

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2020

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
Church Office E-mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm - Devotional

Sunday @ 8:00 am - Traditional

Sunday @ 10:30 am - Contemporary

“STRANGER IN THE MANGER”

Merry Christmas! Joyous New Year! And a blessed Epiphany!

As the Advent season comes to the end, we joyfully celebrate the gift of the Christ child born in Bethlehem as foretold by the prophets of old. God’s Word of hope and redemption was fulfilled in the “Immanuel” (God with us), the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth! Our Sunday School children presented this Good News of great joy in their Christmas pageant: “Stranger in the Manger”. For most of us, it’s a beloved and familiar account of the birth of Jesus, God’s promised Messiah. But it truly is a strange story of the birth of the Savior of all people. Think of it—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords was born of a humble virgin in a cattle stall! This long awaited Messiah was then laid in a feeding manger for a bed. Shepherds came to see Him after being told of His birth by a host of angels. Later, Magi from the East would come and worship Him. What a strange series of events around the birth of God’s Son!

A “Stranger in the Manger” from heaven above has come to redeem His people from their sin. This truth is stranger than fiction! The Word has become flesh and we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth! Stranger still, He has come to give His life as the ransom for the sins of you and I and all undeserving mankind!

Joy to the world for the “Stranger in the Manger!

~ *Pastor Dennis Krueger*





Cookie Walk Success

Thank you to our 28 bakers, our 50 shoppers, and our 8 volunteers who contributed to making this event a success. Also, thank you to Brian Makey and Thrivent for sponsoring the event. Along with funds collected and the Thrivent Action grant, we were able to donate \$250.00 worth of Aldi's gift cards and \$315.00 cash towards the free-will offerings that were collected in order to show support and appreciation to the church and school staff. God truly blessed this event through all of you!

Thank You Christmas Carolers!

We had 25 in attendance - both young and old - who shared their Christmas joy with many residents in nursing homes. It warmed our hearts to see the residents sing along with smiles on their faces. One gentleman was singing along in Polish. He said when he was younger he would sing the National Anthem in Polish. Thank you to Sarah Gabel for leading the little ones with the motions that went along with "Away in a Manger". This event brings joy to many who are alone during this Christmas season. Also thank you to Marilyn Kronthaler for making and donating Christmas card books for the residents at the nursing homes - they were very appreciative of your gift.



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!



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



Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Board located in the church's fellowship area. They're only \$25. Order forms can be obtained from the church office. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 5th.**



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.



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 Children's 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!

Property & Grounds

Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 9:00am

There will be a meeting on January 18 for the Property & Grounds Committee at 9am. A work day will immediately follow the meeting at approximately 10am.



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), click on the "Give Now" button at the top right of the page, and follow the instructions.

School News



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The staff at Trinity sincerely thank you for your generosity this Christmas season. Your kindness and thoughtfulness in providing a holiday gift was deeply appreciated!

Thank you, also, to all of the Prayer Partners for continuing to share the love of Christ with the students through your prayers and remembrances. We are thankful for your role model in their lives and for the opportunity to pray with them for YOU!

We were so pleased to be able to fill all of our Angel Tree bags in December. Thank you to those who organized this great project and allowed our students to be willing givers.

Lutheran Schools Week is fast approaching! We'll be kicking off the week with Opening Worship on Sunday, January 26th. The students will be singing for the worship service. It is also Taste of Trinity Sunday! Start checking those recipes now and plan on joining in for a "tasteful" experience. Our volunteers will be recognized that day with a sheet of free tickets - we love our helpers. We'll have an Open House for Preschool that week, date to be determined. If you have need of preschool for a three- or four-year-old in September, or would like to visit the classrooms and learn about the program, please plan on attending.

A Blessed New Year to you from your school staff! May God continue to pour out His blessings on His people here at Trinity.

