

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MAY 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, School Principal, School: 674-5353

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



WORSHIP TIMES

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

“STOP DOUBTING, AND BELIEVE!”

This past Sunday, a week after Easter, we returned to our annual visit with the “Doubting Thomas” and the other disciples in the Gospel Lesson for the day. You know it well, I’m sure. Thomas said that he would not believe that Jesus rose from the dead without visible proof and an examination of the data, so to speak (namely Jesus!). One week after Jesus’ resurrection from the dead he received the proof he desired, and he believed! Jesus responded to Thomas and said, *“You have believed because you have seen Me; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

The number of doubters, skeptics and unbelievers is rapidly growing. That probably surprises no one, I suspect. But, do you realize how fast it is growing and how large a number there are? In my World Religions class I’m teaching to the 7th and 8th graders in our school we learned that the number of “unaffiliated” people (atheists, agnostics, “nones” ...) is the second largest “religious” group in North America! In the past decade, U.S. “nones” have overtaken Catholics, mainline Protestants, and all followers of non-Christian faiths. Like Christian denominations, there are differences and divisions in the unaffiliated group. Within their ranks divisions run deep. Some are avowed atheists. Others are agnostic. And many more simply don’t care to state a preference. Organized around skepticism toward organizations and united by a common belief that they do not believe, nones as a group are just as internally complex as many religions. And as with religions, these internal contradictions could keep new followers away.

Do you remember back a few decades (5, actually!) when *Time Magazine* asked in a famous cover headline, *“Is God Dead?”* The magazine wondered whether religion was relevant to modern life in the post-atomic age when communism was spreading and science was explaining more about our natural world than ever before. Even as a teenager I remember thinking how ridiculous this seemed.

Not so ridiculous anymore, is it? Of course, you and I would respond with a bold confession of faith that **God is not dead!** God is real and is the creator and sustainer of our world and universe! However a growing and large number of those around us might respond, *“God, who?”*

In this Easter season we continue to celebrate that God is not dead! Jesus died on the cross, to be sure, but He arose victorious over sin, death and the power of satan on Easter morning. He proved His resurrection many times over revealing Himself to many people before He ascended back to His throne in glory. It’s not a matter of blind faith! It is documented truth! Investigative Journalist, Lee Strobel, wrote about this in his books: *The Case For Christ*; and *The Case For Easter*. The former has just come out in a movie as well. He stopped doubting and started believing!

I invite you to join me in faithfully praying for this growing number of doubters and unbelievers all around us – even in our families! We have a responsibility to share with them that indeed there is a God, and He loves all people and wants them to believe in Him. Give them one of Strobel’s books, or take them to the movie! Share God’s book with them and learn how to defend the truths it proclaims! Be a living example to those around of the faith you hold – and the difference it makes!

I can’t help but think that at the core of so many of the problems we face in society today find their foundation in this doubting and not believing! I don’t ever want to read on the cover of a popular news magazine that God is dead and His church has succumb to it’s lie that He exists. Stop doubting and believe! Stop fearing and follow! Stop procrastinating and proclaim Jesus!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Trinity's New Website

<http://www.trinitywestseneca.com/>

Trinity's new website is now LIVE! The Outreach team has been working very hard on this project. Please check it out and share it with your friends and family! The more you share and look at the website, the easier our website will be to find on Google searches.

Here are some ways you can share:

- Post on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
- Leave a note with a co-worker or friend
- Word of mouth

Thank you!

Easter Breakfast Was a Hit!

Trinity's Men In Ministry shared Easter breakfast and the joy of the resurrection with 115-120 people. The fellowship and food were both great. The free will offering raised \$333 for Haiti. Thanks to all who helped and attended!



New Member Classes

Interested in joining Trinity Lutheran Church? Membership in a church is much more than just 'signing up' so to speak. It is becoming a functioning part of the living "Body of Christ." It is joining with others who share a common belief or confession of faith and life as we serve the Lord and others. For those who have a Lutheran church background it may only involve making a profession of faith. For others it involves attending a "New Member" class to learn and understand the Lutheran faith we profess and live by. We'd like to offer a New Member Class (a series of sessions) soon after Easter that would conclude before the summer. Anyone interested in attending should contact either Pastor Krueger or the church office (674-9188).

