

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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 / C: 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

“THE ‘FIGURE’ BEHIND THE FIGURES”

Quite a few years ago, I attended a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) conference and was impressed by their theme: “The Figure Behind the Figures.” It beautifully describes their ministry. They are not all about figures, balance sheets and financial statements. Their mission was (is) about “The Figure,” Jesus and the Gospel. So I am borrowing their theme and using it in a different way to address some other kinds of figures – worship attendance numbers.

I am sure some of you made a formal or informal New Year’s resolution to attend church more often and regularly. Along with losing a few pounds and exercising more, it’s a pretty common resolution. It’s a very good one too! It is God pleasing and obedient to His will. The Third Commandment tells us: “Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.” We are to fear and love God by holding His Word sacred, gladly reading it, hearing it and learning it. This would include reading the Bible at home, attending some sort of Bible study and attending worship services. The figure behind all of this is God, of course. We honor, worship and obey Him when we gather together around His Holy Word.

Without diving into all kinds of figures and averages, our worship service and Bible Class attendance numbers are declining. Certainly the winter weather, colds and flu attacks, as well as sporting events have been a factor. But, the truth and reality is that attendance ‘figures’ are down somewhat. Saturday evening services are down about 30% from where they were for awhile. We see about 20 attendees. The Sunday 8am service is similar with about 20 people in attendance. The Sunday Praise Worship has been down a little and fluctuates in attendance from 110 to 160 or more. Three services for about 150 to 170 people doesn’t sound like “gladly hearing and learning God’s Word.” The Sunday and Mid-Week Bible classes have been down in numbers as well. We discontinued the Mid-Week Advent services and are considering the same for Lent this year. Last year we averaged about 17 people in our Mid-Week Lenten services. The question has also been discussed as to whether we really need three week-end services given the number who attend – or don’t attend.

So what’s the point? Call this a “wake-up call,” I suppose. It’s not about the declining figures so much as it is about the FIGURE behind the figures. Are we honoring God and His Word when we don’t attend worship and/or don’t attend a Bible Class? Are we building one another up as the “Body of Christ” (the church) when we refrain from gathering together? What does this *really* mean?

This past weekend we sang “Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs.” The lyrics invite us to join in praising God with “ten thousand thousand” angels around the throne of God. What a joyous thought to know that when we gather in worship or around God’s Holy Word, we do so with the heavenly host and the earthly faithful around the throne of the same Lord! Please pray about this concern. Let us gladly gather around the Word and Sacraments in worship and Bible study to honor our God and encourage one another as His church.

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



Ash Wednesday and Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 26th of this month of February. Special Worship Services will be held that day at **11:15 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.** The imposition of ashes will be offered to those desiring them as well as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Ash Wednesday is a very solemn day in the church year as one of contrition and repentance. It marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Please join with fellow Trinity members as once again we make our Lenten journey to the cross and the empty tomb.

Special Mid-Week Lenten Services will not be offered this year at Trinity. Instead members are invited to worship on Wednesdays at 9:25 A.M. with the Trinity school children for their Lenten Chapel services. Mid-Week Lenten evening services are being offered by the West Seneca Community of Churches on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. at various area churches. Trinity is hosting the second mid-week service on **March 11th at 7:00 P.M.** Pastor Krueger is preaching that night as well. A full schedule of the WSCC Mid-Week Lenten services will be posted on the bulletin board in the coat room and printed in the "Life at Trinity" bulletin insert. If you have any questions please ask Pastor Dennis Krueger.



Soup Kitchen

Please consider joining us for a Soup Kitchen Volunteer Opportunity at the St Vincent de Paul Kitchen located at 1298 Main Street. This event will take place on **Saturday, March 28 at 9:00am.** Please wear a baseball cap for this event and look for the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank you to all those who took an angel from our Angel Tree this past Christmas and purchased a gift for a youth at Renaissance House. Your support of this yearly project is greatly appreciated!



Offering Envelopes

Due to some issues with our current company, Trinity is switching the printing of our church envelopes to a new one beginning in February. The envelopes may look a little different, but we're trying to get them as similar to our current ones as possible. You should receive your February packet prior to Sunday, February 2. If not, please use the envelopes that are provided in the pews for that week. Beginning in March, we will be switching to a bi-monthly mailing instead of our currently monthly mailing system. This will save the church money on both printing and postage.

