

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

APRIL 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, C: 997-5666 / H: 671-8130
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: www.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

Our Mission: To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ

From Gethsemane To Golgotha To The Empty Garden Tomb

(Continued from last month)

Then Jesus rises from prayer in Gethsemane and awakens his disciples to face his destiny. "Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane is explained by his lonely cry at Golgotha: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" recalling the beginning words of Psalm 22, an amazing psalm that prefigures many of the events of the cross.

Jesus' final words from the cross, however, are words of hope. The sixth word is: "It is finished." We have done it, Father, at huge cost to both you and me. It is finished. The ransom is paid, the stain of sin is borne away from the people we love. It is finished.

His seventh and last word also looks forward in hope, in faith: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." The Father's hands are strong enough to hold both him and us, even in our most devastating moments, even when we don't feel his presence at all.

Saturday is quiet; it is Sabbath in Jerusalem. But Sunday morning, all heaven breaks loose, and the Son of God steps out of the grave. His body that has born our sin is recognizable by the scars, but the stench of sin and death are gone. He is risen! Hallelujah! And his resurrection is our confidence that God has both accepted his sacrifice for sin, and flooded us with his healing, life-giving power. Hallelujah!

Long before you ever needed a Savior, your Father so loved you -- and "the world" and "the many" -- so that he sent his own Son to bear your sins, so that you no longer have to bear them. He was laid in the tomb bearing your sins. But on Easter Sunday his body was changed and set free and victorious. And so are you in his loving hands. That is grace -- God's unmerited favor for us who are so loved by him.

That is the message of Gethsemane and Golgotha and the Empty Garden Tomb. Hallelujah! He is risen!



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



Easter Vigil ~ Holy Saturday
March 31, 2018 ~ 5:00pm

Easter Sunday
April 1, 2018 ~ 8:00am & 10:30am

Vendor / Craft / Rummage Sale
Saturday, April 14 11am-3pm
Trinity School Gym

We are accepting donations for the rummage sale during the week of April 2-8. Items may be dropped off at the home of Colleen & Kevin Kot (57 Thomas Drive - located right behind the school). Call 674-7526 before you drop items off to make sure they are home. Event proceeds will support future local and domestic mission events.



MEN'S RETREAT

MEN'S RETREAT 2018
Men on a Mission With Jesus

Consider joining us at the Men's Retreat at Camp Pioneer this year from **April 27-29**. The retreat, which will run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, is packed with group sessions, worship, fellowship and some delicious meals. A brochure with additional information is available on the sign-up table in the Narthex. Cost is \$150 for the weekend and covers retreat material, accommodations and meals on Saturday and Sunday morning. Contact Chris Kopra (phone: 207-3008, email: koprachris@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. **DEADLINE** to sign up is April 8!

Men's Topic

We are one week into the men's topic called Leading and Loving. It's a 6 session video and discussion group that meets Thursdays evenings and Saturday mornings. We learn about God's specific plan for His structure in marriage. Plus, there's some pretty cool guys that are a part of it. For more info, contact Mark Willert MWillert@ThinkTrinityChristian.com

There **will not** be an Executive Committee Meeting in April due to the Haiti Mission Trip. The next meeting will be on May 14 at 7:00pm.



Easter Breakfast For ALL

Trinity's Men in Ministry is excited to once again sponsor their Annual Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, April 1st from 9am-10:30am** in the school gym. The menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, pastry, juice and coffee. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!!! A freewill offering benefiting Haiti will be taken. We hope to see you there!

Trinity Voters Meeting
Sunday, April 8

There will be a Voters Meeting after the 10:30 am service on April 8. On the agenda will be the Old School House demolition.

Property & Grounds Work Day
Saturday, April 7 at 10:00am

Property & Grounds will have a work day on Saturday April 7 at 10:00am to help clean out the Old School House. We are looking for 20 people to help out for this project. If you are able to help, please email or call Dave Broderdorf at 510-5280 or drb757@roadrunner.com. We will have a dumpster available for this project.



Time to Retreat!

Youth Retreat at Camp Pioneer
April 20-22, 2018

This year's Junior and Senior High Retreat at Pioneer for 6th thru 12th grade students is April 20-22. Actual cost is \$85 however Trinity will help out and subsidize 1/4 of the cost making it \$64. Contact Mark Willert to submit payment and sign up! Both male and female parent chaperones are needed as well or otherwise it will not be possible. Contact Mark Willert at MWillert@ThinkTrinityChristian.com.

Trinity School News



From the Principal ...

The third quarter has come to a close, report cards are on their way home, and the teachers have completed their months of preparation for our NLSA accreditation! Our site visit will be the 23rd-25th of April, so please keep us in your prayers as we go through this important process.