Property & Grounds Meeting and Workday

Saturday, May 20th 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, May 20 at 9:00am.



VBS 2017 - "Rome" July 10-14, 2017 9am-12pm

Mark your calendar!!! All children ages 3 (potty trained) thru 6th Grade in the Fall are welcome. We'll sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and much more. Registration forms can be found on the table in the narthex by the Memorial Plaque. Please place completed forms in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.

Helpers are needed in order to make this event a success for the kids! If you can volunteer to help, even for just 1 day, please contact Anna Eising (909-2444 or eising6pak@verizon.net).

Attention All Leaders

If your ministry, team, board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting in July 2017 OR if you are starting a new ministry, please either return the budget request form that was emailed to you or pick one up from Dave Broderdorf's mail box in the church coatroom. **Please return completed forms to Dave Broderdorf by May 1.**



Altar Flowers & Candle Oil

Altar flower and candle oil donations are needed for May and June. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom.

Flowers are only \$10 and you get to take them home after the 10:30am service. We ask that two families sign up for each week. Payment can be placed in the Church Office mailbox.

Altar Candle Oil is \$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.



Follow Us on Facebook!

Did you know Trinity has a Facebook page? You can post to it and also watch for updates and events. If you are a leader and would like to post your event as "Trinity Lutheran Church" instead of your own user name, contact Mark Willert for login info. We have almost 300 "friends" on this page! To search for it on Facebook, type in "Trinity Lutheran Church West Seneca". Add us as a friend if you have not already!

Trinity School News



School Facebook

Please help our school in an easy, free way! Social media is becoming more and more important, and we are always working on our positive presence on Facebook. Simply follow these 3 steps, and it will help us tremendously!

1. Like our page! Go to www.facebook.com/trinitywestseneca, and click "Like".
2. Write a review. We have a 5 star rating on Facebook! The more reviews people can read, the more likely they are to give us a call and come visit.
3. Stay involved! Like, comment, and share our posts!

We so appreciate your support of our school! Thank you!

Trinity School Musical

"Nic at Night"

Friday, May 12, 2017

1:00pm & 7:00pm

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! The school children and their music teacher, Mrs. Anderson, have been working hard to make this an amazing event.



Trinity Shopping Bags

"Advertise Trinity School while you shop. Pick up one of these stylish and reusable shopping bags at cost for \$4 at the school!"

2017-2018 School Year ~ Enroll Your Child Today!

It's not too early to think about the next school year! Trinity Christian School offers Pre-K 3 & 4 in addition to grades K-8. Before and after school care is also offered! Contact the school today at 674-5353 or trinity@thinktrinitychristian.com to enroll or to obtain more information.



I Spy With My Little Eye . . . EASTER EGGS!

On Sunday 4/9 there were over 1000 small plastic eggs hiding around our property filled with toys and treats for children of our congregation, school and community. This Easter Egg Extravaganza was made possible from an action team grant project sponsored by Thrivent Financial, Outreach Ministry, Sunday School, Youth Group, and Faculty members.

Approximately 25 youth ages 6-12 searched the playground area, while 35 youngsters ages 2-5 located eggs in a straw filled area nearby. When the signal was given, the youth galloped off the find their eggs while parents, grandparents, and friends cheered them on. Meanwhile, a scavenger hunt was underway on the walking path around the campus for youth 13 and up.

After the hunt, a hot dog lunch including chips and water was served by some terrific youth group members. A special thank to the grilling expertise of Ruth, Kris and Adam Zawadzki.

Overall the event was a complete success. Most of the children returned their plastic eggs after carefully emptying them so look for this exciting eggstravaganza next year!



Summer Camps at Pioneer

Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center offers a variety of summer camps and family service weekends. For more information, look for the brochures on the table in the narthex or visit Pioneer's website (www.pioneercamp.org).

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who came out to help at our Cemetery Work Day on April 1. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

~ Mark Blajszczak,
Cemetery Superintendent

Emergency Contacts

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

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High

Jr. High Youth Night: If you have a student in grades 6-8 and they haven't come to one of our youth nights, it's time to check it out. We have new kids coming every month and ... they keep coming back! Our next one is **May 22 from 7pm-8:30pm** in the school gym.

