



**FEBRUARY**

**2020**

To know Christ...  
and make Him known.

**WORSHIP TIMES**

Saturday 7:00 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 2020

**"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." – Matthew 25:28-30**

It's labelled in the Bible as the "Parable of the Talents." It could also be labelled, "The Parable of the Stewards." The basic point of this "earthly story with a heavenly meaning" is that God has given each of us a trust (i.e. time, talents, and treasures) which He intends that we use to His glory and the mission of the Church on Earth.

Because of the weakness of our human flesh, we tend to think that these *talents* are ours to do with as we please for our own goals and desires. We can do this, but that's not what God intended because the giving of individual talents and abilities is part of His master plan for all for the Creation. If we fail to use our talents and abilities as God intended, then we hinder the overall execution of God's plan of love and grace for the world around us.

During the season of Lent we are going to once again enjoy the teaching and wisdom of the "Consecrated Stewards" program, a program intended to educate and increase our understanding of personal stewardship practices of our time, talents, and treasures. Our goal is to not only educate our members in the area of God-pleasing stewardship practices, but also to raise the general awareness of all of the ministry opportunities at Trinity which are the direct beneficiaries of our members' steward practices.

In order for this to achieve its maximum effect, we need the participation of every member of our congregation. It's kind of like a team of horses, if only three of the six horses in a team is "pulling their weight" then the whole group suffers! Like many of the aspects of our life together at Trinity, individual stewardship practices really do effect the whole, whether practiced properly or improperly.

Please make participating in the Consecrated Stewards program a priority in your sacrifice of love this Lent... we'll all be better for it!

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

Tanille Hartwig  
Technology Director & Teacher  
Grades 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Karen Trench  
Teacher / Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Becky Van Rixel  
Teacher / Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</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 Director

## Trinity Elders

Ken Punke – 715-257-9312

Kevin Kottke – 715-257-9971

Dwight Tolk – 715-581-8090

Robert Riemer – 715-257-7312

Mark Mroczenski – 715-257-1485

Keith Niemann – 715-506-0047

*A congregation of the  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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

## Principal's Message

This past week Trinity celebrated National School Choice Week with schools across the United States. By celebrating National School Choice Week we are helping raise awareness of educational opportunities for students in K-12. Parents are able to find schools whose environments best fit their child's needs. Of course, we are partial to environments that provide a Christian education like Trinity Lutheran School. In March, we will celebrate Lutheran Schools week and the Christian environment that a Lutheran School provides.

The application period for Wisconsin Parental Choice Program opens of February 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through April 16<sup>th</sup>. To qualify for a voucher, parent(s) must meet income limits. Brochures on the program and how to apply are available in the school office. We also have the brochure posted on our website at [www.trinityathens.net](http://www.trinityathens.net). Please contact Mr. Frick or Sara Paul if you have questions.

Unfortunately, inaccurate information about the costs and how vouchers are paid for has been circulated by the media. Also, Athens is one of three school districts statewide that are currently at the cap for the number of vouchers that are available to district residents. As this cap goes up 1% each year for the next five years only 2 or 3 additional vouchers will become available each year in Athens. Which means the biggest increase in taxes collected to cover the cost of the vouchers for the next five years was this year. Trinity has students that reside in neighboring school districts that are not at their caps. We are hoping that these parents will apply and qualify for a voucher so their child(ren) can attend Trinity at no cost. The funding for these vouchers will come through those surrounding school districts. Since we do not charge students the full cost to provide an education, the vouchers will help offset the amount that the church supplements for each student. We will be working with St. Anthony and the Athens School District to make sure the accurate information about Wisconsin Parental School Choice Program is shared with the Athens community.

As for why Trinity puts so much effort and resources into Trinity Lutheran School, just look at what the students have to say.

**I  my school because...**

- Good friends
- Learn about Jesus
- A Christian school
- Small classes
- How I am treated by others
- Others help me
- It's fun
- We get to talk about Jesus
- Lunch, Chromebooks, Gym, Arts & Crafts, Recess, Fun Teachers

Dean Frick, Principal

# Church News & Events



## January Memorials

### Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML met January 8<sup>th</sup> at Athenian Living. Kaye Schwalenberg led the Bible study "Why the Joy of the Lord is our Strength". Mites and gifts for LCMS Global Mission and Lutheran Seminary were gathered. Discussion was held on the scholarship fund and the need for donations to keep the fund available for students choosing careers in the church. We currently have two students here at Trinity pursuing careers in church work. Each one is eligible to receive \$1000 per year to help with their tuition.

Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary



### Upcoming LWML Convention!

LWML Members! Have you made your plans to attend the LWML Convention? Have you started planning what you can do for Gifts of the Heart? The Spring issue of the Mission Tidings includes a convention registration form and also contains information on gifts of heart. The LWML convention will be held June 14 – 16 at the Radisson Inn and Convention Center in Green Bay. We hope to see you all there!



**Lutheran Women's Missionary League**



**In loving memory** of Caroline Riemer, a gift was given to the Salem Cemetery Association by her husband, Bob Riemer.

**In loving memory** of her mother, Edna Riske, who would have celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday January 25<sup>th</sup>, a gift was given to Trinity Lutheran School 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 Frank Tiffany, gifts were given to Trinity Altar Guild and to the Debt Fund by Luann Thurs, Doyonis Eagan, and Dan & Sara Bishop.

**In loving memory** of Tom Giese, a gift was given to the General Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise.

**Thank you for your gifts!**



### January Official Acts & Monthly News

**Births / Transfers / Released:** None

**Baptism:** Faith Lynn Pitzke, daughter born to Adam & Laurel Pitzke on December 26, 2019 was baptized January 29, 2020.

**Death:** Scott Marvin Venzke was called to his heavenly home on January 24, 2020. His celebration of life will be held at the Athens Community Hall on February 1, 2020.



**Weddings:** Daniel Trimner and Brooke Seubert were married in a private ceremony on Saturday, December 28, 2019.



Allan Riemer and Michele Meier were married in a private ceremony on Sunday, January 20, 2020.

**Hospitalized:**  
Jaxson Perkins  
Robert Riemer



Pray for These Hospitalized Members:

### ATTENTION - 2020 Confirmation Parents

Confirmation will be the first Sunday of May, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**, during the 9:00am worship service.

The traditional Faith Celebration will be **Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.** Pastor will be having a Confirmation Planning Meeting, with the Confirmands and their parents, on **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, after the evening Lent Worship Service.** It's very important that all those being confirmed (and their parents) attend! Thank you ☺

## February Acolytes

<u>Saturday, February 1</u>	7:00pm
Jenna Handschke & Addisyn Kottke	
<u>Sunday, February 2</u>	9:00am
Ava Ford & Eli Paul	
<u>Saturday, February 8</u>	7:00pm
Michael Meyer & Gavin Frahm	
<u>Sunday, February 9</u>	9:00am
Abby Diethelm & Malaina Telschow	
<u>Saturday, February 15</u>	7:00pm
Andy Schaer & Paige Westaby	
<u>Sunday, February 16</u>	9:00am
Natalie Salber & Swayne Stencil	
<u>Saturday, February 22</u>	7:00pm
Nick Pittman & Addisyn Kottke	
<u>Sunday, February 23</u>	9:00am
Addison Lavicka & Aleah Frahm	
<u>Ash Wednesday, February 26</u>	7:00pm
Abby Diethelm & Ava Ford	
<u>Saturday, February 29</u>	7:00pm
Malaina Telschow & Eli Paul	
<u>Sunday, March 1</u>	9:00am
Jenna Handschke & Addison Lavicka	



## February Birthdays

- 1 - LaVerne Call, Daniel L. Punke
- 2 - Ellie Belter, Austin Natzke, Ryanne Peter
- 3 - Dana Perkins, Olivia Punke, Ken Schug  
Parker Tischauser, Ava Zettler
- 4 - Norma Heier, Matthew Weise
- 5 - Jason Mroczenski, 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, Adam Jeppesen
- 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 - 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,  
Kade Petrie
- 3 - Tracy Albrecht, Ila Kilinski,  
Mike Nowacki
- 4 - Kinzee Frane, Derek Lavicka,  
Doreen Weise
- 5 - Becki Bliven, Taylor Thurs
- 6 - Samantha Manecke, Diane Murkowski
- 7 - Emily Frick, Nathan Heier
- 8 - Mark Schroeder
- 9 - Jacob Cleveland
- 10 - Jean Krueger, Mindy Young
- 11 - Ellen Czech, Tanya Ellenbecker
- 12 - Karen Bergmann, Bev Tiffany
- 14 - Halle Albrecht, Ryan Hovde
- 16 - Gabriel Boushon, 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, Adam Jeppesen, 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





