

# TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

## DECEMBER 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: 674-9188 / 997-5666  
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: [trinitywestseneca.com](http://trinitywestseneca.com)  
Church Office E-mail: [trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net](mailto:trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net)



### WORSHIP TIMES

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



## A CHRISTMAS VISION!

How do you envision Christmas this year? A beautiful Christmas tree glowing with lights and ornaments? Colorfully wrapped Christmas presents stacked under the tree? The Advent wreath, candles and Christmas tree glowing in the front of the church at Trinity? Singing the beloved Christmas carols by candlelight at the Christmas Eve service? Family, children and grand children gathered together laughing and enjoying celebrating together? A dining table laden with all the special holiday treats, decorations and yuletide favorites? Perhaps all of these mixed together in a 'Norman Rockwell / Currier & Ives' collage of the perfect Christmas?

We have been talking about "visioning" at Trinity Lutheran Church and School lately as well as preparing for a vision casting process for the congregation in the new year. We are prayerfully going to consider the mission and ministry possibilities and explore where we believe the Lord is leading us. A vital step to this process is envisioning what Trinity might look like in three to five years. Think of it as "Vision – 2025!" Given our current culture and context, the opportunities and challenges, our strengths and talents . . . where is the Lord leading us to best serve Him and others and carry out His will and work?

God certainly had a vision of Christmas! His vision was restoring unity between Himself and His creation after the Fall into sin. The vision was that of a man, born of a woman who would crush and defeat sin, death and the devil. In doing so, however, He would be bruised. (Gen. 3:15) This man was unlike any other before or since. He was (would be) both God and man at the same time and born of a virgin. (Is. 7:14) He would humbly be born and laid in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2) And, one day He would be lifted up on a *Christmas* tree of sorts, namely the cross. All who looked upon Him in faith would be saved! (John 3:15) God's perfect Christmas vision was that of the Messiah – Immanuel and the redemption of sinful mankind!

God's vision now is that His church go Christmas caroling and tell everyone what He has done. Trinity's vision must paint the picture of how God will lead and utilize us in this place and time to proclaim the Gospel message of redemption! The Lord has blessed all sinful mankind with many Christmas presents under the tree of the cross. As His church we are enlisted, empowered and deployed to reach out to all with the Christmas hope of the Christ child. What will that look like in West Seneca in 2020 and in 2025? Please keep this Vision Casting Process in your prayers as we work together as His faithful people.

A most blessed Christmas celebration to all of you, and an exciting and vision-producing New Year!

~ Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

**Holiday Worship Schedule**

<i>December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Advent Celebration</i>
<i>December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm:</i>	<i>School Christmas Celebration</i>
<i>December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:30am:</i>	<i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i>
<i>December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>10:00pm:</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am:</i>	<i>Christmas Celebration w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00pm:</i>	<i>New Year's Eve Service w/ Communion</i>



**Cookie Walk**  
**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**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. Proceeds will go to show appreciation to our church and school staff during this Christmas season. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



**Advent Celebration**  
**Tuesday, December 3, 2019**  
**6:00pm at Trinity School**

Looking for a great way to kickoff Advent? All ages are invited to come together for an evening of food, worship and fun that will include a FREE pizza dinner, a brief family friendly worship, and festive activities. All this within an hour and a half to get you back home for your evening routine. All ages are welcome! Be sure to sign up **by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** because we need a head count to order the pizza! Let us know your name, phone #, how many children, and how many teens/adults. Email Youth and Family Coordinator, Mark Willert "[MWillert@thinktrinitychristian.com](mailto:MWillert@thinktrinitychristian.com)" to sign up or pick up a form from the table in the narthex (place completed forms in the Willert's church mailbox). Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring this event!

**Christmas Caroling**  
**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins is scheduled for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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!



**2020 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES/OIL**

The 2020 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.

**Altar Candles/Oil:** \$25 per month (per family). Two families should sign-up each month to cover the total cost of the candles/oil.

**NEW: All payments** should be placed in the Church Office's mailbox in the coatroom. Make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and indicate Altar Flowers or Candles/Oil in the memo line.

