1 Heaping cupful of **LOVE**
- 1 Full pound of **UNSELFISHNESS**

Mix all together smoothly. Then, with **COMPLETE FAITH** in the **PROMISES of GOD'S WORD**, add:

- 2 T. **WISDOM** (given by CHRIST)
- 1 t. **GOOD NATURE** to flavor

Sprinkle all with **THOUGHTFULNESS**

This makes a **WONDERFUL FAMILY PIE!**

2018 High School Graduates

Brett Albrecht	Kolton Niemann
Kevin Albrecht	Kierra Penney
Makenna Anderson	Brandon Seefeld
Selena Boneske	Dakota Venzke
Kaila Dunahee	Colten Weiler
Guyler Luther	Marshall Westfall

2018 Eighth Grade Graduates

Caden Decker	Anna Nowicki
Damien Haines	Kenesha Schug
Siarra Hart	Elizabeth Van Rixel
Cody Murkowski	



All graduates will be recognized during Sunday Morning Worship on Mother's Day, May 13th. They are to meet in the gathering area and process in together as a group.

Each graduate is receiving a questionnaire to complete, and these results will be shared with the congregation on the day they are being recognized.

These fine young men and women are entering a new phase of their lives. May they continue their walk with Christ ~~ as they pledged on the day of their Confirmation.

Nondiscriminatory Policy for Trinity Lutheran School

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, larger print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





Youth News

Crusaders for Christ 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group

Crusaders had their Lock-In Wednesday, March 28th, and lasting through Thursday morning. The night began with a trip to Wausau to see the faith-based movie *"I Can Only Imagine"*. Upon returning to Trinity youth formed teams and played various Minute-To-Win-It games, made the Easter give-a-ways, had 2:00am pizza, then moved to the tech lab to watch movies at 4:00am. It was a fun-filled night!

Crusaders volunteered at New Life Pet Adoption Center near Marathon on Wednesday, April 18th, then went to McDonald's for supper.

Youth will meet for their May meeting Wednesday, May 9th, from after school until 5:00pm. They will begin decorating Luminaries for the Cancer Walk at the Athens High School June 1st.

Team Trinity Youth Group

THANK YOU for your support
at the Easter Breakfast!

Through sponsorship from Thirvent, we made over \$380. Youth will be using some of the money to provide members with a special gift on Mother's Day.

Bible Bowl

Trinity had two teams in this challenging all day event April 7th – Elizabeth Van Rixel, Megan Nowak, Michael Franz, Andrew Frick, Anna Nowicki, and Celina Ellenbecker. Team questions were based on the Book of Genesis. *We're very proud of you all!*

2018 Mission Trip

Plans are wrapping up for the 2018 Mission Trip to the **Red Lake**, located in upper Minnesota. Youth going include – Makenna Anderson, Gracie Balz, Sam Daniels, Andrew Frick, Tori Halopka, Gary Peel, Javon Penney, Kierra Penney, Shayla Schreiner, Mitchell Schreiner, Alex Thompson, Heidi Verpoorten, Anna Wheatley, Kristen Wickman, Matt Wiebe, Mariah Zinkowich, Daniel Zoromski, and Michael Zoromski. Chaperones are – Judy Weise and Mike Verpoorten.

Thank you for all the support at our fundraisers!!!

2018 Cancer Walk – June 1st, 7:00pm

Please join us in raising money for the Aspirus Regional Cancer Center! We will begin the Walk at 7:00pm, at the Athens High School track area. New this year is a "Survivor Walk" at 7:15pm, where all Cancer Survivors are invited to kick-off the Cancer Walk by walking one time around the track as the everyone else follows them. Each Cancer Survivor will then be given a package with a Monarch butterfly enclosed to release, as a symbol of new beginnings. After that, everyone will enjoy fresh bread donated by Texas Roadhouse, with their famous Cinnamon butter!

Guests are welcome to stay and walk up until 10:00pm. Youth will stay overnight and try to have someone walking the track the entire night. The Walk will conclude at 7:00 Saturday morning. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Aspirus Cancer Center.

2018 Vacation Bible School

"Splash Canyon" is the theme for our 2018 Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held from **Monday, July 16 – Thursday, July 19**
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Registration forms for VBS will be available on the table to the left of the mailboxes. VBS is open to children 4 years old through 6th grade.

