

August

2018

TRINITY TIDINGS

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

Pastor's Corner...

"Trust in the Lord with all you heart..."

I've mentioned a couple of times in sermons that I had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Indonesia to help with support efforts after the great tsunami of 2005. What I didn't really mention was my high level of anxiety going into this "Great Adventure."

Indonesia is roughly 93% Muslim. They do have a very small Christian population that is constitutionally recognized and protected. Knowing very little about Indonesian culture, this fact offered little comfort. As I prepared for the trip, I did a lot of research on how to be safe in "hostile" situations like this. I even consulted an ex-military friend who had experience in the Middle East. He offered me a lot of generally available information, but little personal experience.

Our role was very sensitive to the culture we were visiting. We would NOT be doing any "street corner evangelism." We were allowed to answer any direct questions that required an explanation of our faith. Our missionary / guide described our role as: "Picking rocks out of fields." An analogy which I know means a great deal to every one of you who grew up on a farm.

When I got there, I was pleasantly surprised. No protests. No threats. Lots of smiling faces. Granted, it didn't help that our hotel floor was not secure (anyone with basic climbing skills could have gotten onto our floor). Thankfully, this never happened. After a couple of days of teaching at my Muslim Middle school, I felt so welcome and comfortable I started walking the mile to and from the school by myself. No worries at all!

I even got to the point where I started talking pictures. What I eventually learned was that the people in that place were more interested in peace, recovery, and honoring their god. If anything, I was somewhat embarrassed over pre-judging the Muslim culture in this place.

I could have arrived at this discovery a lot quicker if I had relied more on my favorite Bible verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.* – Proverbs 3:5-6

These words offer important life advice to each and every one of us. They remind us that when we "Let go and let God" we will be blessed with a path in life that is easier to follow, one that is marked out for us by God, and one that is always the best for our lives no matter what situation we find ourselves in.

St. Paul connected this line of thinking to the basic truth of our salvation: *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* – Romans 8:21

Since God took care of our greatest need: forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation, should we not trust God for everything else in life? The short answer is: YES!

So... the next time you find yourself worried... filled with anxiety... uneasy about life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." And stand back... because you will receive help, comfort, and guidance like you never experienced before.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Our Mission:

To know Christ ...
and make Him known.

WORSHIP TIMES

Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

With Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Weekend

Church Phone: 715-257-7526

School Phone: 715-257-7559

Pastor Mark: 715-218-8814

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Trinity Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Mark Schwalenberg
Pastor

Dean Frick
Principal / Grades 7 - 8

Karen Trench
Grades 4 - 6

Becky Van Rixel
Grades 1 - 3

Deb Frick
Grades 3K, 4K & Kindergarten

Judy Weise
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski
School Cook

Mark Schroeder
Sarah Lemmer
Organists

Courtney Hartwig
Child Care Administrator

Trinity Elders

John Punke – 715-680-6668

Chris Czech – 715-257-1417

Kevin Kottke – 715-257-9971

Ken 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



Next month, school will begin with Joshua 1:9 serving as our theme. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be

dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". We will learn about "Strong and Courageous" people in the Bible and how God used them. We will also learn how God can use us as "Super Heroes" of faith. This verse can also serve as comfort for God's children in this sinful and sometimes scary world. We know that the Lord our God is with us wherever we go and will protect us. He is the true "Superhero" who will keep us in our faith and bring us safely to eternal life.

Since the world we live in is ever changing, we continue to take steps at Trinity Lutheran School to keep our students safe. In recent years we have installed cameras, installed electronic door security systems, and have gone through intruder training to protect our students. This Fall we will continue to make improvements to the procedures and physical aspects of our building. Thanks to the State of Wisconsin's School Safety Grant, we will be making our next round of improvements this fall. This grant will allow us to install a new set of doors to maintain school security even when activities such as funerals are occurring in church. We will also be installing a monitored panic alarm system which will notify law enforcement in case of emergency. Other items such as two-way radios will allow staff to communicate more efficiently during emergencies and drills.

As we make these changes to improve the safety of our school, we must all ways remember to put our ultimate trust in God. Although we are unable to prepare or plan for every type of situation that might come our way, we don't need to live in fear. We can "*be strong and courageous*" because "*the Lord our God is with us wherever we go.*"

Dean Frick,
Principal

SUPERHEROES

IN CHRIST

Church News & Events



June - July
Memorials

Confirmation

2018 - 19 Confirmation will start with a student and parent meeting with Pastor Mark on **Wednesday, September 5th at 6:00pm,** for ALL confirmation families.

