

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

“The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round”

This morning I saw a familiar yellow school bus on the road and it reminded me that a brand new school year is just around the corner. It’s a familiar and routine time of the year, I suppose, when classes begin and school bells ring out – and the wheels on the school buses go round and round once again. Honestly, I don’t remember that school bus song when I was growing up. I guess I grew up in the era of “A Hundred Bottles of Beer on the Wall...” I have heard and used the ‘wheels going round and round’ expression to convey how life just seems to continue on in a routine cycle. In spite of circumstances, difficulties or even joys – life goes on... “the wheels on the bus go round and round.”

I suppose that can either be comforting or discouraging. As the writer of Proverbs says, “like a chasing after the wind.” I find this time of the year comforting and exciting as we begin a new school year and church program year. The summer has been wonderful – this past summer especially for me! But, it is great to get back to our church and school routines again! Classes resume, our regular worship schedule resumes, Sunday School and Bible classes start back up, and many other activities commence. Personally, I love the cooler weather, changing Fall colors and gridiron activities as well! (Go Bulls and Bills!!) Vacations are wonderful but so are fuller worship and fellowship opportunities, exciting students and many of our traditional routines and celebrations.

All of that said, the question arises: Do the wheels on the bus always keep going round and round? Can we ever experience a flat tire or a break down in our church and school? In a recent pod cast I listened to, the mainline Catholic and Protestant churches in America cannot count on the wheels continuing to go round and round as they have for so many decades. The average church in America has seen a 25% decline in attendance and active membership in recent years. Why? Simply because the “church culture” has changed. Going to church is no longer seen as a requirement for social validation. Some 8,000 to 10,000 churches in America are closing every year. The pool of trained and dedicated Pastors to serve in these churches is drying up at an alarming pace. Quite frankly, “the wheels on the church are falling off.” We no longer have the assurance that they will keep going round and round.

Now, make no mistake, God has not abandoned His church! He is faithful and is with His people always! Sadly, people are not always with Him though. As we begin a new parish program year, do not take anything for granted. Pray for the leaders of the church. Pray for members to be faithful and involved in the church. Get involved and be regularly active in worship, Bible classes, small group studies, and other activities in Trinity church and school. Support the ministry of Trinity church and school with your prayers, resources and involvement. Do not just assume that the wheels of the bus will always keep going round and round!

God has blessed Trinity Lutheran Church and school for many years with faithful, supportive and active member-disciples. Praise God for that!! Let us follow their example and our Lord’s calling to continue to “keep our hands to the plow” and make sure the wheels keep going round and round. It’s too vitally important to merely take for granted!

~ Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

WORSHIP SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 7th & 8th

Saturday at 5:00pm

(Devotional - variety of worship and music)

Sunday at 8:00am

*(Traditional / Blended - liturgy, hymns
and worship songs)*

Sunday at 10:30am

*(Contemporary - praise music led by praise teams;
service projected on the screen)*



Sunday School News

Sunday School is beginning on **September 8th** and meets at **9:15am** at the school. Pick up a registration form in the narthex to register your child. Children age 3 - 6th grade are welcome. We had over 50 different children involved last year and averaged 30 children per week. We need your help to continue making this a successful ministry to educate our young children about Jesus and their faith. If you are willing to help at any age level, please contact Sarah Gabel for more information at sgabel@thinktrinitychristian.com or 982-2586.



Confirmation A New Year Starts

We'll be starting our confirmation classes back up on **September 15 at 9:15am**. Once again Chris Kopra (pictured) will be the main teacher along with Pastor for some classes as well as Mark Willert who oversees the ministry. What is confirmation? Simply, it's to publicly profess your relationship with Jesus, agree with what it means to be Lutheran, and express the desire and interest of becoming an active and living member of our church. We generally confirm students at the end of their 8th grade year after having 2 years of classes.



Backpack Blessing Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019

As we look forward to the beginning of a new school year, we will be offering "Backpack Blessings" to all of our students on **Sunday, Sept. 15th** in our Sunday morning services. All are invited to join us at the school following the 10:30am service that day for ice cream and to see our school updates.



