



2020

# TRINITY TIDINGS

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

## Pastor's Corner

<sup>23</sup>"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial.

"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.

<sup>24</sup>Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

– 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Without a doubt, we live in challenging and (at least in the last 100 years) unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented our government, the medical industry, our community, our church and science with challengers that are beyond our ability to manage. What are we to do?

As Christians who believe and trust in God's Word as the sole source of guidance and direction for our lives, our first (and hopefully) natural response should be, "Let's see what the Bible tells us we should do."

In the Old Testament, when a plague came upon a people or nation, it was usually because of the unfaithfulness of that people or nation. The plague was both punishment from a holy and righteous God, and a tool to lead people or nations to repentance.

I wish I could say that this was the case with the current pandemic, but it is not. God does not punish today because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Good Friday was all about the complete outpouring of God's wrath against all sin. When Jesus said, "It is finished," he was acknowledging that **ALL SIN** had been paid for, that no debt for sin remained.

Why do we suffer then? Because we live in a world broken by sin. The temptation to sin and the effects of sin (disease, war, illness, etc.) will be present in this world until the Day of Judgment. This is why God has promised that the next step after Judgement Day will be the destruction of the entire Universe, and the re-creation of the Universe as it was before mankind's fall into sin.

So, now what do we do? Follow Holy Scripture. 1 Corinthians 10:24 tells us that **we should not be seeking our own good, but the good of others.** During the current pandemic this means not doing what we naturally want but doing what good for those around us. For the good others we need to: wear masks, social distance, regularly wash our hands, and avoid crowds of people (especially those who reject the Governor's emergency orders and Health Department guidelines).

What if you don't feel like doing this? You're not alone. None of us feels like doing things that infringe on our person rights. But as Scripture notes above: "*Everything is permissible*"--but not everything is beneficial." I could go on, but I think you get my point. Our love for Christ should motivate us to seek the good of others, even as Jesus denied himself, our sought our good by suffering, dying, and rising again for our sins.

Until this is over let's rally around Scripture and live for the good of others.

Pastor Mark



OCTOBER

## Our Mission:

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

Church Phone: 257-7526

School Phone: 257-7559

Pastor Mark: 715-218-8814

## Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	2
Church News & Events	3
Official Acts	3
September Memorials	3
Acolytes/Birthdays/Baptism/Annv.	4
Youth News	5
September Council Mtg Minutes	6-7
Trinity Child Care Newsletter	8
Church October Calendar	9

HAVE A BLESSED FALL!

# Trinity Lutheran Church & School

Mark Schwalenberg  
Pastor

Dean Frick  
Principal / Grades 7 - 8

Tanille Hartwig  
Grades 5 – 6 / Technology Director

Kim Mroczenski  
Grades 3 - 4

Becky Van Rixel  
Grades 1 - 2

Deb Frick  
Teacher / 3K, 4K, Kindergarten

Diane Tolk Frick  
Aide / 3K, 4K

Judy Weise  
Administrative Assistant

Kaye Schwalenberg  
Custodian

Laurie Brodziski  
School Cook

Bethany Snyder  
Lunch Program Assistant

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 715-370-5917

A congregation of the  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
[www.TrinityAthens.net](http://www.TrinityAthens.net)

## Principal's Message

Well, we have gotten one month in of in-person learning here at Trinity. As cases continue to surge here in Marathon County, trying to distinguish between common seasonal cold symptoms and possible Covid symptoms has become a real challenge. As more cases arise here in Athens, the possibility of individual classrooms or the entire school having to convert to virtual learning is becoming a real possibility. We have done a few tests of our new technology equipment (web cameras and document cameras) and we should be ready to make the transition if necessary. We pray that all those who contract the Corona virus are able to recover with no lasting effects.

During these uncertain times when it seems like the virus is out of everyone's control, we must remember that God is still in control of this world that he created. He is the one that we can look to during this time of uncertainty. The second verse of our theme for this school year reminds us of this. **"My help comes from the Lord. The Maker of heaven and earth."** Psalm 121:2

Dean Frick, Principal

### CANCELLATION NOTICE

We, the committee of Friends of Christian Education (FOCE), regretfully have had to make a difficult decision regarding hosting our annual fundraising banquet. Due to the ever-changing circumstances and gathering restrictions we have decided to cancel the event this year with the hopes of next year being better than "back to normal".

