

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MARCH 2017

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, Interim 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

“THE UNITED STATE”

As Jesus was literally making His way to the Mount of Olives where He would be betrayed and handed over to be crucified, He prayed for His disciples and for those who would believe through their message – US! He prayed that they (us) be one, just as the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father. Jesus prayed that the fellowship of believers be united and in harmony with Him and one another. Many years earlier King David wrote in Psalm 133: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.” We might call this God’s will for the “United State of the Church.”

Our country has taken a very hard hit over the past two years of the presidential campaign, and it shows no signs of getting better after the election. As the voting results revealed, we are a deeply divided nation when it comes to its direction and leadership. This division seems to run pretty deep and has caused fractures among families and friends. It has even seeped into churches and other organizations. Sadly, Trinity Lutheran Church included. Passionate partisanship has left little room for compromise and harmony. Throw into this mix a politically charged media, and our country is filled with unrest and protest, anger and hatred. One is hard pressed to see our land as the “United States of America.” In some respects, perhaps this isn’t all so terrible. People are engaging, speaking out and getting involved.

But it doesn’t “feel” too good, and we certainly need to pray for our nation as we wrestle with what we claim to treasure – the democratic process.

We need to pray as well for the unity of God’s church. As I mentioned, Trinity has felt some of the tremors of division and opposing opinions. A few, but only a few members I’m told, have chosen to stay away from worship and the activity of the church. Hopefully that is only for a short “time-out” so to speak, and a cooling off period. God’s will is that His church remain united together as one in Him and with Him. We may have to wrestle with a variety of opinions among our members regarding some of the issues of the day, but we have much more to keep us united than drive us apart, namely the Gospel and our hope and mission in Jesus! As David declared, “it is good and pleasant when brothers live in unity.” Such unity does not demand uniformity. It does require love, patience and respect for one another and their points of view.

Let us pray for unity in our church and in our country. Let us pursue harmony in our work together in the Lord’s church, even as we sing different notes. May our prayer like Jesus’ be for oneness with Him and through Him with one another. Let our heartfelt prayer and desire be for the “united state of the church,” and the United States of America. God bless both!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



Ash Wednesday

March 1 ~ 11:30am & 7:00pm

Mid-Week Lent Services at Trinity

Wednesdays ~ March 8, 15, 22, 29
11:30am & 7:00pm

WSCC Mid-Week Lent Service at St. John Vianney (in Orchard Park)

Wednesday, April 5 ~ 7:00pm

Palm Sunday

April 9 ~ 8:00am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 13 ~ 7:00pm

Good Friday

April 14 ~ 12noon & 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

April 16 ~ 7:00am & 10:30am

LENT: "Standing at the Cross"

Our Mid-Week Lenten Series, "Standing at the Cross," serves as a lead-in to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Each week we will focus on a different sermon that Dr. Martin Luther actually preached during Lent in the parishes he served. As we stand with Luther at the foot of the cross each week, we contemplate the ways in which we stand firm as followers of Christ during this holy penitential season.

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 1 at 11:30am and 7:00pm

MID-WEEK SERVICES

March 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:30am and 7:00pm

MID-WEEK, April 5th

At 7:00pm at St. John Vianney RC Church with the West Seneca Community of Churches. **

**Note: The West Seneca Community of Churches has designated half of all their Lenten offerings to the Upper Room Orphanage in Haiti

MEN'S RETREAT 2017

SAVE THE DATE

Grilled Chicken Wings and Steak, Fellowship with other Christian Brothers, a Competitive Tournament, Campfire Worship

If you are interested in any of the above, you will not want to miss out on this year's Men's Retreat at Camp Pioneer. Join Trinity's Men-in-Ministry for this year's weekend, which is **May 5th-7th**. The men's group from St. John's Lutheran Orchard Park will be leading the retreat once again, which will run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. A brochure with additional information will be available soon. Contact Chris Kopra (phone: 207-3008, email: kopracj@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending.

Men-in-Ministry Sweatshirts Available



Cost: \$20

Color: Navy Blue

Sizes Available:
Large, XL, 2XL

See Chris Kopra if interested

Stephen Ministry – Christian Care

A few months ago we celebrated the completion of the Stephen Ministry Care-Giving training program of six Trinity members and myself. So, what does this mean? What is a certified Stephen Ministry Care-Giver? You might say he/she is an "ear" to listen to individuals who may need to talk about a situation in their life, and a "heart" to genuinely care!

If you, or someone you know is experiencing a challenging life circumstance (as we all do from time to time) and would like to talk about it with someone who can listen and care, please speak to Pastor Krueger about chatting with one of our Stephen Ministers. Be assured that the contact and subsequent conversations with a Stephen Minister Care-Giver are extremely confidential.