8th Grade Students: So what's next? What is life like after Jr. High? Come and check out our Sr. High Small Group on Tuesday, May 30 from 7:00-8:30 at the Wilert's house next to the church. What can you expect? Some great discussion about a topic in the lives of teens and how God fits in, some food and other great people! Bring a friend and check us out.

Sr. High

Small Group: Sr. High Small Group will meet this month on **May 16 & May 30 from 7:00pm -8:30pm** at the Willert's house next to church. On May 30 we'll be **welcoming any 8th grade students** that would like to come and check it out!

Sr. High Parents Meeting (Including 8th grade parents): On **June 11 at 11:45am** (following the 10:30am service) we will have a parents meeting in the meeting room at church about summer activities and schedule for the Sr. Youth. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

“Kosy” at Camp!

We're proud to share that Sarah Makosy (daughter of Steve and Robin Makosy) is once again this year in a leadership position at Camp Pioneer. Two summers ago she was out there and last year God called her to another camp to use her gifts and talents. Returning to Pioneer this year she wears the hat of "Youth and Teen Leader" where she will oversee programming, training counselors and sharing the love of Jesus through the beautiful setting Pioneer offers.

"Kosy", as they've affectionately dubbed her at camp, brings a plethora of skills and ideas she's gleaned from her college training and experience elsewhere. We've had the pleasure this school year of seeing her use her talents helping out with our Jr. High Gym Nights as well as overseeing our projection ministry for each Sunday's 10:30am worship.

Already moved out to camp, she will be there till summer's end. Working at camp is not a 9-5 job but a dedication of her life to God in this ministry she has been called to. Please keep her in prayer for wisdom, creativity, patience and mostly energy! If you feel led, send her a note or care package, or stop out and see her and say hi. Pioneer's address is 9324 Lakeshore Rd, Angola, NY 14006.

Confirmation Sunday, May 21, 2017

Confirmation will take place this month on May 21, at the 10:30 worship. Please celebrate with us on this day and stay for cake after worship. The students will also be having a special dinner on May 14 at 5:30pm with their parents to share their profession and the Lord's Supper. We celebrate with these students in faith and their professed relationship with Jesus!

Abigail Blamowski

Jazmine Gable

Ryan Hamann

Jonah LoVullo

Evan McCoy

Sarah McLaughlin

Caitlyn McLaughlin

Zachary Powers

Renata Schultz

Grace Willert

Hope Willert

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were once members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Board located in the church's fellowship area. The cost is \$25. Please contact the church office (674-9188) if you are interested in purchasing a plaque. Orders for this period will be accepted **until May 1st**.

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery. The cost is:

- Members - \$700 per plot with a \$100 discount per plot when purchasing 2 or more at the same time
- Non-members - \$1,400 per plot (no discounts given). Non-members must be relatives of a Trinity member to purchase plots in Trinity Cemetery

~ Mark Blajszczak
Cemetery Superintendent



Email Addresses: Have you been receiving Trinity's monthly newsletter electronically? No? We can fix that! Contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address or you can write your name and email on a piece of paper and place it in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.

Pew Sign-In Sheets: When attending services, please take a moment to sign the red attendance booklet that is located in each row's book holder closest to the center aisle.

Contact Information: If you have moved, changed your phone # or email address recently, please contact the church office so we can update your information.



Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit Monday ~ July 17, 2017 Brierwood Country Club

The early bird price (before June 1st) is \$135 per golfer. Please call Camp Pioneer at 549-1420 to register. A copy of the golf brochure containing all the details can be found on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. The proceeds will assist children of our military to have a camp experience. Church organizations and businesses are urged to sponsor a hole at the benefit for a donation of \$150.

Operation Christmas Child

Items being collected during the month of **May** are **HYGIENE ITEMS** (bar soap, toothbrushes, combs, washcloths ... NO LIQUIDS). Items can be placed in the Operation Christmas Child bin in the church narthex. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Trinity's Nursery Rooms

Nursery rooms for children up to 6 years of age are located in Trinity Church's basement and consist of an infant room and a separate toddler play area. Parents are welcome to use these areas during worship if needed. Audio and video feed of the service is available in these areas for your convenience.

