

January

2021

TRINITY TIDINGS

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

Pastor's Corner



Well... we made it! We've gotten to the end of the year that most people are eager to forget. However, before we dismiss 2020 and embrace 2021 with a renewed sense of hope for "normalcy," let's review the reasons why 2020 really should be a year to remember.

To start with, the first three months of 2020 were just fine. We had just come off a wonderful 2019 Christmas celebration. We were just started to embrace the 2020 Lent season and renewing our understanding of stewards and caretakers of all of God's gift through the Consecrated Stewards program. Things were looking good! And then it hit. After much uncertainty by our government leaders – which by the way I think we need to cut them a lot of slack because our nation, state, and world have never faced anything like a modern pandemic of this scope and nature. Our government leadership did the best job they could, given their experience. We really should thank them for their leadership during this unprecedented time.

Our biggest challenge? How to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. By God's grace we were able to pull together the resources and opportunity to celebrate Easter with parking lot worship at the High School. It went well. Jesus' resurrection was celebrated. The big side benefit, we were able to share these resources with the other churches in town so they could also celebrate Jesus' resurrection. God is good – all the time!

We need to be especially thankful for the gift of technology. By God's grace we were blessed to continue the connection between worship and membership... and as an added bonus, a lot of other guests and members of our community – including regular viewers from other parts of the state and even in other states! Hallelujah!

Again, through the gift of technology, we were able to come up with a plan for on-line Vacation Bible School. It worked well. We have over 60 children in attendance. And again, some were outside of our community and state. God really is good!

As we entered the new school year, our teaching staff worked hard and pulled off another technological miracle: on-line school! I hope everyone appreciates how much work this really was (and is) for our staff. We thank God for the dedication and talent of our teachers!

As we entered fall, the blessing of technology helped families stay connected with the funerals of loved ones. On several occasions we even live-streamed the burial ceremonies at the cemetery! Granted, this is no replacement for being there. At least it is was something.

As we approached our celebration of Jesus' birth, we had to take the unprecedented step of requiring reservations to attend the Christmas Eve services. A very BIG thank to everyone for their patience and understanding during this time! When all was said and done, we had four services that served almost 300 worshippers in-house and another 50-60 on-line and parked around the church. Praise the Lord. The added benefit? In the face of not having a Trinity School Christmas Program, the staff and students rose to the occasion and did a very nice version of the Luke 2 Christmas Gospel and a number of Christmas songs. What a wonderful blessing to have them as a part of the Christmas Eve services.

Granted, there is a lot that we could complain about: masks, social distancing, social isolation, no Sunday School, greatly reduced Bible study, having to wait until September for Confirmation, not being able to see loved ones who were in care facilities or the hospital. Sigh. That was part of the sacrifice we made during this time.

In the end, we do have a lot for which to give thanks. The work of the church kept going. New ministry opportunities were started or grown. Overall, the joyful task of proclaiming the love of Jesus continued throughout the year.

What does 2021 hold? Only God knows. We have hopes for returning to normal (whatever that is). Wherever it goes, the work of the church will continue. New ways of doing ministry will be pursued. The love of Jesus will continue to be shared. It's all in God's hands. What else could we hope for?

God's richest blessing for a wonderful, healthy, and prosperous 2021!

Pastor Mark

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. – Psalm 118:29

To know Christ ...
and make Him known.

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturdays 7:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

With Holy Communion
every 1st & 3rd Weekend

Church Phone 715-257-7526

School Phone 715-257-7559

Pastor Mark Schwalenberg
715-218-8814

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Trinity Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Mark Schwalenberg
Pastor

Dean Frick
Principal / Grades 7 & 8

Tanille Hartwig
Technology Director / Grades 5 & 6

Kim Mroczenski
Teacher / Grades 3 & 4

Becky Van Rixel
Teacher / Grades 1 & 2

Deb Frick
Teacher / Kindergarten, 4K, 3K

Diane Tolk
Aide / 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

Principal's Message



Well, 2020 is over and it's 2021.

Did things “magically” change because it's a new year? No! Much of what we have had to deal with in 2020 has not gone away. However, we **hope** that we can get back to “normal” during this calendar year. I **hope** that all students will be back in “live” face to face classrooms this year. I **hope** that we can do away with “virtual learning”, except in emergency situations (Are snow days and cold days a thing of the past?). I **hope** that the families of the elderly and sick can once again visit each other without restrictions. I **hope** that we can return to packed churches, not only on holidays, but every weekend.

As you can see, we use the word **hope** very often these days. What does **hope** really mean? Here are a few dictionary definitions.

- the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best
- to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence
- to believe, desire, or trust

When we talk about **hope** in salvation, **hope** in faith, and **hope** in Christ it is really the last definition that applies. Hebrew 11:1 states: “Now faith is the assurance of things **hoped** for, the conviction of things unseen.” In Romans 15:13 we read, “May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.”