This banquet greatly benefits the school of St. Anthony and Trinity. We are truly thankful for your support over the last 11 years and look forward to meeting again in October of 2021!

We need you more than ever to continue to support Christian Education and appreciate anything you can do to keep our schools thriving through this unprecedented time.

Thank you,

Vicki/ Adam Halopka

Dean/Deb Frick

Lisa/Greg Nowicki

Maxine/Rick Schreiner

Tina/Mike Schreiner

Karen/Fritz Balz

Mel/Andy Daniels



Friends of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

# Church News & Events



LWML

## Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML

Trinity LWML has not met since the beginning of this pandemic. We continue to pray for the safety of everyone during these trying times.



## September Memorials

**In loving memory** of Sally Schroeder, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and Altar Guild by Bruce & Renell Wassmann, Luann Thurs, and Doug & Jean Krueger.



Many Thanks!

**In loving memory** of Sandy Ewan, gifts were given to the Debt Fund, General Fund, and Altar Guild by Ken & Kathy Brice, Bruce & Connie Radloff, Bruce & Renell Wassmann, Tony & Cheryl Eckert, Eugene & Doreen Weise, Luann Thurs, and Jerry & Kristi Redmann.

**In loving memory** of Michelle's Brother-In-Law, Dennis Agner, a gift was given to the Altar Guild by Al & Michelle Natzke.

**In loving memory** of Marion Oldenhoff, gifts were given to the Enhancement Fund, Altar Guild, and Debt Fund by Doug & Jean Krueger, Nathlie Venzke, Pastor Mark & Kaye Schwalenberg, Tom & Shirley Raymakers, and Donna Kulas..

**In loving memory** of LaVern Drumund, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Doug & Jean Krueger.

**In loving memory** of Arnie Steidinger, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Doug & Jean Krueger.

**In loving memory** of Alden Anderson, gifts were given to the Enhancement Fund and Debt Fund by Doug & Jean Krueger and Pastor Mark & Kaye Schwalenberg.

**In loving memory** of Robert Schedule, a gift was given to the Debt Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise.

## Please join us – As we gather for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Rally – Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Fall Rally will be held at St. John High Steeple, beginning with Registration from 8:30 – 9:00am. The Rally will conclude with lunch.

The LWML (or Ladies Aid as it used to be called) has been around for 79 years. The mission of the LWML is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. In short, LWML is about Bible study and missions.

## Quarterly Voter's Assembly

Our Quarterly Voter's Assembly will look a bit different after Sunday Morning Worship on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be changing our year end to June 30<sup>th</sup>, therefore, proposing our current budget and terms of office be extended six months.

## September Official Acts & Monthly News



**Weddings / New Members:** none

**Confirmed in the Faith:** Jenna Handschke, Addison Lavicka, Andy Schaer and Paige Westaby were all Confirmed here at Trinity on Sunday, September 13, 2020.

**Hospitalized:** Ray Baumgartner, Norma Heier, Jamey Handschke

**Birth:** Callen Edward Hertel, son born to Ben & Miranda Hertel on Friday, September 25, 2020..

**Baptism:** Charlotte Nancy Puffet, daughter born to John & Anna Puffet on Friday, May 1, 2020, was baptized by Pastor Mark (her proud Grandfather) on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

**Deaths:**  
Alden Anderson – 09/06/20  
Sandy Ewan – 09/15/2020  
Larry Framke – 09/21/20  
Norma Heier- 09/30/20

There will be no Pancake Supper this Fall 😞

**Transfer:** Karen Trench transferred to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids



## October Acolytes

<u>Saturday, October 3</u>	7:00pm
Abby Diethelm & Autumn Diethelm	
<u>Sunday, October 4</u>	9:00am
Ava Ford & Natalie Salber	
<u>Saturday, October 10</u>	7:00pm
Gavin Frahm & Garrett Frahm	
<u>Sunday, October 11</u>	9:00am
Aubrey Kottke & Nick Pittman	
<u>Saturday, October 17</u>	7:00pm
Swayne Stencil & Brinly Stencil	
<u>Sunday, October 18</u>	9:00am
Eli Paul & Kian Ellenbecker	
<u>Saturday, October 24</u>	7:00pm
Aleah Frahm & Michael Meyer	
<u>Sunday, October 25</u>	9:00am
Colton Frandsen & Alex LaVake	
<u>Saturday, October 31</u>	7:00pm
Ava Ford & Eli Schaer	
<u>Sunday, November 1</u>	9:00am
Addisyn Kottke & Aubrey Kottke	