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School



School Chocolate

The seventh graders are selling chocolate this week and through Valentine's Day to offset class trip expenses. There are two options available: One pound decorative bags of milk chocolate bark that contains a variety of nuts, pretzel bits and coconut are available for \$8 each, or 2 bags for \$15. Also, festively-sleeved boxes of 22 Landies Candies stuffed pretzels, assorted varieties in each box, sell for \$20/box. Please see any 7th grade student or stop in at the office to get yours now!



Taste of Trinity Sunday ~ January 26, 2020 Following the 10:30am Service At Trinity School

Please join us on January 26 in the school gym for the annual Taste of Trinity. The Taste starts following the 10:30am service. This event is a great way to kick off Lutheran Schools Week! Tickets will be available at the door for sample-sized portions of Trinity's favorite foods. All are welcome! If you would like to cook / bake one of your favorite dishes, a sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Contact Katie Willert (kwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com or 674-5353) with any questions.

Thank-You!

A special “thank-you” to the congregation for their generous response to an appeal for giving our church and school staff a Christmas appreciation gift. When asked, Trinity always responds with a big heart of generosity! This time was not exception. Thank-you to all the members who supported this wonderful gesture of gratitude and appreciation!



Trinity Celebrates the Start of Advent

About 60 people signed up and attended our Advent Celebration on December 3rd. It all started out with a free meal of pizza. The two advantages here is that no one had to cook, and the fellowship and interaction was wonderful.

This was followed by worship in the sanctuary, including music and God's word. The illustration used was the shadow of a lit candle and how the flame does not show up in the shadow! It says in the beginning of John, *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

The last part of the evening lead to lots of fun and interaction with friends, parents and grandparents in the gym with everyone filtering through and taking part in many fun centers which were Advent themed. Thank you to the volunteers (youth and adults) who helped, as well as Thrivent for sponsoring! Always a tradition that is anticipated and enjoyed.

“20/20 Vision”

By Pastor Dennis Krueger

Several significant projects are in the works for the new year, 2020. We've already met and started discussing a new, or renewed, Vision and Mission discovery process for Trinity Church and School. While no specific planning process or dates have been established, they are coming soon. Please continue to keep this strategic ministry planning process in your prayers. This is vital to the mission and ministry direction of Trinity Lutheran Church. Quite frankly, this is bigger than the summer Olympics and our nation's presidential election because people's eternal welfare is at stake!

The Board of Elders are also planning an every member visit of the congregation in 2020. A part of these visits will be listening to the members on matters of worship, ministry and mission. This is a big undertaking, so please keep our Elders in your prayers as well. You will receive a mailing regarding this soon in the new year.

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!

Free Money for Trinity!

By Mark Willert

Have I piqued your interest? **Are you a member of Thrivent? If so, then you have access to \$500 per year** to use toward things we do here at Trinity. They have these things called "**Action Grants**" which can be applied for (a simple process) to use to do events in ministry, fundraisers, outreach activities or many other opportunities. I use them to fund our annual Back to School Camp Out as well as the annual Advent Celebration. Each of the two grants is up to \$250 and that means we're saving \$500 per year from the annual budget! That money saved can go into other things like Haiti, the school, or other needs our church has.

If you'd like to make your funds available for use here at Trinity church or school, please contact myself 608-8907 or MWillert@ThinkTrinityChristian.com, or Brian Makey 714-9852 (our trusty Thrivent rep!). You can let us know if there's a new event you'd like to do or support (any dreams?) or if you'd like to see how your grants can support something we already do here at Trinity Church and School. We'll help you through the process. This is not a commercial or trying to sell something, but a serious way to access money already available to our congregation members that could be put to good use! Thrivent's motto through this is to *"Live Generously"*. Imagine how this money could help us in our goal of making more and better disciples.

Sing to Prisoners

Save the date for the evening of **Sat. March 28**. One of our members, Duane Gabel (husband of Sarah [Sirgey] Gabel) asks for folks to come out for an evening to sing a few songs for prisoners who are on a weekend-long "retreat" or program within the prison that focuses on God in their lives. Duane, who actually goes into the prison for the weekend with a group of other faithful men, tells of the deep impact the folks on the outside of the fence have on them as they sing the spiritual songs. It puts the prisoners in a sense of awe and comfort that people would actually care enough to do such a thing. More info to come!