Plans are shaping up for the end of the year already - field day, Pioneer picnic, graduation celebrations, walkathon and more. Our spring musical, "The Little Mermaid, Jr." is scheduled for May 11 at 1 pm & 7 pm and 12th at 7 pm. Please plan on attending this free event. Mrs. Anderson and the children always provide an excellent performance!

If you attended the Spaghetti Dinner/basket raffle in March, and/or contributed in any way, thank you so very much!! We had an astounding turn-out, and I was thrilled at the incredible efforts of our school family volunteers. So many worked far above and beyond to handle the crowds, and we bolstered our scholarship fund by \$8000. We are surely blessed!

Our students and staff decided to use of 4th quarter offerings to support Trinity's VBS program this year. We were able to donate to L.I.F.E., Southtowns Care Center and Lutheran Bible Translators with our offerings so far, and we're very excited to be able to provide money and materials for our own VBS week!

On April 27th from 4pm-7pm, we'll be hosting our third Spring Spectacular - Open House, Learning Fair and Food Trucks. Look for our ad in WNY Family Magazine and Facebook posts. Please stop over and bring friends. We are proud of our school, our staff and our excellent program, and truly thankful for the love and support of the people of Trinity. We'd love to see you here!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School

The mission of Trinity Christian School is to guide our children in faith, learning, character and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a lifetime of service to God and man.



Trinity School Musical "Little Mermaid Jr." May 11 & 12, 2018

Come join us for the school production of **Little Mermaid Jr.** by our K-8 students on Friday, May 11 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm and Saturday, May 12 at 7:00pm. A free will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the musical.

HELP NEEDED for Stage Set-Up:

It's school musical time again. I would really appreciate a few (5-7) strong assistants to set up the stage, sound, and lights on Sunday April 22 after church. Thank You in advance.

~ Noel Anderson

Road Rally Fun

Camp Pioneer's first Road Rally on March 10 saw 13 teams of cars and 25 of the people were Trinity members, friends and youth. The course took them about 55 miles starting near Quaker Crossing in Orchard Park and ended at Pioneer for pizza and fellowship. Team Kopra won the event that included a variety of challenges and fun activities!





Technology In Confirmation

What do you get when you combine technology and Luther's small catechism? Answer: a really interesting confirmation lesson! Our instructor Chris Kopra incorporates the use of the smart board into all his lessons. In the picture you see the students watching a video, but he uses it for other things like review, learning games, presentations, and even has them make use of the board when quizzing each other or sharing something visual. And such a technologically stimulated society, this certainly helps improve learning and memory retention.

MITES

MITES (spare change) is always being collected for LWML. Donations (clearly marked "MITES") can be placed in Linda Meissner's mailbox in the church coatroom.



Altar Flowers Needed

We are in need of families to sign up to donate altar flowers for **April and May**. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. They are only \$10 and you get to take them home after the 10:30am service. We ask that 2 families sign up for each week. Payment can be placed in the Church Office mailbox. Thank you for helping to beautify our altar!

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, Don Meissner, Pat Hartman, Vicky Wienke, Josh Makey, Darlene Miller, Erin Kotowski, Sue Brehm, Judy Schmidt



Trinity's Nursery Rooms

For your convenience, there is a lovely nursery in the basement of the church for your use during the service should you desire to use it. There are toys for your little ones to play with as well as video/audio for you to view and hear the service. If you are unsure of which area to use - the nursery is surrounded by two half-walls and very child-friendly.

Crosses for School

In last month's newsletter we asked if anybody could make some crosses that could put up in the classrooms at school. Less than a week after the newsletter coming out, two different gentlemen presented us with the crosses they each made. Now we can hang a cross over each doorway and also by each clock! Thank you to those guys who used their gifts and talents to help remind people all that Jesus has done for us! One set of crosses is made out of cherry wood and the other cedar. We have 28 in all!



Trinity Church & School Family & Friends Picnic Sunday, June 24, 2018

Save the date! More information to follow.

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 will be accepted until May 6th.



Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit Monday ~ July 16, 2018 Brierwood Country Club

The early bird price (before April 16th) is \$145 per golfer / \$580 per foursome. Please call Camp Pioneer at 549-1420 x-10 to register.

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!

YOUTH SCOOP YOUTH SCOOP

Sr. High Small Group

Our next Senior High small group gathering will be **Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00pm** at the Willert's house. The topic will be "apathy". Come out for some meaningful discussion, how God fits in at all and great people.



Jr. Youth Nights

Fantastic Fun & Fellowship!

Our next Junior High gym night will be **Thursday, April 19 from 6:30pm-8pm** in the Trinity gym. Come out for lots of fun, games, some God time and friends

“The Best Game Ever” Trinity School Basketball

~ By Mark Willert

I try not to sensationalize things, however, this game goes down in my memory not only as skillfully played, well coached and a major improvement from the season's start, but the best in terms of the heart. Many times we hear teams that play with heart, but in this sense it's with the right heart.

