



# TRINITY TIDINGS

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

## Pastor's Corner

### LENT

Our Mission: **2019**  
To know Christ...  
and make Him known.

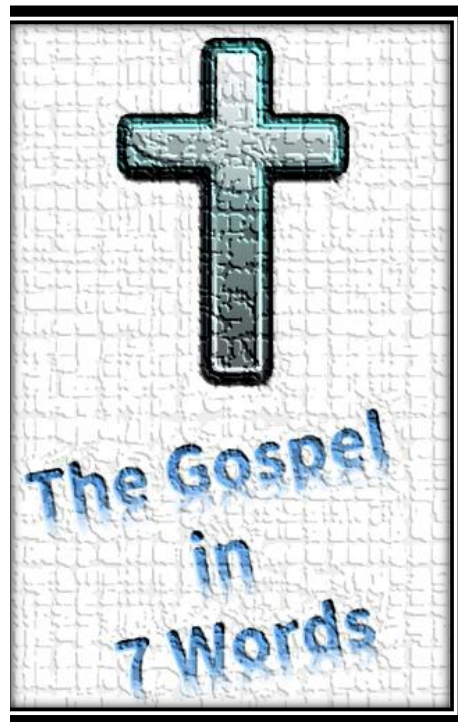
### WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am

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

**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
**March 6, 2018**  
**7:00pm**

Church Phone: 715-257-7526  
School Phone: 715-257-7559  
Pastor Mark: 715-218-8814



It's hard to believe, but this coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday! This marks the beginning of our annual journey to the cross and celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.

Our theme this year is an especially interesting one. Expressing the basics of our Christian faith in a moments notice is not easy. Finding a way to do it accurately, while using a minimum number of words... while, that's even more of a challenge. Our Midweek Lent theme works to make both of these things easier and even fun.

As the title implies, "The Gospel in 7 Words" will educate, empower, and equip everyone who attends with the ability to express their Christian faith in just 7 WORDS! In addition, we will work on strategies to share this with the world around us! This will be fun!

But wait... That's not all! During the Sundays of Lent, we will be celebrating our role as stewards and caretakers of all that God has entrusted to our care through a four-part sermon series that will be reviewing the stewardship principles we studied during the Consecrated Stewards program from back in 2016. Overall, this Lent season is going to be uplifting and fun!

Please make participating in our Midweek Lent services and participating in our weekend worship services a priority in your life. You'll be really glad you did!

In Jesus' Name,

Pastor Mark

### Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	2
Church News & Events	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries/Acolytes	4
Youth News	5
Adult Instruction Class	5
Stewardship Request	6
PTL Meeting Minutes 2/10/19	6
Council Meeting Minutes 2/13/19	7-8
Child Care Newsletter	9
LWML Spring Rally	10 - 12
March Calendar	13

# Trinity Lutheran Church & School

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> Grades

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

Deb Frick  
Teacher / Kindergarten, 4K, 3K

Sara Paul  
Kindergarten, 4K, 3K Aide

Judy Weise  
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg  
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski  
School Cook

Mark Schroeder  
Sarah Lemmer  
Organists

Randalyn Ellenbecker  
Child Care Administrator

## 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

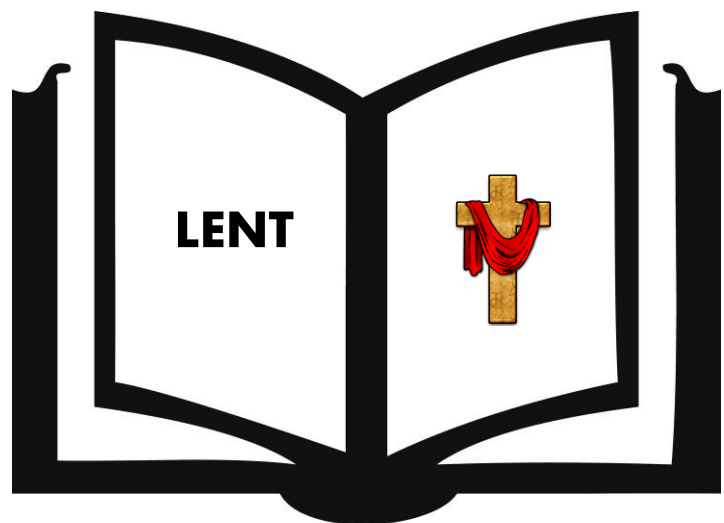


Does this seem like the winter that never ends? Does this winter remind you of how much snow we got when you were a kid? This week I told my students that now they will be able to tell stories about how much snow we got in 2019. I am sure they have heard stories like that from their parents or grandparents.

