

# January

## 2019

# TRINITY TIDINGS

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

**2019 is going to be a great year!**



Why? Because the last 3½ have been awesome! I'm going with the years, 2019 will be filled with the grace of God, the love of a great wife, the love of the great people of Trinity, and the joy of serving God in the wonderful community of Athens!

If this year is anything like the previous ones, here's what I expect:

4 Weddings – (I currently have five on my schedule)

5 Funerals – The saints of Trinity ascending to the glory of heaven!

15 Baptisms – I know this sounds high, but over the last 3.5 years I've performed 54 baptisms!

The BIG events for 2019 will be:

1. The movement of the communion rail to the floor level
2. The relocation of the sound and video equipment
3. A really cool midweek Lent series based on the artwork of the Sistine Chapel
4. A fun review of the Consecrated Stewards program during the weekends of Lent
5. Our 2019 Celebration of Easter (we had a total of 502 in worship on Easter in 2018!)
6. Air-conditioning the sanctuary (who would have imagined that?)
7. Kaye and Pastor volunteering at the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis
8. This year's VBS theme: "Athens!"
9. The Athens World's Fair!
10. Another great Friends of Christian Education Banquet
11. The celebration of Jesus' birth (last year's Christmas Eve / Christmas Day attendance was 645!)

One thing is obvious: Trinity Church and School is alive and filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!

Thanks for all that you do and will do in 2019! Please keep praying. Please keep on serving. Please keep up your faithful stewardship. We finished 2018 with less than \$10,000 in debt – Praise the Lord!

To God the glory!

Pastor Mark

To know Christ ...  
and make Him known.

### WORSHIP TIMES

Saturdays 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

With Holy Communion  
every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend

Church Phone 715-257-7526

School Phone 715-257-7559

Pastor Mark Schwalenberg  
715-218-8814

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# Trinity Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Mark Schwalenberg  
Pastor

Dean Frick  
Principal / 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Karen Trench  
Teacher / Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

Becky Van Rixel  
Teacher / Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Deb Frick  
Teacher / Kindergarten, 4K, 3K

Judy Weise  
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg  
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski  
School Cook

Mark Schroeder  
Sarah Lemmer  
Organists

Randalyn Ellenbecker  
Child Care Administrator

Debbie Balz, Elizabeth Gomez,  
Pam Mancl, Michele Meier  
Child Care Teachers

## Trinity Elders

John Punke – 715-680-6668

Kevin Kottke – 715-257-9971

Ken Punke – 715-257-9312

Dwight Tolk – 715-581-8090

Robert Riemer – 715.257-7312

Mark Mroczenski – 715-257-1485

*A congregation of the Lutheran  
Church—Missouri Synod*

[www.trinityathens.net](http://www.trinityathens.net)

## Principal's Message

I am really looking forward to this year. Many exciting things lie ahead for Trinity Lutheran School.



This year we will start our new 3D print club where students will learn to use our new 3D printer. We will also be hiring a new staff member. We will begin the search for a Technology Coordinator / 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the following school year this month. The addition of this position will allow us to improve and expand our technology for both the school and church. Other exciting changes are coming for the church as well. The moving of the communion rail will make it easier for people to approach for Holy Communion. A dedicated area for the praise band will save wear and tear on equipment as well as save hours of setting up and taking down each time. It will also remove the trip hazard for the congregation of cords. As summer approaches we should have the funding in place to install the air conditioning allowing for a more comfortable worship experience during the hot days of summer.

What else will 2019 bring for Trinity? It will be exciting to see the ways God will bless Trinity in 2019.

Welcome to 2019! May God bless you in the new year!

Dean Frick  
Principal



# Church News & Events

## Trinity LWML

Trinity LWML met December 5<sup>th</sup> for a Christmas gathering at Athenian Living. The January Afternoon LWML meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at Athenian Living, and the Evening LWML will meet Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm at the home of Louetta Lavin. Please join us!

## 2019 Offering Envelopes

As you begin to use your 2019 offering envelopes please keep in mind there are three categories to choose from when distributing your funds: Current, Missions & Major Building Fund.

