



**FEBRUARY**

**2019**

To know Christ...  
and make Him known.

**WORSHIP TIMES**

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

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

**Bible Study**  
**Sunday School**  
10:20 a.m.

Church Phone: 715-257-7526

School Phone: 715-257-7559

Pastor Mark Schwalenberg  
715-218-8814

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# TRINITY TIDINGS

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

Pastor's Corner – February 2019

Sven and Ole tried hard to do the right thing all their lives, however, in the end they didn't make it to heaven. In hell, they tried to make the best of things. The one thing that didn't bother them was the temperature. In fact, the warmth of hell was much better than the extreme cold of northern Minnesota. This really bugged the devil. After seeing them sitting in lounge chairs merrily whistling away, the devil ordered the temperature of hell raised significantly. Sven and Ole didn't mind a bit. Completely annoyed, the devil ordered hell made as hot as it's ever been. The suffering of hell was unimaginable, but not for Sven and Ole. They were thankful for the nice warmth. In response, the devil decided to change his tactics. He ordered all the furnaces of hell to be completely shut down. The temperature dropped quickly. Ice formed everywhere. Nothing could move. The suffering of hell was even worse than when it was at its hottest. But not for Sven and Ole. The devil found them dancing and singing - obviously they were beyond happy. As he approached them to find out why they were so happy, he heard them singing, "The Vikings won the Superbowl, the Vikings won the Superbowl!!!!"

Over the past few days, it's been "cold as hell." Hopefully, you have not had to suffer through this weather too much. I know we have lots of members and friends (police, farmers, mechanics, loggers, etc.) who have to work outside. We give thanks to God for all you do. We have members who graciously volunteer their time on the Fire and Rescue Squads who have no choice when it comes to going out into the cold: at any time or status of the weather (to you we especially say, "THANK YOU!!!").

I've got great news for all of us... better than knowing that Spring is just 48 days away! Our loving Father in heaven has made us a special promise about the home we will live in forever:

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." – Revelation 21:1-4*

By God's grace, through faith in Jesus, we don't have to worry about when... it's already ours. Our loved ones who have died in the faith are already there. We have the certain hope of everlasting life where it will be a perfect temperature for all eternity!

Thank God for Jesus, the forgiveness of all our sins, and the perfect future that awaits all of us. Until then... stay warm!

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark



# 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

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 Tolke – 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

February is the month that the North Wisconsin District chooses a mission project to support through the Hearts For Jesus Project. Many of the Lutheran Schools in the North Wisconsin District designate their chapel offerings for the month of February to Hearts For Jesus. Here at Trinity we designate our January and February chapel offerings for Hearts For Jesus. Trinity's Sunday School offerings are also going to support this project.

The Hearts for Jesus project this year will support Camp Luther's ***Filled With The Spirit*** campaign.

Specifically, the money raised will be used to purchase tables for the new dining facility.

Construction on the new Community Center/Dining Facility is set to begin this fall. In January our students collected 18,545 pennies for \$185.45.

Watch for updates on nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar collections during February.



The ***Filled With The Spirit*** campaign is a five year five million dollar comprehensive campaign to raise funds for three areas: Outdoor Ministry Fund, Every Kid to Camp, and capital improvement projects such as the new dining facility. If you would like more information on how to support the ***Filled With The Spirit*** Campaign, besides Chapel offerings and Sunday School offerings, go to [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) and click the ***Filled With The Spirit*** logo.

Dean Frick, Principal

**FILLED**   
WITH THE  
**SPIRIT**

# Church News & Events



January  
Memorials

## Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML met January 9<sup>th</sup> at Athenian Living. Bible study "The Shepherds Peace" was led by Kaye. Mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and St. Louis Seminary were gathered. LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally will be held here at Trinity on April 6. We will be contacting the Hannah Center in Marshfield for a speaker and project for our ingathering.

Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary

### ATTENTION - 2019 Confirmation Parents

Confirmation will be the first Sunday of May, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, during the 9:00am worship service.