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 9, 2020

9:00am - 1:00pm

The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday Feb 9th from 9-1 in the School Gym. The blood drive is being held by Connect Life (formerly UNYTS). All donors will have a chance to win a Russel's gift card!!! Please make sure to sign up for a time slot. You can find the link on Trinity's website: <http://www.trinitywestseneca.com/>.



2019 Financial Statements

The 2019 member financial statements are ready. Statements have been placed in everyone's mailboxes. For those without mailboxes, please see the table in the narthex .

Volunteers Needed

Can you help out? Trinity is in need of a few volunteers to take over the following duties:

Weekly Bible Reading Coordinator: This will require putting together a schedule of readers for the Sunday 8am and 10:30am services from September thru June and notifying the readers in advance of their upcoming readings. The time commitment is a minute or two each week. Please contact Robin Makosy with any questions at 430-6468.

Weekly Greeter Coordinator: We will be in need of a new Greeter Coordinator beginning this Fall. This will require putting together a schedule of greeters for the Sunday 8am and 10:30am services from September thru June. Once a schedule is generated, you supply a copy to each greeter ... and your job is done! Please contact Don Meissner or the church office if you can help.

School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another Lutheran Schools Week is in the books! Our staff, as usual, went above and beyond to provide a week of fun and fellowship, sharing and learning, service and serving for our students and their families. We blessed our local neighborhood with gifts, heard from the SPCA on caring for animals and collected animal care items for Buffalo Paws and Claws, expressed our thanks to YOU with little gifts, and much more. Most importantly, every day our students heard and led lessons from the Bible about living as "JOY:FULL!" Christians - forgiving, serving, loving, giving, learning. Our Open House on Tuesday evening was a success, and enrollment is well underway for next year. Taste of Trinity was a success as well, and we are so appreciative of your participation! That event is a lot of extra work for Katie and her family, but she pulls it off flawlessly every year, much to the pleasure of our tongues and tummies! We are thankful for this opportunity to show our thanks, in a small way, for all of our volunteers too. The Lord surely blesses us! Please pray that He leads families to our school, to hear and live His Word every day.

Our fifth Annual Fund drive is about to begin! Do you realize that almost \$70,000 dollars has been raised over the last 4 years for capital improvements, student programs, furnishings/equipment and scholarship? We have been blessed this year with a \$10,000 matching opportunity! This year's goal is \$20,000, so please prayerfully consider if you are going to be a part of this year's drive. Every dollar directly affects the primary mission vehicle of our congregation, Trinity School.

If you can believe it, Easter chocolate sales have begun...?! Catalogs and order forms are in the narthex. This fundraiser provides a 50% profit to the school, and is the sole source of funding for publicity and PR. It tastes good too!

As we enter the Lenten season with reflection and introspection, may the peace of God and the overwhelming joy of our salvation be with you every day.

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School

Trinity School 1st Trimester Honor Roll 2019-20

Grade 3

High Honor Roll - Luka McCutcheon, Levi Haas
Honor Roll - Isabeau Strzelec, Hayden Sirgey,
Katelyn Barnas
Merit Roll - Elizabeth McFarland, Viola Nicholas

Grade 4

High Honor Roll - Abigail Lafferty, Jean-Marie
McFarland
Honor Roll - Gavin Daley, Luke Anderson

Grade 5

High Honor Roll - Lilly Ackley, Andrew Hunne-
shagen
Honor Roll - Olivia Strzelec, Peter Russo, Emma
Webster, Elizabeth Steffens



Grade 6

High Honor Roll - Anna Gerardi
Honor Roll - Isaac McFarland, Payton Riordan
Merit Roll - Nathan Barnas, Louis Canastraro

Grade 7

High Honor Roll - Emma Hope, Joanna Anderson,
Rebekah Lafferty, Lillie Parent
Honor Roll - Amelia Jones, Shawn Szrama, Annal-
ese Patsalides
Merit Roll - Jade Anderson

Grade 8

High Honor Roll - Denny Glinski, Elena Jones,
Noah McFarland
Honor Roll - Bethany Lafferty, Timothy Steffens,
Jonas Herdlein, Gigi Canastraro, Sophie Gould
Merit Roll - Andrew Bohosian

Congratulations! Keep up the hard work!