Money given to current expenses are used for all church and school operating expenses, including utilities, classroom textbooks, salaries, and general maintenance of the church / school building.

Funds designated for major building fund will be ear-marked for any large building or maintenance project that may arise. There are also funds designated for the Air Conditioning Fund, Organ Fund, Basement Fund, Endowment Fund, etc. Mission funds are sent to the North Wisconsin District to be used for mission projects. If you have any questions, please give the office a call. Thank you.

## Official Acts & Monthly News

**Death:** Marjean Zubke was called to her heavenly home on Monday, December 17, 2018. Her funeral was held here at Trinity on Saturday, December 22, 2018.

## Weddings / Released / Baptisms /

**Confirmations:** none

**New Members:** Mike Balz

**Birth:** Kade Lee Petrie, son born to Brant & Angel Petrie on Saturday, December 8, 2018.

**Hospitalized:** Donnie Punke



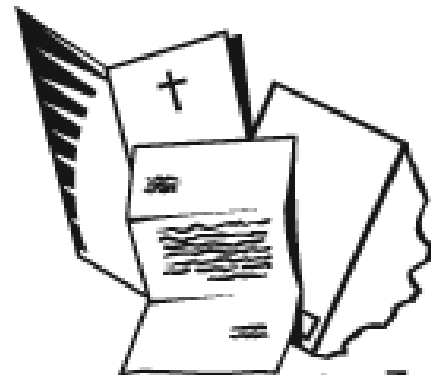
## December Memorials

**In loving memory** of Marjean Zubke, gifts were given to the Altar Guild, Debt Fund, and Air Conditioning Fund by Dennis & Nathalie Fladvid, Eugene & Doreen Weise, and Lenora Hamann.

**In loving memory** of Donna Maercklein, Karen Trench's mother, gifts were given to the Air Conditioning Fund by Doug & Patty Riske, Tony & Cheryl Eckert, Bill & Debbie Balz, and Luann Thurs.

**In loving memory** of Tamela Blake, gifts were given to the Debt Fund, Altar Guild, and Air Conditioning Fund by Ken & Karen Gauerke, Larry & Geri Natzke, Rick & Karen Guralski, Rick & Julie Kuck, Luann Thurs, Ken & Cheryl Zettler, Kevin & Karen Zubke, Ken & Linda Punke, Jerry & Linda Murkowski, Bonnie Thurs, and Al & Michelle Natzke.

*Thank you for your gifts!*



# Memorials & Gifts

## Young Investor Savers!

Remember to keep track of your volunteer hours / good grades as you can claim up to \$25 per year - \$1.00 per hour for volunteer hours. Anyone under the age of 18 is eligible to open an account which pays 3.5% up to \$1,000, and you need not be a Trinity member! It's also time for High School Seniors to apply for LCEF Scholarships. Please see D. Strack with any questions. Thank you!



# Community / Church Other News & Events

## Epiphany Tea, featuring After Dark Quartet

The 2019 Epiphany Celebration will be held at Christ United Church on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00pm with music, fellowship to follow.



We will be enlightened with music by After Dark Quartet, who have been performing vocal music in the Eau Claire area since 2001.

Their repertoire of songs include traditional barbershop standards, songs of the 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, gospel and patriotic.

This event is open to the community, any and all ages. Come join in for an afternoon of familiar toe-tapping music, laughter and fellowship.

January 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Quarterly Voter's Assembly

Voter's Assembly Meetings here at Trinity are held quarterly – after Sunday Morning Worship the last Sunday of the month of January, April, July, and October.

Please join us on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> for our next meeting. Thank you!

Join us ...

## Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)

Greetings from your fellow believers in the Gospel! The January meeting of LLL will be held at the Abbotsford Nursing Home on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a pot-blessed meal at 1:00pm. The meal will be followed by the topic and business meeting. Please bring a dish to share, the rest will be provided.

All are welcome to attend. The LLL is looking for new members!