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: Resumes on **Sunday, September 8th at roughly 9:15am** (until 10:15am). We will start with considering the appointed Scripture readings for the day in worship. We will discuss other options and possibly other leaders for the upcoming classes. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in the study and discussion of God's Holy Word.

Mid-Week Bible Classes: Meets Tuesday evening at 7pm and Wednesday morning at 10am beginning on **September 17th and 18th**. We will continue our study of the Book of Acts that we started last year picking up with the missionary work of the Apostle Paul and the early church following Saul's conversion and preparation. As we move into the Fall Bible Class we will determine whether we need or want to offer the evening and morning classes depending on attendance. It is not necessary to have attended the classes on the earlier chapters of the Book of Acts in order to start this Fall – so all are encouraged to attend and study God's Word together!

Ladies Bible Study ~ Meets the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at 7pm. Our first meeting will be on **September 9**. All post-high school ladies are welcome! * See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

Men in Ministry ~ Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at church from 7pm-8:30pm beginning **September 17th**.



Men in Ministry Cookout

A cook-out will be held on **Saturday, September 14 at 6pm** at Dan Rowsell's house (1026 Jewett Holmwood Rd., Orchard Park). A sign-up sheet is in the church narthex. All men are invited!

Trinity School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has begun once again, praise the Lord! The 2019-20 school year started on August 26 and 27 with Parent Orientations, and now the students are settling into the serious business of learning. We are very blessed to have maintained almost all of our staff, and hopefully our volunteers will be willing and able to continue their fine work this year too. While our enrollment is down just a bit this year due to an assortment of factors, spirits are high and the building is looking great. Our latest addition is two new fire escape windows in the PK and Kindergarten rooms. Yet another benefit of the Annual Fund! Our Annual Fund giving was just below goal last year, so we'll be working especially hard to reach our goal for this year and continue to maintain and improve our facilities and programs.

On Sunday, September 15th at the 10:30am worship service, all of the school children and Sunday School children will be singing, the teachers will be Installed, the third graders will be presented with their Bibles, and all of the children and their backpacks will be blessed. There will be ice cream served at the school following this service, so come over for a quick visit! Mrs. Gabel and Miss Harris have switched classrooms, and they've done a great job outfitting their new rooms. Yet another positive change to the program! God is so good!

Mrs. Karen Schmidt, the teacher for our 3-year old PK class, is again using the church basement for her classroom space three days per week. It looks fantastic! She and her husband, Karl, put in many hours cleaning and arranging. Mrs. Noel Anderson will also continue teaching 3rd grade ELA classes, along with all music classes and Alleluia Choir in the basement. What an assortment of instruments! We're so thankful that we can be good stewards of our blessings and use this space constructively, to His glory, throughout the week.

Please remember - I welcome your thoughts and comments about the school and our programs. It is your mission vehicle! Pray vigorously for its success, that we may continue to make more and better disciples for Jesus Christ within its walls and in our community.

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal

Trinity Campout September 13-14, 2019



Bring your tent, pop-up, RV or just sleep under the stars! Setup begins at 6pm; hotdog dinner at 7pm (we supply the hotdogs and buns; you provide everything else); campfire with devotions at 8:30pm; pancake breakfast from 7:45am-8:45am. Non-overnight campers are invited to come back and join us.



Register **by Monday, September 9**. Forms can be found in the church narthex or call the church office (674-9188) or school office (674-5353). We have LIMITED SPACE, so sign up early!



I hope you have been enjoying the summer! Our Ladies Class begins on **Monday, September 9 at 7:00pm** in the church narthex and will meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month. All post-high school ladies are welcome!

The topic is the "I AM" statements of Jesus, recorded in the book of John. The study we'll be using is written by Lysa TerKeurst, LifeWay Press. It is titled "Finding the I Am - How Jesus Fully Satisfies the Cry of Your Heart."

A note from the leaders guide: I am to "encourage women to follow through on the study, attend the group sessions, and engage in the personal study throughout the week(s)." That being said, there will be a study book and you will need to do some "homework". If you would like me to order a study book for your use, please let me know as soon as possible. I'm planning on ordering from Christianbook.com for \$14.99 each.