The first Confirmation Class for the day school students will be September 4th, and the evening class will begin the following week, Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00pm. .

It's that Time Again!

It's hard to believe but it's August and that means ... you guessed it. Fair time!! Sign-up sheets are out, so please find a spot or two that suits your schedule. Sunday is always a challenge so please consider helping for a few hours on Sunday. It will be greatly appreciated! Donations of cucumbers, tomatoes and butter for the ham dinner are also needed.



Athens Fair

This year we'll try having a fixed list of pies to make it easier for our servers, computer system and pie lists. These pies can be made at home and brought to church: apple, blueberry, cherry, peach, rhubarb (no eggs) and blackberry. These pies **MUST** be made **AT CHURCH**: pecan, pumpkin, banana cream, coconut cream, lemon meringue, butterscotch, chocolate, peanut butter and raspberry cream cheese. Donations of ingredients for the church-made pies would be helpful as there are volunteers who are willing to make them at the church.

Thank you for all your help, whether you make pies at home, or donate ingredients for pie-making at church. Our pies are a big draw for fair-goers!!

Help is also needed for set-up of the stand on August 13th, and take down of the stand August 20th.

See you at the Fair!

Trinity LWML

Trinity LWML met on June 6th at Athenian Living. Pastor Mark led Bible study "Hold on to His Promises When Overloaded". Mite devotion "Coping Power" was read as mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and Altar Guild were gathered. Brat Fry will be sponsored on June 29th and July 27th. A donation was given to Kaye for mission walk at the convention.

Respectfully Submitted, Kaye Schwalenberg

In Loving Memory of Tucker Westfall, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Don & Marlene Westfall and Bruce & Renell Wassmann.

In Loving Memory of Orville Verpoorten, a gift was given to the General Fund by Bruce & Renell Wassmann.

In Loving Memory of Harvey Zubke, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise.

In Loving Memory of Joe Scheithauer, gifts were given to the Debt Fund by Lenora Hamann, Eugene & Doreen Weise, and other friends and family.

In Loving Memory of Ceora Sabatke, a gift was given toward school expenses by Ken & Karen Gauerke.

In Loving Memory of Gail Wendtland, a gift was given to the General fund by Bruce & Renell Wassmann.

Thank you for your gifts!

Official Acts & Monthly News

Baptisms/Transfers/Releases: none

New Members: Susan Miller transferred to Trinity from Blessed Savior Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Sarr Mary Graveen & Diane Marie Tolk were accepted by Adult Confirmation June 28, 2018.

Births: Jake & Amber Riemer were blessed by the birth of their son, Keenan Gregory Riemer, born Monday, June 4, 2018.

Andy & Talena Bliven were blessed by the birth of their daughter, Rhona Rae Bliven, born Friday, July 13th, 2018.

Wedding: Dwight Tolk & Diane Johnson were joined together as man and wife on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

Deaths: Tucker Westfall went home to heaven Saturday, June 2, 2018. His Celebration of Life was held at the Athens High school on Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Joseph E. Scheithauer was called home to heaven Sunday, June 17, 2018. His Celebration of Life was held here at Trinity on Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Harvey Edward Zubke went home to heaven Friday, July 13, 2018. His Celebration of Life was held here at Trinity on Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Hospitalized: Nancy Haehlke, Gene Miller, Marcy Scheithauer, Frank Tiffany



August Acolytes



<u>Thursday, August 2</u>	7:00pm
Aleah Frahm & Kyren Schug	
<u>Sunday, August 5</u>	9:00am
Andy Schaer & Malaina Telschow	
<u>Thursday, August 09</u>	7:00pm
Connor Lewandowski & Domonic Lewandowski	
<u>Sunday, August 12</u>	9:00am
Ava Zettler & Abby Diethelm	
<u>Wednesday, August 15</u>	7:00pm
Celina Ellenbecker & Blake Hein	
<u>Sunday, August 19</u>	9:00am
Addison Lavicka & Paige Westaby	
<u>Thursday, August 23</u>	7:00pm
Jenna Handschke & Aleah Frahm	
<u>Sunday, August 26</u>	9:00am
Emma Ford & Jacob VanDerLinden	
<u>Thursday, August 30</u>	7:00pm
Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski	