There you have it. The true hope for the new year. May God grant you this hope in 2021 and until we are all in the presence of Savior in heaven.

Dean Frick
Principal



Church News & Events

Trinity LWML

Although we haven't met since March, the work of the LWML still goes on. Our mites are still being used to meet our mission grant commitments. Plans are still being made for our national convention in Lexington, KY in June. Here at Trinity we are meeting for live-streamed Bible study on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7pm. Join Pastor and Kaye either online or come to the sanctuary as we continue to study from our Quarterlies. You can drop off your mite box contributions in our huge mite box located in the narthex. There is still a great need to meet our mission grant obligations.

Quilters meet every Wednesday in the church basement at 9am. If you don't feel comfortable coming to church but would still like to help from home, just give Kaye a call to see how you can participate.

In spite of our limitations the LWML continues to function, doing the work of God's people here at Trinity and around the world.

Kaye Schwalenberg, Secretary

2022 Offering Envelopes

As you begin to use your 2021 offering envelopes please keep in mind there are three categories to choose from when distributing your funds: Current, Missions & Major Building Fund.

Money given to current expenses are used for all church and school operating expenses, including utilities, classroom textbooks, salaries, and general maintenance of the church / school building.

Funds designated for major building fund will be ear-marked for any large building or maintenance project that may arise. There are also funds designated for the Organ Fund, Endowment Fund and Church Enhancement Fund. Mission funds are sent to the North Wisconsin District monthly to be used for mission projects. If you have any questions, please give the office a call. Thank you.

Official Acts & Monthly News

Deaths:

Mamie Hardt – 10/03/20
Esther Mueller – 11/07/20
Orlando Schmitt – 11/24/20
Elaine Mueller 11/21/20
Frank Koeller – 12/20/20

Wedding: David Scott Trimner and Jessica Marie Pralle were married October 10, 2020.

Baptisms:

Callen Edward Hertl - 11/22/20
Clara Linda Beilke – 12/13/20
Dawson Richard Kilinski – 12/20/20
Henry Robert Hoff – 12/27/20

Released / Confirmations: none

Transfer: Charlotte Nancy Puffett transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center, Iowa.

New Members: Dustin & Chriss Gross, and their children, Jordyn, Camryn and Bennet transferred from Christi Lutheran Church in Marshfield.

Hospitalized: Ray Baumgartner, Michele Riemer, Eugene Weise, Elaine Mueller, Frank Koeller, Kevin Denzine, Kathy Brice



October – December Memorials

In loving memory of Sandy Ewan, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and to School by Donna Schroeder, Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker, Doug & Jean Krueger, and Ken & Karen Gauerke.

In loving memory of Norma Heier, gifts were given to the Debt Fund, Choir, and Altar Guild by Eugene & Doreen Weise, Ken & Karen Gauerke, Dave & Debbie Frane, Dennis & Darlene Drewek, Mark Ewan, Rick & Nancy Ewan, Tom & Shirley Raymakers, Tony & Cheryl Eckert, Carl Steidinger, Adnay & Nancy Luetschwager, Wil & Darlene Strack, Nancy Schwalenberg, Ellen Czech, Jim & Sherry Literski, Dennis & Nathalie Fladvid, Nancy Albrecht, and Louetta Lavin.

In loving memory of Mamie Hardt, gifts were given to the Debt Fund by Jean Ann Thurs, Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker, and Ron & Marlene Kreamsreiter.

In loving memory of Marion Oldenhoff, gifts were given to the Debt Fund by family and friends.

In loving memory of Alden Anderson, gifts were given to the Debt fund by Martin & Gail Wiese, Rick Anderson, Nancy Kretschmer, Ken & Nancy Ellenbecerk, and Sue Schellin.

In loving memory of Norma Blake, gifts were given toward the General Fund by Al & Michelle Natzke and Bill & Lori Blake.

In loving memory of Ray Guralski, a gifts were given to the Debt Fund and General Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise, Al & Michelle Natzke, Glen & Lynn Luetschwager, and other friends and family.

In loving memory of Steve Shimek and Joyce Voigt a gift was given to the General Fund by Al & Michelle Natzke.

**October – December
Memorials (continued)**

In loving memory of Elaine Mueller, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and Altar Guild by Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker, Luann Thurs, Bruce & Connie Radloff, Tony & Cheryl Eckert, Eugene & Doreen Weise, Linda Leighton, Glen & Lynn Luetschwager, Doug & Jean Krueger, and her family and friends.

In loving memory of Lorraine Luetschwager, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and General Fund by Glen & Lynn Luetschwager, and by other family and friends.