# Youth News



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



Crusaders met for their monthly meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> and opened the meeting with prayer, devotion and citing the Crusader Pledge. Story was read about Pee Wee Smith and football tryouts, leading up to Psalm 63:8 where David says he's going to hang on to God because He lifts him up. Youth talked about the story and as Pee Wee clung to Mountain Mike's leg, we need to cling to God and if we don't let go of Him, he will continue to lift us up!

All reports were approved by the youth. Balance in the account at the Athens Area Credit Union is \$712.30.

Old Business: We have not been successful to have all the officers together to take a picture. Will do this at our Winter Lock-In. Talked about December activities – Christmas Caroling and limo ride to Marshfield.

New Business: Dance for Diabetes permission forms and \$10 for the t-shirt is to be returned by Monday. Our Lock-In will be Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm – 8:00 Friday morning. There is no school on Friday. Youth are to have Lock-In theme suggestions to Judy or Deb by so a ballot can be made and the congregation will vote on the suggestions February 8<sup>rd</sup> and 9<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 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm and youth will count the ballots to decide the Lock-In theme.

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

Youth continue to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 6:30pm.

## 2020 Youth Mission Trip

Youth and chaperones began their monthly meetings this month, January 26<sup>th</sup>. They began building relationships through an ice-breaker game with dice. The 2020 Mission Trip theme is **NEIGHBORS... Not where, but who. Not if, but how?** Being neighbors isn't just about where we live but about how we love the people that God puts in our path. Talked about the story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible and how this summer we'll be spending a week alongside "new neighbors" and truly engaging with those around us.

The three Advent Meals raised \$1,726.53. This 100% profit was due to being able to apply for three Thrivent cards. THANK YOU! Our homemade Pizza Fundraiser begins now, and all orders and payment are to be returned to Judy by Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Pizzas will be made after worship Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

You were reminded of their 3 - \$50 payments for the trip. The group will be hosing the six Lent Dinners, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting will be Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm.

### **We are looking for a High School Youth Leader!**

You may wonder... *what are the responsibilities of a youth leader?* To be an advocate for our youth! Help plan, develop and implement all aspects of a balanced youth ministry. Help youth feel heard in the church and community. The opportunities! Pray about it, is God leading you to be this leader???????

### **2020 Bible Bowl – March 28<sup>th</sup> in Bowler**

Bible Bowl is a great way for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12 grade to study the Word of God on their own and in groups. Trinity has a leader ready and willing to "crush" this competition 😊 **HELP!** Youth are needed to fill a team. Contact the office for more information. Thanks!



## Monthly Council Meeting- January 8, 2020

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

Officers:

President- Rick Guralski (P)	Board of Elders (P)
Vice President- Neil Marthaler (A)	Board of Christian Education- (P)
Secretary- Renee Tessmer (P)	Board of Trustees- (P)
Admin Assistant- Judy Weise (P)	Board of Stewardship- (P)
Principal- Dean Frick (P)	Youth Coordinator- Renell Wassmann (P)
Rev. Mark Schwalenberg (P)	

**Secretary Report:** Motion made by Renell Wassmann and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to approve the secretary report as read. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union, \$177, Petty cash, \$31. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$594, Major Building Repair Fund \$4,913. Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$109,124, Special Interest Fund \$307 Credit Line at Dorchester Bank \$32,700, Mortenson Progressive Fund \$23,924. Total General Fund Income for December \$58,867.26. Total Expenses \$51,440.82 with a gain of \$7,426.44. School Lunch and Child Care salaries are both paid current. Motion made by Mark Mroczenski and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

**Boards of Elders:** Official Acts for the month of December. 1 death Frank Tiffany, funeral was on 12/20/19, and 1 baptism Andrew Tucker Henrichs-Doll son of Aaron Doll and Michelle Henrichs. We discussed communion count. We talked about doing a better count for offering collection when so many people are in church. Pastor will be gone on 1/23/20 and 1/24/20 for a Film Festival and 3/7/20 for his daughter's wedding. Pastor has an emergency back -up Power Point for bad weather service days and members are unable to come to church, but Elders will need additional training to run the Power Point. Talked about Lay Leader training but due to distance no Elders were able to attend.