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



Recycle 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 Lin Rowsell's church message box. Thank you!

Health Care Ministry

February is **Love Your Heart Month** sponsored by the American Heart Association. It pays to make little changes in your life style to keep your heart healthy. First of all know your numbers: BP, cholesterol, heart rate, weight/BMI. Then add activity to your daily routine. If you have a sedentary job, make time to take a 15 minute walk twice a day. Try to get 30 minutes a day of moderate to active exercise into your day. Then, be sure you are getting plenty of fruits and vegetables in your diet. If veggies are not your favorite, try them in soups, shred them and add to meat loaf or meat balls. Try a new vegetable or fruit. Roasting winter or root vegetables brings out their natural sweetness. Have fresh or frozen fruit for dessert. Eat more fish and less red meat. Try a meatless meal/day once a week. Read labels to be sure you are avoiding high sodium, sweeteners and preservatives. When you cook your own food, you are able to control the amount of salt and add flavor with healthy herbs and spices. Also, avoid fried foods. Try air frying. Stay hydrated with plenty of water. And to facilitate your best efforts, get 7-9 hours of sleep each night to restore your mind and body. When you are not tired, you make better decisions, know when you are hungry vs. fatigued, and your immune system is better prepared to deal with whatever comes your way.

Now go out there and be healthy!



Are you experiencing a Winter in your life? Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with **Stephen Leaders**: Pastor Kreuger: 997-5666, Don Meissner: 479-4862, Kevin Kot: 445-5923, ColleenKot: 445-5922.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



Susan Brese Retirement Celebration

This February, Susan Brese (along with Tim Hartnett) is retiring after many years of faithful ministry in service of our Lord. First Trinity will be celebrating them at a Retirement Luncheon to be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 1:00pm at Classic V Banquet Hall (2425 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst). Since Sue was on staff as a teacher, organist and choir director here at Trinity for 34 years, our members are invited to attend the luncheon. The cost of the buffet luncheon is: \$20 per adult / \$12 children ages 4-10 (under 4 no cost). Reservations are due by February 1, 2020. Contact Marsha Peth at "mpeth@firsttrinity.com" / 835-2200 or mail your reservation and check to: Marsha Peth, Director of Care Ministries, First Trinity Lutheran Church, 1570 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150. Donations for Susan Brese and Tim Hartnett will be put toward commemorative gifts. Checks for the luncheon or gifts can be made out to "First Trinity Lutheran Church" with "Retirement Luncheon" or "Gift for Susan or Tim" in the memo line.

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. High Night:

Our next fun night in the gym will be **Thursday, February 6 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm**. Come out for a night of fun, fabulous games, making new friends, and as always a brief devotion time and how God fits in our lives. Always a great time!

Youth Help Day at Trinity:

Calling all Junior and Senior High youth and teens ... On **Saturday, February 29 from 9:00am - 12:00pm**, we will get together at the church to help our church leaders in fixing, cleaning, and doing whatever else we can get our hands into! Here's our chance to serve God and our church and school. :)

Teen Girls Small Group:

The next meeting for the Girls Small Group will be **Wednesday, February 5 from 7:00pm - 8:15pm** at the Willert's. We are continuing our journey through Live Fearless by Sadie Robertson and the topic this time will be

Parents of Young Children

For your convenience, Trinity has a nursery in the church basement which has audio and video feed of the service. There is a toddler play area, which is surrounded by two half-walls, and a separate infant room. Parents are welcome to use these areas during worship if needed.



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!

Sick & Shut-in

Shut-In Members



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!!!

Emergency Contacts

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.



Pew Attendance Books

When attending church services, please remember to sign the red attendance book located in the pew holders. Visitors are encouraged to also provide an address and/or email. Thank you!