Next week during Lutheran Schools Week, the students will be presenting skits for Chapel on *Grandparents Day*. My chapel family's skit is about children who want to see Jesus but keep missing him. They keep hearing stories from others about what Jesus is teaching and doing. However, just when they think they have caught up to him, he has already left. They have to rely on stories from others who saw and heard Jesus. So, they eagerly wait to hear the stories about Jesus from others.

Telling stories about Jesus is our job. Someone, sometime told us the story about Jesus. We too must pass along the story about Jesus' death and resurrection to save us from our sins and give to us eternal life. As we enter Lent, this is the perfect time to share the stories about our Lenten traditions and observances. We can tell other why we put ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. We tell people why we might give up something for Lent. We can share why we go to church on Wednesdays, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. But most of all, we can tell why we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

Mr. Dean Frick  
Principal



# Story Time

# Church News & Events



## Trinity LWML

Trinity LWML met on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Athenian Living. Bible study "Shh. Peace. Be Still" was led by Pastor Mark. Mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and Hope Lodge were gathered. LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally will be held here at Trinity on April 6. Maureen will send the invitation to Circuit LWML Circles. We will have a speaker from the Hannah Center. (More information is copied in the back of this Newsletter.)

Kaye Schwalenberg,  
Secretary



## February Memorials

**In loving memory** of Donald "Putz" Punke, gifts were given to the Air Conditioning Fund, Salem Cemetery, and to Trinity Lutheran School by Al & Michelle Natzke, Ken & Kathy Brice, Ken & Karen Gauerke, and other family and friends.

**In loving memory** of John Totzke, gifts were given to the Air Conditioning Fund, Altar Guild, and Major Building Repair Fund by Alvera Henrichs, Mark & Dawn Mroczenski, Tony & Cheryl Eckert, and Pastor Mark & Kaye Schwalenberg.

# Official Acts & Monthly News

**Baptisms:** Kade Lee Petrie, son of Brant & Angel Petrie, was baptized Saturday, February 2, 2019.

Gabriel Patrick Boushon, son of Grant and Phillicia Boushon, was baptized Saturday, February 16, 2019.

**Birth:** Jason Mark Mroczenski, son of Joel & Kim Mroczenski, was born Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Transfers / Deaths / Weddings / New Members:** none

**Hospitalized:** Gabriel Boushon, Avila Tolk, Kim & Jason Mroczenski

# Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y  
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B  
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y  
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B  
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X  
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F  
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C  
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K  
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D  
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K  
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E  
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M  
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O  
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C  
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

**Daylight Savings Time begins!**

**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Time to Spring Ahead

**March Acolytes**

Saturday, March 2 4:00pm  
 Emma Ford & Andy Schaer  
 Sunday, March 3 9:00am  
 Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski  
 Wednesday, March 6 7:00pm  
 Abby Diethelm & Malaina Telschow  
 Saturday, March 9 4:00pm  
 Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka  
 Sunday, March 10 9:00am  
 Celina Ellenbecker & Jacob VanDerLinden  
 Wednesday, March 13 7:00pm  
 Ava Zettler & Kyren Schug  
 Saturday, March 16 4:00pm  
 Blake Hein & Abby Diethelm  
 Sunday, March 17 9:00am  
 Paige Westaby & Malaina Telschow  
 Wednesday, March 20 7:00pm  
 Emma Ford & Jenna Handschke  
 Saturday, March 23 4:00pm  
 Ava Zettler & Kyren Schug  
 Sunday, March 24 9:00am  
 Addison Lavicka & Andy Schaer  
 Wednesday, March 27 7:00pm  
 Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski  
 Saturday, March 30 4:00pm  
 Celina Ellenbecker & Emma Ford  
 Good Friday, March 30 9:00am  
 Blake Hein & Jacob VanDerLinden

