



TRINITY TIDINGS

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

Pastor's Corner

As we get closer to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the excitement around Trinity is certainly building. To begin with, I'm excited about the final outcome of our Midweek Lent series, "The Gospel in Seven Words." During the midweek Lent services we've had great participation in the brainstorming sessions – lots of words to help in the process. I can't wait to see the seven-word phrases that everyone comes up with!

Plans are nicely coming together for all the Holy Week / Easter services. Once again, we will move from the sorrow of Good Friday to the great joy of shouting: "**He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!**" on Easter morning. This is one of my favorite things to say during the entire year.

Along with that, I think we are all having a pretty good time with this year's Sunday Stewardship series. It's been fun developing the general topic during the sermon and then focusing on that topic in the "Stewardship Teaching Time." In short, you and I are really blessed as caretakers of the time, talents, and treasures that God has entrusted to our care. Keeping God at the top of our life priority list is the best way that we can say thank-you to God for all that He's given and done for us.

Soon after that, we will enjoy the great blessing of the Confirmation of our 8th Graders and then before we know it, it will be summer and then time for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is awesome: "Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth." We are going to have a great time with this year's theme!

After that will be our outdoor Polka Service at Doug and Jean Krueger's and then it will be time for the Athens World's Fair! Yahoo! There really is never a dull moment at Trinity!

For now, let's just focus on the joy of what comes with Easter:

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." – Matthew 28:6

One of the best things that each of us can do is to extend that same invitation to our unchurched family members, neighbors, and friends: "Come and see with me this Easter, Jesus is risen, just as He said!" What a blessing it is to share the Good News of Jesus' resurrection with those who need to know Jesus as their Savior.

May God bless us all, as we celebrate with great joy the resurrection of Jesus our Lord!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Hallelujah!

Pastor Mark

Our Mission:

To Know Christ...

and make Him known.

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Thursday 10:00am @

Athenian Living

With Holy Communion
every 1st & 3rd weekend

HOLY WEEK / EASTER

Maundy Thursday 7:00pm
Good Friday 1:30 & 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise 6:00am
Easter Celebration 9:00am
Easter Contemporary
10:30am

Bible Study & Sunday School
Sunday 10:20am
Wednesday Bible Study
10:00am @ Athenian Living

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Trinity Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Mark Schwalenberg
Pastor

Dean Frick
Principal / 7th & 8th Grades

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

Becky Van Rixel
Teacher. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grades

Deb Frick
Teacher / 3K, 4K & Kindergarten

Sara Paul
Aide / 3K, 4K & Kindergarten

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 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

Principal's Message

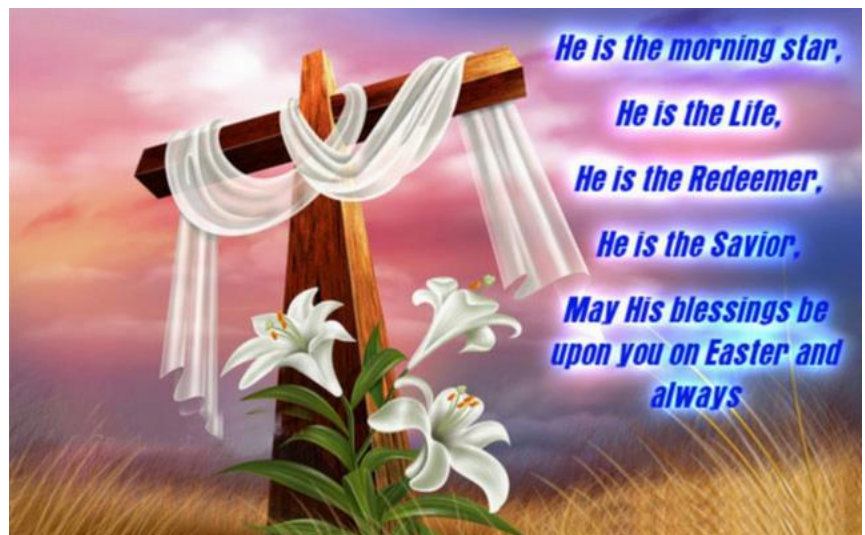
It's finally here! No, not spring... Easter. Easter falls over half way through the month of April this year. By then, we will be grilling outside, playing baseball, and thinking about mowing the lawn. When Easter falls late in the spring, we are reminded of the new life we receive through Easter by the "new life" signs of spring. Flowers starting to grow and bloom, trees sprouting fresh green leaves, and birds returning to the Northwoods all remind us of the fresh start of spring.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ marks the defeat of sin and death and the start of a "new life" in Christ. As Pastor Mark, on Wednesday evenings, has been leading us through the process of stating our faith in seven words, we looked at the contrasting terms of life and death. Some might say the Lent and Easter as equally as contrasting church seasons.