August Birthdays



- 1 - Kenesha Schug
- 2 - Austin LeMay, Jenny Passehl
- 3 - Emma Ford, Owen Kornack
- 4 - Aleah Frahm, Paul Hamann
- 5 - Stacey Thom
- 7 - Kelly Bunkelman, Kolton Niemann, Dan Punke, Kira Schoenrock
- 8 - Sally Schroeder
- 9 - Addison Lavicka, Nicole Rudolph
- 10 - Dina Kilinski, Sandy Marthaler
- 11 - Chase Ellenbecker, Heather Wisniewski, Jacki Gessler
- 12 - Caden Decker, Drew Haines
- 13 - Cherie Boneske, Wil Strack, Heather Westfall
- 14 - Jason Christopherson, Alexander Ellenbecker
- 15 - Brooke Boesl, Jordan Decker; Finley Myszka
- 16 - Charles Niemann, Kiera Weiler
- 17 - Savanna Frane, Sue Heckendorf
- 18 - Evan Haehlke, Kristin Heller, Katrina Penney, Glen Luetschwager, Florence Punke
- 19 - Nicholas Paul, Nancy Pecher, Giana Brubaker
- 20 - Tom Albrecht, Jr., William Paul
- 23 - Bobby Scheffler, Gail Wiese, LaVerne Freimund
- 24 - Elijah Schaer, Frank Tiffany
- 25 - Carter Meddaugh, Davis Zubke, Terrance Ford; Owen Punke
- 26 - Randalyn Ellenbecker, Elizabeth Van Rixel
- 27 - Elaine Brubaker, Bill Davis, Tina Hamann
- 28 - Veda Ellenbecker, Brandon Zinkowich
- 29 - Cole David, Randy Kuck, Jerome Sjostrom, Darlene Strack
- 30 - Kevin Denzine, Dawn Mroczenski, Mary Nowacki, Emily Passehl, Kaye Schwalenberg
- 31 - Diane Tolck, Karen Zubke

August Baptism Birthdays

- 1 - Shay Boesl, David Kulas, Sr., Jean Swenson
- 2 - Bernice Hopperdietzel
- 3 - Emily Czech
- 4 - Rick Westfall, Carmen Woiak
- 5 - Ryan Zettler
- 6 - Rob Heckendorf, JaNae Schug
- 7 - Dorothy Punke, Lane Tessmer
- 9 - Chris Czech
- 10 - Jason Kuck, Nathan Natzke, Joshua Van Rixel
- 11 - Brock Guralski, Tabitha Hartwig, Gunnar Tessmer
- 12 - Jon Bunkelman, Kevin Zubke
- 13 - Cherie Boneske, Jacob Brumbaugh, Aleah Frahm, Brent Schneveis, Courtney Schoenrock
- 15 - Taran Brodziski, Amber Rich, Brinly Stencil
- 16 - Louetta Lavin, Treyton Roesler
- 20 - Ryan Eckert; Tim Krueger; Kolton Niemann
- 21 - Tori Halopka
- 23 - Pat Woller
- 25 - Chelsee Tessmer,
- 26 - Sandy Marthaler
- 27 - Brittany Balz, Lisa Czech
- 28 - Nicole Rudolph, Sally Schroeder
- 29 - Eric Tischauser
- 30 - Grayson Kottke, Eldred Nehrbass, Giana Brubaker
- 31 - Elvera Kulas



August Wedding Anniversaries

- Brian & Kim Boesl – 26 years August 1st
***Edwin & Doreen Schulz, Jr. – 40 years August 5th**
 Dale & Rosalie Barkow – 58 years August 6th
 Kevin & Denise Bunkelman – 7 years August 6th
 Randy & Sheila Scheffler – 35 years August 6th
 David & Katlyn Frahm – 5 years August 10th
 David & Donna Houlihan – 5 years August 10th
 Joel & Kim Mroczenski – 2 years August 13th
 Adnay & Nancy Luetschwager – 41 years August 13th
 Chris & Sarah Lemmer, 34 years August 17th
 Matt & Many Natzke, 1 year August 17th
 Frank & Bev Tiffany – 64 years August 21st
 Kyle & Bridget Kottke – 4 years August 23rd
 Nathan & Lindsey Heier – 5 years August 24th
***Erwin & Kim Schoenrock, Jr. – 10 years August 24th**
 Tom & Lorene Mueller – 32 years August 30th

* Milestone Wedding Anniversaries will be celebrated with a special event in February, 2019.