Be Impeccable With Your Word. Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

Don Miguel Ruiz

Pornography and Our Kids

While one study shows that 68% of Christian men and 50% of Pastors view pornography once a week, the question remains as to how pornography affects our kids. **It is not a question of if, but when** they will be exposed to it. What are the immediate affects? Over time, what affect will it have on those who struggle with it? The difficulty here is that it can remain hidden without a trace.

The results are very concerning and a plan and a correct understanding should be in place. Parents need to be given opportunity to learn and prepare so that when brought up within the home it can be reviewed regularly with the children. This is a very deceiving problem as it does not differentiate between bad or even the best of kids/teens. This is even a more wide spread issue than drugs because EVERY child/teen will at some point be exposed to it. 23% of google searches can lead to pornography.

Trinity is holding a 1 hour informational and learning time for parents and grandparents to be given the knowledge and tools to navigate this subject. Answers to the above questions will be answered as well as the science and understanding behind it. It will include a 35 minute presentation of information and 20 minutes of discussion and questions. The topic, **Parenting In a Pornography Saturated World** will be held on **Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00pm** in the church narthex. Open to anyone that has an influence on kids. While this is a very concerning topic, we move positively forward knowing God will help us and give us what we need to effectively guide our children through this obstacle!

National Day of Prayer

May 4, 2017

The West Seneca Community of Churches is sponsoring an ecumenical prayer event on this day at 12noon at the Lions Band Shell, which is located behind the West Seneca Library (1300 Union Road, West Seneca) to pray for our families, military, government, education system, churches, businesses, and culture. Bringing a lawn chair is recommended. All are invited!



Trinity Men's Softball

The 2017 softball season is here! All games will be played at the NIKE Center, 2980 Lakeview Road in Hamburg - diamond # indicated next to each game. Come out and cheer on our guys!

5/8/17 at 8:15pm (#1)	6/12/17 at 8:15pm (#1)
5/11/17 at 6:30pm (#1)	6/19/17 at 8:15pm (#1)
5/15/17 at 6:30pm (#1)	6/29/17 at 6:30pm (#1)
5/22/17 at 8:15pm (#4)	7/10/17 at 6:30pm (#1)
6/1/17 at 8:15pm (#3)	7/17/17 at 6:30pm (#1)
6/5/17 at 6:30pm (#1)	7/20/17 at 6:30pm (#1)

Community Events

Pulled Pork Dinner: Thursday, May 4 from 4pm-7pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (3487 North Boston Road, Eden). Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, free for children 5 and under (dine-in only). For dine-ins, this is an "All You Can Eat" buffet style dinner which includes pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, apple sauce, mixed veggies, rolls, cookies and brownies, and beverage. Drive-thru take outs are also available. This events benefits the L.E.G.O.S. House.

Chiavetts's Chicken BBQ: Saturday, May 20 from 3pm-7pm at Orchard Park United Methodist Church (3700 N. Buffalo Street, Orchard Park). Tickets are \$11.95 for adults / \$7 for children and consists of a 1/2 chicken, macaroni salad, cole slaw, baked beans, roll and cake. Dine in or take out available.

BW's Chicken BBQ: Sunday, May 21 from 12noon-3pm at St. John's Lutheran Church (67 Litchfield Ave, Depew). Tickets are \$10 for a half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Dine in and take out available.

The Daniel Plan

U.S. Health Crisis: What Can We Do?

For the first time in history, while millions of people suffer from not having *enough* to eat, millions are struggling with the effects of being *overweight*. With the increase in child and adult obesity over the last decade, health professionals throughout the United States have been searching for a comprehensive intervention. More than **72 million U.S. adults** are obese, and no state has less than a 15 percent obesity rate, which is the recommended national goal, according to the Centers for Disease control.

But weight isn't our only health concern; chronic disease, stress, depression, and so much more have affected many people in our country. At the same time, active movement has been slowly removed from our daily living, and we are, unfortunately, reaping the costs with compromised health, excess weight, aches and pains, premature aging, and weak muscles. These maladies affect our ability to live life abundantly as we are meant to (John 10:10).