We often connect Lent with suffering, death, and sadness. Easter on the other hand is marked by celebration and new life. You cannot have one without the other, however. It is Christ's death and resurrection that paid the price of sin for us so that we can enjoy life eternal with Him in heaven.



Mr. Dean Frick, Principal



Church News & Events

Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML met on March 6 at Athenian Living. Bible study "Lord, I Can't Handle This" was led by Kaye Schwalenberg. Mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission, Peace Campus Center were gathered. Preparations were finalized for the LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally to be held here at Trinity on April 6. Thank you to Renell Wassmann and the Sunday School kids for all their hard work on the cards for the college care packages.

Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary



March Memorials

Thank you for your gifts!

In Loving Memory of Sherri Kreft, 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 by family and friends.

In Loving Memory of John Tozke, gifts were given to the Major Building Repair Fund by Al & Michelle Natzke and other friends and family.

In Loving Memory of Tammy Blake (who's birthday would have been February 23rd), a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Al & Michelle Natzke.

2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Planning Meeting

Trinity has offered the only Vacation Bible School to our community for many years.

We have brought Jesus to over 80 children each year through VBS. ***How can you help make that a reality again this summer?***

Prayerfully consider how you can help with planning, music, snacks or advertising. We are in need of a craft leader, teachers, group leaders, aides. Perhaps you can't actually help during the week of VBS, but you can help with planning. Whatever your ability – ***we need you!***

Please join us on April 24th at 7:00pm to plan to make Vacation Bible School extra special here in Athens.

2019 VBS ~ "Athens"

Escape to Athens with Apostle Paul!

"Paul will inspire kids to share the truth of God's immeasurable love!"

July 22 – 25 9:00am – 11:30am

Official Acts & Monthly News

Births, Released, Weddings, Deaths, Hospitalized: none

Adult Confirmation: Christie Lynn Cronick, Dana Leigh Perkins, Michael Raymond Perkins, Tiffany Amber Sodoma – Confirmed March 17, 2019

Baptisms: Jason Mark Mroczenski, son born to Joel & Kim Mroczenski February 5, 2019, baptized March 9, 2019.

Preston Leroy Manecke, son born to Brandon & Samantha Manecke January 10, 2019, baptized March 16, 2019.

Brooks Edward Beilke, son born to Chaise & Jamie Beilke January 6, 2019, baptized Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Styles River Becker, son born to Tim Becker & Jackie Bloch August 9, 2018, was baptized Sunday, March 24, 2019.

Sterling Daniel Aschbrenner, son born to Justin Aschbrenner and Emily Dassow December 24, 2018, baptized March 30, 2019.

LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally

An invitation has been extended to all to attend the upcoming **LWML Zone 10 Spring Rally** hosted by here at Trinity on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The registration cost of \$5.00 includes refreshments, brunch, materials and speaker. The rally will begin with Brunch at 9:00am and will continue serving as the meeting begins at 9:30am.