The traditional Faith Celebration will be Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00pm. Pastor will be having a Confirmation Planning Meeting, with the Confirmands and their parents, Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, after the evening Lent Worship Service. It's very important that all those being confirmed (and their parents) attend! Thank you ☺



### Box Tops Fundraiser Update

*Our next deadline is fast approaching!*

So far this year we have raised \$3,175.90! What a great year! \$175.90 was from our normal Box Tops and \$3,000 was thanks to an online Box Tops bonus entry donation that we received from the grandparents of the Schaar boys! Please continue clipping non-expired Box Tops and drop them off at the school / church office or in the container located in the school hallway anytime throughout the year. All non-expired Box Top are worth \$.10! Money raised is used by the school to purchase items such as books, playground equipment, classroom items, etc. The school was able to purchase a 3D Printer this year. Our next deadline to submit the Box Tops is March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have time, please feel free to enter the Box Tops bonus entries that they offer online. Who knows, maybe we could win another one ☺ Thanks for your help supporting our Lutheran School!

Tanya Ellenbecker & Tabitha Hartwig

**In loving memory** of her mother, Edna Riske, who would have celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday January 25<sup>th</sup>, a gift was divided among Trinity Lutheran School, and for Audio Equipment to enhance the Praise Band by Linda Riske Eckert. As a 1964 graduate of Trinity Lutheran School, Linda commented that she and her mother have wonderful memories of our church and school.

**In loving memory** of Sue Halopka, a gift was given to the General Fund by Ken & Karen Gauerke.

**In loving memory** of Marjean Zubke, gifts were given to the Air Conditioning Fund and Debt Fund by Doug & Jean Krueger, Ken & Karen Gauerke, and from other family and friends.

**In loving memory** of Ruth Heldt, a gift was given to the Air Conditioning Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise.

**In loving memory** of Don "Putz" Punke, gifts were given to the Air Conditioning Fund, Debt Fund and Trinity Lutheran School by Martha Zinkowich and the Jerry Bloch family, Eugene & Doreen Weise, Bruce & Connie Radloff, and Lenora Hamann.

**Thank you for your gifts!**



### January Official Acts & Monthly News

**Transfers / Baptisms / Released:** None

**Births:** Chase & Jamie Beilke were blessed by the birth of their son, Brooks Edward, born at Aspirus Wausau Hospital on January 6, 2019.

Brandon & Samantha Manecke, were blessed by the birth of their son, Preston Leroy, born at Aspirus Wausau Hospital on January 10, 2019.

**Death:** Donald Punke was called to his heavenly home on January 17, 2019. His celebration of life was held here at Trinity on January 22, 2019.

**Hospitalized:** Jamie Beilke and son, Brooks Edward Beilke; Samantha Manecke and son, Preston Leroy Manecke; Betty Bunkelman; Alvila Tolk

## February Acolytes

<u>Saturday, February 2</u>	4:00pm
Abby Diethelm & Malaina Telschow	
<u>Sunday, February 3</u>	9:00am
Andy Schaer & Aleah Frahm	
<u>Saturday, February 9</u>	4:00pm
Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski	
<u>Sunday, February 10</u>	9:00am
Emma Ford & Jacob VanDerLinden	
<u>Saturday, February 16</u>	4:00pm
Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka	
<u>Sunday, February 17</u>	9:00am
Celina Ellenbecker & Blake Hein	
<u>Saturday, February 23</u>	4:00pm
Ava Zettler & Kyren Schug	
<u>Sunday, February 24</u>	9:00am
Paige Westaby & Aleah Frahm	
<u>Saturday, March 3</u>	4:00pm
Emma Ford & Andy Schaer	
<u>Sunday, March 4</u>	9:00am
Connor Lewandowski & Domonic Lewandowski	