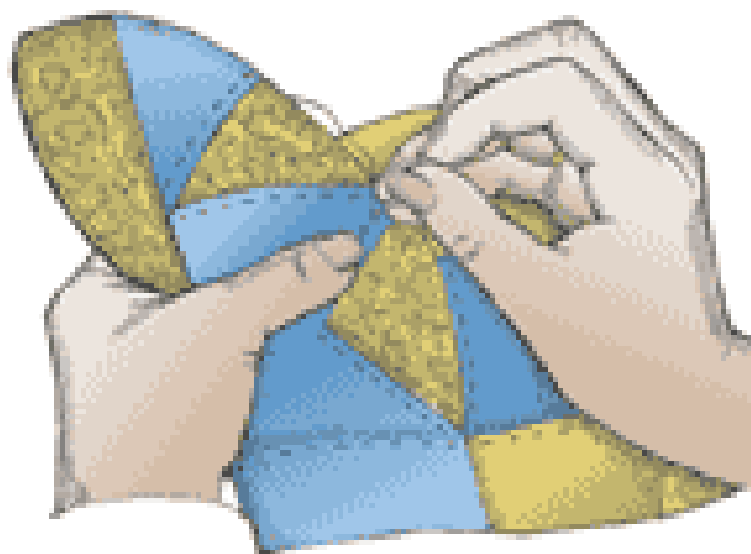
Questions? Please contact Wil and Darlene Strack at 715-257-7376.



## Trinity Quilting News

After not quilting for several months, Quilters will resume meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am – 12:00pm. New workers are needed... no talent is required, and the pay is outstanding, but in ways you might not expect.

Quilts will be made for the Hospice House in Wausau (twin size) – Orphan Grain Train (any size) – K. I. Sawyer (king and queen size). Quilters are always open to other ideas too!



# QUILTING GROUP

### January Acolytes

Saturday, January 5 4:00pm  
 Dominic Lewandowski & Connor Lewandowski  
Sunday, January 6 9:00am  
 Blake Hein & Andy Schaer  
Saturday, January 12 4:00pm  
 Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka  
Sunday, January 13 9:00am  
 Siarra Hart & Ava Zettler  
Saturday, January 19 4:00pm  
 Aleah Frahm & Kyren Schug  
Sunday, January 20 9:00am  
 Abby Diethelm & Malaina Telschow  
Saturday, January 26 4:00pm  
 Celina Ellenbecker & Ava Zettler  
Sunday, January 27 9:00 am  
 Paige Westaby & Blake Hein



### January Birthdays

2 - Kaila Dunahee, Jena Zinkowich  
 3 - Scott Roesler  
 4 - Kevin Bunkelman, Emily Frick  
 5 - Don Hardt, Cheryl Lenz  
 6 - Mindy Belanger, Doreen Weise, Mike Zenner  
 7 - Dave Kulas, Jr., Ken Punke  
 8 - Jenna Ellenbecker, Dean Frick  
 10 - Brian Boesl  
 11 - Edison Ellenbecker, Paige Westaby  
 12 - Larry Framke, Mark Schroeder  
 13 - Rebecca Balz, Jean Krueger, Phillip Marcott,  
 Taylor Thurs, Joe Petrie  
 14 - Nick Belter, Ryan Ellenbecker, Cole Handschke  
 15 - Todd Barkow, Nathan Heier, Eugene Weise  
 16 - Craig Heller, Abigail Van Rixel  
 17 - Karen Bergmann, Samantha Betzner,  
 Diane Murkowski  
 18 - Anna Nowicki  
 19 - Ellen Czech, Joe Kepner, BJ Komarek,  
 Tom Schaer  
 21 - Tanya Ellenbecker  
 22 - Frank Koeller, Kim Mroczenski, Caleb Steinke  
 25 - Shirley Denzin, Connie Radloff, Colten Weiler  
 26 - Halle Albrecht, Jillian Ewan, Justin Hein,  
 Robert Nowacki, Noaki Takamura  
 27 - Jesse Call, Laurel Pitzke  
 28 - Brinley Kornack, Lisa Nowicki  
 29 - Nancy Haehlke, Jordan Kuck, Bruce Radloff,  
 Bev Tiffany  
 31 - Carol Fritz, Alexander Kuck