Youth News

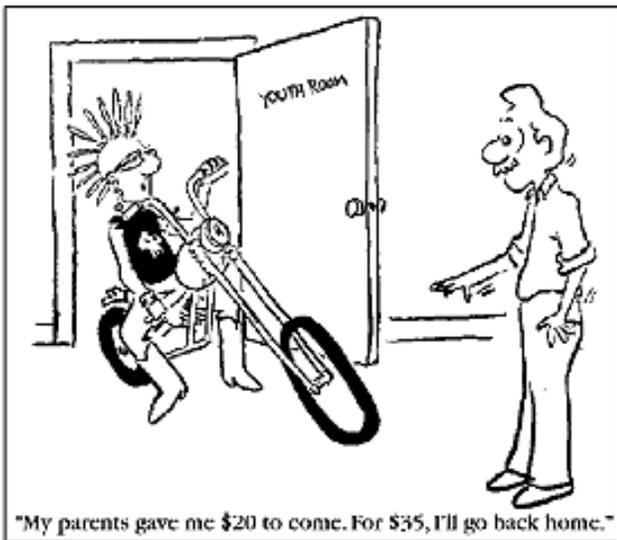
Crusaders for Christ 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group



The Crusaders for Christ Youth Group will kick-off the new school year by with their first meeting on Sunday, September 9th at 6:30pm.

All families with youth entering 5th and 6th grade will be receiving an informational letter about the Crusaders for Christ Youth Group. It's an exciting time for our youth, as they reach this age and begin joining together as a youth group.

Thank you to all the parents for supporting our group, and for encouraging your children to participate. Suggestions on how to make meetings better are always appreciated ☺



Sunday School Planning Meeting

Interested in helping with Sunday School? Join us for a planning meeting on Thursday, August 23rd, after the evening Worship Service.

We had a very successful year last year with Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10:20. Please give prayerful consideration to helping this year as a teacher, helper, or substitute. Contact Kaye Schwalenberg to volunteer, or join us for the planning meeting August 23rd ☺

Mission Trip 2018

What an amazing experience! It truly is a blessing to be able to serve ☺

Our travel was perfect, without any issues. We stayed in classrooms at a school in Red Lake, Minnesota. The theme for the week was “**Onward**”, about PERSPECTIVES – PASSIONS – POSSIBILITIES – PURSUITS. If you’ve ever wondered, “Why am I here?” or “Where am I headed?” If you’ve always stood in one place or ever strained for a better view. If you’ve felt strongly or cared deeply. If you’ve feared what’s next or dreamt of what could be. If, just once, you’ve felt the tug to be part of something more. If in uncertain times or quiet moments you’ve asked God, “What are you up to?” We heard more on this Mission Trip about “**Onward**”, as in Philippians 1:6, “*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*”

We were able to serve in the Red Lake, on the Ojibwa Indian Reservation, area by doing several different activities, some which included working at a rescue animal shelter, community garden, youth center, painting, etc.

Once again, we partnered with YouthWorks to make this trip possible. YouthWorks exists to connect teenagers to God, each other and communities through Christ-centered Mission Trips for over 30,000 students in 70 communities.

This was an unforgettable experience for all of us and we want to thank you for supporting our mission trips.

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Please inform the church office of your college address so we can keep in contact with you!

Other News & Events

Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project

Can you help fill a school kit for a needy child?

It's that time of year when we buy school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief school kit project. Last year generous contributions made it possible to fill many, many bags! Items needed include:

- 70 sheet spiral notebooks
- wide or college ruled (no loose-leaf paper),
- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- boxed crayons (16 or 24 count)
- 2 ½ erasers
- ruler (with inches and centimeters)
- black or blue ballpoint ink pens (no gel ink)
- blunt end scissors

Donations will be accepted until October 1st, and may be placed in the designated boxes in the Gathering Area. Thank you!



BACKPACK BLESSINGS

Thursday, August 30^h & Sunday, September 2nd

August is here! For many families that means school is just around the corner! Shopping for school supplies, books, and fall clothes becomes a part of everyone's schedule. Here at Trinity, the weekend noted above, we will celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year.