February Meetings/Events at a Glance

Men in Ministry: Tuesday, 2/4 & 2/18 at 7pm

Assimilation Committee: Wednesday, 2/5 at 3:15pm

Girls Small Group: Wednesday, 2/5 at 7pm

Jr. High Nigh: Thursday, 2/6 at 6:30pm

Stephen Ministry: Thursday, 2/6 at 7pm

Blood Drive: Sunday, 2/9 at 9am-1pm

Ladies Bible Study Monday, 2/10 & 2/24 at 7pm

Elders Meeting: Thursday, 2/20 at 7pm

Executive Board Meeting: Monday, 2/24 at 7pm

Jr. & Sr. High Work Day: Saturday, 2/29 at 7am

A Love Story

~ By Pastor Dennis Krueger

As we settle into the New Year, it's appropriate to focus on how we demonstrate love, care, and concern to people around us, whether or not we know them. Here's a reminder in a story forwarded to me about some of the important things in life.

I arrived at the address and honked my taxi's horn. After waiting a few minutes, I honked again. Since this was going to be the last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away. But instead I put the cab in park and walked up to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened.

A small woman in her 90s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she asked. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. I replied, "It's nothing. I try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated." She replied, "Oh, you're such a good boy!"

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice facility."

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. She continued in a soft voice, "I don't have any family left. The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds.

She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow down in front of a particular building or corner, and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low small building, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I answered. "You have to make a living," she said. "There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent down and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

For the rest of that day I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

In reflection, I don't think I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said. But they will always remember how you made them feel.

That's the end of the story but the beginning of the motivation to respond in like fashion.



"I was in prison ... and you came to visit me." ~ Jesus

On the evening of **Saturday, March 28 at 6:10pm** we will gather at Trinity and head out to Holy Spirit Church, 2007 Haley Rd in North Collins for a brief 7pm worship and orientation. Then, we'll head to the Gowanda Correctional Facility and there stand outside the fence to sing to the prisoners who will step outside from being in a weekend-long Christian retreat.

Trinity member Duane Gabel is the push behind getting folks to step out as well as experience this. "We're introducing Jesus to some guys that really need Him", says Duane. It's something he's been a part of for years after being invited once by a local farmer.

One of Trinity's members called to rest this past year, Larry Wypior, felt the call to prison ministry as well through a similar event. One of Larry's wishes was that people would "pay it forward" in their lives. In other words, do something nice for someone so they in turn may change and do something nice for someone else.

When someone is at their lowest of lows, a gesture such as singing outside a prison fence can have a phenomenal affect. And isn't this where God shines and touches hearts? We leave the heart aspect up to God but He wants to use us to help communicate. They will hear with their ears, see with their eyes, and with pierced hearts feel the presence of a God that would rather die than be without them.

Duane, who will spend the entire weekend in the prison with them helping lead the retreat, feels that there is no way to communicate to folks the lasting impact this has on the inmates. He says it's something that can only be understood by experiencing it yourself. Step forward with us up to the fence and be used by God to make a difference. Put the TV and electronics aside for a few hours on this Saturday night and know that God will do what He's best at doing, changing hearts and saving lives eternally. Stand with us.

Religious Books Needed for Prisoners

Duane Gabel is looking for used or new religious books to take into the prison for prison ministry. Books can be placed in his mailbox at church or below the mailboxes in the box marked "prison ministry". As you can imagine, prisoners have a lot of time and God works in and through these donated books!



"Charitable Gift Planning" LCMS Foundation Gift Planning

The married couple were both faithful in participating in everything in their local congregation. Every time the lights were on, they were there. They were without children and by all appearance, very modest in the assets they had. In reality, this couple had been so careful about the stewardship of their gifts, by the time the Lord called them home, they had hundreds of thousands of dollars in their estate. Ninety five percent of it went to support ministry when their earthly life was complete. What a blessing to their home congregation and other ministries across the country.

We get so preoccupied with paying bills and facilitating family needs that we often overlook that the Lord is giving us opportunity throughout our earthly life to create and grow accumulation of assets that can be directed to ministry long after we are no longer here. Maybe that is the best kind of giving, when credit isn't the goal, but faithful support of Gospel sharing is.

Just as you have opened a saving account for vacations or Christmas, or a college fund for children's education, or a retirement account, have you ever considered creating a "fund" for the future support of ministry?