We are in need of volunteers to help! Teachers, Game Leaders, and Shepherds (leaders who take groups of children around the VBS program). Please let Kaye Schwalenberg know if you can help.

We are also in need of financial donations to help defray the cost of VBS. Our VBS is open to all children of our community!

Please invite your neighbors and friends!



May Acolytes

Saturday, May 5 7:00pm
Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka
Sunday, May 6 9:00am
Celina Ellenbecker & (open)
Saturday, May 12 7:00pm
Connor Lewandowski & Caden Decker
Sunday, May 13 9:00am
** Siarra Hart & Andrew Frick
Saturday, May 19 7:00pm
Emma Ford & Blake Hein
Sunday, May 20 9:00am
Anna Nowcki & Jacob VanDerLinden
Thursday, May 24 7:00pm
Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski
Sunday, May 27 9:00am
Anna Nowicki & Paige Westaby

** school children sing

May Birthdays

1 - Jake Denzine, Nancy Ellenbecker,
2 - Lonnie Becker
3 - Dylan Gruna, Marion Oldenhoff, Tanner Westfall
4 - Brett Albrecht, Kevin Albrecht, Vicki Halopka,
Sandy Martyn
5 - Brandon Barttelt, Jenny Lipinski
6 - Betty Bunkelman, Garrett Frahm, Keri Salber,
Jennifer Schmidt
7 - Rebecca David, Doug Riske, Lora Rudolph
8 - Bruce Wassmann
9 - Cheryl Eckert, Lynn Luetschwager
10 - Erwin Schoenrock, Jr.
11 - Kyle Kottke, Cody Murkowski, Nichole Natzke;
JaNae Schug
12 - Kooper Frane, Ken Gauerke
14 - Chaise Beilke, Brent Radloff, Sandy Schmidt
15 - Louetta Lavin, Nicole Tolk
16 - Tucker Westfall
18 - Mark Ewan, Jacob Riemer
19 - Karen Marcon
20 - Carley Lipinski
21 - Kevin Weise
22 - Elaine Mueller
24 - Sabrina Bunkelman, Sheila Lewandowski,
25 - Nathan Heller, Mindy Diedrich, Pastor Mark,
Sherri Tessmer, Renell Wassmann,
Linda Zettler
26 - Steve VanDerLinden
27 - Samuel Hartwig
28 - Gwen Becker, Dakota Venzke
30 - Mavis Nehrbass



May Baptism Birthdays

1 - Kim Kottke, Heidi Nowacki,
Sheila Scheffler, Kris Venzke
3 - Mark Mroczenski
4 - Karen Trench
5 - Patty Riske
7 - Joe Scheithauer, Linda Westfall
8 - Rachel Ostrander
9 - Matthew Wassmann
10 - Bryana & Phillicia David, Erwin Schoenrock, Jr.,
Derek Sprotte, Anna Wheatley, Owen
Hansen, Kian Ellenbecker
11 - Kim Kottke, Kelly Nowacki
12 - Rachel Gilles, Michele Swanson
13 - Abby Diethelm
14 - Jenna Handschke
15 - Jesse Call, Nancy Ellenbecker, Bitsy Ewan
16 - Keri Salber
17 - Tyler Brodziski
19 - Shannon Boesl
20 - Glenn Belanger
21 - Vicki Halopka
24 - Lynn Luetschwager
25 - Jake Denzine, Ken Gauerke, Pam Tessmer
Easton Punke
26 - Nichole Natzke
28 - Stevie Jean Schreiner
30 - Cody Murkowski
31 - Sandy Martyn, Sandy Schmidt



May Wedding Anniversaries

Billy & Logan Anderson - 4 years May 2nd
Dave & Sherri Tessmer - 27 years May 4th
Ryan & Jessica Frahm - 14 years May 8th
Randi & Stacey Thom - 9 years May 9th
Greg & Lisa Nowicki - 24 years May 14th
Kelly & Lois Bunkelman - 36 years May 15th
Glen & Cheryl Steen - 42 years May 15th
Kevin & Katie Murkowski - 5 years May 18th
Bob & Michelle Wheatley - 22 years May 18th
John & Carol Fritz - 11 years May 20th
Tim & Heather Krueger - 8 years May 22nd
Doug & Wendy Brodziski - 27 years May 25th
Al & Michelle Natzke - 39 years May 27th
Rick & Tammi Westfall - 18 years May 27th
Craig & Kim Heller - 25 years May 29th
Eugene & Doreen Weise - 66 years May 31st
Corey & Kelly Westfall - 21 years May 31st

Council Meeting – April 11, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Guralski. Pastor Mark opened with prayer.