**March Birthdays**

1 - Stevie Jean Schreiner  
 2 - Joe Weiler  
 4 - Derek Sprotte, Karen Trench  
 5 - Corey Westfall, Karen Zenner  
 6 - Jordyn Kralcik  
 7 - Abby Diethelm, Karen Guralski, Ed Schultz, Jr.  
 8 - Stephanie David, Glen Steen  
 9 - Suzanne Rudolph, Evan Thurs  
 11 - Jessica Frandsen, Mike Pecher, David Tessmer  
 12 - Madeline Belter, Sandy Ewan, Alex LaVake  
 14 - Mike Zinkowich  
 15 - Gary Belanger, Andrew Schaer,  
 Crystal Willemsen  
 16 - Heidi Denzine, Chris Kepner, Mary Schreiber  
 17 - Laurie Brodziski, David Nowacki  
 18 - Denise Bunkelman, Donna Sandle,  
 Carol Roesler, Tasha Stencil  
 19 - Taylor Albrecht, Brody Lipinski, Gage Punke  
 20 - Daniel Trimner  
 21 - Bryana Boushon, Phillicia David, Rodney Kropp  
 22 - Archie Becker  
 23 - Allison Halvorsen  
 24 - Mike Dahl  
 25 - Ciera Bornheimer, Joel Mroczenski  
 26 - Wallace Walters  
 28 - Heidi Nowacki, Becky Van Rixel  
 29 - Ben Hartwig  
 30 - Tyrrell Bunkelman, Judy Weiler,  
 Brooklyn Westfall  
 31 - Katlyn Frane, Sandra Koeller,  
 Easton Punke



**March Baptism Birthdays**

2 - Kandi Lavicka, Lisa Nowicki  
 3 - Daniel L. Punke  
 4 - Kristi Redmann  
 7 - Brian Wiese  
 8 - Dwight Tolk  
 9 - Lois Bunkelman  
 10 - Wesleya David,  
 Jeremiah Lemmer, Jane Nehrbass  
 11 - Derek Czech, Craig Schoenrock, Caleb Steinke  
 12 - Jill Ewan  
 13 - Travis Bergmann, Dennis Fladvid  
 15 - Edison Ellenbecker, Larry Framke, Laurie Punke  
 16 - Leslie Gerhardt, Tucker Roesler  
 17 - Richard Paul, Renee Tessmer  
 18 - Elaine Brubaker, Lenora Hamann, Brian Komarek  
 19 - Mamie Hardt, Doug Krueger, Austin Natzke,  
 Travis Zettler  
 21 - Nick Bunkelman, Brian Radloff  
 22 - Derek Wheatley  
 23 - Gracie Balz  
 24 - Logan Boushon  
 26 - Nancy Haehlke, Luke Mroczenski, Laura Nowacki  
 27 - Brinley Kornack  
 28 - Mike Zinkowich  
 29 - Katie Culvey  
 30 - Leslee Schneveis  
 31 - Laurie Brodziski, Karen Trench



<i>Kevin &amp; Tonya Gebert</i>	<i>03/09/2007</i>
<i>Mark &amp; Kristi Punke</i>	<i>03/09/2018</i>
<i>Joe &amp; Keri Salber</i>	<i>03/10/2007</i>
<i>Tim &amp; Candy Brumbaugh</i>	<i>03/15/2003</i>
<i>Nathan &amp; Nafeesa Heller</i>	<i>03/17/2018</i>
<i>Tom Jr. &amp; Tracy Albrecht</i>	<i>03/26/1994</i>

**Four Things You Can't Recover**

- The stone.....after the throw
- The word.....after it's said
- The occasion.....after it's missed
- The time.....after it's gone

## Youth News

### Crusaders for Christ & Jesus is The Bread Youth Groups

Both youth groups did not meet in February due to the crazy winter we've been having! Meetings will resume in March.