In loving memory of Joan Speers, a gift was given to the Altar Guild by Mark Ewan.

In loving memory of Sally Schroeder, gifts were given to the General Fund and School by her family and friends.

In loving memory of Orlando Schmitt, gifts were given to the Debt Fund by Eugene & Doreen Weise, Doug & Jean Krueger, and by family and friends.

In loving memory of Carl Kuck, a gift was given to the General Fund by Randy & Kathy Kuck.

In loving memory of Ervin Tolk, a gifts were given to the Enhancement Fund by Avila Tolk, Dwight & Diane Tolk, and Cheryl Zimmerman.

In loving memory of Frank Koeller, gifts were given to the Debt Fund and Altar Guild by Eugene & Doreen Weise, Alvira Henrichs, and Ken & Karen Gauerke.

In loving memory of Caroline Riemer, a gift was given to the Salem Cemetery Fund by Robert Riemer.

In loving memory of Esther Mueller, gifts were given toward the General Fund and school operating by Bruce & Renell Wassmann, David & Carol Uden, John & Barb Trabert, Katie Rossman, Michael & Angie Zocher, Ken & Nancy Ellenbecker, Jerry Sjostrom, Clark & Bonnie Callahan, Lois Wiebe, Ron Mueller, and Lenora Hamann.

***Thank you all for your gifts in memory
of your loved ones!***

Quarterly Voter's Assembly

Voter's Assembly Meetings here at Trinity are held quarterly – after Sunday Morning Worship the last Sunday of the month of January, April, July, and October.

Please join us on **Sunday, January 31st** for our next meeting. Thank you!

Join us ...

Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)

LLL will meet at Trinity at 1:00pm on January 10th in the church basement, with each family picking a table. There will be no food. We will start with the President having the opening prayer, a business meeting and then discuss how we can help with the gathering of school kits for Orphan Grain train both for domestic and abroad. Anyone is welcome, there is no membership required. Only thing that is required for the meeting is to please wear a face mask. Thank you.

Questions? Please contact Wil and Darlene Strack at 715-257-7376.



Trinity Quilting News

Quilters will resume meeting the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning January 8th, 9:00am – 12:00pm. New workers are needed... no talent is required, and the pay is outstanding, but in ways you might not expect.

Quilts are generally made for the Hospice House in Wausau (twin size) – Orphan Grain Train (any size) – K. I. Sawyer (king and queen size). Quilters are always open to other ideas too!

Young Investor Savers!

Remember to keep track of your volunteer hours / good grades as you can claim up to \$25 per year - \$1.00 per hour for volunteer hours. Anyone under the age of 18 is eligible to open an account which pays 3.5% up to \$1,000, and you need not be a Trinity member! It's also time for High School Seniors to apply for LCEF Scholarships. Please see D. Strack with any questions. Thank you!

January 2021						
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						

January Acolytes

Saturday, January 9 7:00pm
Aleah Frahm & Nick Pittman
Sunday, January 10 9:00am
Abby Diethelm & Michael Meyer
Saturday, January 16 7:00pm
Malaina Telschow & Ava Ford
Sunday, January 17 9:00am
Gavin Frahm & Garrett Frahm
Saturday, January 23 7:00pm
Addisyn Kottke & Aubrey Kottke
Sunday, January 24 9:00am
Eli Paul & Natalie Salber
Saturday, January 30 7:00pm
Swayne Stencil & Brinly Stencil
Sunday, January 31 9:00 am
Abby Diethelm & Autumn Diethelm



January Birthdays

2 - Kaila Dunahee, Jena Zinkowich
3 - Scott Roesler
4 - Kevin Bunkelman, Emily Frick
5 - Don Hardt, Cheryl Lenz
6 - Brooks Beilke, Doreen Weise, Mindy Young
7 - Dave Kulas, Jr., Ken Punke
8 - Jenna Ellenbecker, Dean Frick
10 - Brian Boesl, Preston Manecke
11 - Edison Ellenbecker, Paige Westaby
12 - Jacob Cleveland, Mark Schroeder
13 - Rebecca Bliven, Jean Krueger, Phillip Marcott,
Taylor Thurs, Joe Petrie
14 - Nick Belter, Ryan Ellenbecker, Cole Handschke
15 - Todd Barkow, Nathan Heier, Eugene Weise
16 - Craig Heller, Abigail Van Rixel
17 - Karen Bergmann, Samantha Betzner,
Diane Murkowski
18 - Gabriel Boushon, Anna Nowicki
19 - Ellen Czech, Joe Kepner, BJ Komarek,
Tom Schaer
21 - Tanya Ellenbecker
22 - Kim Mroczenski, Caleb Steinke
25 - Shirley Denzin, Connie Radloff, Colten Weiler
26 - Halle Albrecht, Jillian Ewan, Justin Hein,
Robert Nowacki, Noaki Takamura
27 - Jesse Call, Laurel Pitzke
28 - Brinley Kornack, Lisa Nowicki
29 - Nancy Haehlke, Jordan Kuck, Bruce Radloff,
Bev Tiffany
31 - Carol Fritz, Alexander Kuck



