

# TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

## APRIL 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: 977-5666  
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: [www.trinitywestseneca.com](http://www.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

## “COVERED - 03”

*"After three days I will rise again" (Matthew 27:63)*



Unprecedented! Life changing! Strange and surreal! Normalcy upended! These words are being used to describe the times and circumstances we are presently experiencing. People are seized in the grip of fear and hiding from the enemy, COVID-19, in their homes. All of a sudden death, or the threat of death, seems more real!

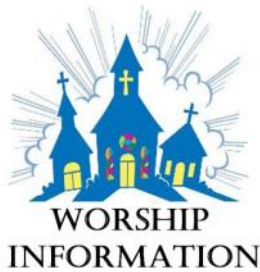
Death is real and has been since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. Now that was life changing! Jesus' mission of salvation took Him to the cross to die. The consequence of sin was and is death. But Jesus conquered sin and death when He suffered and died on the cross, was buried in the tomb, and arose three days later. Talk about surreal, upending and life changing! Temporal death is still very real but eternal death has been swallowed up in Jesus' victory! Christ has crushed the head of the serpent. We celebrate that unprecedented victory and life on Easter morning! Jesus died, was COVERED in the grave for three days, and burst forth from His three day quarantine! He arose and conquered death. He defeated the evil virus of sin. The normalcy of sin and death was upended so that all who believe and trust in Him will live forever!

Where were the disciples during these three days and on that first Easter? They were self-quarantined for fear of the Jewish leaders. They were hiding out of the fear of punishment and death. Many people are self-quarantining these days, as well they should, out of fear. Social distancing and sequestering at home are wise and prudent. Washing one's hands thoroughly and often is certainly necessary. But we need not hide away in fear. Through faith in the one who endured "COVERED-03", we have hope and victory over COVID-19 and even death. As we daily remember our baptism washing, we celebrate the hope of resurrection and life.

This Easter may be very different than what we have come to anticipate and enjoy. It may be a virtual and surreal celebration. But it will be life changing and very real. Ironically, it may be one of the most meaningful Easter celebrations ever as we focus on the empty tomb and our Lord's victory and life. In Him we have hope, victory and life! Stay corona courageous and Savior strong.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



**Due to the coronavirus outbreak, no worship services will be held in the church until further notice. However, we are streaming weekly services online. Visit our church website “trinitywestseneca.com” to access On-Line Worship.**

**Also visit our website to view a Mid-Week Video Visit from Pastor Krueger.**

### Cancellations

Due to safety measures for the Coronavirus, the following activities / events have been cancelled:

- In person church worship services until further notice. Services will be streamed on-line; access the link from our church website.
- Sunday School until further notice.
- Trinity School classes and activities until April 20.
- All Bible Studies until further notice.
- All meetings and events until further notice.
- Spaghetti Dinner & Auction on March 28.
- Prison Sing on March 28.
- Easter Egg Hunt scheduled at Trinity on April 5.

### Community Assistance

We unfortunately had to cancel our volunteer opportunity at the St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen scheduled for March 28. When we called the kitchen, they did say that their greatest need right now that the community could help with would be to donate water bottles and juice boxes. Andrew Eising will be coming by the school on Sunday to collect any donations that are made. If you are able, please drop donations off in front of the doors to the school. Mark Willert is also collecting cards for people in nursing homes and there is a bin in front of the school doors for this as well. Thank you for help during this difficult time for all of us. God Bless!

### Portals of Prayers & Resources

Portals of Prayer (April-June 2020) devotion booklets are available and can be picked up on Sunday mornings when the church is open for prayer. Booklets can be found on the table in the church narthex. Other resources to assist with getting through this difficult time can be found at the Witness Center in the narthex.

### Church Offerings

At this time, weekly offerings can be mailed to the church or you can give on-line. Thank you for your on-going support!