### January Baptism Birthdays

2 - Aiden Lemmer, Alex Lemmer  
 4 - Karen Gauerke, Kristopher Kottke  
 5 - Nathlie Venzke, Tim Brumbaugh  
 6 - Tom Mueller, Courtney Tesch  
 7 - Aaron Passehl  
 8 - Jean Balz, Lauryn Hartwig, Nicholas Peter  
 9 - Callie Davis  
 10 - Susan Becker, Robin Sauter  
 11 - Mike Balz, Austin LeMay  
 12 - Eli Bunkelman  
 13 - Jason Christopherson  
 14 - Maureen Belanger, Mason Halopka,  
 Miranda Hertel, Paige Westaby  
 15 - Peyton Gruna, Ken Scheffler, Adam Wassmann  
 17 - Scott Roesler  
 19 - Swayne Stencil  
 20 - Michael Zenner  
 22 - Celina Ellenbecker, Brandon Lippert  
 24 - Dave Kulas, Jr.  
 25 - Kaila Dunahee, Nila Koeller, Allen Natzke  
 26 - Jenna Ellenbecker  
 27 - Jena Zinkowich  
 28 - McKenzie Brodziski  
 Korbin Kuck  
 29 - Talena Bliven  
 Cheryl Lenz  
 31 - Ken Punke  
 Jordan Tessmer  
 Paul Hamann



Baptism  
 Birthday



### January Wedding Anniversaries

<i>Joe &amp; Laura Petrie</i>	<i>1/04/1986</i>
<i>Mike &amp; Tammy Dahl</i>	<i>1/09/1982</i>
<i>Dave &amp; Chris Hart</i>	<i>1/21/1976</i>
<i>John &amp; April Schreiber</i>	<i>1/21/2006</i>



## Youth Group News

### Crusaders for Christ 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group

The Crusaders and Jesus is the Bread Youth Groups went Christmas Caroling Sunday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Jerry & Tamey Zenner for sharing their special "Christmas Wagon" to take us caroling on!

Our Winter Lock-In is yet to be determined.

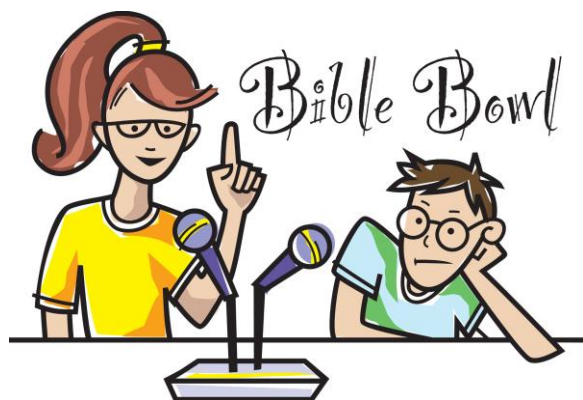
The group will meet for their next monthly meeting on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, and they will also resume marking their Bibles at the meeting.



### Wisconsin State Bible Bowl

This event will be on Saturday, April 6, 2019. *Are you interested in joining the challenge and fun of learning about the Gospel of Mark?*

Grades 7 – 12 are welcome to participate. If interested, or for further information, please contact Ms. Karen at 715-323-1716.



## 2019 Icms National Youth Gathering REAL . PRESENT . GOD

Fifteen youth and five adults will be joining other youth at the Gathering in Minneapolis July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

Those attending are:

Youth - Gracie Balz, Celina Ellenbecker, Emma ford, Andrew Frick, Tori Halopka, Connor Lewandowski, Dominic Lewandowski, Kolton Niemann, Anna Nowicki, Alex Thompson, Elizabeth Van Rixel, Abby Van Rixel, Heidi Verpoorten, Anna Wheatley, and Jonathan Zorowski. Chaperones – Tanya Ellenbecker, Laura Ford, Sheila Lewandowski, Fay Niemann, and Becky Van Rixel.

Please keep these youth and adults in your prayers during this time of preparation. Youth will meet **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**, to continue planning for the Gathering.