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



**Angel Tree**

The Outreach Committee will once again be sponsoring the Angel Tree for Renaissance House. Please take an angel off the tree in the church entryway and place your name on the sign out sheet on the window next to the tree. Please place the item in a gift bag, NOT wrapped, with the angel attached to the outside and return it to church. The blue boy gifts will be basketball shorts in the size indicated on the angel tag and the pink girl gifts will be lounge/pajama pants in the size indicated. Please have all gifts returned **by SUNDAY DEC. 15<sup>TH</sup>**. Thank you for your support of this local mission!



## OCC Shoeboxes

Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) event again this year. A BIG thank you to Karen McCoy for donating small toys, hygiene items, books, etc that were used to fill approximately 30 boxes. We collected 80 boxes all together that will be delivered to needy children around the world along with the Good News of Jesus. Thank you for being a part of spreading God's love to His children! The winners of our prize drawing are Karen O'Brien, Kathy Stephan & Lynn Krueger (you will be contacted to pick up your prize).

## Weekly Bible Reading Coordinator

We are looking for someone to take over the coordination of the Sunday readers. It requires putting together a schedule and notifying the readers in advance of their upcoming readings. Please contact Robin Makosy with any questions at 430-6468. Thanks!



## Sunday School Pageant

Our Sunday School children will be leading worship with their annual Christmas pageant on **December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:30am service**. Please join us!



## 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm & 7pm At First Trinity Church (1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.)

- Candlelight procession, choral and instrumental music, congregational singing
- Featuring at 4:00 pm Holy Ghost Lutheran Church SKIP Children's Choir
- Special Guest Organist, Jason Weber
- David Werth, Music & Choir Director

## Portals of Prayer

**Portals of Prayer** (Jan-March 2020) devotion booklets will be available soon. Please take one and use it for home devotions! God bless your devotion and prayer times!



## Recycle Your Cards

Cards will be collected once again this year. Religious Christmas cards (nativity, bells, wreath, tree, NO santa) need to be separated from all other cards (non-religious Christmas, holiday, thank-you, birthday, get-well, etc.). The religious ones will be used to make booklets for shut-ins and nursing homes; all others will be sent to St. Jude's Childrens Ranch. Only the front of the cards is needed with no writing on the back. NEW cards without envelopes and no writing will also be accepted. Hallmark, Disney, and American Greeting cards cannot be accepted due to copywriting. Please put cards in my church message box. Thank you!

~ Lin Rowsell

## Trinity Vision and Mission Planning

Two gatherings of Trinity members have recently met and discussed the need for a Strategic Ministry Planning Process in order to develop a new Vision and Mission Statement. It has been almost ten years since the last time we did this. Out of the discussions we have concluded the need to pursue this endeavor again, as soon as possible, and have formed a Vision Task Force to come up with a process for the membership to engage in and explore the possibilities for mission and ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. We are looking forward to beginning this work after the holidays, early in the new year. Please watch for more details announcing the Vision Process, and keep this in your prayers. Thank-you!



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

## Christmas Blues....

### Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our **Stephen Leaders**: Pastor Kreuger: 997-5666, Don Meissner: 627-9836, Kevin Kot: 445-5923, Colleen Kot: 445-5923.

**Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**



# YOUTH SCOOP

## Jr. High:

**Gym Night:** Our next Junior High Gym Night will be **Thursday, December 12 from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the school gym. Invite your friends! Along with fun games and an advent themed devotion, we will have a white elephant gift exchange! Bring a wrapped gift, something you don't want anymore or something that you think might be a funny gift!

**Movie Night:** Jr High will be having a Christmas movie and cookies night on **Monday, December 16 from 6:00pm-8:30pm** in the church basement youth room. All are welcome!

## Sr. High:

**Pancakes and Elephants:** On **Sunday, December 22 at 9:15am**, the Sr. High are invited to the Willert's house for pancakes and white elephant gift giving. Bring a gag gift and be ready to eat some super yummy pancakes!

## Girls Bible Study

On **December 4 from 6:30pm-8:15pm**, the Teen Girls' Small Group will be meeting at the Willert's house. We will be frosting ugly sweater Christmas cookies, so bring your Christmas spirit and creativity! Our topic for discussion will be how anyone can be fearless with the power of God and the song for this meeting will be "There is Power" by Lincoln Brewster. All teen girls are welcome and encouraged to attend for a night of fun and faith building.