**On-Line Giving:** Simply 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.



### Trinity Garden Club

Trinity’s Garden Club is in need of volunteers on Tuesday evenings during the month of May from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. We will be cleaning up the church lawn and flower beds. Bring your own tools. No experience necessary!

### Property / Grounds / Cemetery

We are looking for help during the lawn mowing season. For details please contact Mark Blajszczak (997-0222) or Roger Meissner (655-4220)

### Altar Flowers

Effective March 22, 2020 when worship services began being cancelled, our weekly order for altar flowers has been cancelled. Once services resume, those who already paid for their flowers during the time when services were not conducted are welcome to choose a future available date to have flowers placed on the altar. We thank everyone for their flower donations each week which help to beautify our altar!

### 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.

## **Trinity School News**



### **From the Principal ...**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The quiet hallways and empty classrooms in our school building are not indicative of the energy and love that our students and families are receiving from the school as we minister and teach from a distance! The initial shock of the long term closing is transforming into the nuts and bolts reality of daily lessons, homework and especially encouragement as we continue to support Christian education here at Trinity.

The first thing on our first Monday morning as 'distance-learning' facilitators, your school staff safely gathered to establish rigorous guidelines of instruction and communication. Daily communication with all 3-8 students via a variety of digital platforms, and weekly (or more) communications with PK3-2nd grade students and parents have allowed us to provide meaningful and ongoing interaction and instruction. The efforts of the staff have been amazing, and it seems that we are receiving more feedback from families now than under normal circumstances! The teachers are thoroughly stepping up to this challenge, and as usual, exemplifying Christian love and concern for their students and families.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. While it seems that fear abounds, there is cause for celebration, too, amidst the chaos. The Annual Fund has reached its \$10,000 matching goal, praise the Lord! He richly blessed us through the gift of the match, and we thank and praise Him for the gifts He provided, through His people, to meet the goal. We will continue to gather funds as He allows, knowing that His faithful stewards here at Trinity will use those gifts to His glory and to grow His kingdom.

Each day provides us with another opportunity to thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness and to place ourselves in His loving care. May your faith be strengthened and our congregation and school be blessed through the trials of today to trust more wholly in His loving faithfulness to us every day.

~ Kathleen Fretthold  
Principal, Trinity Christian School

## **Trinity, the Hallmark Movie**

The Lord has blessed Trinity Church and School with an abundance of faith-filled, caring Christians. Our love for the Lord and each other is how the Lord has equipped us to handle this or any other crisis. Trinity's staff, leadership team, and families are working hard to focus on the spiritual and physical needs we are all facing during this Lenten season. We certainly don't have all the answers, but we are confident that the Lord will lead us through this. As we face this crisis together, there is no group of people I would rather face it with than our team here at Trinity.

A good friend of mine recently told me how this crisis has given her the opportunity to share God's love with others through kind words and actions. As Christians, this is an opportunity for all of us to show how we can be at peace in the midst of turmoil, and how we love and care for one another.

My family teases me when I watch Hallmark Christmas movies. The most common remark is, "how can you watch this when you know exactly how it will end". While watching the movie, you never worry about any seemingly unsurmountable problems because you know how it ends. It's just like that being a Christian. There will be a few different plot twists or crisis for each of us along the way, but we already know the "happy ending" that is in store for each of us.

~ Dave Sirgey



## Give Blood!

Trinity member Joan Sullivan (pictured) donated blood at Connect Life, located in the Southgate Plaza in West Seneca, on March 19, 2020. Cancellations of blood drives throughout the region and nationwide have led to critical shortage of blood locally. Blood collected at Connect Life stays local. If you can help support this much needed service, contact Connect Life (529-4270 / [www.connectlifegiveblood.org](http://www.connectlifegiveblood.org)) or the Red Cross (1-800-REDCROSS / [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com)).

## Religious Books

Thank you to all those who donated books to the prison ministry! The show of support was awesome. No more books are needed at this time. Thank you so much!