## February Birthdays

- 1 - LaVerne Call, Daniel L. Punke
- 2 - Ellie Belter, Austin Natzke, RYANNE PETER
- 3 - Olivia Punke, Ken Schug, Parker Tischauser, Ava Zettler
- 4 - Norma Heier, Matthew Weise
- 5 - Maddix Natzke, Dwight Tolk
- 6 - Cindy Hardt, Jane Nehrbass
- 7 - Daltan Lavicka
- 9 - Kyle Frane, Doug Krueger, Mike Rudolph
- 10 - Kristi Redmann, Nick Rudolph
- 11 - Dennis Fladvid
- 12 - Brooklyn Hein
- 13 - Kandi Lavicka, Richard Paul
- 14 - Derek Czech, Sara Paul, Ryan Tolk
- 15 - Betty Baumgartner, Travis Bergmann
- 16 - Esther Mueller, Laurie Punke, Kris Venzke
- 18 - Brian Radloff
- 20 - Lenora Hamann, Tucker Roesler
- 21 - Lois Bunkelman, Mamie Hardt, Brian Wiese
- 22 - Leslie Gerhardt, Jeremy Hart, Grant Sodoma
- 24 - Nick Bunkelman, Leslee Schneveis
- 25 - Randy Langhoff, Barb Martin, Donna Houlihan
- 26 - Lilly Anderson, Kierra Penney, Travis Zettler
- 28 - Logan Boushon, Luke Mroczenski
- 29 - Brandon Seefeld, Renee Tessmer

## February Baptism Birthdays

- 1 - Cole Handschke; Tom Schaer
- 2 - Ryan Ellenbecker, Dean Frick
- 3 - Tracy Albrecht, Ila Kilinski, Mike Nowacki
- 4 - Derek Lavicka, Doreen Weise
- 5 - Becki Balz, Taylor Thurs
- 6 - Samantha Manecke, Diane Murkowski
- 7 - Emily Frick, Nathan Heier
- 8 - Mark Schroeder
- 10 - Jean Krueger, Mindy Belanger
- 11 - Ellen Czech, Tanya Ellenbecker
- 12 - Karen Bergmann, Bev Tiffany
- 14 - Halle Albrecht, Ryan Hovde
- 16 - Kim Mroczenski, Autumn Westfall
- 17 - Nathan Eckert, Don Hardt, RYANNE PETER
- 18 - Phillip Marcott, Oscar Telschow, Matthew Weise
- 20 - Cindy Hardt
- 21 - Jordan Kuck
- 23 - Kyle Frane, Connor Westfall
- 24 - Robert Nowacki, Olivia Punke, Abigail Van Rixel, Kevin Bunkelman
- 25 - Daltan Lavicka
- 26 - Kierra Penney, Colten Weiler
- 27 - Todd Barkow, Laurel Pitzke
- 28 - Sara Paul, Nick Rudolph, Kendra Schug
- 29 - Anna Nowicki



## **Baptism Birthdays**



## February Wedding Anniversaries

<i>Brandon &amp; Samantha Manecke</i>	<i>02/17/2018</i>
<i>David &amp; Linda Westfall</i>	<i>02/26/1972</i>

*Love...*

*always protects,  
always trusts,  
always hopes,  
always perseveres.*

1 Corinthians 13:6,7



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

Crusaders met for their monthly meeting January 9<sup>th</sup> and opened the meeting with prayer and devotion. Devotion started out by talking about how it feels to have a friend living far away. Youth read Psalm 42:1-2, then discussed what it meant.

All reports were approved by the youth. Balance in the account at the Athens Area Credit Union is \$633.96. Will continue marking our Bibles.

Old Business: Youth talked about Christmas Caroling in December on the Zenner Christmas Wagon.

New Business: We will continue marking our bibles during each meeting. Our Lock-In will be Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:00pm – 8:00 Saturday morning. Youth are to have Lock-In theme suggestions to Judy or Deb so the congregation can vote on the suggestions February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ended the meeting by reciting the Crusader Pledge, then closed with prayer before the Crusader Activity Coordinator activity in the gym. Next meeting will be Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm.