I had a gliche with my email account (tlckrueger@verizon.net) and lost all my recent email correspondence. So, I apologize if I missed getting back to anyone whose email was deleted.

School News

From the Principal ...

Hello, friends! It's hard to believe that the half way point of our school year has already passed, basketball season is over, and we're already planning Easter and even end of the year activities! The big events of the moment are the Annual Fund drive during March, the class trip spaghetti dinner on March 18, and our Open House/Curriculum Fair/Food Truck Extravaganza on April 28.

We were very pleased to receive enough chapel offerings and donations in the second quarter to give \$150 to the Upper Room Orphanage and sponsor a child! The students were very excited to have the opportunity to help in this way.

You may remember that due to your generosity and the goodness of many others, we reached our annual fund goal last year, and even exceeded it. Construction on the bathrooms is scheduled to begin this summer! Our goal of \$15,000 this year is certainly attainable, especially as we will continue to encourage our Trinity School alumni to contribute in any way they can. Please prayerfully consider contributing again this year. On the list of possible goals are new playground equipment, robotic and coding kits and programs, and expanded foreign language opportunities. ANY size contribution is welcome! The students will be having their own playground penny drive to add to the total, with a special ice cream sundae celebration when we reach our \$1000 goal.

The spaghetti dinner/basket auction plans are well underway, and tickets will be available after worship, through the church or school office, or at the door. We greatly appreciate basket donations, and hope that you'll join us for a delicious meal.

Last year in April, we had over 250 people visit our campus for food trucks and/or the open house! We enrolled 12 preschoolers and 2 K-8 students because of it. We're looking to expand this year with 3 entrée trucks as well as our friends from Green Acres Ice Cream. (Do you sense a theme, here?) The upper grade students verbally present their curriculum fair projects and the primary students prepare extensive visuals and reports for their projects. The variety of topics and displays is so diverse that the Fair is a great learning experience for students and visitors alike. We're topping off the evening with a "Spring Fling" dance...there will be many tired out students, parents and staff the next day!

Some major changes will be coming to our website soon. I'll let you know when the improvements have been made and I hope you'll check it out. You'll also be able to make your annual fund donation online, with Paypal, via the website. Never a dull moment! I thank God that He constantly puts challenges and opportunities before us to stretch our minds and abilities in God-pleasing ways, and to keep us on our toes for the good of His Kingdom. No complacency allowed! Hallelujah!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School



11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Auction

**Saturday, March 18 4:00pm - 7:00pm
At Trinity School**

Tickets: \$9 pre-sale / \$10 at door

Come out for a great dinner and try your luck at winning some baskets! Food items (see the poster in the narthex), theme baskets, gift cards and monetary donations are needed. These items would need to be dropped off to the school office by March 14. Thank you for your continued support!



Taste of Trinity Was Awesome!

Thanks to all that came to support the school at our annual Taste of Trinity! And a special thanks to all of you that baked and cooked! We had a record 40 participants! The food was amazing, as was the fellowship! We raised \$750 and had a great time. We hope to see you all again next year!

Property & Grounds Meeting and Workday

Saturday, March 18th at 9:00am

The Property & Grounds Committee has approved to meet regularly every other month on the 3rd Saturday at 9:00am. Immediately following each meeting will be a work day. The next meeting will be Saturday, March 18 at 9:00am.

Ladies Bible Study News

March Meetings: This month the Ladies Bible Study will meet on **Monday, March 13 & 27 at 7:00pm** in the church narthex. All ladies are welcome!

Backpack Project: Ladies, start collecting items for the backpack project. Bring items any Sunday or class night and place them in the designated crate in the coat room. We will collect items until March 13. Questions? Call Ruth Z. or Nancy H. Thanks for your participation.

Thank You Men-in-Ministry!

Thank you to Trinity's Men in Ministry group for inviting us to your special outings and events. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

~ The Ladies of Trinity

Cemetery News - IMPORTANT

ANY burials or spreading of ashes in Trinity's Cemetery are prohibited without pre-approval from the Cemetery Board. Both state and cemetery regulations need to be adhered to.

Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit



SAVE THE DATE: The annual Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit is set for **Monday, July 17th**, at the Brierwood Country Club in Hamburg. More information will be given as details become available. Early bird registration will end on June 1st.

Southtowns Care Center

The Southtowns Care Center will host an **open house** at their brand new location (4535 Southwestern Blvd., Suite 808, Hamburg, NY 14075) on **Saturday, March 4th, from 10 AM to 2 PM**. The SCC is a pregnancy resource center providing free services to women of our community facing difficult pregnancy decisions. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call 508-0660 or e-mail info@southcc.org.