We are in a health crisis that is affecting our bodies as well as our brains, *yet many people don't know it*. They don't know how their healthiness—or lack of it—affects their energy, fitness, productivity, abilities, and stability. That's why we are so glad introduce you to the Daniel Plan challenge. The Daniel Plan *lifestyle* will lead you toward better health and wholeness along the way. The Plan looks at Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends as the basis for change to a healthier life style. There is a green sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. If you are interested, even if you are not yet sure, sign up.

1. Be at a healthy weight and stronger
2. More energetic
3. Less stressed
4. More creative, productive, and confident
5. Able to think and learn better for you to live more abundantly for the Lord.



Trinity Youth Experience Pioneer Retreat

27 youth and teens (grades 6-12) and 4 adults descended on Camp Pioneer April 21-23. This retreat has been a long standing tradition for Trinity kids to attend as well as to invite their friends. All centered around the theme, "Fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23), they played a multitude of games, heard and experienced God's word, shared in a variety of team building exercises, stayed up late and ate great food!

After returning home, one of the teens told their parents, "It was great to get to know some other teens from Trinity I hadn't gotten to know yet." Another teen shared, "My favorite part of the weekend was all of it because I got to share my faith with my friend who came and many other people."

Attending these events encourages more participation in our youth ministry at Trinity. For example, when the kids come back from one of these they tend to sing and all around engage more in our youth group gatherings on campus. It also allows kids to more easily invite their friends that have gone on the retreat to come back and join in our events.

Not only was Trinity on the receiving end but we were also represented a variety of leadership roles. Sarah Makosey programmed the entire weekend (see article, Kosy at Camp!); Greg and Chris Kopra and Rachel Antes spoke at the event; Grace Willert, Abby Anderson (Trinity school 7th grade student) and Mark Willert used their musical talents to lead the songs; and Chris and Mark used their dramatics in an impromptu comedy skit introducing a lesson.

Trinity was the largest church represented at the retreat that saw a total of 85 youth and 20 chaperones from various areas of NY. Trinity assisted our youth financially to attend the retreat by paying half of their registration fee. We believe this is one major reason youth from the church, school and their friends participate in this event. So many times throughout the year we hear from parents in appreciation of how much Trinity cares for it's youth and school students.

Many thanks to Chris Kopra who did so much leg work in getting the word to the teens, dealing with the behind the scene details, and chaperoning and to Rachel Antes, Karl Schultz and Mark Willert who chaperoned as well. Thanks also to the many drivers who helped get us out there and back!

Happy Birthday

5/1	Esther Schuster Julie Blamowski	5/15	Katie Willert	5/22	Stephen Hope
5/2	Amanda Kern	5/16	Peggy Wypior Arlene Burger Chris McLaughlin	5/23	Ingrid Hamann
5/4	Herbert Jaekle Ryan Manzella	5/17	David Kosicki Renaë Makey Jackson Ecker	5/25	Edna Gaske Charles Halvorsen Rev. Ron Habedank
5/6	Vince Canazzi Rachel Colson Grace Willert	5/18	Linda Meissner	5/26	Christopher Kopra Sarah McLaughlin Joseph Thompson
5/10	Bradley Ganschow	5/19	Joshua Ecker Nathan Ecker	5/27	Carl Lehsten Justine Monahan
5/11	Victoria Hock	5/20	Cynthia Carlson Ken Klopfer	5/28	Michael Canazzi
5/14	Helen Beckedorf Shirley Lorigo Laurel McClellan	5/21	David Brown	5/30	Neil Halvorsen

Happy Anniversary

5/1	Peter & Bisty Colson	5/14	Dave & Jane Sirgey
5/5	David & Laura Broderdorf	5/23	James & Lisa Manzo
5/7	Trisha & Stephen Sullivan	5/28	Roger & Denise Meissner
5/9	Marcia & Daniel Nickerson	5/31	Lisa & Matt Lopez
5/10	Robert & Joan Kopra		
5/11	Geraldine & William Swart		

What is a Stephen Minister?

Someone:

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

Portals of Prayer (April-June 2017) devotion booklets are still available. They can be found in the church entryway, on the Welcome Center in the narthex, and in the coatroom. Please take one ... give one to a friend too!

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

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

Contact Information

997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / trinity@thinktrinitychristian.com