Jesus is the Bread  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group

Youth met for their monthly meeting Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Their Lock-In will be Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 7:00pm and going through Saturday morning at 7:00.



National Youth Gathering

Thank you to everyone who helped make pizzas! We had almost 50 people and were done in record time!! With everyone's support, we made a little over \$2,000.

We are getting closer all the time to the national Gathering in July. Starting March 6<sup>th</sup>, our Lent Soup Dinners will begin and run for six weeks. Stay tuned for our menu later in this month in the bulleting and posters.



As a group, we have been working on becoming a community. During our January meeting, we spent time in room groups working together to solve clues to find the parts to their flashlight. *Congratulations* to Dominic, Connor, and Andrew on working so well together and creating light first! In February we will continue our bible study to prepare us for **REAL . PRESENT . GOD** and some more team building activities.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the church basement.







# PTL Minutes - January 13, 2019

Jenna 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 11/11/2018 of \$4,849.81. The expenses paid out were \$360.88. The revenues were \$1,002.02. A motion was made by Laura Ford to accept the treasurers' report, a second by Tanya Ellenbecker, all were in favor, and motion passes.

Principal's report – The FOCE money is being used to upgrade the staff's computers. The 3-D printer club starts this week and is open to Trinity students grades 4th -8th.

## Old Business –

- a. Packer Party - successful
- b. Christmas Program
- c. Vinyl Quotes on bathroom stall doors – Randalyn and Jenna will proceed forward

## New Business –

- a. Bus Driver appreciation week in February – A motion was made by Tanya Ellenbecker to
- b. give \$10 M & M Bakery scrip to each bus driver, a second by Laura Ford, all were in favor, motion carries.
- b. Seroogy's Fundraiser – The fundraiser will be in March.
- c. Field Trips – Ms. Karen is taking 4th – 6th graders to The Grand. A motion was made by Tanya Ellenbecker to pay for the cost of the tickets which was \$96 (\$8 per ticket x 12 tickets), a second by Laura Ford, all were in favor, motion carries.

Laura Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tanya Ellenbecker seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Tabitha Hartwig, Secretary 11 parents, 4 teachers



# Quarterly Voters Meeting

## January 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Gurski and Pastor Mark Schwalenberg opened with prayer. 32 members were present.

**Secretary Report:** Motion was made by Jean Balz, seconded by Ken Punke and carried to accept the Secretary's report as printed in the monthly bulletin. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Indicated total income for the year was \$494,905 total expenses \$513,417 resulting in a loss of \$18,512. Line of credit balance -\$9,521. Organ Fund, \$592, Major Building Repair Fund \$17,047, Basement Project Fund, \$2,764, Air Conditioning Fund \$13,322. Thrivent Endowment Fund: Current Base \$90,594, Expenses to Date \$1,942, Market Gain to Date \$14,435, Market Losses to Date \$4,234, Current Value \$98,853. 33 months in the fund and we averaged \$309 per month interest. A motion was made by Jerome Sjostrom and seconded by Mark Schroeder to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

**Board of Stewardship:** Plan to have a Palm Sunday old fashioned potluck and to have a display with pictures and explanation of all of the events that Trinity does throughout the year and a list of all of the volunteers.

**Board of Elders:** New Members: Mark and Olivia Telschow and their children Oscar and Malaina, transferred from St. Johns High Steeple, Edgar. Matthew Ryan Harder from St. John Lutheran in Hamburg. Michael Arlon Balz transferred to Athens. Transfers: Daniel Nelson Schield transferred to the Lutheran Church and School of Messiah in Grand Junction, Colorado. Baptisms: Rhona Rae Bliven, daughter of Andy and Talena Bliven, Maddix Allen Natzke, son of Matt and Mandy Natzke, Alex Lee LaVake, son of Eric LaVake and Christie Cronick, Rylie Jean Sprotte, daughter of Derek Sprotte and Amber Leader, George Douglas Halverson, son of Demetri and Allison (Riske) Halverson, Everhett Benjamin Hertel, son of Ben and Miranda (Komarek) Hertel. Weddings: Taylor Long and Savanna Frane, November 25, 2018. Deaths: Marjean Ruth Zubke.

