

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

DECEMBER 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: 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



FACT or FICTION?

FOLKLORE -or- HISTORICAL FACT?



The Christmas Spider



The Christmas Child: Jesus



The Christmas Pickle

I recently ran across two strange, but interesting, folk stories pertaining to some Christmas traditions. One of them was about a spider and the other about a pickle! How peculiar is that? There are many variations as to how and why these traditions got started. So, I'll try to offer a succinct summary of the both of them.

The Christmas spider is about either a spider or many spiders who spun their webs all around a family Christmas tree. In one case it was for a very poor family that could not afford decorations. In another case it was as the result of the spiders' excited examination of the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. On Christmas morning the tree twinkled and glowed in the light of the morning sun reflected on the spider webs. One version even has Santa Claus touching the spider webs and turning them into sparkling silver and gold. And all of this is the reason we hang tinsel on the tree! Imagine that? Some folks will even hang a spider ornament or spider web on their tree! I'm not a fan of spiders, myself, and think of them more around Halloween than Christmas.

One very unique variation of this Christmas spider folklore has a spider traveling with the Holy Family to Egypt fleeing King Herod. They took refuge for the night in a cave, but it was quite cold. The spider spun a web at the entrance of the cave to attempt to close the opening and keep the warmth inside. No sooner had the web been spun and some of King Herod's soldiers showed up tracking the flight of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. They were about to enter the cave when one of the soldiers said not to bother looking inside. If they were inside the web would have been torn open. So, the spider saved Jesus' life.

The Christmas pickle is supposedly a German tradition, that too, has a variety of folk origins. One of them is about a prisoner of war in Germany who was starving to death. On Christmas Eve he begged the guard for a pickle to eat before he died. The guard took pity on him and gave one to him which gave him the strength to live on and survive. Another is about St. Nicholas who found two little boys who were murdered and stuffed in a pickle barrel. He pulled them out of the pickle barrel and miraculously brought them back to life! So, today many people hang a glass pickle ornament on their Christmas tree. Some hide it in the tree and the first child that can spot the Christmas pickle receives an extra Christmas present. Strangely enough, when many queries were made in Germany about this yule-tide pickle, a majority had never heard of such a thing!

Just imagine, now, hearing or reading about a virgin girl giving birth to a baby boy in a cattle stall and laying him in a manger. Then angels, shepherds, a special star and wise men (later) herald his birth and worship him as King and Messiah. To many it might sound as incredible as a spider and a pickle. One big difference though ~ there is only one version of this account that is recorded in the Bible and substantiated in secular history. Granted, there are many traditions and folklore that have grown up around this truth, even celebrating December 25th as Jesus' birthday. There is no evidence to support this date for his birth. Children's Christmas pageants may augment the factual account of Jesus' birth with other details. But there is plenty of evidence to support that the Immanuel, Jesus, was born, lived and was crucified in the Bible and other third-party sources. And based on the truth of God's Word that is supported by numerous historical annals, scholarly writings and archeological evidence, we believe and confess that this Jesus who was born of a virgin in Bethlehem is the true Son of God! Spiders and pickles are fictional folklore. Jesus, the Christmas child, is historical fact and truth! A Blessed Advent and Christmas celebration of this truth be yours!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Holiday Worship Schedule

<i>November 27th @ 6:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Advent Celebration</i>
<i>December 19th @ 7:00pm:</i>	<i>School Christmas Celebration</i>
<i>December 23rd @ 10:30am:</i>	<i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i>
<i>December 24th @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>10:00pm:</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Comm.</i>
<i>December 25th @ 9:30am:</i>	<i>Christmas Celebration w/ Communion</i>

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 9th

Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins is scheduled for Sunday, December 9th. We will meet at the church at 1:30pm to begin our journey. Please sign up in the church narthex if you can spread the joy of Christmas with us!