**Board of Christian Education:** Voted to increase tuition by 5%. Will do more advertising of our tuition assistance program. For 3K there is \$200 tuition assistance available. Church visits will be scheduled soon. Doors are being stained and will then be installed. 3K open house will be on 1/29/20 already 5 -6 students on the waiting list. 4K open house will be on 2/12/20. That night will also be for people that need help signing up for school choice, Dean Frick and Sara Paul will be present that night. Talked about plans for next year with the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Tech Ed. Position as this is only on a one- year contract more discussion to come. Elected officers for Board of Ed. The issues with the lunch menus going out on time have improved. Still looking for someone to do prep work for lunch a couple days a week. 3K- 4K aide position, one person has picked up an application for that.

**Principals Report:** School choice. Last month we decided to hire Sara Paul as the official person to run the School Choice program under Deans name as Sara has an associate's degree but not a Bachelor's degree. There will be some training in February. She will be filling about applications. Two things have to happen on the application, prove where they are a resident of and prove what their income is. Once you are excepted you are on a waiting list you secure a spot you don't have to show your income again but each year you do have to prove your residency. Picked up a new student after Christmas so total enrollment is at 60. Need to get our website updated and running. Pastor will contact Rev. Jeppesen who offered to help Tanille Hartwig with keeping the website updated.

**Board of Trustees:** All 5 members will be changing light bulbs after church on Sunday plan to change up to 100 light bulbs. Still need help with clearing steps and sidewalks at school from snow as the teachers and Judy do not have time to do this. Two thermostats in the basement of church, one on South side works, one on North side does not work will look into this.

**Board of Stewardship:** working on Consecrated Stewards that will take place during Lent. Will be talking about offering envelope boxes and eliminating some, taking some names off the list of people that do not pick up their church envelopes. There were some members that did not pick up their envelopes from last year. This will save money.

**Pastor:** Pastor wanted to thank everyone for a great Christmas Holiday season. The youth did a great job with the advent meals as many members and non-members came for the meals. Pastor wants us to continue to make efforts to welcome new people to church. Pastor will focus on Consecrated Stewards to best support the ministries of the church. This will include home bible studies and will increase stewardship awareness. Pastor thought someone may have to look at the flat roof as there were some leaks. Will revisit in the Spring.

**Youth:** Crusaders (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) went Christmas Caroling on the Zenner Christmas Wagon 12/15. December 22 went to deliver the can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, ate at McDonalds, then toured the Rotary Light show. Special thanks to Al Reimer and Michele Meier for taking us in the Limo Bus. Went to light show in Marshfield. Next meeting Sunday 1/12/20. Jesus is the Bread group also went caroling with the Crusaders. Only three regular participation next meeting 1/9/2020 at 6:30 p.m. Team Trinity canceled their bowling last weekend due to only one being able to go. Recommend keeping Mission Trip group separate from a high school youth group. Would like to start up a high school youth group. Mission Trip monthly meetings begin on 1/26/2020 at 6:30 p.m. Still waiting to hear on Bible Bowl. College Valentine packages Renell received a Thrivent card. Hope to have Sunday School students help decorate them.

**Old Business:** President Rick Guralski commented that Trinity did a lot of great new things this past year and should be proud. New carpet, air conditioning, new altar railing which has made it easier to set up for Christmas programs. Officer Installation will be 1/12 and 1/13 during the church services.

**New Business:** Andy Thurs has volunteered to be our new Vice President, thank-you Andy. Mention was made on how well the Christmas program went. Many attended. Talked about maybe having two services next Christmas due to the amount of people that attended. Need agenda for Voters Meeting which is 1/26/2020.

Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Renell Wassmann. Meeting adjourned. Pastor and council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Renee Tessmer, Secretary

## PTL Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2020

Keri Salber called the meeting to order at 10:16am with 12 members present. Dean Frick opened with a prayer.