## Trinity Youth Attend Fall Retreat

For an entire November weekend, 98 area youth and teens laughed, played, served and worshiped at Camp Pioneer. Taking part in things like Romans and Christians (a role playing game trying to talk a roman soldier to believe in Jesus), raking leaves, amazing games of four square and gaga ball, and youth centered worship. It was all centered around the theme "Shout It From The Mountaintops" and Matthew 10:27: What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Other opportunities at Pioneer (SAVE THE DATES) are March 28 - a day long youth gathering; and May 29-31 - the Spring Youth Retreat Weekend!

## Did You Get a Piece of the Pie?

Trinity's Jr. & Sr. High conquered the task of making and baking 46 pumpkin and apple pies, 30 of which were donated to Greenfield! Lisa Lafferty promised the kids, "This is going to be super messy and a lot of fun!" That it was! Pies were pre-ordered by folks in the church and school and the kids worked 3 hours to complete the task. Way to go Lisa and kids! One of the boys is set to make the pumpkin pie at home now for thanksgiving!



## The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of December, we will be collecting salad dressing and croutons. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you for your support!

### LWML Items

#### Save those Cancelled First Class Stamps!

With the holidays coming, many greetings will be mailed. Please save the cancelled first class stamps from the envelopes. LWML uses these as a fund raiser to send bibles. Please leave one quarter inch around the perimeter of the stamp or just cut off the corner of the envelope with the stamp intact. Opening greeting cards from the bottom preserves the stamp well. Please put your collection of stamps in the message center for Gerald & Linda Meissner. Thank you.

#### Save and Recycle Used Electronics and Ink Cartridges

LWML can raise funds with those old unwanted electronics and empty ink cartridges. Please collect only name brand ink cartridges. Electronics will be wiped clean by the recycler. If unable to clear them, they will be destroyed. Please put the recycles into the purple bin in the narthex. Thank you.

### Mites

**LWML Mites help spread the Gospel message.** Please consider collecting your spare change or bottle money to put in your mite box or write a check to BUFFALO ZONE LWML and leave it in my message box. Mites can be turned in at any time. 3 of the 10 Grants chosen for the biennium have been paid. The biennium runs through May of 2020. In June of next year there will be another LWML Eastern District Convention, where other grants will be considered. The next grant to be paid is to provide food items for families seminarians at Fort Wayne , IN. Perishable items often need to be purchased. The last 2 grants are funding for the Lunchbox Summer Program at Hop Bottom, PA and funding for the purchase of bibles for Nepal & China through the Sowers Ministry, Tonawanda, NY. *Lots of pennies, nickels, dimes add up to lasting mission efforts. Linda Meissner, LWML Liason.*

## Thank You!

A sincere thank you to my family and friends for your expression of sympathy and support at this time. May the Lord be with you!

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Kronthaler & Family

## On-Line Giving

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. Visit our church website ([www.trinitywestseneca.com](http://www.trinitywestseneca.com)), click on the "Give Now" button at the top right of the page, and follow the instructions.



### Preparations

Home decorations have transitioned from pumpkins to turkeys, and now to snowmen and sparkly trees. Children of all ages treasure year-end holidays. Memories kindle warmth of glowing fires etched in our family and emotional rooms.

Churches celebrated Reformation and Thanksgiving. Advent's expectation is that the Savior of the World is arriving! With décor changes, God's people prepare their hearts to receive their King.

Mary, chosen to bear God's son in the flesh, was told to get ready. After the angel's visit, Mary exclaimed, *"All generations will call me blessed, because He has done great things for me!"* Mary recognized the Giver and Gift.

*"God's good things are merely gifts which last for a season; but His grace and His regard are our inheritance which lasts forever. Truly, the grace of God is eternal life,"* wrote Martin Luther.

Year-end preparations include planning and arranging. Many organize their lives to get ready for what lies ahead. What else can we put in order besides tangible and perishable presents that adorn our Christmas trees and represent our human love?

The time-based clutter of life pulls us toward temporal concerns. Statistics indicate that less than 10% of Americans have included a charitable gift in their estate plans. One reason might be due to an uncomfortable visit with an attorney.