Students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks or lunch boxes to either worship service that weekend. These services will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year.

Teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers...come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work!

Join us for this celebration!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we give, & receive.



Hot Lunch Program

Trinity offers a daily hot lunch program to all students, staff and guests. Daily lunch prices for the 2017-18 school year will be \$2.50 for all grades; Adults \$3.20. One container of milk is provided with hot lunch. Extra milk is available, \$.35 per carton. We encourage all families to fill out the free and reduced application that was available on "Back to School Night". Families that meet Federal guidelines will be notified as they are approved. **If your family qualified for free or reduced lunches last year, your eligibility will continue 30 days into the new school year.** After that, your status will automatically go to a full paid account. Families may apply any time throughout the school year.

Upcoming School Date to Remember

Tuesday, August 28th –
Back to School Night
3:00pm – 7:30pm.

There are no scheduled times...
visit us anytime between
the hours noted above.

Thank you ☺

Council Meeting – June 13, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Guralski. Opened with prayer.

Officers

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

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

Secretary Report: Renell Wassmann made a motion to accept the secretary report as printed in the bulletin, second by Sara Paul. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Total income for May was \$48,991; total expenses were \$40,149, resulting in a net gain of \$8,842. Line of credit balance was \$4,298; Organ Fund was \$676; Major Building Repair Fund was \$13,983; Church Basement Fund was \$2,759. The balance in the checking account was \$2,637. Endowment Fund at Thrivent was \$102,583; Brokerage Account at Scott Trade was \$15,554; Special Interest Fund at LCEF was \$305. Motion made by John Punke to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Linda Punke. Motion carried.

Board of Elders: Official Acts-Motion made by John Punke and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to accept Susan Miller as a member. Motion carried. Funeral-Tucker Westfall.

Board of Christian Education: Phase 3 for FOCE money will be replacing staff computers. Outstanding tuition update-one family filed bankruptcy, one family signed up for auto payments and one family will be getting the final notice before sending to collections. Board members are looking at future positions that may be needed for our church and school. This is not for this coming school year. Sharon Myszka resigned from Child Care, she was also an aide in the 3K classroom. With Debbie Balz retirement two positions need to be replaced by fall.

Principal's Report: The new position we are considering would be an IT director position part-time and someone who could also assist with a 5th and 6th grade homeroom teacher part-time as well. This would be a full time position but split between teaching and IT needs for church and school. The goal is to keep the enrollment numbers up to help support this position. We are talking about this position now so that we can start to budget for this position for the following school year. Between now and fall the goal is to develop a job description for this potential position.

Board of Trustees: None present. The playground equipment is needing some repairs. Trustees placed numbers on the school doors as recommended after the safety survey complete previously. Dean Frick applied for \$20,000 grant to make some safety upgrades to the church and school.

Board of Stewardship: How do I want to serve God sheets have been recorded and documented. Pastor will mention summer giving over the next couple of weeks. Members discussed not shaking hands during cold and flu season. Also discussed having everyone stand for communion instead of kneel to help accommodate everyone. Discussed making more room in the front of the church for praise band and eliminating the stairs for communion. Craft fair date is set for the fall.

Pastor: Kaye reported that a rail is needed on the front the step at the parsonage. She provided prices and asked if this could be funded through the major building repair fund. John Punke made a motion to proceed with getting a railing installed on the stoop at the parsonage up to \$500. Members discussed. Renell Wassmann seconded. Motion carried.

Youth: Cancer walk raised \$2,043 to be donated to Aspirus. There is a Servants of Christ conference this summer at Concordia University and our youth are encouraged to attend.

Old Business: Member discussed the mission committee and the focus on getting ourselves known more in the community. Hopefully there will be a meeting this month to get the planning started on this committee.

New Business: Motion made by Ken Punke to do a door collection for Shyra Martyn, second by Kaye Schwalenberg. Motion carried. Judy reported that she got a note after church asking if we would consider doing Thursday night church all year long rather than just in the summer. People have also asked about having 4:00 services on Saturdays rather than 7:00. Members discussed. The elders will continue to discuss this over the summer and make a recommendation. Rick gave an update of the district convention. Service at the pond is the end of July. Voters assembly will be help the week before this. There will be no council meeting in July. Rick thanked everyone for the good year so far and all the members on the committees that are helping this congregation.

Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski and seconded by Linda Punke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanya Schaer, Secretary