

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2018

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

Rev. Dennis Krueger, Pastor, Cell phone: 997-5666
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 - Devotional
Sunday @ 8:00 am - Traditional
Sunday @ 10:30 am - Contemporary

"GRANT US NOW A GLAD NEW YEAR!"

***"Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given."***

Christmas is the season we praise and thank our heavenly Father for the promised and wondrous gift of the Messiah, Christ-child. The giving and receiving of Christmas presents has become a big part of our holiday observance. Sometimes, though, the gift isn't the right size, or not needed or wanted. The gift of our Savior is the perfect and much needed present for all people! This season our hearts rejoice: "His own Son hath given."

***"To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heaven's fair homes we may reign in gladness."***

While we celebrate with much joy at the birth of Jesus, we know that the life He would live and give would not be easy. He took upon Himself all of the sins of all people. He lived perfectly under the Law and He died in payment of the consequences of sin under the Law, that we might be forgiven and free! He came to dwell with us in this sinful vale of tears "that with Him in heaven's fair home, we may reign in gladness."

***"We are rich for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder."***

What a marvelous wonder this season brings. He who was rich, became poor. We who are poor miserable sinners became rich in His righteousness. The Apostle Paul writes of this in his second letter to the Corinthians, "Though He was rich, yet for our sakes, He became poor, so that through His poverty we might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9). We could never have paid the price of salvation. "Therefore we praise God evermore, here on earth and yonder."

***"Christ, our Lord, and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us."***

All praise and honor and glory to God, the Emmanuel – "God with us!" "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14). This same Lord has promised that He would always be near us. In His Word and in the Sacraments He continues to dwell among us. So we can pray with all confidence, "Be, Thou ever near us." In Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are assured of a Happy New Year and a joyous forever! To God be the glory!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

New Years Eve Services

*Sunday, December 31
8:00am & 10:30am*

** No evening service **



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 Board 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 7th.



2018 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLE OIL

The 2018 Altar Flower & Altar Candle Oil Charts are posted in the church coatroom! **Flowers are needed for January!**

Flowers cost only \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the 10:30am service! We are asking that 2 families sign up 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 cost is \$25 per month (per family). Two families should sign-up each month to cover the total cost of the oil. Checks should be made payable to: **"Trinity Altar Guild"** and placed in Lois Rodgers' message center.

Advent Celebration

72 folks from church and school signed up for this years Advent kickoff on November 28. The event, sponsored as a Thrivent action team, started off with a free pizza dinner for attendees. No cooking for mom on that night! The crowd then moved over to the church for a brief family friendly worship experience. Contemporary Christmas music was led by the Anderson family and Mark Willert shared a candle light devotion. Each family was given one candle, with one parent holding the candle and the oldest child's hand around their parents. As we turned out the lights, the song, **You are the Light of the World** was sung. The message centered around God placing us perfectly in the community we're in and being His light to those around us. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Thanks also to Trinity's Outreach Team for passing out a calendar to families that encouraged "random acts of kindness." After worship, the group headed over to the gym for a variety of Advent and Christmas themed fun stations. There was shared fun, laughing and a little competitive nature for parents, grandparents, children and teens!



Family Fun!



School News



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December flew by here at school, as usual, with a concert, a pageant, parties, gifts, decorations, and of course, lots of learning. Thank you to all of you who participated in our celebrations and helped to make them even more special by your presence. As we start the new year, the agenda is full with many of the usual (and some not so usual!) activities for which to prepare.

Three events are looming large over the next few months: our 3rd Annual Fund Drive, the Spaghetti Dinner and Theme Basket Raffle, and NLSA Accreditation. Before any of those events occur, the last week in January is Lutheran Schools Week, followed by Taste of Trinity on January 28th. As you can imagine, the staff, PTO and I are all keeping our lists in order to guarantee that, first and foremost, the children continue to receive high quality academics and Christ-centered care!

We have reached our Annual Fund Drive goal the past two years, and we pray that God will allow us to continue that pattern this year, with your help. We are especially targeting our alumni this year, so if you are an alumna, please consider sharing the school FaceBook page with your friends and helping us spread the word about the excellent programs happening here. Some of this year's Annual Fund collection will purchase a phone system for the school (as we don't even have one,) upgrade and add safety equipment, and expand our student technology hardware and software even further.

The Spaghetti Dinner is our primary tuition assistance resource. All school families will be asked to participate in this event by donating baskets, selling tickets and assisting with running it in some capacity. We're determined to make this a major event with extensive community and congregational participation. Please mark March 10 (as of now) on your calendars and plan to attend!