January Baptism Birthdays

2 - Aiden Lemmer, Alex Lemmer
4 - Karen Gauerke, Kristopher Kottke
5 - Nathlie Venzke, Tim Brumbaugh
6 - Tom Mueller, Courtney Tesch
7 - Aaron Passehl
8 - Jean Balz, Lauryn Hartwig, Nicholas Peter
9 - Callie Davis
10 - Susan Becker, Robin Sauter
11 - Mike Balz, Austin LeMay
12 - Eli Bunkelman
13 - Jason Christopherson
14 - Maureen Belanger, Mason Halopka,
Miranda Hertel, Paige Westaby
15 - Peyton Gruna, Ken Scheffler, Adam Wassmann
17 - Scott Roesler
19 - Swayne Stencil
22 - Celina Ellenbecker, Brandon Lippert
24 - Dave Kulas, Jr.
25 - Kaila Dunahee, Nila Koeller, Allen Natzke
26 - Jenna Ellenbecker
27 - Jena Zinkowich
28 - McKenzie Brodziski
Korbin Kuck
29 - Talena Bliven
Cheryl Lenz
Faith Pitzke
31 - Ken Punke
Jordan Tessmer
Paul Hamann



Baptism
Birthday

January Wedding Anniversaries

Joe & Laura Petrie	1/04/1986
Mike & Tammy Dahl	1/09/1982
Danny & Brooke Trimner	1/11/2020
Al & Michele Riemer	1/19/20
Dave & Chris Hart	1/21/1976
John & April Schreiber	1/21/2006





Youth Group New.

Crusaders for Christ 5th & 6th grade Youth Group

The Crusaders and Jesus Youth Group went Christmas Caroling Sunday evening, December 13th. Special thanks to Jerry & Tamey Zenner for sharing their special "Christmas Wagon" to take us caroling on!

The group hasn't been meeting on a regular basis due to the pandemic. Hopefully soon!!!!



Singing at Athenian Living



What a great night!



Youth Mission Trip News

We weren't able to go on the Mission Trip last summer, so we're giving it another try in 2021! Eleven Youth and three adults will be serving in Benton Harbor, Michigan the week of July 11th through the 17th.

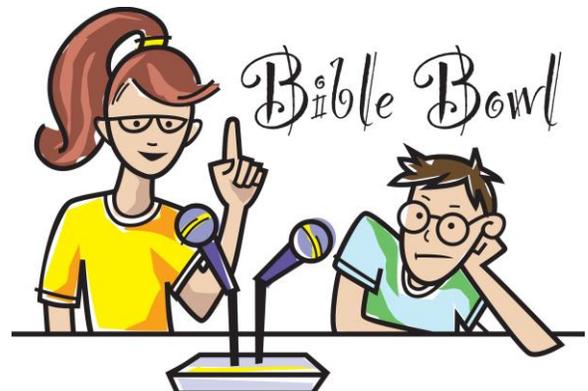
To help raise funds for the trip, we will be hosting the six Lent Mid-Week Meals, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Meals will be takeout only, serving from 5:00pm – 6:30pm each week. Watch for more details and for the menu to be served. Thank you all for your continued support of our Youth Mission Trips 😊

Please keep us all in your prayers as we plan forward for this trip of serving others.



Wisconsin State Bible Bowl

This event will be on Saturday, April 17th. Are you interested in joining the challenge and fun of learning about the Books of Romans and James? Youth in grades 7–12 are welcome to join in. If interested, or for further information, please contact either Renell Wassmann (715-257-9022), or the church office (715-257-7526).



Council Meeting – October 14, 2020

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

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 Ken Punke to approve the secretary report as printed in the monthly newsletter. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union \$ 38,484, Petty Cash \$11. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$595, Major Building Repair Fund \$10,067, Enhancement Fund \$465, Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$112,933, Special Interest Fund at LCEF \$309, Balance of our Line of Credit \$0, Total General Fund Income for November \$57,163 Total November Expenses \$66,248 resulting in a loss of \$9,085. Dedicated Funds: School Lunch and Child Care salaries are both paid current. Received first payment of school choice \$11,413. Proceeds from Fair Food \$6200. Mission giving is down \$421. Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski and seconded Kaye Schwalenberg to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