### 2019 National Gathering Youth

Participants have been busy preparing for this life-changing event! They invite everyone to join in for some fun, food and fellowship during Lent with six meals served before the Mid-Week Lent Worship Services –

March 6 – Chili Soup & Cheesy Broccoli Soup

March 13 – Baked Potato Bar & Beef / Chicken Tacos

March 20 – Chicken Dumpling Soup & Beef Barley Soup

March 27 – Pasta... Lasagna, Spaghetti, Mac'N Cheese

April 3 – Chili Soup & Cheesy Potato Soup

April 10 – Chicken Dumpling & Cheesy Broccoli Soup

The meals are all you can eat, along with salad, beverage and dessert. A free will donation will be accepted to help offset the cost of the meals and help with expenses for the Gathering. *Thank you!*

## Adult Instruction Class

Are you interested in becoming a communicant member of Trinity? Do you know someone who would like to know more about what it means to be a Lutheran? Pastor Mark will be teaching adult membership class this Tuesday evening, March 5 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The final class will be held on Tuesday evening, March 12 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Yes, only two classes! You must attend both. Please speak with Pastor Mark if you are interested or if you have any questions!

March 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						

## Stewardship Request

During these cold, snowy times, one of the important things to remember: Trinity's bills DO NOT take snow days. Our bills keep coming, rain, shine or snow. In fact, our financial needs are the greatest in the winter because of increased heating and electricity costs, snow removal, salt, etc. Your financial support is VERY important! If you are not able to bring your offering to church on the weekend, please consider using the "Donate" button (and Simply Giving) on the church website. You can make a one-time gift or a recurring gift. It's easy, fast, and very convenient! Thanks for doing this, it really does help!



*Friends in Faith*

# PTL Meeting Minutes February 10, 2019

Jenna Ellenbecker called the meeting to order and opened with a 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 Randalyn Ellenbecker 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 2/10/19 of \$5,586.74. The expenses paid out were \$1,214.24. The revenues were \$1.17. A motion was made by Tanya Ellenbecker to accept the treasurers' report, a second by Randalyn 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 has started. The school is looking for a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade part time teacher/ part time IT person.

## Old Business –

- a. Bus Driver appreciation week in February – Each driver will get M & M scrip
- b. Serogy's Fundraiser – The fundraiser will be February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>. All orders need to be placed by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## New Business –

- a. Lutheran School Week - Monday – Amazing Race. Tuesday – Roller Skating, Wednesday – Grandparents Day Thursday – Board Games, Friday – Waterpark or Movie. After discussion, Randalyn Ellenbecker made a motion to cover the cost of bus to roller skating and the bus to the waterpark or movie, the cost of pizza and pop at roller skating and waterpark and the entrance fee at both the roller rink and the waterpark or movie
- b. Camp Luther Outdoor Education (spring) – The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be going on May 15-17. Tanya Ellenbecker made a motion to cover the remaining cost of the Camp Luther Outdoor Education trip. The motion was seconded by Randalyn, all were in favor, motion carries.
- c. Field Trips–
- d. Scrip Mission Money – A motion was made by Tanya Ellenbecker to use the next \$100 scrip mission money for Kierra Penney's mission trip/airfare. The motion was seconded by Dean Frick, all were in favor, motion carries.

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

Respectfully submitted by Tabitha Hartwig, Secretary  
11 parents, 3 teachers

## Council Meeting- February 13, 2019

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

### Officers

**President**-Rick Guralski (P)

**Vice President**- Neil Marthaler (P)

**Secretary**- Renee Tessmer (P)

**Admin Assistant**- Judy Weise (A)

**Principal**- Dean Frick (P)

**Rev.** Mark Schwalenberg (P)

**Board of Elders**- Present

**Board of Christian Education**-Present

**Board of Trustees**- Absent

**Board of Stewardship**- Present

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

**Secretary Report:** Dwight Tolk made a motion to accept the secretary report as printed in the bulletin seconded by Renell Wassman. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Total Income for January was \$33,427 total expenses were \$45,189 resulting in a net loss of \$11,761. Checking account \$30, Petty Cash \$33, Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$592, Major Building Fund \$16,196, Church Basement Fund \$3,315, Air Conditioning Fund \$14,235. Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$98,853. Special Int. Fund at LCEF \$306. Credit Line Balance \$17,151, Brokerage Account at Scottrade \$18,821. Dedicated accounts, School Lunch and Child Care Accounts are both paid currently. Motion was made by Kaye Schwalenberg and seconded by Neil Marthaler to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

**Boards of Elders:** Discussion was held regarding the Salem Cemetery in Hamburg as Trinity owes this cemetery. There are 25 lots available. A committee will be formed to include Dwight Tolk and Rick Guralski to look further into the land that surrounds the area, the available lots and who the caretakers are and to what degree the caretaking includes. The committee will compile information to share at the next months council meetings. Motion made by Renell Wassman and seconded by Mark Mroczenski to start a committee to research this project. Motion carried