## October Birthdays

- 1 - Collin David, Sarah Lemmer, Daisy Seefeld
- 2 - Nathalie Fladvid, Andy Thurs
- 3 - Rick Westfall
- 4 - Randy Scheffler
- 6 - Haley Kralcik
- 8 - Kathy Trimner-Roth
- 9 - Sandy Verpoorten,  
Lorna Walters, George Halvorsen
- 10 - Rylee Natzke
- 11 - Anna Wheatley
- 12 - Renee Haines, Everhett Hertel, Pam Tessmer
- 13 - Mark Martyn, Holden Punke
- 14 - Alexander Garcia, Ann Thurs
- 15 - Casey Duerr, Colton Frandsen
- 16 - Marisa Radloff
- 17 - Jessica Gruna, Carla Prah
- 18 - Connie Boneske, Phillip David
- 20 - Logan Ellenbecker, Matthew Hartwig
- 22 - Jamie Diethelm, Bruce Murkowski,  
Jason Natzke, Nathlie Venzke
- 23 - Blake Bunkelman, Kim Heller, Ryker Zinkowich
- 24 - Luann Thurs, Andy Zettler
- 25 - Annabelle Hartwig, Adam Punke, Tony Thurs,  
Alex Lemmer
- 26 - Kendra Schug, Levi Steinke
- 27 - Suzanne Barber
- 28 - Kathy Kuck, Brian Luther, Heather Nowacki,  
Mark Telschow, Mikala Verpoorten
- 29 - Colleen Balz, Nadia Drewek, Owen Hanson,  
Briana Lavicka
- 30 - Michelle Engel, Olivia VanDerLinden
- 31 - Kevin Murkowski, Cheryl Steen



## October Baptism Birthdays

- 1 - Angel Petrie, Cheri Plooy
- 3 - Ronda Frane, Karen Weiler
- 4 - Ty Halopka, Bethany Marcott,  
Elizabeth Van Rixel, Ashley Barttelt
- 5 - Gwen Becker, Owen Kornack
- 7 - Maddix Natzke
- 8 - Tanya Schaer, Korbin Kottke
- 9 - Owen Punke
- 10 - Veda Ellenbecker, Cindy Thurs
- 11 - Alvira Henrichs, Michelle Urmanski
- 12 - Ken Brice
- 13 - Alex LaVake
- 15 - Mallory Lamb, Randy Kuck, Addison Lavicka,
- 16 - Michael Perkins, John Punke, Nick Punke
- 18 - Paul Mroczenski, David Trimner
- 19 - Connie Boneske, Andrew Frick,  
Libby Christopherson
- 20 - Cole David, Chelsea Martyn, Emily Passehl,  
Rylie Sprotte
- 21 - Addisyn Kottke, Sarah Lemmer, Ethan Salber
- 22 - Jane Antross, Keith Zinkowich
- 24 - Andy Thurs
- 25 - Sandy Verpoorten
- 26 - Dale Barkow
- 27 - Blake Bunkelman,  
McKayla Wichman
- 28 - Gail Wiese
- 29 - Renee Haines  
Brittany McCallister
- 30 - Kathy Trimner Roth  
Susan Miller
- 31 - Donna Albrecht, Chance Schienebeck



## October Wedding Anniversaries

- Andrew & Jessica Gruna – 12 years October 4*  
*Kevin & Mallory Lamb, 6 years October 4*  
*Fritz & Karen Balz – 29 years October 5*  
*Todd & Tess Barkow – 29 years October 5*  
*Larry & Deb Sprotte – 42 years October 7*  
*Joey & Melissa Westfall, 14 years October 7*  
*Peter & Sheila Lewandowski – 15 years October 8*  
*Richard & Sara Paul – 15 years October 8*  
*Russ & Leslee Schneveis – 37 years October 8*  
*Dane & Heather Wisniewski, 4 years October 8*  
*Mike & Jackie Thurs – 28 years October 10*  
***Randy & Tammy Langhoff – 40 years October 11***  
*Cole & Briana Handschke - 1 year October 12*  
*Ken & JaNae Schug – 18 years October 12*  
***Mark & Dawn Mroczenski – 30 years October 13***  
*Nick & Maddie Belter – 8 years October 16*  
*Rick & Julie Kuck – 39 years October 17*  
*Justin & Heidi Hein – 12 years October 18*  
*Ken & Betty Scheffler – 14 years October 21*  
*Jamey & DeAnn Handschke – 16 years October 23*  
*Gene & Mary Miller – 27 years October 23*  
***Wil & Darlene Strack, 60 years October 23***  
*Taran & Heidi Brodziski, 1 years October 26*  
*Glenn & Carrie Belanger – 36 years October 27*

\* Milestone Anniversaries  
will be celebrated with a  
special event in February.