Speaker will be Trish Fancher, Program Coordinator from the **Hannah Center**. The Center exists to assist Women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurturing environment. "Gifts of the Heart" include items needed at the Center.



Be sure to bring along your canceled postage stamps (leave 1/4" margin—no Christmas or flag stamps), General Mills Box Tops for Education, and used eye glasses.

Please bring a friend, former member, or other church ladies! Come, and enjoy the day with new friends, and also old friends. *Thank you!*

Commitment Sunday **April 14, 2019**

Palm Sunday **Stewardship Celebration Lunch**

Everyone is invited to attend the stewardship celebration lunch on Palm Sunday at 11:15am. This will be a full-blown potluck! The only food that will be served is what everyone brings. Trinity will be providing place settings and drinks. For those that want to stay after worship, we will be playing BINGO until the start of the meal. You will also be able to participate in a Stewardship Poster Scavenger Hunt where you will be looking for people and places in the pictures. Lots of fun!

Palm Sunday **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**

As part of the finale of our stewardship celebration, we are asking all of our members to fill out a stewardship commitment card, with a twist. The questions on the card are:

1. How will I commit my time to the Lord in 2019/2020? Increase, decrease, stay the same.
2. How will I commit my talents to the Lord in 2019/2020? Increase, decrease, stay the same.
3. How will I commit my offerings to the Lord in 2019/2020? Increase, decrease, stay the same. By how much each year?

Here's the twist... We will collect these cards in sealed envelopes during the Palm Sunday worship service. They will remain sealed and will be placed in a box on the shelf with the offering plates. This commitment will be between you and God. At the end of 2020 we will return your envelope and then you can evaluate how well you have followed your commitment. Please prayerfully consider how to formulate your responses.

He is RISEN INDEED!

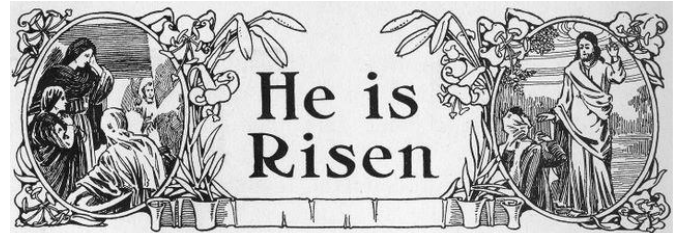
Lutheran Laymen's League

Dear Fellow Christians,

The LLL (Lutheran Laymen's League) of Zone 10 invite you to join together here at Trinity on Sunday, April 7th for the Quarterly Gathering.

We will begin with a pot blessed meal at 1:00pm... just bring a dish to share, everything else provided. At 2:00pm Pastor Mark and Kaye will share pictures from their recent trip to the Holy Land.

Questions? Please call our personal Representative, Wil Strack at 715-257-7376. *Hope to see many of you there!*



Trinity Lutheran School Registration 2019- 2020 School Year

3K, 4K, 5K, and 1st through 8th grade

Wednesday, May 8th

5:00pm – 7:00pm

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Joshua 1:9

Trinity Lutheran School
301 Elm Street
Athens, WI
715-257-7559

www.trinityathens.net



April Acolytes

<u>Wednesday, April 3</u>	7:00pm
Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka	
<u>Saturday, April 6</u>	4:00pm
Paige Westaby & Abby Diethelm	
<u>Sunday, April 7</u>	9:00am
Aleah Frahm & Malaina Telschow	
<u>Wednesday, April 10</u>	7:00pm
Celina Ellenbecker & Andy Schaer	
<u>Saturday, April 13</u>	4:00pm
Ava Zettler & Kyren Schug	
<u>Sunday, April 14</u>	9:00am
Connor Lewandowski & Dominic Lewandowski	
<u>Maundy Thursday, April 18</u>	7:00pm
Addison Lavicka & Abby Ditehelm	
<u>Good Friday, April 19</u>	1:30pm
Emma Ford & Jenna Handschke	
<u>Good Friday, April 19</u>	7:00pm
Blake Hein & Celina Ellenbecker	
<u>Easter Sunday, April 21</u>	6:00am
Malaina Telschow & Kyren Schug	
<u>Easter Sunday, April 21</u>	9:00am
Celina Ellenbecker & Paige Westaby	
<u>Easter Sunday, April 21</u>	10:30am
Open	
<u>Saturday, April 27</u>	4:00pm
Abby Diethelm & Aleah Frahm	
<u>Sunday, April 28</u>	9:00am
Jacob VanDerLinden & Ava Zettler	