*National Youth Gathering Youth wish to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who supported the Advent Soup Suppers!*

*The National Youth Gathering will be in the St. Paul / Minneapolis area this coming Summer.*

### Pizza Sales!

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND.....** Families going on the 2019 National Youth Gathering will be making and filling the homemade pizza orders Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>! Any and all help is appreciated after worship on that day to make the pizzas. ☺

**Thank You** to the Crusaders for Christ Youth for delivering the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield this past month! The House welcomes families of ill and injured children newborn through age 18 who are receiving care at the hospital or clinic. Families are offered a warm setting to rest, prepare hot meals, and share time with other families in similar situations. **HUGE THANK YOU** to Al Riemer and Michele for volunteering limo bus for the trip!



# Council Meeting - December 12, 2018

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 (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** - Absent  
**Youth Coordinator** – Renell Wassmann (P)

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

**Financial Report:** Total income for November was \$33,555; total expenses were \$42,706, resulting in a net loss of \$9,150. Line of credit balance was \$19,628; Organ Fund was \$677; Major Building Repair Fund was \$16,646; Church Basement Fund was \$2,762. The balance in the checking account was \$25. Endowment Fund at Thrivent was \$106,172; Brokerage Account at Scott Trade was \$18,515; Special Interest Fund at LCEF was \$306. Motion made by Kaye Schwalenberg, seconded by Linda Punke to accept the Financial Report. Motion carried.

**Board of Elders:** Michael Balz is transferring back to Trinity in Athens.

**Board of Christian Education:** Child Care rates will be increasing starting in January for after school care. There is a waiting list for child care again. Kaye Schwalenberg will help with teaching 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the remainder of the school year. FOCE raised \$17,000 for each school, another new record. There still has not been a good candidate to meet the needs of the new teacher/IT position that was proposed. There will be a school choice meeting in January-this is an informational meeting. A STEM lab 3D printer was purchased for the school. Christmas Service update, board of education members will do the greeting. Intruder drill was held in the school. New board members have been updated on meeting times. Thank you to Linda for serving 6 years on the board. Thank you to Randalyn as well for her time. \$260 of chapel money/Sunday school money went to help with the flooding in southern WI. Lunch report-we are in line with last year. Tuition update: 2 of 3 families have been making payments but one family will be sent to collections after the Holidays.

**Principal's Report:** School safety updates: the panic alarm is installed and was used the day of the intruder drill. Still working with Athens lumber to get the new door installed. Dean has been in contact with the company that will put in the magnetic locking system. School choice presentation will be given by a principal that has gone through this process. There is a pre-accreditation process the school can go through that can help get the process through a little quicker. The 3D printer will be used starting with an after school STEM club with some former students from the high school coming to help run the club. This club will hopefully also grow into robotics and then into classrooms.

**Board of Trustees:** The members are continuing to work on changing out light bulbs. The toilet in the basement will be addressed soon. Martin Weise is going to change the outside lights to LEDs. Tyson Zettler will be helping with the snow removal this winter. David Trimner will also be helping with the shoveling/snow removal.

**Board of Stewardship:** The craft sale went very well. Turnout was good, food sales were up as well. The adopt a family program is currently running to support two families in the community.

**Pastor:** there is a railing installed at the parsonage on the front stoop. The circuit visitor duties are going ok, there will be 5 vacancies in the circuit soon and 6 by the end of the summer. Thank you to all the board members who are going off the board this year. The remodeling project was approved to move the communion rail. The most expensive thing will be changing out the carpeting. The sound booth won't be done right away. Anticipated start date for the project will be in January.

**Youth:** Crusaders and Jesus is the Bread group went caroling on the Zenner Christmas wagon. A Thrivent card was used to give gifts to residents at the facilities during caroling. Pizza sales are under way. Sunday school will be singing at the Christmas service. Crusaders when to Ronald McDonald house and the light show in Marshfield.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Fabry came to work on the pipe organ. The organ is 92 years old. The company has recommended some repairs to the organ. This will be brought up again after the remodel and the air conditioning install. The Athens fair is having a blue ribbon dinner and the committee asked our church if we would like to be a sponsor. Renell suggested putting together a committee to provide pies for the dinner. Next year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> year of our building/church.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tanya Schaer, Secretary