Cookie Walk Sunday, December 9th After the 10:30am Service

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



Sunday School Pageant

Our Sunday School children will be leading worship with their annual Christmas pageant on **December 23rd at the 10:30am service**. Please join us!

Men in Ministry Meeting Saturday, December 8th At 9:00am

Men in Ministry will have a breakfast fellowship on Dec. 8 in the church narthex. Breakfast sandwiches, Paula's donuts, and beverages will be served. The cost is \$5 per person. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex under the Memorial Board.



Advent Celebration Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:00pm at Trinity School

Looking for a way to celebrate Advent with your family? On Tuesday, November 27th, Trinity families will come together for an evening of food, worship and fun. Be sure to sign up for the evening that includes a FREE pizza dinner, a brief family worship and festive activities. All this within an hour and a half to get you back home for your evening routine. All ages are invited and be sure to **sign up by Nov. 25th** because we need to order the pizza! Let us know your name, phone #, how many children, how many teens, and how many adults! Email "MWillert@thinktrinitychristian.com" to sign up or use the form located on the table in the narthex.



2019 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES

The 2019 charts are posted in the church coatroom!

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

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

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

School News

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The students received their first quarter report cards earlier this month, and I am very happy to report that they are doing very well. We are well settled into the routine, and the transitions to new grade levels successfully accomplished. Please see the below posting of the Honor Rolls.

On to Christmas ... the school and Sunday School students received Christian Advent calendars to help them count the days, there are paper chains, an Advent wreath, our own Nativity Advent calendar in the school, music/choir practices, the Angel tree, and many other reminders that HE is coming soon! The children are looking forward to choosing angels from the tree as their second quarter offering. Our Christmas Celebration (concert) will be in the church on December 19 at 7pm. You are very welcome to join us for an evening of beautiful Christmas singing and instruments. There will be a Christmas chapel on Friday, Dec. 21 at 9:20am. The preschoolers will be performing their Christmas and holiday songs for us prior to worship. Another opportunity to share the joy of the Season!

Thank you for supporting the faculty's ongoing Landies Candies sale. The milk or dark, sponge or almond gift boxes will be available through Christmas and after. If you have been taking advantage of the Scrip card program, it also (along with the candy) supports the staff in their goal to travel to St. Louis next October. We are truly grateful for your participation!

Please mark January 27 on your calendar for the annual Taste of Trinity and Lutheran Schools Week Kick-off. The children will sing during worship and we will be recognizing all of our awesome volunteers that day, too.

May the joy and excitement of that first Christmas fill your hearts as we anticipate His birth!

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal

1st Quarter Honor Rolls

GRADE 3 & 4

High Honor Roll-Abigail Lafferty, Allison Owen, Andrew Hunneshagen, Lilly Ackley,
Honor Roll-Apollonia Goff, Luke Anderson, Gavin Daley, Peter Russo, Eleanor Horan, Cindy Nicholas, Olivia Strzelec, Emma Webster
Merit Roll-Elena De Moura, Jean-Marie McFarland, Ethan Howard, Elizabeth Steffens, Beverly Nicholas, faith Robshaw.

GRADE 5 & 6

High Honor Roll-Anna Gerardi, Isaac McFarland, Emma Hope, Joanna Anderson, Lillie Parent, Amelia Jones, Rebekah Lafferty, Shawn Szrama, Jade Anderson
Honor Roll-Payton Riordan, Liliana Santiago Eckert, Andrew Owen, Nathan Barnas, Annalese Patsalides
Merit Roll-Michael Canazzi, Louis Canastraro

GRADE 7 & 8

High Honor Roll-Dennis Glinski, timothy Steffens, Noah McFarland, Elena Jones, Olivia Willhoff
Honor Roll-Bethany Lafferty, Jonas Herdlein, Joshua Owen,
Merit Roll-Andrew Bohosian, Gabriele Canastraro, Sophie Gould, Hannah Bateman

Outreach News

Angel Tree



We will once again be sponsoring an Angel Tree, both at church and school, in order to collect donations for Renaissance House, the Upper Room Orphanage in Haiti, and local foster children. Please return items to Trinity with the gift in a bag (**NOT** wrapped) by **Sunday December 16th** with the Angel attached to the gift. We thank you in advance for your contribution!

Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who took time to fill a shoebox for a child around the world in order to spread Jesus' message of hope during the holiday season! We hope that you find this to be a meaningful Christmas tradition and something that you look forward to each year. Please remember to continue praying for the child who receives your shoebox and for the Holy Spirit to grow within them.

Halloween Outreach

This year for Halloween, the Outreach Committee made stickers available for members to take and place on their Halloween candy to share a little piece of Jesus while handing out their treats. We hope that you found these to be a helpful Outreach tool and we invite you to share other ideas with our committee for future events! The littlest member of Outreach, Nora, had a great time putting the stickers on her treats and greeted people at her door with a smile and a Jesus treat!



OUTREACH...so easy a two year old can do it!

Watch the LIFE at Trinity bulletin messages for upcoming events. We are hoping to get a group together to visit and volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen again in the near future!



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 the Rowsell mailbox. **NO** Hallmark, Disney, or American Greetings can be accepted. This will be my last collection of cards due to postage. I will collect them through January. Thank You to all of you who have helped send so many boxes over the years!

~ Lin Rowsell



Donations for Foster Children



Victoria Hock will be collecting donations for foster children as her Senior project in her Participation in Government class **until Dec. 23rd**. There will be a box in the church narthex to place your donations. She will be collecting socks, underwear, school supplies of any kind, along with personal hygiene items. She needs a variety of these items for kids ranging in age from newborn to 21. All items donated must be new and in their original packaging. She would be extremely grateful for any help!

Member Information

If you were unable to attend services over the last few weeks and did not fill out a Member Information Update Form, please pick one up from the Welcome Center in the church narthex. Completed forms can be placed in the church office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!



Trinity is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit our church website at: www.trinitywestseneca.com
2. Click on the "Give Now" button.
3. Click on the Create Profile button.
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High Gym Night:

Our next Junior High Night will be **December 20 from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the school gym. Invite your friends! At our last one on November 15, we played a variety of games, ate pizza and shared in a devotion about being wrapped up in sin.



Sr. High Small Group:

Dates for December's Sr. High Group are yet to be determined. Please refer to upcoming "Life at Trinity" weekly announcement sheets for updates.

Girls Bible Study

Our next Senior High Girls Bible Study will be on **December 5 at 7pm** at the Willert's house next to the church. Our next topic for the coming months will be about Esther, and how God can uniquely use each one of us. Contact Hope Willert with any questions 608-8907.



Youth Worship Team

Trinity's got talent ... and gifts, so let's use them and develop them! Any youth and teens in grades 5-12 interested in being a part of a worship team (vocal or instrumental) to lead worship on Feb. 3rd, contact Grace Willert at 608-8907 or gwillert19@mtmercy.org.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Once again this year, due to weather, our Trunk-or-Treat was held inside on October 28. But that didn't stop the ghosts, goblins and princesses with moms, dads and grandparents from showing up to give and take their share of the candy. Our event not only provides a safe alternative for families, but also brings new folks into our building. Attendees also get to hear a brief devotion centered around the gospel message. Joan Kopra and Rachel Eising were there representing the Outreach team at a table giving out candy and donuts ready to share information about Trinity.





