

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2016



Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, New York 14224
Church: (716) 674-9188, School: (716) 674-5353

Rev. Dennis Krueger, Pastor, C: 997-5666 / H: 671-8130
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: trinity-lutheranchurch.com
Church Office E-mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm - Devotional
Sunday @ 8:00 am - Traditional
Sunday @ 10:30 am - Contemporary

“DESPERATE FOR JESUS”

I'm not even sure Halloween was officially over yet, barely, before I was hearing Christmas Carols in stores and on the radio. For me, that's kind of a record-breaking early date for Christmas songs! My first inclination was to be frustrated - you know, the whole “exploiting Jesus' birth” attitude that we Christians have to endure at this time of the year. And we're right, of course. The retailers know that we're softened up by some of the more sentimental aspects of the holidays and are “ripe for the pickin'” - so to speak. On the other hand, I think I (we) need to get over some of this. Retailers ARE desperate for Christmas. In a real way, their businesses **DEPEND ON JESUS!** How cool is that! Would that we ALL would realize that everything we are, have and do is incomplete and lost without Jesus. Our world, WE, are desperate for Jesus' coming. And in this Advent season we rejoice at His coming about 2000 years ago, and long for His coming again.

Advent focuses on Jesus' coming. We prepare to celebrate his arrival in the manger. *Emmanuel* - “God with us.” In him, God sided with us, becoming literally human, taking on a human body and existence just like us (that's what the term “God *incarnate*” means, to take on flesh). Even though he came two millennia ago, we celebrate his coming anew to our homes and hearts. His original welcome in Bethlehem was not at all welcoming and friendly. Is he welcome in *your* life? In your family? In your heart?

Another major focal point for the Advent season is the second coming of Jesus, when he will return at the end of time.

We don't much like to think about the end of all things, and we may not want to be around when it happens, but according to scripture, it's truly coming and everyone will be there. Despite popular misconceptions, prophecy about the second coming is NOT there to frighten or manipulate us; rather it is designed as a vision of what is to come to give us hope that evil, sin and death will not always have the last word in our lives.

Advent also focuses on the coming of something else. With Jesus' arrival we also have the kingdom of God beginning to break forth in our lives. The Kingdom of God, simply put, is anywhere that God is allowed to rule. He does not force himself on us, but rather invites us to join him on his journey of service, sacrifice, faith, love, healing, restoration and resurrection. When we move ahead in faith and love, trusting God's guidance and in the gifts that he gives and reveals to us, we find his strength becomes ours, and his wisdom permeates our hearts and minds. And his will is done. The Kingdom of God — his reign in our lives and the world — becomes real for us.

The world is desperate for Jesus! May he bless us in this season as we celebrate, submit to and pray for his coming. As we hear the Christmas music in the stores, when on hold on the phone, or over the radio, let us be reminded of how desperately we need Jesus – and assured of his faithfulness to be there (here) for us!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



Holiday Worship Schedule

<i>November 29th @ 6:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Advent Celebration</i>
<i>December 18th @ 10:30am:</i>	<i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i>
<i>December 24th @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>10:00pm:</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Comm.</i>
<i>December 25th @ 9:30am:</i>	<i>Christmas Celebration w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 31st @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>New Year's Eve Service</i>



Mid-Week Advent Services

Once again this Advent Season we are observing Mid-Week Advent Services on the **Wednesday evenings at 7pm on: 11/30, 12/7 and 12/14.** In this busy holiday season it is especially good to set aside a little pause in the middle of the week to prepare for the celebration of Christ's *comings* (Bethlehem and the Last Day). On 12/7 the "Witness" singing group will lead our musical praise of the Lord. And on 12/14 the children of our elementary school will lead us in word and song! In Advent we say, "Come, Lord Jesus," and He does! Will you come as He invites you to be nurtured in His Word?

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins is scheduled for **Sunday, December 11th.** We will meet at the church at 1:30pm to begin our journey. Please sign up in the church narthex if you can spread the joy of Christmas with us!