What they displayed was the center of what Christian sportsmanship is all about. On Saturday March 10th, our Trinity Church and School boys team battled for the championship and the team they played was the most physical and unfair in the league. Fans were on the edge of their seat for the entire game. At one point Trinity was down 11 points.

The comeback came slowly in the fourth quarter, inching ahead by one point with only three minutes left. Clutching the game by one point, the win was sweet, well deserved and hard fought.

Now to the important stuff ... I have to say that God was glorified in their playing that day. Our boys exhibited such control and determination to leave the other team's rough and unfair play in God's hands. Two of the other team's players fouled out and another only one foul away from the same. And anybody who witnessed this game would tell you the refs certainly missed a lot of calls. Many men - Christian men - would have had a difficult time keeping their composure in a game like this. It sure was hard to from the stands.

Our boys deserve appreciation for how they represented Trinity and God. They remind me of some verses in the beginning of Romans 12 where Paul tells us not to conform any longer to the patterns of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. And then it goes on to say that this is our spiritual act of worship.

These boys made a decision that day, many times over, to do the right thing - they didn't conform. Through it all God was praised. Well done guys! What an example.

Sincere thanks also to our coaches Chris Kopra and Brad McKernan. Thanks for your selfless availability and allowing God to work through you into these boys lives ~ Making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ ... Awesome stuff.





Buffalo Zone LWML Retreat “Be Still and Know” Saturday, April 28, 2018

A mini retreat sponsored by the Buffalo Zone LWML will be held from **9:00am-2:30pm** at First Trinity Lutheran Church (1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda). Registration begins at 9:00am, with coffee and pastries. The \$10 fee covers materials and lunch. Cost is also offset by a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Come enjoy a time of relaxation, bible study, discussion and fellowship with other Christian women. RSVP to Linda Meissner, 648-1281 or to Dee Grzyb, 393-3670 or email: d_e_grzyb@msn.com BEFORE April 18th. You are welcome to bring a friend.

2018 LWML Eastern District Convention June 1-3, 2018 Double Tree Hotel in Niagara Falls, NY

The theme for the 2018 Convention will be “The Voice of the Lord ... Enlightening, Electrifying and Empowering”. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Sound, 1998-2005 LWML Pastoral Counselor of the LWML Eastern District. Other special guests include Patti Ross (LWML national President) and Jan Struck. A group tour of Niagara Falls will be offered on Friday, June 1 for those interested. Registration forms for this event, meals, lodging and tour can be found on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. For more information, contact Linda Meissner (648-1281 / lam.ambit@yahoo.com). **Registration deadline is April 30.**



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.



Haiti Mission Trip

In just a matter of days our Haiti Mission Team will be leaving for Haiti (4/4 - 4/11). The team includes: Bob Eising; Andrew Eising; Brad & Theresa McKernan; Pete & Jan Bullock; and Pastor Krueger. Please keep the team and our mission trip in your prayers over the next week and a half. Perhaps joining the Haiti prayer vigil. This is now our fourth mission trip to Haiti and the Upper Room orphanage Trinity has sponsored.

April Witness Center Idea

Please take an invite or two from the Witness Center and invite your friends and family members to our Craft & Vendor Show plus Rummage Sale on Saturday April 14th from 11am-3pm. You can use the handouts, found on the Witness Center, to invite people to this family friendly, social and shopping event!

Also, there are always extra Portals of Prayers for you to take and share with a friend or co-worker. Don't forget to pray that the Holy Spirit moves in them!

Spring Luncheon & Quilt Auction

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Salem Lutheran Church
(10 McClellan Circle, Buffalo)



Doors open at 10:30am; lunch beginning at 11:30am (cost \$15); quilt auction at 12:30pm. Contact Joy Belasic (675-0331) for tickets. Tickets are available pre-sale only.

Theme baskets for this event are needed. Contact Joy Belasic for submission details. This event will benefit Pioneer Camp Scholarships.

Cemetery News . . .

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.

Burial plots are still available in our 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 in order to purchase plots.

“We’re Kidding Ourselves”

~ By Pastor Krueger

This past week a friend of mine forwarded to me a video recording of Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin’s response to a question regarding a comment he made about school violence. Essentially, he says the multiple shootings at schools, churches, and other public places is a cultural problem and that we are kidding ourselves if we think it can be solved by a single law or regulation.

Gov. Bevin talks about the cultural shift in America in recent decades, mostly the reality that we’re “... desensitized to the value and dignity of human life.” He identifies rampant pornography, abortion, and disrespect for women as causal factors. He also mentions violent video games, where you get points for kill counts and you slaughter people.