Secretary's minutes were presented. Motion made by Laura Ford, seconded by Tabitha Hartwig to approve the minutes as presented with no corrections or additions. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Committee and Officer's Report

**Treasurer's Report:** Checkbook balance was \$3,109.24 as of 1/12/2020. Expenses paid out were \$906.25 and included the bus to Magic School Bus, Packer Party expenses, and two scholarships paid out. Revenue included Scrip proceeds and regular monthly dividend. Motion made by Laura Ford and seconded by Sara Paul to pay the 10% mission from Scrip proceeds to Abby Schreiner's medical expenses. Motion carried. Laura Ford motioned and Tabitha Hartwig seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Scrip Report:** Annual report showed total profit for 2019 as \$7,649.88. \$3,000 was donated to church, \$3,000 to school and \$2,766 to tuition credits.

**Principal Report:** Possibility of doing two Christmas programs next year. With 3K and Childcare participating more parents/family attended the program. PTL would provide snacks to the school children between services. Planning for Lutheran Schools Week will take place this month, which will be the first week in March. Next month Dean will ask for funding from PTL to cover Lutheran Schools Week expenses. Parent teacher conferences will be the week of January 20th. 4k starts Thursdays on the January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Looking for a 3k/4k aide for the mornings. Sara will be switching over to handle School Choice responsibilities. More information will be coming regarding School Choice. The application process runs January through April. Application is completed online with document verification done at school (income and residency). If applicant is placed on a waiting list you only need to verify income once, residency is verified every year. Looking at doing a workshop in February along with the 4K open house.

**Old Business:** Bake sale for outdoor ed at Camp Luther took place after worship today and last night. Dean received a private donation for \$500 to help cover these costs. PTL will cover costs above the donation and proceeds from the bake sale.

**New Business:** Camp Luther Outdoor Ed for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades is January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Richard Paul and Tanille Hartwig are chaperoning. Bus Driver Appreciation week is February 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Deb Frick and seconded by Laura Ford to provide \$10 On the Square scrip gift cards to the bus drivers (15 – 16 drivers). Motion carried. Jenna Ellenbecker will be organizing Seroogy's fundraiser again this year. She will bring information to February's meeting. Motion made by Sara Paul and seconded by Laura Ford for PTL to cover the \$133.85 cost of Baptismal Crosses as requested by Judy. Motion carried. PTL Family Day at Forest Springs Camp is set for Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 5pm. Tickets are \$10. Ski, snow board, and snow shoe rentals are available for an additional \$10. St. Anthony's will be invited as well as anyone from the congregation.

Next meeting will be February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Laura Ford and seconded by Tabitha Hartwig to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:34.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Paul, Acting Secretary

## Quarterly Voters Meeting January 26, 2020

Rick Guralski called the meeting to order, Pastor opened with prayer. 28 members were present.

**Secretary Report:** Motion made by John Punke and seconded by Dwight Tolk to approve the secretary report as printed in the monthly newsletter. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union \$177, Petty Cash \$31, Organ Fund \$594, Major Building Fund \$4,913, Endowment Fund-Thrivent \$109,124, Credit Line at Dorchester bank \$32,700. Mortenson Progressive Fund \$23,924. Thrivent Endowment Fund year end balance \$113,560.55, Fund Base \$90,594, 2019 Gain \$14,708, Total Gain 45 months \$22,967, Per Month Gain \$510. Mortenson Progressive @ Ameritrade year-end balance \$24,510.09. Total General Fund Income \$546, 538. Total General Fund Expenses \$573,608. Fiscal Year Income less Expense loss of \$27,070. School Lunch Program and Child Care Funds paid current. Motion made by Jean Balz and seconded by Mark Schroeder to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

**Board of Stewardship:** Kaye Schwalenberg reported that they are working on the planning of Consecrated Stewards which will be during Lenten season. Volunteer appreciation dinner was held in the church basement after this meeting.

**Board of Elders:** Official Acts/4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2019. Baptisms: McKayla Dawn Wichman 10/27/19, Colt Edward Zinkowich 11/16/19, Lindy Lee Brodziski 11/17/19, Alexander Rey Garcia 11/30/19, Sofia Ann Garcia 11/30/19, Zayne Michael Engel 11/30/19, Andrew Tucker Henrichs-Doll 12/8/19.