## Youth News

### Crusaders for Christ

The Crusaders met September 13<sup>th</sup> for their first meeting of the school year. Special personalized “Crusader” masks were given out. The group will continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:30–7:30pm. Youth elected officers, and they will be installed during worship on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The officers are -

President – Ava Ford  
Vice President – Natalie Salber  
Treasurer – Brinly Stencil  
Secretary – Sy’Rih Hartwig  
Scrapbooker – Ben Hartwig  
Activity Coordinator – Autumn Diethelm  
Prayer Warrior – Eli Paul

We talked about what it means to be a “Crusader” and reviewed the Crusader Pledge. New Crusaders signed the Crusader Cross. In October we will begin/resume marking our Bibles that Mrs. Ellen Czech previously started with us a few years back.

Youth planned events for the upcoming school year. Some of the events have now been scheduled - Touring 89Q Radio then going on the Fall Chairlift ride at Rib Mountain Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>; Trick-or-Treating for the Circle of Joy 3:00 – 5:00pm October 31<sup>st</sup>, and Christmas Caroling on the Zenner Christmas Wagon December 13<sup>th</sup>. Other possible events discussed include – November, making craft to hand out after Thanksgiving Eve Worship; Lock-In in January; Dance for Diabetes in February; Make Easter craft to hand out after Easter Morning Worship; volunteer at the Marathon County Human Society, and possible others???. Youth were reminded about what it means to be a Crusader for Christ, and doing things for others.

Crusaders have been expanded to all 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Youth are welcome to join in at any time, whether you’re a Trinity member or not. *God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!*

### 2021 Mission Trip Benton Harbor, MI July 11-17, 2021

Since we were not able to go in the Mission Trip last summer, we are once again planning on spending the week in Benton Harbor. Youth and chaperones will partner with local organizations to serve the city youngest and oldest residents. They will also assist with yard work and paint homes. In the evenings they will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. Experience a local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan Beach, and explore Benton Harbor’s sister city, St. Joseph. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2000.



At the end of the week the group will have a “fun” night and plan to ride the SS Badger across Lake Michigan back to Wisconsin.

Planning continues... the group will begin meeting monthly to prepare for the trip after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Spots need to be confirmed! Please call Judy in the church office to discuss and confirm your spot 😊 Thanks!

# TERRIFIC TEENS

### Youth Ministry Mission Statement

**Trinity’s youth groups exist: to strengthen faith in Jesus Christ; to provide a place to have Christian fun; to help others; to make and strengthen friendships; and to walk together with Jesus on our journey to heaven. Our relationships with Jesus Christ grow through Bible studies, mission projects, group retreats, and service projects. We are committed to being inviting, welcoming, encouraging, and holding each other accountable.**

## Council Meeting – September 9, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Guralski and we prayed as a group.

Officers:

President- Rick Guralski (P)

Vice President- Andy Thurs (P)

Secretary- Renee Tessmer (P)

Admin Assistant- Judy Weise (P)

Principal- Dean Frick (P)

Rev-Mark Schwalenberg (A)

Board of Elders (P)

Board of Christian Education- (P)

Board of Trustees- (P)

Board of Stewardship- (P)

Youth Coordinator- Renell Wassmann (P)

**Secretary Report:** Motion made by Renell Wassmann and seconded by Diane Tolk to approve the secretary report as printed in the monthly newsletter.