COOKIE WALK Sunday, December 11th After the 10:30am Service

What are the holidays without cookies?! Come out and support our annual Cookie Walk. Bakers are needed! Please help make this fundraiser a success by donating 5-6 dozen homemade cookies for our cookie walk. They may be dropped off at church prior to the 10:30 service that morning. Please use a disposable container. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Proceeds to benefit Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center.



Sunday School Pageant "A Simple Christmas Pageant"

Our Sunday School children will be leading worship with their annual Christmas pageant on **December 18st at the 10:30am service.** Please join us!

Angel Tree

Trinity will be sponsoring an Angel Tree again this year. The tree will be set up in the church entrance the week of December 4th. Please refer to the "Life at Trinity" announcement sheets for more info.

2017 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLE OIL



The 2017 charts are posted in the church coatroom!

Flowers: \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the 10:30am service! We are asking that 2 families sign up for each week. Payments should be placed in the **Church Office's message center** - make checks payable to **"Trinity Lutheran Church"** (memo: **Altar Flowers**).

The Altar Candle Oil: \$25 per month (per family). Two families should sign-up each month to cover the total cost of the oil. Checks payable to: **"Trinity Altar Guild"** and placed in Lois Rodgers' message center.

Please make sure to include your name and special intentions on the sign-up sheets.

School News

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Advent greetings! As we "Prepare the way for the Lord..." Is. 40:3 in these coming weeks, I pray for you that your hearts are filled with peace and joy; and through all of the tinsel and glitter, our focus remains on the celebration of our Savior's first coming and His imminent return. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

November was an exciting month for the students. We had a wonderful Veterans Day celebration with the opportunity to share a chapel service and discussion time with veterans from Trinity and relatives of students. There are pictures on the bulletin board in the narthex, where you might recognize some of the faces. Keep an eye on that board, as we post pictures from the many events that are scheduled here at the school throughout the year. We also enjoyed a visit from the directors of the Upper Room orphanage when they were here in town. They spent almost an hour speaking with the students about their program and children, and I know that our students were reminded of how very blessed they are to be living in the US with all of its bounty, and able to attend school at Trinity. It was a good lesson so close to Thanksgiving, especially.

Our Thanksgiving feast together is always a highly anticipated adventure, and our school kitchen did not fail to impress! Our chef, Mrs. Elisa Jones, incorporates as many whole and organic foods as possible into the menu (within the dictates of the Federal Lunch Program), and we enjoy delicious lunches daily. Another blessing!

Mrs. Anderson is working hard with our Alleluia Choir to prepare them for their performance at Advent Vespers on Sunday, 12/4 at First Trinity in Tonawanda at 4pm. We're excited and honored to have the opportunity to showcase the talent of our students and director, and much more importantly, to sing the praises of Jesus in such a beautiful and sacred setting. If you can't attend that service, the entire school will be singing praises on Wednesday, 12/14 at 7pm right here at Trinity for our annual Christmas Celebration service. The children will present a variety of Advent and Christmas music in a worship setting. On 12/23 at 9:30 am, the first and second graders will present their Christmas Pageant for chapel and you are warmly welcome. It is another beautiful witness by the children and a wonderful way to help stay centered on the Reason for the Season!

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal

School Impact

Trinity School offers an array of extra curricular opportunities for it's students and their families. In Abby's note below you hear the excitement she had when participating in the school musical last year.

"A great experience at Trinity was the musical, Annie. We had tryouts for the different parts and I got to be Annie! This was my first big part in a musical and I really enjoyed learning the choreography, songs, and lines. I think that it was cool that even kindergarten, first, second, and third grade got to be a part of it. For example, the boys were butlers and the girls were orphans. In previous years we did Christian musicals that included *Back to the Cross*, *Spend a While on the Nile*, and *The Amazing Grace Race*. I'm glad that we chose to do Annie for this year's musical!" (By: Abigail Anderson)



School Basketball

We are so excited to have Chris Kopra, Brad McKernan, and Brohdny Ricketts coaching our basketball teams at Trinity School!! We can't say how much we appreciate their time and effort with the kids. They are doing a great job! The home game times and dates are listed below. Come on out and see the kids play!