Have you considered allowing a fellow LCMS Gift Planning Counselor as a trustworthy guide to help you to prepare for expressing the enduring intent of your faith and love?

Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ [robert.wirth@lfnd.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfnd.org) or 716-863-4427 for more information. You can discover that your congregation has a trusted charitable guide available to encourage you to plan and direct your passion to give to family and beloved ministries, so others might know that your own heart is prepared to fulfill God's Will, as His steward.

## Blessed With Bells

*By Mark Willert*

Trinity has been immensely blessed with the variety of musical gifts God has placed within the congregation over the years. Hand bells have been a long enjoyed tradition and part of our worship. Their shiny color, beautiful mesmerizing sound and varying techniques used to play them draws the undivided attention of listeners and offers a unique praise to God.

While I have neat memories of my grade school years at Martin Luther and learning to play them, a few months back I walked into church and saw Mary Havens cleaning, tending to, and repairing the bells. After talking to her for a bit, it got me wondering more about the bells and I will feature her sharings in the next newsletter. I happened to stop by again when they were practicing and snapped a few pictures. So for this one, I thought it would be great to start with the conductor, Ellen Makey. Below is her response to some questions I asked. It should also be noted that Ellen is the director for the Trinity choir and also co-leads one of our four worship teams. Thank you Ellen for sharing your gift in music! You are a blessing.

"Music has always been a part of my life. I came from a musical family where singing, instruments, and lessons were always present and encouraged. Whenever an opportunity came along to be a part of something musical - at school, church, in the community - I was there! Playing hand bells was a natural part of those musical opportunities. The first time I played hand bells or had any real knowledge of them was at Concordia College, Bronxville, as a student. I played for one piece as part of a small group that accompanied a Tour Choir selection. It was fun, and a great first experience!

Some years later I played with the hand bell choir at Trinity, Wyandotte, while Brian and I served at that church in Michigan. I started playing hand bells on a regular basis with the choir here at Trinity, West Seneca, a few years after becoming a part of Trinity's community - about 18 years ago.

I enjoy making music with others for the glory of God. Music is, for me, the ultimate expression of praise for all that God has done, and continues to do, in our lives. There are so many ways to make music and yet all can be heartfelt, joyous worship. My hope has always been, that in directing, working with or teaching any group or individual, that each one will learn, not only about the instrument (or voice) and the music, but also about what it means to use their talents for the glory of God.

I have worked under many directors, choral and instrumental. There is always something to be learned - either what works and is helpful or what doesn't work and what isn't very helpful! Hopefully, through prayer and planning, I try to be helpful. :) My most influential directors were those that helped me to understand something about the music that I play (or sing). The purpose and message of music for worship are what set it apart from all other music - music for God's glory and the lifting up of the worshiper."

Ellen also shared a favorite quote: "How good it is to celebrate God's presence and to sing His praises throughout each day! We call all men and women to praise the Lord: those who preach to proclaim His love; those who sing to glorify His name; those who can shout or whistle or write or paint or dance or play musical instruments or pound on drums or ring bells to join in celebrating the majesty of our great and loving God." (Psalms 147-150, Psalms/Now by Leslie F. Brandt)



If anyone is interested in ringing hand bells, new people are welcome! Music experience is helpful, but not essential. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, 6:30pm-7:30pm in the church. Anyone interested in playing should contact Ellen Makey at (716)961-8378 or [esmky23@yahoo.com](mailto:esmky23@yahoo.com).





## School News

### Trinity School & Operation Christmas Child

The school students embraced Operation Christmas Child enthusiastically and filled 10+ boxes! We are thankful to Trinity congregation for the opportunity to promote generosity and care for others in our students through this program. We were also very happy to collect over \$300 for Pioneer Camp as our first trimester offering recipient. That amount may not make much difference to Camp, but it sure represents a lot to our students! The children are collecting funds for Bethania Kids next trimester. Bethania supports children in Christian resident homes and care centers in India. One hundred percent of donations go to the actual programs, and the LCMS is an advisory member.