~ Duane Gabel



## Does the joy of Easter seem far away? Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside but full of pain on the inside, and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. 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: 479-4862, Kevin Kot: 445-5923, Colleen Kot: 445-5922.

## Assistance Available

- The FOOD PANTRY at Bread of Life Outreach Center WILL BE OPEN on Thursdays 3pm-6pm and Saturdays 9am-12noon.
- Any one who has been laid off or lost a job because of the COVID 19 crisis, IS ELIGIBLE for Food Pantry assistance. Just come in and sign up!
- The monthly MOBILE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE at BOLO on Thurs. March 26 from 2:30pm-4:30pm and is open to all!
- Gabriel's Closet will remain CLOSED until further notice.

Bread of Life will continue to do extra cleaning and promote social distancing to keep everyone healthy and safe!



## Jigsaw Puzzles

Would jigsaw puzzles help break your boredom? If so, please contact Nancy Hope (674-8544 or 426-9342). She has MANY "clean" puzzles she would be willing to lend to people.

## 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 May 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Easter Plants

Due to services be cancelled at this time, we will not be selling Easter plants this year.



The LWML Spring Event on May 4 has been cancelled as has the District Convention in June. More news to come as to how LWML business will be conducted. At present there are meetings and communication via Zoom, the internet and phone. Delegates will be chosen and election of officers as voting on mission projects and other issues. Installation of officers will be held at Camp Pioneer, during the Retreat, which is still scheduled for September 18-20, 2020.

## **Coronavirus / COVID-19. Nothing.**

*~ Source unknown*

Nothing on grocery store shelves, especially in toilet tissue and hand sanitizer departments.

Nothing going on in schools. They're closed for at least the next two weeks.

Nothing happening in churches. Gatherings of 10 people or more are discouraged. Crowds of 50 or more are outlawed. Public worship services have been shut down. Live streaming is in.

Nothing in the offering plate? Maybe not nothing. Just not enough. Now's the time to start electronic giving. Try it. You'll like it.

Nothing on TV really worth watching. At least for sports enthusiasts. Sports events cancelled.

Nothing to hope for as high school and college athletes look forward to being recruited or hired. Won't have the exposure needed to get recruiters' attention.

Nothing to look forward to as a senior in high school or college. Commencements probably won't take place. At least not on time.

Nothing to alleviate the sadness of brides and grooms whose weddings have been in the planning stages for months if not years. Private ceremony? Honeymoon postponed? What to do with the cake? And the flowers? And the tuxedos? And the mothers' dresses?

Nothing to take the place of spoiled vacations. Cruises. Flights. All cancelled.

Nothing going on in thousands of businesses shut down for the foreseeable future.

Nothing in the bank account. Businesses closed. Employees laid off. No paycheck.

Nothing.

Oops. Almost nothing: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:35, 37-39)

Nothing. But hope and confidence in Christ!

### **Stephen Minister Chat?**

*By Pastor Krueger*

A family-systems mentor once shared, "Depression stems from suffering from a loss, or anger turned inwards." In this virus time, loss and anger abound, with depression nipping at our collective heels.

When emotional pain is suppressed, it takes control of the emotional dashboard, steering the psyche into a dark hole that feeds on lack of interaction and movement. An inward-looking posture becomes self-fulfilling paralysis.

This is not saying mourning is wrong or unhealthy. Quite the opposite. Mourning will happen regardless of what we do. Jesus mourned repeatedly, both over the loss of his dear friend Lazarus and over the loss of his relationship with his Father.

But mourning should be relational. It is best experienced collectively, in the presence of those who love you and accept you in a spirit of grace, not judgment.

Mourning and moving belong together like complimentary lovers who bring strength to the other's weakness.

What have you lost that you need to mourn? What will the future look like once COVID-19 is a period of history we retell but no longer indwell?

Who would welcome a conversation about this? Call Pastor Krueger or the church office to arrange a conversation with one of our Stephen Ministers.