YOUTH SCOOP



Jr. Youth Night

Last month we had a super fun time with the white elephant gift giving (see picture)! Our next Jr. High Gym Night is **Thursday, January 9 from 6:30pm-8:00pm**. Open gym time, organized games and a devotion relating God to our lives are all included!



Jr. High Video Game Night

The Jr. High will have a retro video game night on **Tuesday, January 21 from 6:00pm-8:00pm** at the Lafferty's house (85 Cranwood Drive, West Seneca). Plan to join us for this fun evening!



Jr. & Sr. High Sledding

There will be a sledding day in January for the Jr. & Sr. High youth. Since we need snow to do that, look for a last minute-ish email from us with the date and details!

Girls Small Group

The Girls Sr. High Small Group will be gathering on **Thursday, January 2 at 6:30pm** at the Willert house and cover chapter 3 of their book "Living Fearless". Last month was lots of fun decorating the ugly sweater cookies (see below picture).



LWML Items

Mission Service Workshop

Sunday, February 2, 2020

9:00am - 12:00pm

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

(44 Chapel Road, Kenmore, NY)

Mission Goal: To make surgical caps for Children's Hospital and encouraging greeting cards for each child receiving a cap.

Refreshments provided by Pilgrim's Esther Circle. Please bring a portable sewing machine if you have one. Also needed are 100% pre-washed cotton fabric (no flannel or glitter) with children's designs, 1/4" elastic, scissors and thread. Non-sewers are encouraged to attend and needed to cut fabric for caps, attach elastic to the caps, and make greeting cards. We can provide instructions to make caps on your own too! To RSVP or for more information, call Sharon McGuan (716) 803-3767.

Mites

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 Linda Meissner's church message box. Mites can be turned in at any time. Recently the Eastern District LWML has paid Grant number 5: food supplies for the Fort Wayne seminarians and their families. We are currently working on the last two Grants: Grant 6 - funding for the Lunchbox Summer Program in Hop Bottom; and Grant 7 - funding to purchase Bibles for distribution in Nepal and China. Grant 7 is "close to home" as this is a ministry of First Trinity Lutheran in Tonawanda.

Save and Recycle Used Electronics and Ink Cartridges

If you were gifted a new electronic device for Christmas and want to dispose of the old one, why not donate it to the LWML purple tote in the narthex. It will be wiped clean by the recycler and LWML will receive funds for mission grants on local, district and national levels. LWML also accepts empty brand name ink cartridges. Thank you!



Save those Cancelled First Class Stamps!

Throughout the holidays, many greetings were mailed. Please save the cancelled first class stamps from the envelopes. LWML uses these as a fund raiser to send bibles. Please leave 1/4" 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 Linda Meissner's church message box. Thank you.

Save the Dates:

Spring Rally: May 2, 2020 9:00am-2:00pm at St. Paul in Batavia, NY.

Fall LWML Retreat: September 18-20, 2020. The Buffalo Zone is the host zone this year.

With Deepest Thanks ...

Words cannot express the thankfulness to our Trinity Family for all the love, prayers, random acts kindness, and support that we have received in the past few months, during Larry's lengthy illness, and at his Celebration of Life service.

~ Peg, Matt, Andrew & Brooke Wypior

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of January, we will be collecting pancake mix and syrup. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you!

Cemetery News

Plots are available in Trinity's Cemetery. Members: \$700 per plot with a \$100 discount per plot when purchasing 2 or more at the same time. Non-members: \$1,400 per plot (no discounts given). Non-members must be relatives of a Trinity member.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the men and women who helped decorate the church to make it look so nice for the holiday season!

~ Mark Ganschow, Deacon

A Stephen Minister is . . .

A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting.

A congregation member with gifts for caregiving, and who is carefully selected to serve in this role.

A lay-person who receives 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care.