Officers

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

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

Secretary Report: John Punke made a motion to accept the secretary report as printed in the bulletin, second by Dawn Mroczenki. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Total income for March was \$40,102; total expenses were \$40,120, resulting in a net loss of \$17. Line of credit balance was 7,383\$; Organ Fund was \$676; Major Building Repair Fund was \$12,515; Church Basement Fund was \$2,759. The balance in the checking account was \$95. Endowment Fund at Thrivent was \$102,583; Brokerage Account at Scott Trade was \$15,554; Special Interest Fund at LCEF was \$305. Our investments did not do as well this past quarter and are down since last quarter. Other expenses that were paid included the new phone system for \$5,225, light bulbs for \$453, and AED for \$1,598. \$500 was received from PTL for the AED. Motion made by Renell Wassmann to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Ken Punke. Motion carried.

Board of Elders: Two official acts: Baptism-James Logan Boushon; Funeral- Leonard Stauske. In the future we will not do Seder supper. July 29 will be the outdoor service at Riemer's pond. The Saturday April 28th the church service has been changed to 4:00 for Prom.

Board of Christian Education: The chrome books have been purchased and are now licensed and setup. PTL paid for the charging cart. Staff computers will be purchased with FOCE funds. One family is being sent to collections for outstanding tuition. Substitute pay is currently at \$85 per day. This is being reviewed and compared with other schools. The board has been discussing safety concerns with the building and has decided to provide key fobs to the 3K families. This allows the building to be locked more during the day. They are discussing a possibility of a future position for an IT staff member. Funds were received to cover purchase of an AED. Registration for next year will be May 9th.

Principal's Report: Dean Frick provided an update on School Choice funding. There is a good deal of work that would need to be put into making Trinity qualify for this. Dean reported that he will continue to work on determining more details on this process and weighing the pros and cons with the Board of Christian Education. Wisconsin has set aside money to help school's address school safety. Dean and board members are going to look into receiving funds to help with upgrades.

Board of Trustees: The members continue to work on converting lights to LED throughout the building one room at a time. The members will be helping run some new wires for phones/electric.

Board of Stewardship: The fall fest is still being planned, the date is still up in the air at this point. Part of the profits will be given to the fair stand for the purchase of upgraded technology to speed up efficiency with the stand. Time and Talent surveys were passed out to congregation members. The members are continuing to discuss offering the Dave Ramsey financial series. There will be a rally day/volunteer recognition event in September.

Youth: Crusaders had their lock in with 8 youth and two adults. They will be going to pet adoption center and hosting the cancer walk. Renell Wassmann made a motion to have a door collection, second by Dawn Mroczenski for the cancer walk on May 24 and May 27. Motion carried. Team Trinity is going to play bingo at Athenian living center this weekend. They are planning laser tag in May. Mission trip did the soup suppers and made \$3,304 profit. Bible Bowl is completed for this year. Sunday school sang on Palm Sunday. The Sunday school material is working out well.

Pastor: Pastor Mark thanked everyone for an awesome Easter. Pastor Mark is going to work with trustees on getting the new phone system installed. Pastor Mark and Kaye along with Dawn and Mark Mroczenski are going to go do missions with Paul Mroczenski. Pastor Mark discussed the benefits of working on finding a way to setup the Praise team permanently in front of church.

Old Business: Stage update; we are leaving upgrades to the stage up to the youth at this time. We will have Jean Balz present her ideas for the stage remodel. Rick suggested that we develop a committee to work on developing a team mascot. Members discussed. Pastor suggested a committee on evangelism and outreach. Motion made to form an ad hoc committee for evangelism and outreach by Dawn Mroczenski seconded by Linda Punke. Motion carried. Pastor Mark and Rick will work on recruiting people for this group.

New Business: VBS is scheduled and looking for helpers. The second proof for the picture directory has been reviewed. Voter's assembly is coming up the end of the month.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Schaer, Secretary