How would you do that? Maybe you set aside part of an inheritance you receive. Maybe you designate a percentage of your estate to the Lord's work. Maybe you consider endowing your weekly offering to the Lord, directing money from your estate to a personal endowment that will keep on supporting your favorite ministry just as if you were still here writing the check. There are many ways to respond. The appropriate plan is the one facilitated by the gifts the Lord has provided in your life. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think, pray and plan toward a gift the Lord has enabled from before the foundation of the world.

For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427 to learn how to structure your estate and financial gift plans to direct your passion to give.

TRINITY'S ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the Trinity Lutheran Church and School Endowment Fund can be made at anytime for praise and thanksgiving, or in memorial.

38th Biennial LWML Convention

June 12-14, 2020

Double Tree by Hilton, East Syracuse, NY

The theme is "Walk by Faith". Guest speaker is Linda Arnold; there are interest sessions, including Assembly of Leaders training, Women & Finance, a mite walk to support new mission grants. The mission project will be making crosses from recycled greeting and Christmas cards for prison ministry. All this as well as time to explore the sights and museums, zoo, and mall in the East Syracuse area. An ingathering of personal care items will be accepted to benefit an organization ministering to victims of abuse. If you are interested or want more details, see the Winter LWML Link or contact Linda Meissner. Registration deadline is May 10, 2020 and room reservation deadline is May 14.



Recycle Your E-Waste

LWML Fundraiser: There is an ongoing collection of brand name items, including inkjet and laser jet cartridges, digital cameras, ipads, ipods, hard drives, radar detectors, pagers, video games, laptop computers, cell phones, GPS devices, game consoles and video games. Printers and FAX machines are **NOT** accepted, nor land-line phones or TV remotes. **There is a purple tote in the back of church or just leave your box of used equipment next to the tote.** (The recycling company wipes all data from any device they receive. If it cannot be wiped clean, they destroy the item.) Questions?? Call Linda Meissner at 648-1281

MESSAGE TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PIONEER CAMP & RETREAT CENTER, INC.

With great regret, the Board of Directors of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc. wishes to advise the Board of Directors and the officers of the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the member churches of the Eastern District, and the general church membership that, as a result of the deteriorating financial condition at Camp Pioneer, it is unlikely that the camp will operate in 2021, and it is all but certain that the camp will run significantly reduced operations in 2020.

As many of you are aware, the financial condition of Camp Pioneer has been on a downward trajectory for several years. The factors causing this include increased costs of operations, in particular summer camp, and the inability to increase camp revenue to match such costs; decreasing camp attendance; increased employee expenditures due to minimum wage obligations; decreased giving to camp; inability to raise funds for necessary capital improvements resulting in needing to make such improvements from operating income; inability to amortize long term debt of the camp; and exhaustion of avenues of raising capital financing.

The board further regretfully advises that given the current precarious financial situation at Camp Pioneer, it is very possible that the board will have to consider a disposition of the camp property at the end of 2020 in order to pay its long term obligations. After payment of the camp's obligations, the net proceeds of sale would revert to the Eastern District.

The board further advises that it has accepted the resignation of Alex Knowles as Executive Director of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc., effective January 20, 2020. The board is grateful for Alex's devoted service, and that of his wife Sue and their children, to Camp Pioneer and to the people of the Eastern District and of western New York generally. Alex will continue to work with camp in a voluntary capacity for a period of time. Alex says, "Sue and I and our family cherish the opportunity that we have had to work in the outstanding Christian ministry that is Camp Pioneer. While we have determined that at this point in our lives new opportunities beckon, we are and always will be devoted to Camp Pioneer, and I will continue to support Camp Pioneer on a voluntary basis and assist the camp in moving forward."

The board has appointed Brian Sreniawski, currently the General Manager of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc., as Interim Executive Director, effective January 20, 2020. Brian has been in his current role of General Manager since June 2019, prior to which he spent fifteen months as a manager in the hospitality industry, four and half years as Youth Director at St. John's in Orchard Park, NY, and two years at Camp Pioneer as Summer Program Director. Brian has worked closely with Alex and is intimately familiar with all aspects of camp operations. The board is confident that Brian can steward the camp in these difficult times.