April Birthdays

- 1 - Perry Haehlke
- 2 - George Stauske
- 4 - Linda Murkowski
- 5 - Marcy Scheithauer, Virgel Weiler
- 6 - Lois Balz
- 8 - Helen Schreiber
- 9 - Ashley Kottke, Rachel Ostrander, Linda Westfall
- 10 - Kian Ellenbecker
- 11 - Adnay Luetschwager, Deb Sprotte
- 12 - Connor Lewandowski, Dominic Lewandowski
- 13 - Mary Miller, Michele Swanson
- 16 - Mark Mroczenski, Carmen Woiak
- 17 - Luke Sprotte, Derek Wheatley
- 18 - Glenn Belanger, David Frahm IV, Kasandra LeSieur, Easton Thom, Stacy VanDerLinden
- 19 - Cassie Call, Jenna Handschke, Ava Lemmer
- 20 - Kim Kottke, Matthew Wassmann
- 23 - Patty Riske, Sheila Scheffler
- 24 - Gerald LeMay
- 25 - Tyler Brodziski
- 26 - Caden Frandsen
- 28 - Rachel Gilles
- 29 - Bitsy Ewan, Natalie Salber
- 30 - Shannon Boesl, Blake Hein, Russ Schneveys



April Baptism Birthdays

- 1 - Betty Baumgartner, Ed Schultz, Jr.,
- 2 - Suzanne Rudolph
- 3 - Heidi Denzine, Larry Sprotte
- 6 - Parker Tischauser
- 7 - Norma Heier
- 8 - Denise Bunkelman, Esther Mueller, Wallace Walters
- 9 - Jeremy Hart
- 10 - David Nowacki, Carol Roesler
- 11 - Karen Guralski
- 12 - Randy Jeppesen, Brody Lipinski, Mary Schreiber, Tasha Stencil, Michael Zorowski
- 13 - Jordyn Kralcik
- 15 - Rebecca Van Rixel
- 16 - Ryan Tolk
- 17 - Gary Belanger, Ben Hartwig
- 20 - Shirley Denzin, Perry Haehlke, Judy Weiler, Evan Thurs
- 21 - Joe Kepner
- 23 - Ava Ford, Andrew Schaer, Brooklyn Westfall
- 24 - Taylor Albrecht, Archie Becker, Ty Bunkelman, Linda Murkowski
- 25 - Joel Mroczenski, George Stauske
- 26 - Gage Punke
- 27 - Sandy Koeller
- 28 - Allison Halvorsen
- 29 - Lois Balz, Mike Dahl, Ava Lemmer
- 30 - Connor Lewandowski, Ava Zettler, Dominic Lewandowski, Daniel Trimner, Donna Houlihan



April Wedding Anniversaries

Mike & Nancy Pecher	04/01/1978
Ed & Donna Sandle	04/02/1988
Tim & Jamie Diethelm	04/04/2008
Adam & Vicki Halopka	04/05/1997
Ken & Kathy Brice	04/06/1968
Don & Cindy Hardt	04/07/1993
Brian & Kandi Lavicka	04/08/1995
Glen & Lynn Luetschwager	04/08/1978
Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker	04/09/1965
Wallace & Lorna Walters	04/11/1970
Ryan & Karen Ellenbecker	04/13/1996
Derek & Michelle Urmanski	04/13/2013
Gerald & Linda Murkowski	04/19/1975
Jeramie & Katrina Penney	04/21/2000
Don & Marlene Westfall	04/24/1965
Larry & Ronda Frane	04/26/1986
Tim & Sally Westfall	04/27/1968
Tom & Tanya Schaer	04/28/2001

Youth News

Jesus is the Bread
7th & 8th grade Youth Group



Crusaders for Christ
5th & 6th grade Youth Group

Neither youth group met in March due to the weather. Their next meetings will be Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 6:30pm.