Boards of Elders: Official Acts for July, August and September. 6 Baptisms: 7/5/20 Colton Patrick Hake, 7/26/20 Moriah Ann Marie Eckert, 7/30/20 Riker David Johnson, 8/16/20 Emri Rose Belter, 8/23/20 Braxton David Roesler, 9/17/20 Charlotte Nancy Puffet. 4 Confirmations: 9/13/20 Jenna Jae Handschke, Addison Joy Lavicka, Andrew Michael Schaer, Paige Marie Westaby. 2 Marriages: 6/10/20 Randy Scott Rybicki and Kristin Kimberly Heller and on 7/26/20 Michael Wayne Hoff Jr. and Jessica Lee Frandsen. 6 Funerals: 7/15/20 LaVerne Joyce Freimund, 9/2/20 Marion B. Oldenhoff, 9/6/20 Alden William Anderson, 9/19/20 Sandra Ewan, 9/25/20 Larry Charles Framke, 9/26/20 Selma Clara Schroeder.

Board of Christian Education: 11/2 and 11/3 audit will take place. Sara Paul will be involved but is stepping down so looking for a new School Choice Director, they have one candidate interested that will be interviewed the end of October. First school choice payment came in as stated in the financial report. National Lutheran Schools Accreditation needs to be complete by April 2022. Deb Frick attended a meeting in Shawano. She was on the visiting committee and will be on the sub-committee of student services here. They try to get one Principal on and teachers. Looking for volunteers to help with the accreditation process please let Dawn Mroczenski know if you are interested. There will be 7 sub committees. We have one person in charge of these committees but members will be called to see if they would volunteer. Friends of Christian Education Banquet has been cancelled. There is money in the tuition assistance fund to be used. School lunches are free until June 30, 2020 we are getting more reimbursement than the school lunches cost.

Principals Report: The audit will be the biggest task, Dean and Sara Paul will be working on this it will include writing memos on how we do things and printouts verifying attendance and reviewing applications for school choice. School Safety: Grant period extended, plan to get security cameras on playground as the old ones are not working properly. Dean fixed them they worked for awhile then stopped again. Looking for 1-2 volunteers to be on the steering committee and to stay on top of things as Dawn had mentioned. School had gone virtual for grades 5-8 due to some Covid cases and some quarantine. This has been working great. Plan for all to be back in school on 10/19/20.

Board of Trustees: Hand sanitizers stations are up outside all of the rooms. Had 1000 pounds of cans taken in at the can drive. Adam worked on a heat valve at the parsonage. Hurtis was here and did a check up all is well. Gutter in the north patio will be re-anchored on Sunday and heat tape applied. Talked about pouring concrete around the flag pole and removing the blocks yet this Fall. Joel talked to a guy from Church Mutual we need to swap some outlets in the church basement and need to install some light covers. Lawnmower will be winterized. David will do the snow plowing for back lot, child care and gym doors at 5:15 in the morning. Still looking for someone to shovel the snow on the steps and ramp during snow days.

Board of Stewardship: Canceled the craft sale and there will be no pancake supper due to Covid. Will do a bulk chili orders week of hunting season you will be able to pre order quarts or gallons of chili no take out of individual chili orders bulk only. A few different kinds of pies will be available. It was brought up to take the proceeds from the pies and give to Ray and Betty Baumgartner to help with medical equipment that they will need when Ray comes home.

Pastor: (Kaye gave report in his absence.) Neumatic valves can be replaced for about \$6000 quote was from Nubby's we need to have that done before it gets really cold. Pastor will call them. There is enough money in the Major Building Repair fund. There were 6 or 7 funerals and 1 wedding. Pastors surgery was on 10/15/20. Pastor Tom Meyer will officiate this weekend. Live streaming is still going well. Averaging 25 people are watching online every week.

Youth: Crusaders: Elected officers: 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. The 89Q visit and chairlift ride were cancelled. Planning to still do the annual Trick or Treating for Circle of Joy October 31

Old Business: Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on 10/25/20. We will be extending the budget for 6 months and the term of officers.

New Business: Plan to do a free will offering to support the K9 comfort dog. The chapel offerings are going towards this cause and the training of this dog is \$15,000. A comfort dog is taken to places where there has been tragedy, such as the wild fires or hurricane situations. They are used in nursing homes as well. Kaye Schwalenberg made a motion to do a free will offering this weekend and next weekend and seconded by Andy Thurs. Motion carried. Plan to do some fund raising for Ray and Betty Baumgartner as Ray will need some expensive medical items when he gets home. Plan to do an installation for Tanille Hartwig and Kim Mroczenski in the near future. Talked about starting a Facebook group page for members of Trinity separate from the already existing Facebook page to be able to converse in these tough times. Talked about Christmas Services and what that will look like.

Motion made by Renell Wassmann and seconded by Andy Thurs to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. Rick and board members closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Tessmer, Secretary

Monthly Council Meeting - December 9, 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- Andy Thurs (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 Mark Mroczenski and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to approve the secretary report as printed in the monthly newsletter.