Fri., Dec. 2 - JV at 4:00pm / Varsity at 5:00pm

Fri. Dec. 16 - JV at 4:00pm / Varsity at 5:00pm

Fri., Jan. 20 - JV at 4:00pm / Varsity at 5:00pm

Christmas Breakfast

Come and join our school for one of the most exciting days of the year (in a child's eyes) - the last day of school before Christmas break. Eat breakfast with us on **Friday, December 23rd at 8:45am** in the school gym. We'd love to have you as our guest! Please call the school at 674-5353 to let us know you'll be joining us.

THANK – YOU!! WE'RE DOING "OK"

I have thanked God many times for all of you, my caring friends at Trinity Lutheran Church, along with my family and other friends! Without a doubt the last two months have been a little tough, but you have greatly helped Tristan and I get through it. For the most part we're doing alright, not to say that there aren't some painful moments and tears still. And, I'm sure the upcoming holidays are not going to be too easy either. But, I have to say that God has blessed us with healing and strength already. We really are doing "OK". We sure did not want Ruth Ann to continue to suffer, and it is comforting to know that she is cancer free and with the Lord in heaven. I've enjoyed a few evenings gazing up at the stars and talking to her as I walk the Trinity path. I've thanked her for being such a good friend and wife, something I should have done more often before. (Husbands – tell your wives!!).

Again, thank-you to all of you for your prayers, cards, kind words, memorials, gifts of food, patience – and your love! I've said it many times, I don't know how people get through such losses without a faith in the Lord and the supporting care of His people. This is a special Thanksgiving for me. I have a lot to be thankful for from the great care that Hospice gave Ruth Ann and I, to the love and support that all of you gave to her, Tristan and myself. A special thanks to the congregation and all who assisted with Ruth's funeral service and the luncheon that followed. Many of my family members remarked how uplifting the service was and how great the people of Trinity are!

~ Pastor Krueger



Just a reminder that poinsettia plant orders are due **by Dec. 11**. Plants are \$6.50 and you get to take them home after the 9:30am Christmas Day service. Order forms can be found in the weekly bulletins. Completed forms, along with payment (cash or checks made to "Trinity Lutheran Church"), should be placed in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.



61st Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers Sunday, December 4th 4pm & 7pm At First Trinity Church (1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.)

All are invited. Trinity School's Children's Choir will be performing at the 4pm service! Coffee hour will be held following the 7pm service.



Camp Pioneer's Winter Wonderland Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this fun family event. Admission is free! Children can meet and greet Santa and his helpers. Parents can explore the vendor and craft fair. Enjoy the Christmas light display and the scenic winter views of camp while enjoying food and beverages. This event will benefit Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center.

Sunday Morning Bible Class - December "The Real Christmas"

Join us this Advent and Christmas Season for our Sunday Morning Bible Class (9:15-10:15am) and explore the real Christmas Story! The class will include a video lesson for about half of the class followed by discussion from the student workbooks. So, be prompt! Note: There are only ten student workbooks that will be given out to the first ten individuals –or- couples attending. More can be ordered of course!

Sunday, 11/27 ~ Class 1: Prologue – The Story Behind the Christmas Story (Optional... but very helpful)

Sunday, 12/4 ~ Class 2: Unit One - Setting the Stage

Sunday, 12/11 ~ Class 3: Unit Two - The King Is Born

Sunday, 12/18 ~ Class 4: Unit Three - God's New Kingdom Grows

Sunday, 12/25 ~ No Class "Merry Christmas"

Sunday, 1/1/17 ~ Class 5: Unit Four - God's New Kingdom Lasts Forever

GriefShare

A faith-based Support Group for those
who have lost a loved one.

Real Help
for
Deep Hurt



Your Journey
from Mourning
to Joy

The GRIEF SHARE GROUP
meets Monday nights (twice/month)
from 7-8:30 pm

Next Meeting: TBA (we will meet during the summer months)
at the L.E.G.O.S. House

To join the group, please call Tina Rigley at 992.9112.