National Lutheran Schools Accreditation is a rigorous program involving all aspects of the school and church, including mission and purpose, curriculum, personnel, student services, administration and facilities. The high standards of NLSA are the equivalent of Middle States Accreditation and are among the highest nationally. The staff and Board must put in very large amounts of time to accurately document all of the requirements, and earning our reaccreditation under the new system will be extremely rewarding for both the school and church, just as our previous accreditations were!

As always, you are welcome to visit/tour the school, come and ask questions, or participate in events at any time. I understand and deeply appreciate the commitment of the congregation to the school, and we strive to make it a place where you are welcome and enjoy being involved. God's blessings in the New Year!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School



Looking for Active Military!

Trinity Christian School will be assembling care packages for active military personnel. Do you have a friend or family member that is on deployment? We'd love to know! The students will be assembling care packages during National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January. Please contact Katie Willert (674-5353 or kwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com) with information.

Taste of Trinity Sunday, January 28, 2018 11:45am - 1:30pm At Trinity School

We need many people to cook and bake (and eat!). Preparing a dish involves making enough sample-sized portions for about 100 people. All types of dishes welcome! Please consider what you can make. Prizes awarded! Sign up sheets coming soon. We are looking forward to another wonderful Taste! Need more information? Contact Katie Willert (kwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com or 674-5353).

Vendor / Craft / Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 14, 2018

11:00am - 3:00pm

In the Trinity School Gym

Vendors and crafters are needed! Since there are a limited number of vendor tables available, we are giving members of the Trinity Church and School the first opportunity to reserve space. If you are interested in vendor space, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Kevin or Colleen Kot at 674-7526 or knckot@verizon.net. Vendor space has also been advertised to the general public.

We are also asking you to save items that you would like to donate for the rummage sale! Proceeds from this sale will go to support future local and domestic mission events.

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.



Unconditional:

Not subject to any conditions or limitations.

It's hard to find anything that is unconditional. Everything seems to have strings attached to it. Yet God's love is unconditional – we don't have to earn it or achieve anything to receive it. At times, however, we can feel quite removed from God's unconditional love. We can feel guilty, undeserving, or downright "unlovable." At those times, Stephen Ministers can help. They are trained to listen and care in a non-judgmental way, focusing on letting Christ's unconditional love flow through them and into the life of their care receivers. If you want to know more about Stephen Ministry, contact Meissner 652-1901 or Pastor Krueger 674-9188 or any Stephen Minister.

Property & Grounds

Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 9:00am

There will be a meeting on January 20 for the Property & Grounds Committee at 9am. A work day will immediately follow the meeting at approximately 10am.

Outreach Committee Witness Center

Many of you may have noticed or heard about our new Witness Center in the narthex, but if you haven't...please take a moment to read more about it. As an Outreach Committee we have begun to understand the importance of having an outward focus as a Christian: thinking about others and their needs. We know as Christians that people's #1 need is Jesus and that starts with hearing about Him. We wanted to help by encouraging YOU and all of Trinity's members in what we have all struggled with personally...witnessing to others. You may be asking "How is a Witness Center in the back of church going to help make more disciples for Christ?" Well, that's where you come in! We have assembled some resources and ideas in the center that are meant for you to take and use in your daily lives - from Acts of Kindness cards and Blessings in a Box, to a small collection of books and movies. There will always be items at the center, along with half sheets that have suggestions and tips for you to take and use. We will try to rotate the resources as well from time to time. We won't always know the impact our "small" reaching out might have, but sometimes God gives us some insight so we also would LOVE to hear about that! We have index cards and a small box for you to leave a note about your witnessing and how it has had an impact on someone's life. This first and foremost will help us as a congregation give God the glory and help to be an encouragement to others. For everyone that shares their experience with us, we would like to bless you with a small gift. Please make sure to leave your note and your name on the index card, place it in the box on the Witness Center and we will get you your gift! We look forward to any suggestions and simply the AWESOME stories of how God will use YOU to build His kingdom!

For our Christian "mini-library", please try to return the books and DVD's after you have lent them out to your family/friends. If you feel moved to give the book/DVD to that person to keep, please notify a member of the Outreach Committee so that we can replace the resource. The provided greeting cards, Acts of Kindness cards, & Blessings in a Box are NOT items that we expect to be returned, so take them as you wish! Thank you!

Watch the Center and our weekly inserts for the Outreach of the Month!

YOUTH SCOOP

Sr. High News:



Sr. High Bowling

On **December 29** in the afternoon, the Sr. High Youth Group will head to the lanes to knock down some pins. If you're interested contact Mark @ 608-8907.