This month we will have class Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, God willing it, of course.

~ Nancy Hope



Congratulations to the Newlyweds!!!

Congratulations to Lynn Rodgers and Pastor Dennis Krueger, who were married here at Trinity as part of the outdoor worship service on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The ceremony was performed by Trinity's former pastor, Rev. Ronald Habedank, and was witnessed by many of Trinity's members as well as families and friends of the happy couple. We wish them many years of happiness!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who joined in our celebration worship and wedding on August 24th. Thank you especially to the many members who helped us with set up, serving, and breaking down the service and reception-fellowship. We have received close to a hundred wedding cards and almost no duplicates! It has been fun opening them and reading them together. God blessed us with fantastic weather, a fantastic church, and wonderful family and friends! Thanks be to God!

~ Pastor & Mrs. Dennis Krueger



Food Drive Success!

Thank you all for your participation with our food drive. Here is a message from the director at the Bread of Life Outreach Center:

"Wow! Thank you so much! That's amazing! It's wonderful that you chose BOLO as the recipient of your food drive. We are so grateful to you and to all our volunteers for everything you do to continue BOLO's mission. Thank you!" ~ Pat

We will continue to collect non-perishable food during the year. Please place your donations in the red wagon. Thank you for helping those in need who live right in our own community.



A Big Thanks!

Thanks to Rachel Antes for helping lead our Sr. High Sunday mornings for ... years! She has been such a blessing to the lives of our teens and the impact she's made sharing her wisdom, life experiences and especially her relationship with Jesus. May God continue to bless you as you move on to other plans He has for you!

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High Fall Schedule

Here are the dates we have planned for Jr. High Youth Nights (gym nights) and other activities. Sign up to get email updates at LisaLaff@gmail.com! Gym nights are a blast and include open gym time to hang out with friends, organized big group games and an attention getting devotion to focus on God to end out our evening. Any questions, contact Mark Willert (Youth and Family Life Coordinator) MWillert@ThinkTrinityChristian.com or Lisa Lafferty (Jr. High Youth Special Events Coordinator) LisaLaff@gmail.com.

- ◆ **Gym Nights:** Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 7, Dec. 12 from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the school gym
- ◆ **Family Camp Out:** September 13-14
- ◆ **Picnic at Burchfield Park:** September 26
- ◆ **Trunk Or Treat:** October 27
- ◆ **Jr. & Sr. High Pioneer Fall Retreat:** November 1-3
- ◆ **Jr. High Pie Baking for Buffalo City Mission:** November 21
- ◆ **Family Advent Night:** December 3
- ◆ **Jr. High Christmas Movie and Cookies:** December 16

Sr. High

Sr. High Boys Small Group: Our monthly Sr. High Boys Group will be resuming in October. This will include great discussions and topics in teens lives and how God fits in it all. Contact Mark Willert if you'd like to check it out.

Sr. High Girls ~ *Live Fearless*: Starting in October, the High School Girls Small Group, led by Hope Willert, will be starting a book by Sadie Robertson, *Live Fearless*. Once a month they'll meet at the Willert's house to talk and share about the book. Hope says, "This is an amazing, faith building book that leads teens on a journey to help them stand up against fear with the help of God. It is an easy read and it includes many real life circumstances that the author has been through that we can relate to." Girls interested can contact Hope at HWillert20@MtMercy.org

Sr. High Campfire: Join us for some games and a campfire on **September 20 from 7pm-9pm** at the Willert's!

Sr. High Sunday Morning Startup: September 8 marks the first Sunday morning gathering for our high school teens. Held every Sunday, they meet from 9:15am-10:15am (same as the Sunday School hour) down in the church basement. There's a BIG 70" tv down there that we make use of for the videos we occasionally show. We try to start and end on time as this gives the kids fellowship time with each other and folks upstairs. Topics include those that deal with the life of a high school teen and how God fits in it all. Our teachers this year are Brad McKernan (who's been doing this for years!), Lisa Lafferty (who is new to our Sunday morning lineup), Katie Willert, and Josh Makey (who will make guest appearances here and in Confirmation!) If you know anyone who might share an interest in being a part of this team, contact Youth and Family Life Coordinator Mark Willert.