CHRISTMAS – The birth of our Lord and Savior! What a wonderful time! This is the time when we think about worshiping our new born king along with presents and parties as well as a time for family and friends to get together. This can also be a very stressful time planning and shopping and all the preparation. There are also people who will be missing a loved one or being alone and sad during this time. The stress and loneliness can cause problems. Talking to a trained Stephen Minister can help. They may just need a time to “vent” to someone who will not judge but be that strictly confidential “empathic ear” to relieve some of their stress. Either the person or you can contact Don Meissner 652-1901, Pastor Krueger 674-9188, or any of our Stephen Ministers: Erin Kotowski, Pat Hartman, Josh Makey, Sue Brehm, Darlene Miller, Judy Schmidt, and Vickie Wienke. We would all like to wish God’s Blessings to everyone for a wonderful CHRISTmas!

LADD Thrift Shop

2280 Seneca Street, South Buffalo

Thank you to all who donate resale items to South-towns LADD Thrift Shop. For those who are unable to take donations to the Thrift Shop, there is a LADD bin in the Church hallway leading to downstairs. Because Salvation Army in South Buffalo closed, we are getting many more customers so we are in need many more donations to sell.

From January 1 through October 31 of this year, we have donated funds totaling \$20,415. Of this amount \$18,150 was donated to Camp Pioneer for camperships and programs for developmentally disabled campers plus Camp purchases. We donated \$2,265 to Lutheran Service Society. Of this amount \$1,050 purchased a tandem tricycle for a 12 year old girl, \$865 for house window film for a 7-year old autistic boy who pounds fists against windows and, after cutting a tendon in his arm, needed surgery, and \$350 for a partial campership. Since 1986 we have made contributions of \$426,246.

We do need more volunteers in order to continue our efforts. If you are able to volunteer even one day a month or as a substitute, please see co-chairwomen Judy Jaeckle, Lois Rodgers, or Helen Schultz, or Trinity volunteers Joy Belasic, Ingrid Hamann, Nancy Hope or Nancy Stevens. We need at least 2 volunteers a day, but prefer 3 each day. Our hours are 10 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday.

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Plaque located in the church’s fellowship area. They’re only \$25! Order forms can be obtained from the church office. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 6th.**

63rd Annual

Christmas Candlelight Vespers

Sunday, December 2nd 4pm & 7pm

At First Trinity Church

(1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.)



All are invited. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center and Valparaiso University.

Help for Christmas at GreenFields

Once again, the Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild is asking for help with supplying gifts for approximately 360 residents of GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center, GreenField Court & Manor, and GreenField Terrace. They are asking for monetary donations only, as they will be purchasing specific gifts for their residents based on their needs. If you are able to help, please make checks out to “Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild” and mail by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018 to:

Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild
5959 Broadway
Lancaster, NY 14086



Community Christmas Concerts

Sunday, December 2 at 7:00pm at St. Peter’s

United Church of Christ (West Seneca):

Featuring Strike the Rock and Chancel Choir.

Admission is FREE ~ a free will offering will be taken.

Sunday, December 9 at 4:00pm at St. John’s

Lutheran Church (West Seneca):

“Rejoice in the Birth” featuring ‘Magnificat’ by Kim Andre

Arnesen. Admission is \$12

Sunday, December 16 at 4:00pm at St.

Nicholas Church (West Seneca):

Featuring The Buffalo Silver Band. Admission is FREE

CHURCH WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Members of Trinity,

I came upon the following article that I thought would be good to share. I did not write it and it is not aimed at anyone personally. Our worship attendance has fluctuated. Some weeks we have 200 or more in attendance (all 3 services combined). Then others we'll be down to 150. Read the following article and see what you think.

“There has been much written on declining attendance in churches. Specifically, many have addressed the issue of attendance frequency where even “active” church members attend less frequently. Many pundits have rightly observed the impact of culture on the church, where church is, at best, just another activity. We have also addressed the issue of increasing choices. Many church members and attendees have so many opportunities to do other activities, and they can often afford them like never before. Still others note the increasing numbers of people working on Sunday, precluding them from attending worship services that day. Even more lament the reality that many children's sports have been moved to Sundays.

These reasons are sound. But behind many of these reasons are attitudinal issues. These attitudinal issues are really the sources of the problem. And there are four attitudes in particular that have a devastating effect on church attendance.