“We’re desensitizing people to the value of life. We see it through the lyrics of music, television shows, and movies, through the fact that the mores of this country have changed, and the fact that we increasingly want to remove any sense of moral authority from everything.”

“In a nation where over the last 40 years we’ve aborted 50+ million children and where we have multiple states with medically assisted suicide being provided by doctors, at both ends of the life spectrum we’re losing the value for life that we once historically had.”

“Young people are increasingly becoming more suicidal and depressed because of the use of social media. All this is part of the cultural issue, why homes are broken. We need people in positions of influence to step up and call people to a higher moral authority.”

“Shame on us if we don’t sound the alarm! ... You want to change the mores of a nation, remove any sense of higher responsibility, and assume the government and a piece of regulation or a rule is a solution. And then we’re shocked when these things (school shootings) happen! We’re kidding ourselves!”

His response is nearly eight minutes in length but well worth watching and hearing. Here’s the YouTube link: http://www.kentuckynewera.com/multimedia/video/news/youtube_c2674705-960f-52ed-b8d8-9d2c34d514e4.html. You can also access this video at: [Governor of Kentucky](#).

“As I Get Older”

In that regard I recently saw the following observations titled: *As I Get Older*:

- #1 - *I talk to myself, because there are times I need expert advice.*
- #2 - *I consider "trendy" to be the clothes that still fit.*
- #3 - *I don't need anger management. I just need people to stop ticking me off.*
- #4 - *My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for numskulls that needs work.*
- #5 - *The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."*
- #6 - *I have days when my life is just a tent away from a circus.*
- #7 - *These days "on time" is when I get there.*
- #8 - *Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.*
- #9 - *Lately, I've noticed people my age are so much older than me.*
- #10 - *When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's a mini vacation.*
- #11 - *I thought growing old would take longer.*
- #12 - *Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?*

Some of those observations are accurate. Others are gross exaggerations!

One not mentioned above is that sometimes we procrastinate on responsibilities that need attention. I have discovered that folks of all ages, including men and women my age or better, keep postponing preparation of important legal and practical documents that need to be taken care of. I’m thinking especially of a Last Will and Testament. Also important are powers of attorney for finances and health care; a list of assets, liabilities, account numbers, and passwords; information and plans for our funeral service.

Some folks put off taking care of these things because they simply don’t want to admit that one day those documents will really come in handy for a surviving spouse and family. Or they just don’t want to think about the reality of death. Here’s the truth: Death happens! The Lutheran Church Foundation can assist you with these wise preparations.

~ Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, Past LCMS President

Happy Birthday

4/1 Sarah Makosy	4/13 Colleen Kot	4/23 Piper Farrell
4/3 Evelyn Burger	4/17 Robbin Blajszczak	4/24 Jennifer Canazzi
4/5 Robert Boldt Mary Havens	4/18 Marcia Nickerson Tim Monahan	4/25 Lori Strong
4/7 Carol McMenamin Kris Zawadzki	4/19 Heidi Cosandier Austin Smith	4/26 Jean Newton
4/9 Robert Cislo Stacy Conti	4/20 Marcia Fenn	4/27 Kathy Stephen Brendon Ganschow
4/10 Betty-Jo Smith	4/21 Scot Zawadzki	4/28 Justin Cornell
4/11 Brody Zawadzki	4/22 Kevin Kausner Mark Rodgers	4/29 Anne Gurney Sandra Lelito Kelcy Strong
4/12 Linda Hope	Lisa Berton	4/30 Vicky Wienke
4/13 Don Rieman	Steven Wrobel	Natalie Ecker

Happy Anniversary

4/3 Sheri & Christopher Courteau	4/17 Carol & Francis McMenamin Lindsay & Jordan Iannuzzelli
4/5 Greg & Tara Thompson Duane & Sarah Gabel	4/20 Gerald & Linda Meissner James & Ryan Rowsell
4/12 Charles & Nancy Stevens	4/23 Robert & Anna Eising
4/15 Charles & Barbara Halvorsen Steve & Robin Makosy	4/24 Trevor & Courtney Jelowski



Face 2 Face in the Church Place
Thursday, April 12 at 7:00pm
Ebenezer UCC
(630 Main St., West Seneca)

All are invited for information and an open conversation about drug use in our community. For more information, contact Pastor Krista at 572-5642. This is sponsored by the West Seneca Community of Churches.



Stained Glass Window Update

The remaining 3 stained glass windows are scheduled to be fixed at a cost of \$5,257. Due to the generosity of our congregation, \$1,784 has already been collected for this project, leaving a remaining balance due of \$3,473. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by placing it in the weekly collection plate (marked Stained Glass Windows) or by contacting the church office.

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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