Sr. High Parent Meeting: Any parents that have an interest in either helping or giving ideas for our Sr. High Ministry events, please contact Mark Willert and we'll schedule a meeting in September!

Welcome Lisa!

Lisa Lafferty (daughter of Dave and Jane Sirgey) is joining the Trinity Jr. High Ministry team as our **Jr. High Special Events Coordinator**. Her involvement will help grow the ministry we do with grades 5-8 and provide more opportunity for our youth to be involved.

Lisa grew up at Trinity and went to our school as well. Her 3 daughters Bethany, Rebecca and Abby are currently students there. She attended Roberts Wesleyan College, where she met her husband, Matthew. They were later married here at Trinity.

Lisa is a data scientist at Delaware North, and loves camping, board games, and spending time with her family. She's excited to get involved with the Youth Group and give the kids opportunities to connect to Jesus and each other!





Music Ministry

Do you enjoy singing? Do you play an instrument? Can you ring a bell (or would like to learn)? As we look forward to September and our regular worship schedule, please consider serving in our music ministry. Opportunities include:

Singing Choir - sings about once/month during the 8am service and for festival services (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter); rehearses Sunday at 9am as needed.

Bell Choir - rings about once/month at various services; rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:30pm as needed.

Praise Band - leads worship Sunday morning at 10:30am; rehearses Wednesday evening at 6:30pm.

Solo/Small Group - do you sing or play an instrument and want to participate in a service occasionally? Let us know and we will use your talents!

Please contact Ellen Makey (961-8378, esmky23@yahoo.com), Pastor Krueger (674-9188 / 997-5666), or Kathy Herman (481-1805) for more information.



FAITH In God's word & promise ...

HOPE ... filled attitude & focus ...

LOVE ... expressed through actions

Stephen Ministers use God's word: **FAITH** to show **HOPE** by God's **LOVE** through their actions by "walking along side." We are trained, caring, non-judgmental and strictly confidential listeners. If you or someone you know is hurting and just needs someone to talk to who can help by "walking along side" and won't judge or try to "fix" your feelings, 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, Kevin Kot, Colleen Kot, Joan Sullivan, Linda Hope

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of September, we will be collecting rice and/or pasta. Items will be donated to the pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you for your support!

LWML NEWS

LWML Eastern District Retreat At Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center September 20-22, 2019

If you are not able to commit for the whole weekend, consider attending only Saturday. Registration for the day and lunch and dinner costs \$44.00 if sent before Sept 1. Look for a registration form in Linda Meissner's message center or print one from the Summer Link.

Buffalo Zone LWML Fall Event Saturday, September 28, 2019 At First Trinity Lutheran Church (1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda)

Our own Darlene Marcucci-Miller will be presenting: "Equipping Women for Service". She will speak about how we honor the Lord as we care for the temple He gave each of us. Registration begins at 9 AM; program from 9 AM - 2 PM. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch. RSVP to Sharon Wolff @ swolff3@rochester.rr.com or 585-721-0713 **by Sept 21**. Contact Linda Meissner if you are interested in car pooling. We would leave the church parking lot at 8:30 AM.

MITES

You don't have to be a woman to collect and turn in mites (loose change) for LWML. 3 grants have been paid, totaling \$13,000. There are 4 remaining grants to be paid before March 2020 totaling \$14,900. These include \$5000 for the purchase and installation of **video equipment** to Live Stream sermons to 2 different **deaf congregations** in Pittsburgh, PA, and \$5,000 **to provide perishable food** to seminarians and their families at Fort Wayne, IN. (Paul Marks, who preached last summer, is a seminarian there.) Mites can be left in Linda Meissner's message center or turned in to her. Mite Boxes are also in her message box. Consider saving bottle return money, pocket change at the end of the day, or designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to LWML Mites.