The attitude that church membership is not biblical. One commenter on this blog challenged me: “Show me where church membership is in the Bible.” I asked her to check 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul said clearly, we are *members* of the body of Christ. He wrote that letter to a local church in a local community. You might argue that many churches have adapted cultural forms of church membership, where it looks more like a country club membership or a civic club membership. Probably so. But don't take those biblical deviations to be an excuse not to practice biblical church membership.

The attitude that we are part of a church primarily to get our needs met. It is this attitude that causes much division in the church. We demand our own worship style, our preferred order of worship, and the building to be built, painted, and arranged just as we demand. But we are to be functioning members of the body of Christ for the greater good of the body. If you have any lingering doubts, read Philippians 2:1-4. Look at verse 3 in particular: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.” Take that verse to your next church business meeting.

The attitude that church leaders are not held to a higher standard. I hear it again and again from pastors and church staff. It's frustrating that many church members have a lackadaisical attitude about church attendance. But it's exponentially more frustrating when deacons, elders, and other church leaders do not set the example, when they attend infrequently and demonstrate low commitment. Take a few moments to read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 to see clearly that church leaders are indeed held to a higher standard.

The attitude that expectation of faithful church attendance is legalistic. For sure, we can turn any admonition into a legalistic trap. But God gave us the gathered body to encourage and love one another. Look at Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

We shouldn't take breaks from our church family any more than we should take breaks from our own family. We are to serve, to love, to encourage and, simply said, to be there.”

You may not agree with everything in this article, but it sure gives you something to think and pray about. Without a doubt the cultural influences mentioned above (near the top) have some impact, but the attitudinal issues are the foundation of the choices we make.

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Happy Birthday

12/1	Logan Cosandier	12/12	Bradley Ringle	12/20	Eleanor Gass
12/2	Michele Baun	12/13	Nancy Stevens		Karen McCoy
12/3	Helen Boldt		Frank Lelito	12/21	Sandra Gertis
	Luci Zarbo	12/14	Anna Eising	12/22	Kevin Kot
	Aaron Yox	12/16	Vince Zarbo		Lisa Cislo
12/4	Jordan Paz		Christopher Malta	12/23	Noel Anderson
12/5	Jonah LoVullo		Gianna Conti	12/28	Beverly Osberg
12/6	Ella Thompson	12/17	Noell McKernan		Judith Boersch
12/7	Joan Sullivan		Katelyn Barnas	12/29	Carolyn Lehsten
	Justin Smith	12/18	Tristan Sullivan		Joy Belasic
	Emma Hope		Bransen Gabel	12/30	Nick Gatto
12/8	Steve Makosy		Gavin Courteau	12/31	Eve LoVullo
12/9	Matthew Wrobel	12/19	Jerry Meissner		Donna Yox
12/11	Peter Schueler		Evan McCoy		

Happy Anniversary

12/23 Dan & Joan Sullivan

12/27 Brian & Ellen Makey

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON !

Florence Bogumil, Fox Run at Orchard Park - 404D, One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127
 Ruth Hope, Greenfield Rehab Center - Rm C- 117, 5949 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086
 Ruth Walczak, Absolute Care, Willink Building #156, 292 Main Street, East Aurora, NY 14052



Grass Cutter / Landscaper Needed

The Property & Grounds Committee is seeking 2 youths who are active members of Trinity for grass cutting and minor landscaping for next summer. The pay rate would be \$15 per hour. Interested individuals should email Dave Broderdorf at drb757@roadrunner.com.

**Holy Land Trip
 "In the Footsteps of Jesus"**

Pastor Mike Blackwell, Care Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Orchard Park, invites you to join him on a tour of the Holy Land with Mejdj Tours **July 9-17, 2019**. For complete information, go to www.mejditours.com/open-tour/footsteps-of-jesus or call Pastor Mike (713-7305).

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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