Advent Celebration

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
6:00pm at Trinity School

Looking for a way to Celebrate Advent with your family? On Tuesday, November 29th, Trinity families will come together for an evening of food, worship and fun. Be sure to sign up for the evening that includes a FREE pizza dinner, a brief family worship and festive activities. All this within an hour and a half to get you back home for your evening routine. All ages are invited and be sure to **sign up by Nov. 27th** because we need to order the pizza! Let us know your name, phone #, how many children, how many teens, and how many adults! Email "MWillert@thinktrinitychristian.com" to sign up or use the form included in the weekly worship bulletins.



Pancakes Anyone? Help Save Pioneer!!!

Our youth have very much come to love a place called Camp Pioneer - and it's in trouble, so they're taking action! They're holding a free all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, December 11 from 9am-10:30am** in the Trinity School gym. Of course a free will donation will be accepted. Mark your calendar and save the date. Please help your youth help Pioneer so they can continue to feel God's love through such a wonderful place!

Deacon Events

The deacons will meet at the church on the following days to prepare for the Christmas season:

December 3 @ 9am: Decorating the church

December 10 @ 10am: Setting up the Christmas tree

What is a Stephen Minister?



Someone:

- ▶ Who cares
- ▶ Who supports
- ▶ Who listens
- ▶ Who shares

To be connected to a Stephen Minister or for more information on Stephen Ministry, please see:

Pastor Krueger	Pat Hartman
Vicky Wienke	Don Meissner
Josh Makey	Erin Kotowski



Recycle Your Cards

If you would like to recycle your cards (Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthday, thank-you, etc.), they are still being collected for St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Remove the front cover (there can be no personal notes on the flip side) and place in Lin Rowsell's mailbox. **NO** Hallmark, Disney, or American Greetings can be accepted.

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Plaque located in the church's fellowship area. They're only \$25! Order forms can be obtained from the church office. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 8th.**



A warm welcome to our newest members, who were accepted into our Trinity family on November 13, 2016:

Tamie & Jamie Dirrigl

Nancy Ehlers

Nick & Barb Gentile

Michael, Lori & Victoria Hock

Dick & Gigi LoGalbo

Audio / Visual Project Update

Through your generosity and giving hearts we have paid for the majority of our audio/visual project, but a balance of about \$2,500 remains. Please prayerfully consider making a donation towards this project. Thank you for your continued support!

Year-End Donations

While April 15th is still a ways off, 12/31/16 is rapidly approaching. If you're looking for a way to perhaps divert some funds from going to the tax man, and at the same time supporting a cause you believe in, here's a suggestion. For every dollar donated to the Trinity Audio-Visual Fund before the end of the year, an anonymous member of our church will match it – dollar for dollar – up to a thousand dollars! It would be great to go into 2017 with the entire technology upgrade project completely paid off ... and this should do it! The Lord has richly blessed us with some great equipment and people to utilize visual and audio technology in our services. Let's wrap up this project and move on in 2017! Thank-you!

Operation Christmas Child

Next year we will be starting a new opportunity for Trinity to be involved with Operation Christmas Child all year long instead of just in the days leading up to National Collection Week. We will have a bin in the narthex in order to collect a suggested item for each month of the year and then we will have a church-wide packing party in November to pack the shoeboxes. You may choose to be involved in the packing party or still pack your shoeboxes on your own but we encourage you to participate in our monthly item drive and especially to pray for the children who receive the shoeboxes throughout the year. Look for more information in the weekly bulletin inserts and future monthly newsletters. Below is a preview of the suggested monthly item donations:

January: Accessories (watches, hairbows, rings, sunglasses, necklaces)

February: Socks & Underwear

March: Stuffed Animals

April: Toys (cars, yo-yo, slinky, jump rope, balls,

May: Hygiene Items (bar soap, toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, NO liquids)

June: Stickers

July: Letters (personalized letters for children or cards, colored pictures)

August: Games (playing cards, puzzles, etc)

September: School supplies (pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books)

October: \$7 Donation

November: \$7 Donation

December: Pray for the shoeboxes and children who receive them

*Starting in 2017, toothpaste and candy will NO LONGER be accepted in the shoeboxes**

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High News:

The next Jr. High Night will be **Monday, December 19, 2016 from 7:00pm-8:30pm** in the school gym. All Jr. High youth, both members and non-members of Trinity, are invited to join us for this fun evening!