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High Youth Night

Our next Jr. High Night (6th-8th grade) will be on **Monday, March 20th from 7:00pm-8:30pm** in the school gym. We start out with some open gym time, then move to some organized games followed by a devotional talk and some snacks. Don't come alone though... bring a friend (or a cousin).

Sr. High Small Group

This month's Sr. High Small Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 14th and March 28th from 7:00pm-8:30pm** at the Willert's house.

Youth Retreat at Camp Pioneer April 21-23, 2017

Theme: Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

NOTE: Registration Due by **Sunday, April 2nd**!

Save the date! Members of Trinity's youth group, confirmation classes, and any friends in grades 6-12 are welcome for the Spring Junior and Senior High Retreat at Camp Pioneer and Retreat Center. We will leave from church on Friday evening, April 21st and we will spend the weekend in laughter and study, with food and songs, praising God, playing great games, building friendships and serving through various work projects. The retreat concludes Sunday afternoon after lunch.

Keep a look out for a brochure and more information regarding cost, registration and what to bring. If you have a child or know someone who would like to attend, please contact Chris Kopra (207-3008) or Mark Willert. Last year we had over 25 youth attend with Trinity's group!

Concordia University Wind Symphony Concert

On Tuesday, March 7 @ 7:30 pm the Concordia University Wind Symphony (about 75 members strong!) is coming to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with us in a concert at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church (6630 Luther St, Niagara Falls, NY)

What can you do to help?

- Pray for the Symphony's safe travel.
- Come to the concert and bring friends and relatives.
- Host two or more students in your home after the concert – provide "bed and breakfast" and transportation back to Holy Ghost.
- Consider a donation of \$25 per student for overnight accommodations at a hotel.
- Make a donation for travel expenses. We'll include a list of pre-concert donors in a "patron" list in the concert program.

Questions? Call David Werth @ 731-7183 or djwerth@roadrunner.com



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider donating altar flowers to help beautify our church for worship services. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church coat-room. We ask that 2 families sign up for each week. Arrangements are only \$10 and you get to take them home after the 10:30am Sunday service. Payment can be placed in the Church Office mailbox (cash or checks payable to "Trinity Lutherna Church"). Thank you!



Tea Party Saturday, April 29, 2017 11:00am-2:00pm

At Camp Pioneer's Dallman Hall

Join us for a fun afternoon including finger sandwiches, desserts, and of course tea! There will also be a basket raffle, door prizes, vendors, and tea pots and floral arrangements available for purchase. Tickets are \$25. Tables of 8 are available for \$175 before April 1st. Contact Pioneer at 549-1420 or info@pioneerencamp.org for tickets or to get more information.

Easter Plant Orders

We will once again be selling plants to be placed on the altar for Easter services, which you get to take home after the 10:30am service on Easter Sunday. Order forms will be placed in the bulletins the last 2 weeks of March and first week of April.

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform and phone Pastor Krueger (997-5666), the church office (674-9188), or one of the Deacons.

Trinity Food Wagon

The Trinity Food Wagon is now located by the parking lot entrance to the building. Please help fill it with non-perishables, cereals, canned goods, etc. Thank you for helping those in need!

A Note From Trinity's School Board

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation,

In just a week or two you will be receiving our second Annual Fund Letter for Trinity Christian School.

Last year, we received over \$11,000 mostly in part to generosity from the alumni, current families and our very own congregation. The students, family and staff were blown away by the support. Thank you for your prayers and financial support which made the drive so successful!

The Board of Education feels strongly that continuing an Annual Fund program at Trinity is essential to the livelihood and future growth of our school. This year we are excited to increase our goal to \$15,000.

As I said last year, we know many of you already give your time, your prayers, and your financial support to Trinity Christian School, and we are very grateful. Please know it does not go unnoticed.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us again this year. There is no gift too small. All gifts will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

~ Dave Sirgey
Chairman, Trinity Christian School Board

Blending Family and Ministry Priorities

Personal priorities are often closely linked to family concerns. As Christians, we have a human family as well as a spiritual family. We consider both of significant importance. These dual concerns should motivate us to set apart an inheritance that will bless *both* using our resources to the fullest.

Gods' Word clearly brings family and ministry priorities together on the same road. We don't need to look any further than the Ten Commandments to see ample evidence of this. It begins with the top priority- *love for God*, and moves to the second priority- *love for our fellow man*.

As tax time approaches, we have an excellent opportunity to assess our financial resources and put in place or review a last will and testament that blends the spiritual priorities of family and ministry life. This can be done using Christian preambles, charitable bequests and appropriate gifts to family members that will serve to bless and not curse them. There are means to avoid taxes and still gift family members beyond our earthly life. Parents with minor children will find it especially important to establish a minor's trust to protect dependent children and to manage property or nominate Christian guardians who can be trustworthy in continuing consistent parental values. Parents of adult children may want to endow them with a gift to further their education or supplement them for other reasons.