**Board of Christian Education:** Chairman - Dawn Mroczenski, Secretary - Ann Thurs, Tuition Monitor -Tom Schaer, Hot Lunch monitor - Niki Punke, Sunday School liason - Sara Paul. Child Care is looking for part-time help to replace one staff member that is leaving. B/A school rate to increase and also setting a minimum of a 1 hour charge. Waiting list continues to grow (12 children in November). Kaye Schwalenberg started in December as 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Math and Literature teacher. 3Dclub has met once. Lutheran Schools week will be March 3-10. School Safety projects still in the works (grant money received). Door install to be scheduled along with door security system: FOCE: \$17,000 profit. Funds to be put towards updating staff computers (they have been ordered \$4870), chromebooks, math books (some samples have arrived), scholarship fund. New Position-IT director (church/school) 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> home room-Dean Frick has been in touch with Concordia Placement Directors. Spring graduates are completing placement paperwork now. We should hear back by February if there are any candidates that fit. There were no graduates at semester. School Choice-Presentation held in January. HANDOUT 1) Need to become accredited (or be in the process of becoming accredited) 2) Look a "partner school" where they adopt us. Maybe need to consider hiring part-time bookkeeper to handle necessary paperwork. 3 audits are required-Fall, January & Summer. Costs between \$15-\$20k. Discussed the option of being "adopted" by a participating school.

**Principals Report:** Included in the Board of Christian Education Report.

**Board of Trustees:** No report, doing repair work during the meeting.

**Pastor:** Chancel changes are going very well. Thank-You to Doug Krueger, Doug Riske, Mark and Joshua VanRixel for all of their help. We have a bid for the replacement of the carpeting from Olson carpeting their bid is \$ 4,259.00. This quote includes removal and installation. Color of carpet was shared. Motion made by Jerome Sjostrom and seconded by Karen Trench to approve the carpet bid. All in favor. Motion approved and carried. Secondly, Pastor requests the use of the remaining basement savings fund to be used for updated audio equipment. After a recent donation, the amount in this fund is \$3,308.00. A question arose that the basement curtain still needs to be replaced and that this would come out of the basement remodel fund. Pastor felt the sound system should be taken care of first. Motion made by John Punke to approve using the remaining money from the basement savings fund for the sound system and seconded by Kevin Weise. Motion approved and carried.

**Youth:** Crusaders: Went Christmas caroling with Zenner wagon. They gave out gifts at the elderly apartments and the Athenian Living. Went for a tour of the Ronald McDonald house. They took many pull tabs off aluminum cans for their donation. Went to the Rotary light show at Wildwood Zoo. Ate at McDonalds. They also have been having regular meetings marking their bibles. Jesus is the Bread Youth group 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades went caroling with the Crusaders. They have been holding regular meetings with Bible Study. Team Trinity, the ones going to the National Youth Gathering this summer did the Advent meals with \$1,357.00 profit. They are having meetings with bible studies. Selling pizzas for their sale. They made pizzas January 20, 2019. 15 youth and 5 adults are attending the gathering. Sunday School children sang December 23, 2019. Bible Bowl is seeking members. Trinity Athens will not have a team this year.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President Rick Guralski announced that Trinity would begin having a Semi Annual aluminum can drive. The first Saturday after Easter and the first Saturday after Labor Day with hopes to raise \$2300. 00 per year. Suggestion made to put funds towards the youth center or possibly use of the funds to fix the basement curtain. Mission Committee will continue. Every quarter we will post the newsletter from Cindy Wrucke on the Mission board in the gathering area. Discussed putting information on the screens before and after worship as well.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jerome Sjostrom seconded by Wil Strack, motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Renee Tessmer, Secretary