Aluminum Can Drive

Trinity will be having Aluminum Can Drives throughout the year! Our first one will be Saturday, April 27th between the hours of 9:00am – 11:00am. Please continue to save and bring your CLEAN aluminum cans to Trinity's parking lot on April 27th. Funds raised through this can drive will help with purchasing a new commercial freezer for our school kitchen. Thanks!



National Youth Gathering Bound!

July used to seem so far away at the beginning of our planning. Now it is just 3 months away!

Our Lenten dinners have been amazing. **THANK YOU** to the congregation for supporting us through fellowship and the amazing team we have had the pleasure of working with during this time. **REAL, PRESENT, GOD** is sure at work in all of our lives. The group is working on a t-shirt design and we hope to finalize and order them by the end of April. We received our hotel assignment this week. We will be staying in Bloomington, MN. We are going to be blessed with a warm breakfast every day at the hotel. There will be plenty of together time as we commute 11 miles to the convention center each day. Luckily we are close to public transportation. We are all so excited for July!

**Thank you for the support,
National Youth Gathering families!**



Easter Morning Breakfast

Thank You in advance for supporting the **Easter Morning Breakfast** that will be served by our high school age youth after the 6:00am Sunrise Worship Service April 21st!



Proceeds from the Breakfast will help with expenses for flowers on Mother's Day. Thanks again!

PTL Meeting Minutes March 10, 2019

Jenna Ellenbecker called the meeting to order and Dean Frick 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 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 3/10/19 of \$2,273.95. The expenses paid out were \$1,900.00. The revenues were \$1,037.21. 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 – Lutheran School Week was successful. Thank you to all especially the local businesses that participated in the Amazing Race. We raised \$800 for Hearts for Jesus.

Old Business –

Lutheran School Week – no discussion

Camp Luther Outdoor Education – no discussion

Seroogy's Fundraiser – All candy bars are gone!

New Business –

New Freezer - After discussion, Sara Paul made a motion to transfer the \$1,350.00 allotted for lunch room tables to help pay for a new freezer. The motion was seconded by Laura Ford, all were in favor, motion carries.

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

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

Council Meeting- March 13, 2019

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

Officers

President-Rick Guralski (P)

Vice President- Neil Marthaler (P)

Secretary- Renee Tessmer (P)

Admin Assistant- Judy Weise (P)

Principal- Dean Frick (P)

Rev. Mark Schwalenberg (P)

Board of Elders- (P)

Board of Christian Education- (P)

Board of Trustees- (P)

Board of Stewardship- (P)

Youth Coordinator-Renell Wassmann (P)

Secretary Report: Neil Marthaler made a motion to accept the secretary report as printed in the February Newsletter seconded by Cheryl Eckert. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Total Income for February was \$28,257.99, total expenses were \$44,975.58 resulting in a loss of \$16,717.59. Checking account \$3, Petty Cash \$100. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$592, Major Building Fund \$16,791, Church Basement Fund \$129, Air Conditioning Fund \$14,290. Endowment Fund at Thrivent, \$98,853, Special Interest Fund at LCEF \$306, Credit Line Balance \$34,430, Brokerage Account at Scottrade \$18,821. School Lunch and Child Care Accounts are both paid currently. Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski to approve the financial report as read and seconded by Joel Mroczenski. Motion carried.