Financial Report: Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union \$26, 459. Petty Cash \$6.00. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$595, Major Building Repair Fund \$10,553, Enhancement Fund \$465, Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$112,933, Special Interest Fund at LCEF \$309, Line of Credit at Forward Bank, \$0. Total General Fund Income for November \$47,703. Total General Fund Expenses \$47,411 resulting in a gain of \$292. Dedicated Funds: School Lunch and Child Care salaries are both paid current. Received second payment of School Choice \$11,413. Proceeds from the Chili Sale (\$1600) during Hunting season were put into the Pancake supper account. Motion made by Renee Tessmer and seconded by David Trimner to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

Boards of Elders: Envelopes are here members may pick them up. Some envelopes were cut back on for members that did not use theirs in the past. If anyone would like a box that did not get some there are extras. Continued talk about Covid measures. Incorporated new measures for the taking of communion. There will no longer be a line to go through. Wine is handed out in individual packaging and taken in the pew. Looking to replace Bob Reimer an Elder who would like to step down the end of the year. 4 Christmas Eve services will be offered 2:00, 4:00, 7:00 and 9:00. Sign up for these services is required in advance. 4:00 service and 7:00 service will be live streamed.

Board of Christian Education: School Board met with the Elders to discuss maybe hiring another office person to help with some of the work load. Talked about maybe bringing in an accountant to access the finances and give us some feedback. There is school choice added work this year and Covid added a lot of work. School Choice we received an additional voucher that will be for ½ a year. We are at 8 vouchers for school choice. A portion of what that child paid for tuition will have to be refunded. The audit has been completed. Will need to do a few things to get the budget at an entity level. Received a draft back of it. There were two things that stated that we were not in compliance with and we need to state how we will become compliant. They said that for a first year audit we did well. The intent to participate has to be completed by 1/10/21 Dean stated it was already done. There is a person interested in the school choice director position plan to set up an interview soon. Exterior cameras did get ordered and when they come will need to be installed. Still working on the steering committees for accreditation. Still no Sunday School due to Covid so Dawn used her Thrivent grant to purchase Children's bibles and her and Kim Mroczenski delivered Children's Bibles to children ages 3-5. Special thank you to all the teachers for everything they have done so far this school year with all the extra challenges they have faced.

Principals Report: As mentioned in the Board of Ed report Dean stated they met with the Elders to discuss what can be done with all the extra work that has been added this year with school choice and Covid. Need extra help, need things to function better. Main focus is someone to work on the budget. Need to have things separated out to comply with the audit. Talked about having an outside accountant come in to help us

streamline things. There are not enough hours in the day for Judy to do all of the things that she needs to do. Looking to get her extra help. Accreditation is still the biggest task. Committees have be set up but if you are interested and would like to be on one of the committee's contact a member of the Board of Ed. We have a total of 8 vouchers for school choice. Christmas program will be virtual this year. Luke 2 the Christmas story will be used this year. Each grade will be acting out different parts. Still looking for Dawn Mroczenski's replacement on the Board of Christian Education as she is stepping down the end of the year.

Board of Trustees: Adam is working on fixing toilets. Heat tape is up where the roof meets. All the snow shovelers are in place.

Board of Stewardship: Offering envelopes are in back hallway and ready to be picked up. Cookie and Candy Sale will be 12/19/20 all items will be pre-packaged. The hunting season chili sale and pie sale went very well. The pie proceeds went to Ray and Betty Baumgartner to help with Ray's medical expenses. \$1600 was made on the chili sale and put in the Pancake supper fund.

Pastor: Pastor apologized for the technical difficulties of the live streamed service on 12/6/20 but it has been remedied. Pastor mentioned how proud he is of the congregation for adapting to all the changes due to Covid. Thank you for continuing to support our church with in person giving and on-line giving. Thank you for signing up for the Christmas Eve services that are offered. There will be a New Years Eve service as well.

Youth: Crusaders: Installed officers during worship service on 12/13. Officers are: President, Ava Ford, Vice President, Natalie Salber, Secretary, SyRih Hartwig, Treasurer, Brinly Stencil, Scrapbooker, Ben Hartwig, Activity Coordinator, Autumn Diethelm, Prayer Warrior, Eli Paul. They Christmas Caroled around town on 12/13 on the Zenner wagon. Mission trip has 9 confirmed youth going possibly one more and 3 adults Karen Balz, Mike Verporten and Judy Weise. Bible Bowl is scheduled for Saturday 4/17 at Camp Luther for grades 7-12. The books of Roman and James will be covered.

Old Business: No new update on the furnace other than the fact that Nubby's won't be able to work on it until Spring.