Sr. High News:

The Sr. High Small groups will meet **December 1 and 11 this month from 7:00-8:30pm** at the Willert's house. Sr. High small groups are off to a great start having had the first one on November 17. The topic was "Expectations and Let-downs". Our topic for December 1 will be "Pressure to Succeed". These evenings are teen led and adult supported. "It's great to be able to talk about things we have going on our lives in a place where you can trust people and get some good advice," shared one of the teens.

The teens had a great time watching the Bills game on Nov. 20! We also had this year's first snowball fight (inside the house) and Kailee Pokigo won the prize for bringing the favorite snack which was Chicken Buffalo wing dip.

Teens doing their part to help save Camp Pioneer- any teens wishing to help with the pancake breakfast on Dec. 11 please arrive at 8:30 in the gym. We'll be done by 11:00.

Thank You!

There are 4 awesome people Trinity would like to thank for their weekly dedication to our Youth! Rachel Antes and Brad McKernan gather weekly with our teens on Sunday mornings with great encouragement, guidance and sharing their faith. Chris Kopra teaches our Confirmation class on Sunday mornings making sometimes not interesting material relevant and motivating. Robin Makosy, the newest to our team, encourages and guides our Sr. High small group. We also wish to thank Sarah Makosey who helps creatively program and organize some of the activities for our events. You folks are a blessing!



Sr. High Group watching the Bills game.



Jr. High night fun!

Happy Birthday

12/1	Logan Cosandier	12/11	Peter Schueler	12/19	Evan McCoy
12/2	Michele Baun	12/12	Bradley Ringle	12/20	Eleanor Gass Karen McCoy
12/3	Helen Boldt Luci Zarbo Aaron Yox	12/13	Nancy Stevens Frank Lelito	12/21	Sandra Gertis
12/4	Jordan Paz	12/14	Anna Eising	12/22	Kevin Kot Lisa Cislo
12/5	Jonah LoVullo	12/16	Vince Zarbo Christopher Malta	12/28	Beverly Osberg Judith Boersch Carolyn Lehsten
12/6	Ella Thompson	12/17	Noell McKernan Katelyn Barnas	12/29	Joy Belasic Nick Gatto
12/7	Joan Sullivan Justin Smith Emma Hope	12/18	Tristan Sullivan Bransen Gabel Gavin Courteau	12/30	Eve LoVullo
12/8	Steve Makosy	12/19	Jerry Meissner	12/31	Donna Yox
12/9	Matthew Wrobel				

Happy Anniversary

12/23 Dan & Joan Sullivan

12/27 Brian & Ellen Makey

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON !

Florence Bogumil, Fox Run at Orchard Park - 404D, One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Ruth Brown, Greenfield Rehab Center, 5949 Broadway #D-119, Lancaster, NY 14086

Edna Gaske, GreenField Rehab Center - Rm D-123, 5949 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

Ruth Hope, Greenfield Rehab Center - Rm C- 117, 5949 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

Deb Kerner, 202 Allendale, West Seneca, NY 14224

Elva Spellburg, Jennie B. Nursing Home, 222 E. Main Street Rm. 101-W, Springville, NY 14141

Melba Veros, 1311 East & West Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

Ruth Walczak, Absolute Care, Willink Building #156, 292 Main Street, East Aurora, NY 14052



Chuck Stephan, husband of Kathy Stephan, entered eternal peace with the Lord on November 3, 2016.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2017) devotion booklets will be available soon. Please take one and use it for home devotions! God bless your devotion and prayer times!

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Pastor
School Principal
Youth & Family Coordinator
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Dennis Krueger
Kathleen Fretthold
Mark Willert
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

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