## **COVID-19 AND FIVE GUIDE POINTS FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT, LCMS**

**By LCMS President Chris Wicher**

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

*John 14:27*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,*

*with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

*Philippians 4:6*

*“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”*

*Luke 12:32*

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way*

*and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”*

*Psalms 46:1-3*

Lately, we are living in what I would describe as surreal times. If your world has been like mine, your life has been turned around, your routine shuffled, and normalcy upended because of a tiny evil virus. It is normal to feel threatened, even though our faith calls for trust in God who truly is our constant and salvation in Christ Jesus.

Frankly, what we are experiencing is not new to the church. Through the ages, the church has survived through difficult times similar to what we are going through. So I have every confidence God's strength will again hold true for our present state of community health crisis. He who is for us is greater than the evil that is against us. It is just a matter of time before this crisis will pass. God in Christ has already won the victory for us which holds true for the body as well as for the soul.

While this present evil virus, named Covid-19, could easily infect anyone, and we rightly ought to take necessary and reasonable protective health precautions, yet our faith calls on us to trust God and utilize our God-given intellect. Faith and science, and add to that government and the medical community, are God-given. Our governing officials and health care providers are responding to this crisis as is their ordained duty. It is God's way of caring for our bodies. We are citizens of heaven and citizens of earth and God, in His wisdom and mercy, has ordained our community officials for our good health. It is well that we heed their direction and advise through this health crisis because, indeed, they are not out to destroy the church and our faith.

Covid-19 is real and it is evil. In its aggressive ways it does what it does to destroy life and inflict pain and misery. We know the virus is transmitted chiefly through human contact, and so the decisions our congregations and church workers make must respect this clear fact of physical life. I've said it before and I'll say it again, God speaks clearly through Word and Sacrament. God also speaks to us through government, science, and health officials. And so I would strongly advise everyone, during these extra-ordinary times, to avoid any unnecessary contact or worship or gatherings of more than ten individuals in the name of the church for a time, a decision that can be revisited periodically by each faith-community in the Eastern District.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## COVID-19 AND FIVE GUIDE POINTS FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT, LCMS

*(Continued from page 6)*

Along these lines, I have had numerous questions come my way from church workers attempting to be of best service to their people, while not subjecting anyone to potential infection by Covid-19. Above anything else, this is the basis of everything I have said; the health of our workers and those they serve is to be protected. We cannot put ourselves or others in harm's way.

Consider the following five points as "guidance", even as my "directive", for this time of community health-crisis:

*"Teach us to thank You, Lord,  
For love and grace.  
For life and vision  
For a purpose clear.  
For Christ Your Son,  
And for each human face  
That shows Your message  
Ever new and near."*

*LSB 788 stanza 2*

These are strange times we're living in. But, I'm pleased to see, our congregations and church workers are making appropriate adaptations. I've witnessed many creative changes to ordinary events and services. We have assembled a listing of worship services that can be viewed online and another listing of special ministry services that are being offered by our Eastern District congregations. They also are on the Eastern District web site, [www.LCMSED.org](http://www.LCMSED.org). Your Eastern District staff will make every effort to keep these listings up to date and for as long as the need presents itself. These lists were emailed last week. Add to these the incredible number of offerings that are out there on the internet and you have one amazing variety to choose from.

If you have any questions, are in need of assistance, or need an encouragement boost, please feel free to give me a call. I'm here for you in my thoughts, prayers, and by voice or ZOOM.

God be with you and, as much as it relies on you, keep yourself healthy.

Blessings,

President Chris Wicher

## Trinity Cemetery News . . .

ANY burials or spreading of ashes in Trinity's Cemetery are prohibited without pre-approval from the Cemetery Board. Both state and cemetery regulations need to be adhered to.

Burial plots are still available in our 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 in order to purchase plots.