New Business: Pastor stated that the President would like to put off the National Convention for a year due to Covid. Need a motion to extend it out for one year. Motion made by Pastor Mark Schwalenberg and seconded by Mark Mroczenski to extend it out. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Tessmer, Secretary

Quarterly Voters Meeting

October 25, 2020

President Rick Guralski called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer. 21 members were present.

Secretary Report: Motion made by Renell Wassmann and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to approve the secretary report for last Quarterly Meeting as printed in the monthly newsletter. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Checking Account Balance at the Credit Union \$ 38,484, Petty Cash \$11. Savings Accounts: Organ Fund \$595, Major Building Repair Fund \$10,067, Enhancement Fund \$465, Endowment Fund at Thrivent \$112,933, Special Interest Fund at LCEF \$309, Balance of our Line of Credit at Forward Bank \$0, Mortensen Progressive Fund, \$15,573. Paycheck Protection \$124,400. Fiscal Year Income \$549,690, Fiscal Year Expense \$476,923, Fiscal Year Income less Expense \$72,766. Dedicated Funds: School Lunch and Child Care salaries are both paid current. Received first payment of school choice \$11,413. Motion made by Ken Punke and seconded by Dawn Mroczenski to approve the financial report as read. Motion carried.

Board of Stewardship: Canceled the craft sale and there will be no pancake supper due to Covid. Will do a bulk chili orders week of hunting season you will be able to pre order quarts or gallons of chili no take out of individual chili orders bulk only. A few different kinds of pies will be available. It was brought up to take the proceeds from the pies and give to Ray and Betty Baumgartner to help with medical equipment that they will need now that Ray is home. Church envelopes were brought up again. Envelopes are ordered for all members but many members do not pick them up and this is wasteful. Talked about if members did not pick up their envelopes for the last 2-3 years that they would no longer get a box of envelopes. Plan is to send out a letter to members stating our concerns and ask those you have not picked up their envelopes in the past few years to call the church office if they wish to continue to receive them.

Board of Elders: Official Acts for July, August and September. 6 Baptisms: 7/5/20 Colton Patrick Hake, 7/26/20 Moriah Ann Marie Eckert, 7/30/20 Riker David Johnson, 8/16/20 Emri Rose Belter, 8/23/20 Braxton David Roesler, 9/17/20 Charlotte Nancy Puffet. 4 Confirmations: 9/13/20 Jenna Jae Handschke, Addison Joy Lavicka, Andrew Michael Schaer, Paige Marie Westaby. 2 Marriages: 6/10/20 Randy Scott Rybicki and Kristin Kimberly Heller and on 7/26/20 Michael Wayne Hoff Jr. and Jessica Lee Frandsen. 6 Funerals: 7/15/20 LaVerne Joyce Freimund, 9/2/20 Marion B. Oldenhoff, 9/6/20 Alden William Anderson, 9/19/20 Sandra Ewan, 9/25/20 Larry Charles Framke, 9/26/20 Selma Clara Schroeder. Requesting transfer of Charlotte Nancy Puffet from Trinity Lutheran Church Athens to Trinity Lutheran Church State Center Iowa. Motion made by Nancy Schwalenberg and seconded by Linda Punke to allow the transfer. Motion carried. Have been talking about upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas services on how to handle these.

Board of Christian Education: Ms. Trench resigned and position was voted on and was filled by Kimberly Mroczenski. School Choice we had 7 vouchers and money is coming in as stated in the financial report. 11/2 and 11/3 audit will take place. Sara Paul will be involved but is stepping down so looking for a new School Choice Director, they have one candidate interested that will be interviewed the end of October. Received a grant from the Credit Union so plexiglass was installed in some of the classrooms for protection from Covid. Doug Krueger helped build that so thank you Doug. National Lutheran Schools Accreditation needs to be complete by April 2022. We have to complete this to meet school choice requirements. There is a steering committee and then there will be sub committees. There are several areas in the sub-committee category. We are basically saying that if we believe we have a good school we are providing that documentation to prove that we do. Besides board members we will need many volunteers to be

involved with this. Planning on 6-8 meetings from now until April 2022. If interested please contact Dean Frick, or a member of the board of Christian Education. Friends of Christian Education Banquet has been cancelled. Tuition money is coming in well. Also money from past due accounts has been coming in. School lunches are free until June 30, 2020. This is for students and their siblings only no adults. Dawn Mroczenski has submitted her letter of resignation from the Board of Christian Ed. as she felt this could potentially be a conflict of interest as her daughter-in-law is now employed as a teacher with Trinity School. Looking to find someone to carry out the rest of her term.