We understand you may have questions, some of which we may be able to answer. If you desire to speak to someone about the status of Camp Pioneer feel free to call Camp Pioneer at (716) 549-1420.

The Bells that Call

~ By Mark Willert

Recently over at church I bumped into Roger Meisner and asked what he was up to. He said, "Oh, I'm going up to take a look at the bells. The guys told me they've been working kind of hard."

I felt this was an amazing opportunity so I asked if I could follow him up as I'd never seen them and was curious as to what they look like. So up we went! Off to the side of the balcony in a little closet is a ladder that leads up to the bell tower. Climbing with Roger in the lead, I poked my head through the access hatch. I was in a room that was brightly lit, about 20 x 14 and had two different size bells perched on a wooden frame in the middle. I felt dwarfed by the entire apparatus that included the bells. It was all connected by a series of lines and pulleys that fed the 3 ropes down through the ceiling below.

I felt like a kid, curious about some big machine I heard that my father always used but I'd never seen. Letting Roger do the work he was there to do, I was curiously looking around and peered closer to see inscriptions on both bells, noting the manufacturer as well as the date made. On the larger bell there was a special inscription in German. All of which I'll share (need to brush up on my German) in the next few issues of our newsletter. I've also done a little searching on the history of our bells that I look forward to sharing.

But for now, check out the pictures and notice how small Roger looks compared to these bells. If you know Roger, ask him of a childhood memory related to the bells. ;) Also, look at the old clipping I found from a late 1800's news paper about the purpose of bells. Very interesting to read from history! Do you think our bells still ring for the same reasons?

Value of Church Bells.

Many of our feeble churches, now without a bell, would use every effort to procure one, did they fully appreciate its value as a *church help*. The church is nothing except it gather together the people within its walls; and no material agency effects this assemblage so much as a *bell* on the church. Its first ringing on Sunday morning announces to the people that service is surely set for that day. It stirs them up to make ready and be in season when the worship begins. It serves as a general invitation to all within hearing to come to the house of God. Each one feels himself solicited by its loud calls. The *stranger* who has just entered the place to settle, and the stranger stopping at the hotel, as well as the members of the church, count themselves welcomed by its cordial tones.

The bell also serves to awaken the consciences of some in whom the habit of church-going has become weak. To those who do not know the location of the church, it *declares the way*; to those who would forget the hour of service it *points the time*. It is, in fact, the general voice of mother church herself, to the world without, exhorting it to attend her courts.

There is many a country church whose *half-empty seats* are largely owing to the *want of a bell* to declare its existence and locality. There are many struggling congregations whose weakness and troubles would quickly disappear, if they would raise a bell to ring the mass of the people together. For want of such a proclamation, *the world often knows nothing either of the church's presence or its place*.

All the people in any town have an interest in owning a church bell. They need it for funerals and weddings, for days of rejoicing and for national celebrations. It may ring for a fire and prevent a conflagration. In short, a church bell is a possession and a treasure to the whole community in the midst of which it is placed.





Happy Birthday

2/1	Lynn Krueger	2/12	Loren Pletscher Tonia Minko	2/19	Janet Bullock Lisa Lafferty
2/2	Eric Osberg	2/13	Robert Moeller Alan Yox Sarah Makey Landon Heckman	2/20	Gertraud Warzecha Bok Yox Elena DeMoura
2/3	Lois Rodgers	2/14	Gay Nichols River Rowsell Morgan Ringle	2/22	Lori Lorigo
2/5	Luke Anderson	2/15	Gregory Kopra Jamie Makey	2/23	Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/6	Laurel Szeider	2/17	Nathan McClellan	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/7	Sue Brehm	2/18	Carolyn Flattery Lucas Eising	2/25	Olivia Wilkening
2/9	Florence Bogumil Zachary Powers			2/27	Geraldine Swart
2/10	Steve Meden Kris Heckman				
2/10	Chris Kwilas				
2/11	Heidi Kosicki				

Happy Anniversary

2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman
2/11	Richard & Helen Schultz	2/26	George & Linda Hodge
2/14	Michele & Edward Baun		



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.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Pastor	Rev. Dennis Krueger	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