**Financial Report:** Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union \$46,243, Petty Cash \$19. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$594, Major Building Repair Fund \$9,893, Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$108,076, Special Interest Fund at LCEF \$309, Balance of our Line of Credit at Dorchester Bank \$0. Total General Fund Income for November \$50,052. Total November Expenses \$47,852 resulting in a gain of \$2,200. Dedicated Funds: School Lunch and Child Care salaries are both paid current. Major Building repair Donations were \$1,126. Scholarship fund \$175. New savings account will start next month called the Enhancement Fund this will be a fund that people can donate money to, to improve the look of the church and spruce things up. Looking for some members to be on this committee. Proceeds from the Saturday of the fair food was about \$6000. Motion made by Andy Thurs and seconded by Mark Mroczenski to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

**Boards of Elders:** Church attendance is down during Covid. Down to about 152 members attending church overall which is down. Will continue with online services, drive in and in church services but there is fear that members will just stop coming to church altogether. Talked about sending out a newsletter or doing in person visits. Online giving has been doing very well. Acolytes will begin again in October. Talked about how we will have Christmas Services. Hoping we can begin to have ushers again. Pastor and Kaye will be gone end of September, beginning of October. Pastor Meyer will officiate.

**Board of Christian Education:** Enrollment is at 67. There will be a School Choice audit in November. Sara Paul is stepping down from Director of School Choice. Will continue to look into school cameras. Still talking about school accreditation will need a diverse group of people to be on this committee. We have to do this to do School Choice, it will be a big project but has to get done. Will need to be completed by 4/2022. Did get a \$500 grant from the Credit Union and used this to build plexiglass dividers in the pre K and K rooms and 1<sup>st</sup> grade room. Talked about FOCE Banquet trying to decide what to do. Ideas were shared about one of the schools hosting it and the number of people. Doing it yet at the Community Hall and keeping in the CDC recommendations or doing it virtual. If Trinity hosts it we talked about having 50 students in the school gym and 50 in the basement for total of 100 and then trying to connect with technology to do the auction. Will continue to address this. Tuition: \$1200 was given out to two families. \$1400 given to 3K students. Past tuition continues to come in. Looking for volunteers for child care, a high school worker and an afternoon worker. Still looking for a superintendent for Sunday School but Sunday School still on hold due to Covid.

**Principals Report:** Dean applied for the Seamless Summer Option to serve free lunch to everyone right now. Federal Government extended the deadline to 12/31/20 to do this there will be a free

lunch program until the money runs out because all schools that are in person will be doing this as well. We will be serving free lunch to all the students here but must also offer it to their siblings. We will need to figure out how to get the meals to the siblings at home. If we go to virtual learning we still have to offer free lunch somehow. Pastor Jeppesen is working on a new web site for us one that will make it inviting and attract students to our school. It will have teacher, student and parent comments on it along with all the information that is already on it. Three main things on the web site now are church, school and child care. With money from the Esser Funds we have been able to purchase web cams and document cams for every classroom with this money. We got a UV wand that sanitizes all of the keyboards after students used them. We got 4 thermometers one for each classroom. We got some face shields. We ordered a disinfectant fogger that is on backorder. Two portable hand sanitizer stations. It came to about \$7000 for those supplies. There is a max on the money that we can get. Dean also talked about school accreditation. It would be nice to have a trustee on the committee as there is a category for facility. Leadership is a category, relationship category would be a good place for an elder to be on. There are several areas and if anyone is interested please contact Dean. Hope to start meeting in October.

**Board of Trustees:** Light bulbs are complete, finished with the school kitchen. The week before school started two things were snaked out, urinal in boy's bathroom and drain in the basement. Can drive is Saturday 9/14/20. Pastor stated he had called Nubby's but they did not get back to him yet about the furnace. Pastor will contact them again.

**Board of Stewardship:** They have not met since February so no big report. Will need to order envelopes soon. Talked about having a chili soup sale the Wednesday prior to Hunting Season starts where you could order chili to be picked up. Craft sale still up in the air due to Covid. Will not have the Pancake Supper this year.

**Pastor:** Wants to thank everyone for their continued patience during Covid and wearing the masks. Please reach out to Pastor if you have any problems with dealing with any of this or need someone to talk to. He would be happy to talk with you and pray with you or visit you. Pastor is thankful for the gift of technology. He feels it has been a great asset and we will continue to do this. We have a lot of people to pray for. Please keep those families in your prayers. Ray Baumgartner will be discharged from Madison and will be rehabbing in Owen.

**Youth:** Still need a Senior High Youth Leader. Crusaders had their first meeting on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Mission trip is scheduled for July 11-17, 2021 Benton Harbor, Michigan. Crusaders for Christ got new "Crusader" face masks.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Brought up new nominations for board members. Pastor brought up just extending the current board members for 6 more months because we are changing to the fiscal year for budget, that we would keep everything the same.

Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski and seconded by Renell Wassman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Renee Tessmer, Secretary