**Board of Christian Education:** Discussed starting board of Christian Education meetings with a 10 minute devotion. 10 minutes of "growing and governing". School Choice: Next Step would be to get Terry Brown here to discuss. Dean Frick found that based on the 3% cap, Athens would have 13 vouchers available. The earliest we could get in is 2021, we would need to be accredited by 2022. We would need a steering committee and that would happen a year from now. 2019-2020 School Calendar-Dean Frick proposed that we follow the public school schedule. Tuition: 2019-2020 5% increase recommended by Dean Frick to maintain our staff. Rates: 3K \$600-\$630, 4K Member \$908 to \$950 and Non-member \$979 to \$1025, K-8 Member \$1182 to \$1241 and Non-member \$1871 to \$1965, at this time there are 4-5 people on the list for the 3K program. A 3K open house will be held on Wednesday 2/27/19 at 5:30 p.m.

**Principals Report:** FOCE (Friends of Christian Education) Funds: Staff/Classroom Computers have been replaced cost, \$4870. There will be a minor bill for labor. Math Books-samples are here from Saxon. Lower grades still use worksheets, older grades will need textbooks. Chromebooks-would like to have one for each student in the upper grades. Scholarship Fund-talked about setting up a dedicated account for scholarships instead of just going into the checkbook. Board Training with DJ Schult (North Wisconsin District) Discussed having our 3 big targets as our vision-Staffing to a level that leads to success, school choice and accreditation. Lunch Report: may need a new freezer, estimates from Horak to repair \$2900, to replace \$2995, plus delivery, setup and disposal. Dean Frick will work on getting more bids, possible Grebe's and Streich Equipment. Dean Frick heard back from the placement coordinator regarding the technology coordinator position, a few are interested, but were concerned with the technology director piece. Dean Frick clarified it would be more of a technology coordinator position. We will be searching for current teachers. May be interviewing an interested candidate soon. Childcare hired another teacher.

**Board of Trustees:** Continue their work with installing LED bulbs. Fixed sprayer in the school kitchen. They will put new washers in the 4,5,6 grade classrooms leaky sink. There continues to be some problems with the furnace in the gym and it was discovered that one of the furnaces has a crack in it, which may explain why the conference room is always cold. Hurtis Heating and Air conditioning gave a bid of \$18,125. It was suggested that maybe we should purchase a furnace big enough to heat all of the building. Greenheck was also contacted and will be giving us a bid.

**Board of Stewardship:** Plan to have a Palm Sunday 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 the volunteers. Christmas gift giving to the families chosen went very well.

**Pastor:** Chancel changes continue to go well. Carpet will be installed soon. Pastor will be leading a Worship series called "The Gospel in 7 words. We are called to witness and express our faith. We will learn how we can do this in 7 words. Vacancies in the circuit continue to be an issue. Spencer will begin to share pastors. Milan and Edgar will be calling a pastor. Pastor Jeppesen in Medford is also retiring and they will begin the call process as well.

**Youth:** National Youth Group News: 50 people helped make the pizzas. A little over \$2000 was made. Lenten meals start Ash Wednesday 3/6 until 4/10 serving from 5-6:30 in the church basement. Watch for posters on menus. January meeting: Played games to build better communities. February bible study to prepare us for Real, Present God Youth Gathering and more team building activities. Crusaders: Bible Study Psalm 42:1-2. Lock in March 1 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Church members will vote on the theme. Sunday School did Valentines for 25 students in college and tech school. Cradle roll 31- 3 and younger. Fay Niemann and the youth will be coordinating the Easter Breakfast.

**Old Business:** Lisa Czech conducted an audit of the financial documents of Trinity. She did a random sampling of accounts payable, payroll, petty cash, general journal entries and cash receipts and found no discrepancies in any of the items that she analyzed. She was able to verify that there was supporting documentation for all the items she selected. Judy was very helpful in providing the information needed to perform the limited audit.

**New Business:** Missionary Cynthia Wrucke may be able to come to Trinity sometime this year and will be asked to speak to the congregation.

Motion made by Dwight Tolk to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg. Motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Renee Tessmer, Secretary