Transfers to Trinity: Tracy and Kristin Zettler and their daughter Addyson transferred from St. John Lutheran Church in Hamburg. 12/11/19.

Received through Profession of Faith: Jeffrey Vance and Wendi Sue Pittman and their son Nicholas David 10/2/19, Curtis Gene Balz 11/6/19, Aaron Bryon Doll and Michelle Kaye Henrichs 12/4/19.

Wedding: Taran Douglas Brodziski and Heidi Murkowski 10/26/19.

Death: Frank Andrew Tiffany 12/16/2019.

**Board of Christian Education:** This week is National School Choice Week. Applications period will open up in February. 1/29/20 is 3K Open House 6 students already registered out of 10. \$200 tuition assistance available 4K Open House will be on 2/12/20. There are 60 total students, picked a student up after Christmas. Increase of 5% tuition rates. There was election of officers. Doors are stained and installed. Tuition assistance fund is growing for families who may want to send their child to Trinity but are unable to afford it. The technology program is going very well, adding the tech/ed teacher has been very beneficial. President Rick Guralski stated that as a congregation we need to keep our offerings coming in and may need to even increase our offerings in order to support this added teacher position that was so needed. Students 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up are using chrome books. Waiting to hear back from area churches to do church visits.

**Principals Report:** School Choice was discussed in great length by Dean Frick. The Record Review had an article printed about the two parochial schools in Athens participating in school choice. Dean stated the article was very misleading and things printed were not true. Dean explained again exactly how school choice works and it was not how it was printed. The School Districts main concern was losing State Aid and Dean stated this is not true. He would like to talk to Athens School Board members to see how School Choice was presented to them at the Board meeting. Dean stated we need to get the correct information out to the public. Rick Guralski stated that he would call Bev Braun to find out when the next School Board meeting will be and he and a few others would attend to present the facts the correct way. Rick Guralski will make some calls to see how much it costs to advertise for school choice.

**Board of Trustees:** Filters due to be changed in Feb/March. Still looking for some shoveling help, notice was put into the church and high school bulletins. Lights are changed in Mr. Frick and Mrs. Van Rixel's rooms. Adam snaked urinal in school bathroom. Looking at left toilet fill valve. Sink in pastor's office on agenda. School roof may be next big project (membrane replacement)

**Pastor:** Pastor will focus on Consecrated Stewards coming up during Lent which will support the ministries of the church. This will include bible studies which will be friendly and upbeat and will increase stewardship awareness. Pastor stated that he would combine midweek Lenten services with part Bible study. Pastor reported on his St. Louis trip called Faith in Film Festival the intention was to look at modern films and how to use this with the Gospel and what God wants us to do.

**Youth:** Crusaders for Christ Youth Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening of each month. October: Officers were installed during worship. Went Trick or Treating for Circle of Joy. November: Made gifts to hand out at Thanksgiving Eve Worship. December: Went caroling with the Zenner Christmas wagon. Took a trip to Marshfield with Al Riemer's Limo bus to tour the Ronald McDonald House, delivered the soda tabs, ate at McDonalds then went to the Christmas light display at the Marshfield Zoo. Taking time each meeting to continue marking their Bibles. Jesus is the Bread group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evening of the month.

2020 Mission Trip: Hosted the three Advent Meals, and thanks to Thrivent were able to raise \$1,726.53 for the Mission Trip. Monthly meetings began on 1/26/20 and will be held once a month leading up to the trip in June. There is room for two more youth. Currently have 13 youth and 4 chaperones committed.

**Old Business:** Continued to talk about whether we are making new members feel welcome.

**New Business:** Talked about having a sponsor/mentor to be assigned to new members to make them feel welcome, show them around, answer their questions. Darlene Strack volunteered to do this. Jean Balz talked about having a picture board in the back with pictures of new members on it so they were easily recognized.

Liza Czech did a limited audit of the 2019 church finances. Random samplings of Accounts Payable transactions, petty cash, and payroll were selected with no discrepancies found. The line of credit and endowment fund balances were traced back to the financial statements to verify the correct balances were reported. Finally, random samplings of weekend offerings were selected to trace back to the bank statements with no discrepancies found.

Jean Balz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ken Brice seconded it, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renee Tessmer, Secretary