### Buy Gift Cards That Give Back!



Please consider ordering gift cards through our SCRIP fundraiser. They make great Christmas gifts! The proceeds will go towards further professional development for our Trinity School staff members. The process is easy. Simply fill out a SCRIP order form for the gift cards you want and place the order form and money in the school's mailbox. Forms can be found on the Welcome Center in the church narthex. **The deadline for our next order submission is December 1, and you'll have the cards well before Christmas.** Please contact Lynnae Kwilas (912-1939) with any questions.

## School News

Trinity School students are thankful!

November 19, 2019

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am thankful for Trinity because of all of the friends I have and the teachers that teach me a lot of things. I am also thankful for my school because of all of the fun activities you can do here and after school like basketball practice, cheerleading, dance troupe and many other activities. I really like Trinity's teachers and principal they are really fun and I love that I am a member of Trinity. Trinity was my only hope to go to school because I didn't want to go anywhere else but here at Trinity. I have loved being here since kindergarten and I have loved going here everyday for 5 days a week.

I am thankful for ~~my mother~~ because you are very nice and I like when you tell me about religion and about how God has created us and the earth. I am also thankful because I wanted ~~my mother~~ as my prayer partner. So some of my thanksgiving plans are that my grandma is going to make the turkey and she will be coming over with the turkey. We will be eating turkey, chicken, potatoes, squash, and a lot of others. I will be having all kinds of pie too like apple pie, cherry pie, pumpkin pie, and other kinds of pie.

God's Blessings  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on page 9)



**School News***(Continued from page 8)*

November 19, 20

Dear [REDACTED],

I am thankful for Trinity because it is where all of my friends go. My brother also went from kindergarten to eighth grade, and I want to graduate here. The teachers are nice, kind, and loving. I love the church even though I don't worship there on Sundays. My favorite part about Trinity is the fact that most of my friends go here. I can interact with other Christians and have a good time. When I graduate, I will try to go to as many events as I can. I love Trinity and I am beyond thankful for it.

I am thankful for you because you are thoughtful and kind. You put thought into the gifts. You are the best prayer partners. I am probably going to my grandparents' house for Thanksgiving. Or I am going to my cousin's.

God's blessings,  
[REDACTED]



May God Bless You with Joy and  
Peace this Christmas Season!

Your Trinity School Staff

*Angie Amy* *Laundon*  
*Katie Willett*  
*Jade Belvoir*  
*Megan Gustin*  
*Dirk Robin*  
*Noel Anderson*  
*Dech Gabel*  
*Kristy*  
*Trithold*  
*Krysiakij*  
*Kay Schmitt*  
*Christina Harris*  
*Lobby Kappa*

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**MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP**



**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019, 7 PM**

*PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS OF TRINITY SCHOOL*

***Happy Birthday***

12/1	Logan Cosandier	12/11	Peter Schueler	12/20	Karen McCoy
12/2	Michele Baun	12/12	Bradley Ringle	12/21	Sandra Gertis
12/3	Helen Boldt Luci Zarbo	12/13	Nancy Stevens	12/22	Kevin Kot Lisa Cislo
12/4	Jordan Paz	12/14	Anna Eising	12/23	Noel Anderson Chris Kotowski
12/5	Jonah LoVullo	12/16	Vince Zarbo Gianna Conti	12/28	Beverly Osberg Judith Boersch Carolyn Lehsten
12/6	Ella Thompson	12/17	Noell McKernan Katelyn Barnas	12/29	Joy Belasic Nick Gatto
12/7	Joan Sullivan Justin Smith Emma Hope	12/18	Tristan Sullivan Bransen Gabel Gavin Courteau	12/30	Eve LoVullo
12/8	Steve Makosy	12/19	Jerry Meissner Evan McCoy	12/31	Donna Yox
12/9	Matthew Wrobel	12/20	Eleanor Gass		
12/10	Aliza Haas Hannah Haas				

***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

Evelyn Burger, 4208 Taylor Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Lois Galati, 119 Shawnee Place, West Seneca, NY 14224

Esther Schuster, 6688 Powers Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Ruth Walczak, Absolute Care, Willink Building #156, 292 Main Street, East Aurora, NY 14052



**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. Thank you!

**Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School**

**Position**

**Name**

**Contact Information**

Pastor	Rev. Dennis Krueger	674-9188 / 997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
School Principal	Kathleen Fretthold	674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com