Used Electronics Collection

Remember to bring in used electronics for LWML. Brand name ink cartridges and electronic devices can be recycled to raise funds for mission work. The recycling company does wipe all data from the phones/laptops/mp3 players, cameras, etc. If the data can not be wiped, the device is destroyed. Please put the equipment in the purple tote under the table in the narthex. Thank you!

“Rudeness or Kindness”

Have you noticed that in our world today, more than a few people are downright rude?

Examples of rudeness include people cutting in line, littering the highway, being consistently late for appointments, misusing handicapped parking spaces, driving slowly in the passing lane, using cell phones in movie theaters, and not teaching manners to their children.

Thankfully there are many examples of kindness: Serving at a homeless shelter, picking up litter on the street, giving a stranger a compliment, making dinner for a family in need, paying for a first responder’s meal at a restaurant, donating Christmas gifts to an orphanage, holding the door open for other people, and helping the elderly carry groceries to their car.

Last week on Facebook I saw the following piece about rudeness and kindness:

- ◆ *Being rude is easy. It does not take any effort and is a sign of weakness and insecurity.*
- ◆ *Kindness shows great self-discipline and strong self-esteem.*
- ◆ *Being kind is not always easy when dealing with rude people.*
- ◆ *Kindness is a sign of a person who has done a lot of personal work and has come to a great self-understanding and wisdom.*
- ◆ *Choose to be kind over being right, and you’ll be right every time because kindness is a sign of strength.*

These observations about rudeness and kindness prompted recollections of a few biblical references about the virtue of kindness:

- ◆ *Colossians 3:12: Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*
- ◆ *Galatians 5:22-23: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*
- ◆ *Titus 3:4-5: When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.*

A suggestion: Use these simple reminders to avoid rudeness and motivate acts of kindness in your daily routine. You’ll be blessed. And so will the recipients of your words and actions.

~ Pastor Krueger

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 September 9th.

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are 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



Are you . . .
Hurting? Struggling?
Discouraged? Stressed?
Confused? Broken?
Facing a Tough Time?

Our Stephen Ministers
Are Ready to Care For You!

Could you benefit from the confidential,
 one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister?
 If yes, then call Pastor Krueger 674-9188 or
 Don Meissner 652-1901 to be connected to a
 Stephen Minister.

Happy Birthday

9/1	Laura Broderdorf	9/8	Roger McClellan	9/20	Jacqueline Paz
9/2	Jessica Ecker	9/9	Kim McLaughlin		Wesley Pletscher
9/3	Mallory Giunta Harper Farrell	9/10	Ron Hope	9/21	David Lein
9/4	Amy Lipinoga Jane Bookhagen	9/12	Michael McKernan	9/24	Megan Manzo
9/5	Marjorie Doan Mark Willert Faith Flattery	9/13	Ruth Walczak Sarah Gabel	9/26	Robert Brown Lauren Tober
9/7	Travis Ecker Jennifer Sherer Brielle McKernan	9/15	Robert Stefanik Steven Ringle	9/27	Rachel Antes
		9/16	Lisa Lopez Katie Wackowski	9/28	Neil Schueler
		9/19	Laurie Antes	9/29	Jeremy Heckman
				9/30	Chuck Stevens Nora Eising

Happy Anniversary

9/5	Jeremy & Shannon Heckman	9/17	Mark & Michele Ganschow PJ & Kim Colson
9/6	Rev. David & Joy Belasic	9/20	Christopher & Kim McLaughlin
9/8	Neil & Sue Schueler	9/24	David & Marilyn Lein
9/10	Linda & Leslie Wrobel Timothy & Justine Monahan	9/26	John & Karen McCoy
9/11	Joanne & Craig Jaskier	9/27	Michael & Lori Hock
9/14	Paul & Kristen Zawadzki	9/28	Roger & Laurel McClellan
9/15	Steven & Maria Wrobel		

Sermons Online

Trinity's weekly sermons are now online! Visit our website "www.trinitywestseneca.com" and click on "Sermons" which can be found under the Worship tab.

Emergency Need

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



Members' Email Addresses

Does Trinity have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving Trinity's monthly newsletter via email, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please 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.

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

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