## **“How Much Is Too Much Control?”**

### **LCMS Foundation Gift Planning**

The LCMS Foundation encourages God’s people to respond to the presence of God’s gifts in one’s estate by putting together a gift plan that looks to bless the family we love and the ministries that are close to our hearts. *Without planning, such desires are only wishes and may not happen unless they are spelled out in wills/trusts or detailed in beneficiary designations for investments, IRA’s, insurance contracts or even one’s house.*

The two most important questions you want to answer are:

1. How do I want this gift (inheritance) to bless family members? Starting from that goal, you can construct a plan of blessing.
2. How do I want this gift (bequest) to bless the ministry or ministries I care about? You might think of placing restrictions on how those gifts will be used.

There is a fine line between Godly planning and trying to become God ourselves. We don’t want family to waste God’s gifts. We want to make sure that future needs of family are addressed. We want to make sure that gifts to ministry will do more than purchase new bushes for the parking lot. But how do I know when I am getting too restrictive about the gifts I am planning, either withholding family gifts well into the future that could really jump-start an education or career today, or planning gifts for ministry that reflect values that are not widely held by others in that ministry, potentially orphaning my gifts with too many restrictions?

There is no easy answer to these questions. The process begins and ends with prayer, with prayer throughout, as we seek God’s will. In a perfect world, a family inheritance will include discussion with children, grandchildren or other heirs. Planned ministry gifts will include discussion with ministry leaders to gain a clear vision for future ministry plans. Connecting gifts with those plans will maximize their effectiveness.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be helpful with all of this, asking you the right questions in your quest to put together the right plan for family and ministry. Most of all, we desire this process to recognize throughout that all of these gifts are the Lord’s gifts. Our questions center around the theme: “How can these gifts of the Lord bless others in the best way?” For help with this journey in faith, contact *Robert Wirth*, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ [robert.wirth@lfnd.org](mailto:robert.wirth@lfnd.org) or 716-863-4427.

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



### *Happy Birthday*

4/1	Sarah Makosy	4/16	Gigi LoGalbo	4/24	Jennifer Canazzi
4/5	Robert Boldt	4/17	Robbin Blajszczak	4/25	Lori Strong
	Mary Havens	4/18	Marcia Nickerson		Bryana Haas
4/7	Carol McMenamin		Tim Monahan	4/26	Jean Newton
	Kris Zawadzki	4/19	Heidi Cosandier	4/27	Kathy Stephen
4/9	Robert Cislo		Bethany Lafferty		Brendon Ganschow
	Stacy Conti		Austin Smith	4/28	Justin Cornell
4/10	Betty-Jo Smith	4/21	Scot Zawadzki		Corbin Stefanik
4/11	Brody Zawadzki	4/22	Mark Rodgers	4/29	Anne Gurney
4/12	Linda Hope		Lisa Berton		Sandra Lelito
4/13	Don Rieman		Steven Wrobel		Kelcy Strong
4/13	Colleen Kot	4/23	Piper Farrell	4/30	Natalie Ecker

### *Happy Anniversary*

4/3	Sheri & Christopher Courteau	4/17	Carol & Francis McMenamin
4/5	Greg & Tara Thompson		Lindsay & Jordan Iannuzzelli
	Duane & Sarah Gabel	4/20	Gerald & Linda Meissner
4/12	Charles & Nancy Stevens		James & Ryan Rowsell
4/15	Steve & Robin Makosy	4/23	Robert & Anna Eising
		4/24	Trevor & Courtney Jelowski

## Church "Funnies"



## Prayer for the Times

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of the older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour either. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven.... I just love biscuits!"

The deacon didn't stop there. "Lord," he said, help us realize when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

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

#### Position

Pastor  
School Principal  
Youth & Family Coordinator  
Church Office Administrator  
School Office Administrator

#### Name

Rev. Dennis Krueger  
Kathleen Fretthold  
Mark Willert  
Teresa Lynch  
Judeen Babcock

#### Contact Information

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