Principals Report: Covid has been at the top of the list. Dean attends virtual meetings with the Marathon County Health Dept. twice weekly to stay up to date with the daily changes. A lot of time was spent in Spring and all through the summer to prepare for school starting up in the Fall. School has been in session except for a two- week period when it was virtual as a Middle School Volleyball coach was exposed which involved some of our students. Virtual school ran from 8-3. Parents have been great about keeping their child home if they were showing any signs of sickness. None of our students have tested positive for Covid although some have been exposed. Received funds from Eser funds for Covid these funds can be used for things like hand sanitizer stations, etc. The accreditation audit will be the biggest task as reported in the Board of Ed. report. Dean and Sara Paul will be working on this it will include writing memos on how we do things and printouts verifying attendance and reviewing applications for school choice. School Safety: Grant period extended, plan to get security cameras on playground as the old ones are not working properly. North Wisconsin Church Workers Conference is on 10/29/20, teachers will attend this virtually. We will be able to keep the same students we have now in school choice as long as they reapply. Hope to get a few more.

Board of Trustees: Hand sanitizers stations are up outside all of the rooms. Had 1000 pounds of cans taken in at the can drive. Adam Wassmann worked on a heat valve at the parsonage and will be fixing a toilet valve in the school in the boy's bathroom. Hurtis was here and did a check up all is well. Gutter in the north patio was re-anchored and heat tape will be applied. Talked about pouring concrete around the flag pole and removing the blocks yet this Fall. Joel talked to a guy from Church Mutual we need to swap some outlets in the church basement putting in special ones and need to install some light covers per their recommendations, this will be a winter project. Lawnmower has been winterized. Thank You to Jackie and Mike Thurs for doing the lawn mowing. David Trimner, Lane Tessmer and Joshua VanRixel will be on the snow removal crew. The only lights left to convert to LED are in the boy's bathrooms.

Pastors Report: Pneumatic valves need to be replaced. Quote is about \$6000 and we need to have this done before it gets really cold. We are fortunate Nubby's will do this as no one else will touch it. Next big item was the discussion of Thanksgiving services and Christmas services. Pastor stated that we can't use the church basement due to the lack of circulation down there. The plan is to have sign up sheets for the services. Two services will be planned for Thanksgiving and 2-4 services potentially planned for Christmas. 3 members to a pew or 1 family to a pew. Look for sign up sheets. Pastor thanks everyone for their patience and understanding during these trying times. Live streaming services continue to do very well and drive in church is still being offered. Pastor will continue to go to Athenian Living but no one else can come in.

Youth: 5th-8th grade Crusaders for Christ Youth Group: Due to the 5th-8th grades having virtual learning for school the group did not meet in person during the month of October and their two events were also cancelled-they would have toured the Christian radio station 89Q in Wausau and took a ride on the chair lift at Rib Mountain for the Fall Ride. They will be Trick -or-Treating for our local food pantry, the Circle of Joy, during Trick or Treat hours on Saturday, October 31 from 3-5 p.m. If you live in town and would like the youth to stop at your house please call the church office by Thursday. They plan to continue to meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. They have their personal "Crusader"

facemasks they wear when they are together. **Mission Trip 2020** The group hasn't done much yet. The plan is to serve at the same place they were set for last year but couldn't go due to the pandemic- Benton Harbor, Michigan. The trip is planned for July 11, 2021 through Saturday, July 17, 2021. At this point they are attempting to get commitments from the youth. 10-12 people have expressed interest or committed thus far. Please keep them in your prayers.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: 4 new items to vote on. 1.) extending our budget and changing our calendar year to go from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. 2.) Extending the officer term. 3.) Need a circuit forum representative. 4.) what to do with the old model of the school that is stored in Rick Kuck's garage.

Motion made to extend our current budget from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. Motion made by Kaye Schwalenberg and seconded by Will Strack to extend the budget. Motion carried.

Motion made to extend the term of officers to 6/30/21. Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski and seconded by Jean Balz to extend the officer term. Motion carried

Motion made to change our calendar year. Motion made by Jean Balz and seconded by Patty Riske to change the calendar year. Motion carried.

Motion made to appoint a Circuit forum representative. Motion made by Dawn Mroczenski and seconded by Renee Tessmer to appoint President Rick Guralski. Rick accepted motion carried.

Motion made by Darlene Strack and seconded by Kaye Schwalenberg to let Rick Kuck know by 11/1/20 if interested in the model or it will be recycled. More discussion held, some members felt more time was needed than just one week. Amendment made by Jean Balz and seconded by Mark Mroczenski to extend the date to 11/5/20 for people to decide if they would like the model of the old school they will need to let Rick Kuck know or it will be recycled. Motion carried.

Judy reported that two new people have volunteered to be lay readers.

Motion made by Nancy Schwalenberg and seconded by Dwight Tolk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried meeting adjourned. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Renee Tessmer, Secretary