Boards of Elders Report: There are 4 adults that will be Confirmed March 17, 2019 – Christie Lynn Cronick, Michael Raymond Perkins, Dana Leigh Perkins and Tiffany Amber Sodoma. Bethlehem St. Johns extended a call, no decision has been made yet. Live stream of church service was well received it turned out very well. Pastor is working with Medford on their pastor vacancy. School Furnace was discussed. Next meeting we will be discussing plans for Holy Week. There were two baptisms in February – Kade Lee Petrie on February 2, 2019 and Gabriel Patrick on February 16, 2019.

Board of Christian Education Report: Met on Wednesday and started with a devotion. Working on growing and governing and discussed how to do better as a board. Discussion was held with a possible plan to do a 3-5 year budget for school. Child Care: Payment to church \$5000. Childcare had \$1,100 in profit last month. Dean Frick discussed with Randalyn and agreed on \$5000 to be given to church. School Choice will get Terry Brown here to discuss. Open houses went well for 3K and 4K. 5/6-Tech Coordinator-No new leads at this time. Will continue searching. Randalyn would like one more part-time person. Documenting goals one goal already accomplished was to visit other churches to talk to their congregation to speak with them about bringing their children to Trinity.

Principals Report: Dean Frick talked about goals and visions and dashboard indicators such as enrollment up or down. 3K- 8 of the 10 spots are already filled for next year. A few people visited for the 4K spots. School Choice discussion continues, keep the cap at 4%. St. Anthony's may get all 18 vouchers for next year that they may have people that qualify. The board moved some funds from a checking account into an existing savings account as they wanted to start a scholarship fund to help a child receive a Christian Education. \$1000 from Friends of Christian Education and monies from donations, \$500 from St. Johns High Steeple and a donation of \$551

that was in a memorial fund were transferred into this savings account resulting in a total thus far of \$2,051 for the scholarship fund. School freezer is not working well. Pursuing the purchase of a new one this summer. Estimate is \$3900. PTL set aside \$1300 to go towards the freezer.

Board of Trustees Report: Doug Riske spent 3 hours shoveling off roofs as did Joel and David. Checking on Church Mutual Policy as it may need to be increased due to the remodeling of the Parsonage. One urinal is leaking in school. Replacing light bulbs to LED. Will change furnace filters. Fixing leaks on roof, a call will be made to Urban Steel. The furnace continues to give us some issues. There is a crack in boiler but it is not deep enough at this time. CO detector says zero so we will hold off until summer. Snow blowing continues.

Board of Stewardship Report: Plan to meet on Monday finalizing plans for Palm Sunday which is also Commitment Sunday to include a PotLuck. Fun activities planned. Photos have been received and boards will be made.

Pastors Report: Pastor stated he would be trying something new in the upcoming months with sermons. He would have a regular sermon and a teaching moment sermon so it would be like two mini sermons. Met with folks in Spencer and Immanuel in Marshfield and got the ball rolling in Medford. Enjoy the Lent series.

Youth Report: Jesus is the Bread: Cancelled meeting due to the weather. Would like to get one more social event and one more servant before the end of the school year. National Youth Gathering Group: Will continue to do the soup suppers. The end of April they will be planning their T-Shirts and will continue Bible Study on Psalms. Crusaders lock in was held with 12 attending. Good and Faithful Servant.

Old Business: Church Brochures were worked on. 1st Saturday after Easter the aluminum can drive will start, 9-11 will be the hours in the school parking lot. Money will go back into school or wherever needed.

New Business: Missionary Cindy Wrucke will be in Wisconsin in October. She would like to possibly attend during the week sometime and maybe have a potluck. Pastor suggested she come on 10/27/19 for Reformation Sunday and we would work the time around the Packer game. She could speak either during church or during the PotLuck. Call will be made to her to see if this will work. Second date could be 10/26/19.

Motion made by Neil Marthaler to adjourn the meeting Dawn Mroczenski seconded it. Motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Tessmer, Secretary