A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.

A gifted lay-person who is trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.



Someone who reaches out with God's love to people who are hurting.

Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need.

Stephen Ministry Multiplies Ministry

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crises. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Would **YOU** like to be a part of this exciting **CARE-GIVING** ministry?

If yes, please contact

Trinity's Stephen Leaders:
Don Meissner at 479-4862
Kevin Kot at 445-5923
Colleen Kot at 445-5922

Blessed With Bells II

By Mark Willert

One late morning on a warm August day, I stopped in to church and into the sanctuary to tend to some music related tasks. To my surprise I saw a variety of handbells laying out on the red velvet tables upfront with Mary Havens working away at them. Curious, I struck up a conversation with Mary for quite some time asking what she was doing with the bells and also her history behind it all. If you are like me, you have never wondered anything about what happens with the bells behind the scenes and what it takes to keep them shiny and working.

As it turns out, Mary is the main caretaker of Trinity's bells and, in short, keeps them in that wonderful luster of a mirror-like finish, performs repairs and also sends them in if deeper repair is needed. As you read what follows, I believe you will be as impressed as I was to find out her history, the path that God has led her on in life to be such a humble bellringer here at Trinity, as well as the quiet instrument of upkeep to maintain the gift we have in this highly coordinated chorus of heavenly sound. So much more goes into it than we see on a Sunday morning. Thank you, Mary, for your dedication, and allowing God to use you to bless us in worship.

“My home church for many years was Trinity Lutheran Church in Wellsville, NY. I was baptized, confirmed, and married there. After my Dad passed away we were no longer making weekend trips to Wellsville.

A few years later my church membership was transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in West Seneca on June 14, 1987. Attending services here was my first exposure to English hand bells. I had never rung a bell, but was captivated by them and wanted to ring. There were no openings in our bell choir then, but in September 1991 I got my wish to ring bells.

Ringling was enjoyable, but I wanted to know more about the bells. In June of 1997 I took some of our bells which needed repair to the Schulmerich Bell Factory located in Sellersville, PA. Joel and I had a personal tour of the factory with Phyllis Hentz while the bells were repaired. Phyllis convinced me to attend an August four day Schulmerich workshop in Allentown, PA. That was an eye opening experience. I learned so much and also became acquainted with the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, which I promptly joined. AGEHR conventions offered workshops on many bell related topics. The most valuable for me was maintenance and repair of bells; however, listening to a lecture and taking notes is very different from taking a bell apart and reassembling it yourself!

In July 1998 I attended the AGEHR convention in Stroudsburg, PA. I went to a lecture given by Millie Fischle and discovered she was from Buffalo and directed two bell choirs. This chance encounter with Millie opened the door to many bell ringing opportunities. I rang bells with her Jubilee Ringers and traveled with them on a one-week bell concert tour to Germany in April 1999 where we rang in small towns in the Black Forest area. What an experience it was to perform at Eisenach in the shadow of the Wartburg Castle where Luther was incarcerated. The concert ended with "Hymn to Joy" sung by a 36-voice German choir accompanied by our bell choir. *(Continued on page 9)*



Mary cleaning the bells

Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

1/2 Bill & Bryana Haas

Blessed With Bells II

(Continued from page 8)

I continued to ring with Jubilee and also joined Millie's 7-member group, Serendipity. We played at nursing homes, assisted living, Roswell Park, Hospice and private groups. At Christmas time we became the Dickens Ringers and dressed in period costumes. We performed twice at the Dickens Festival in Skaneateles, NY. The bell choirs I rang with no longer exist due to Millie's declining health. Fortunately, I can still ring bells at Trinity thanks to a wonderful bell director, Ellen, and our committed ringers who faithfully come to rehearsals. We have four octaves of bells but can utilize only about two and a half. How wonderful it would be to hear some additional bells. That won't happen without additional ringers."

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 director Ellen Makey at (716)961-8378 or esmky23@yahoo.com.



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

997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
 674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
 608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
 674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
 674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com