Time to ESCAPE!

The Sr. High will be heading to an escape room sometime in January on a Sunday afternoon. If you're interested, please let Mark know and he will share details with you. What is an escape room? A room set up with clues and information you need to solve in order to ... ESCAPE!

Sr. High Small Group: Our next gathering is on **Thursday, January 18 from 7:00pm-8:30pm** at the Willert's house next to the church. This involves some snacks and a guided discussion about security. Where do we find our sense of security? Security is important because it affects who we are and what we do. It is the source of trust and the base of our relationships. Many people trust in wealth, popularity or in other things that can fail or change.

Jr. High News:

Jr. Youth Night: Our next gym night is **January 25 from 6:30pm-8:30pm**. What do we do? Open gym time, a few organized games and a brief devotion. So much fun and you also get to meet other peeps! 5th through 8th graders welcome, as well as any Sr. High or adult helpers! Contact Mark Willert if you're interested in helping out!

WAAAY FUN!

14 Jr. High students found themselves attending the Trinity gym the evening of December 14. They enjoyed an impromptu rousing game of basketball that went on for an hour! It wasn't planned but hey ... why stop something good? We didn't even get to play our traditional (we are Lutheran right?) game of keep away. I guess it's kinda like keep away but you have to get a 12 inch ball in a hoop about 10 feet up in the air every once in while. It works I guess.

Keeping with the Advent theme, Mark Willert led the devotional time with the question, "What's the most important part of the Christmas tree?" (Pause your reading for 10 seconds and think of your answer.) Nope, not the adorning ornaments, lights, star, water or even the manger scene (technically it's not a part of the tree get up). It's the (drumroll please...) base. Yes, the part that usually never gets seen and is usually covered. Without the base you wouldn't have a standing tree. We compare this to our relationship with Jesus. With Him in our lives and if we love Him, we're given God's promise of help, rescue, protection, and deliverance. He says He will be with us in times of trouble. He does this when we acknowledge and call on Him. Check out God's words directly in Psalm 91:14-15. Pretty neat really.

All 5th - 8th graders are welcome to join the fun at our next Jr. High Night on January 25 at 6:30pm!

Happy Birthday

1/3	Susan Tedesco	1/10	Carolyn Carr	1/20	Ruth Zawadzki	1/27	Stacie Bookhagen
1/4	Daniel Rowsell	1/11	Linda Rowsell	1/21	Christa Wilkening		Ella Meunier
	Abigal Blamowski	1/13	Brynn Gabel	1/22	Kim Caldarella	1/28	Tricia Glinski
1/6	Peter Szeider	1/14	Jack Iannuzzelli	1/23	Karen Tober	1/31	Larry Wypior
	Macsen Courteau	1/18	Dennis Glinski Jr.	1/24	Kathy Herman		Paul Thompson
1/7	Robert Eising	1/19	Lindsay Iannuzzelli		Kyle Lelito		
1/8	Daniel Nickerson		Myah Meunier	1/26	Patricia Hartman		



Cookie Walk

Thank you to all those who baked for our annual Cookie Walk earlier this month and to all those who supported this event. We raised a total of \$322 for Trinity families in need!

Trinity's Endowment Fund

Contributions to the Trinity Lutheran Church & School Endowment Fund can be made on a regular basis or in recognition of special or end-of-life events. The fund was established in 2016 and is growing at a rate of 9% - 10%.

Cemetery News

Plots are available in Trinity's Cemetery. 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.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2018) devotion booklets are now available. They can be found in the church entryway, on the Welcome Center in the narthex, and in the coatroom. Please take one and use it for home devotions! God bless your devotion and prayer times!

Altar Guild News

After many years of dedicated service, Rhonda Carlone has relinquished her position as chairwoman of Trinity's Altar Guild. Thank you Rhonda for all you have done for Trinity!

Beginning in January 2018, we welcome our new co-chairwomen: Gerry Swart and Ruth Zawadzki!



If you know if a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Krueger and the church office know! We want to care for all!!!



January Meetings at a Glance

Inclusion Committee: Wednesday, 1/3 at 3:30pm

Stephen Ministries: Thursday, 1/4 & 1/18 at 7pm

Executive Committee: Monday, 1/8 at 7pm

Outreach Committee: Wednesday, 1/10 at 7pm

Men in Ministry: Saturday, 1/13 at 8:30am

Sr. High Group: Thursday, 1/18 at 7pm

Property & Grounds: Saturday, 1/20 at 9am

Jr. High Group: Thursday, 1/25/17 at 6:30pm

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

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