Lifelong stewardship includes managing risks that surround us during the days God gives us. Preparing a Christian estate and gift plan should reflect a person's priorities and combine family and ministry goals. If you need to complete your plan or update it, you can give witness to your priorities for family and ministry by resolving to take action *now in 2017* with our help.

For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427, or see one of the Endowment Committee members (Linda Meissner, Dan Rowsell, Christine Hawkins, Lois Rodgers, Nick Gatto, Jane Sirgey, Chris Kwilas).

Family Caregivers: Do you care for a family member with dementia?

Would you like a break to do errands, exercise,

attend YOUR doctor appointments,

go to lunch with a friend, or just RELAX?



There are now several "Respite" Programs in Erie County available at **NO CHARGE!**

Trained volunteers provide fun, one-on-one, stimulating, supervised activities including games, crafts, pet therapy, gentle exercise, music/singing and lunch or snacks for your loved one while you take a much deserved break. **ALL** are welcome!

FREE Respite Programs for the Memory Impaired in Erie County

Southtowns:

1st Wednesday each month

from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at
First United Methodist Church
 474 East Main St., Springville
 Contact: Rev. Vredenburg 592-7451

2nd Wednesday each month

from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at
Hamburg United Methodist Church
 116 Union St., Hamburg
 Contact: Lisa Rood 941-5703

3rd Wednesday each month

from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at
Eden United Methodist Church
 2820 East Church St., Eden
 Contact: Kevin Karstedt 992-2248

4th Wednesday each month

from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at
Baker Memorial United Methodist Church
 345 Main St., East Aurora
 Contact: Rev. Becky Naber 652-0500 ext.102

3rd Thursdays each month

from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm at
St. David's Episcopal Church
 3951 Seneca St, West Seneca
 Contact: Barb Bracco 674-4670

Only Hope We Find GOD Again Before It Is Too Late

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary.

My confession:

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to. In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

In light of recent events--terrorists attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with, WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you share this message, you will not share it with many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass this on if you think it has merit.

If not, then just discard it. No one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My Best Regards, Honestly and Respectfully,
Ben Stein

Happy Birthday

3/1	Carolyn Habedank Beverly Weiss	3/8	Juliet Paz	3/16	Patricia Peterson	3/29	Lynn Metzler Karen Tedesco
3/2	Nevin Hope David Broderdorf	3/9	Carolyn Minko Michael Monahan	3/17	Emma Tripi	3/30	Brenda Lipinoga
3/3	Ryan Hamann	3/11	Don Weiss	3/21	Andrew Caldarella- Flumerfeldt	3/31	Dan Sullivan Clara Bookhagen
3/4	Brian Makey	3/12	Brady Manzo Gavin Gabel	3/24	Peter Colson Marian Post Debra Wrobel		
3/5	Erin Kotowski	3/14	Judeen Babcock Rhonda Carlone	3/25	Lars Osberg		
3/6	Henrietta White		PJ Colson	3/26	Travis Rodgers		
3/7	Hillary Mayer Amanda Kosicki	3/15	Roger Meissner John McCoy	3/27	Maryanne Ringle		

Happy Anniversary

3/12	Carole & Herbert Jaekle	3/30	Robert & Mary Ann Moeller
3/29	Robert & Helen Boldt		

Mission Trip

Plans are in the works for a Mission Trip to Haiti through Mission of Hope and the Upper Room Orphanage this summer! For more information or if you are interested in being a part of this (or future) trips, please contact a member of the Haiti Mission Team (Andrew/Bob Eising, Chris Kopra, Brad McKernan, or Rachel Antes) or email LIFE @ trinityLIFE4christ@gmail.com.

March Meetings at a Glance

- Stephen Ministries:** Thursday, 3/2/17 at 7pm
- Outreach Committee:** Wednesday, 3/8/17 at 7pm
- Men in Ministry:** Saturday, 3/11/17 at 8:30am
- Executive Committee:** Monday, 3/13/17 at 7pm
- Inclusion Committee:** Tuesday, 3/14/17 at 6:30pm
- Sr. High Group:** Tuesday, 3/14/17 & 3/28/17 at 7pm
- Property & Grounds:** Saturday 3/18/17 at 9am
- Jr. High Youth Group:** Monday, 2/20/17 at 7pm

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 |
| Jennifer Evans | |



Portals of Prayer (April-June 2017) devotion booklets will soon be available. They can be found in the church entryway, on the Welcome Center in the narthex, and in the coatroom. Please take one!

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Pastor	Rev. Dennis Krueger	997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
School Principal	Kathleen Fretthold	674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / trinity@thinktrinitychristian.com