

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MAY 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



REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES

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

“CORONA - Crown or Pearly Circle of Light?”

Say the word “corona” these days and it is about as negative as it gets. That’s no great surprise, I’m sure. I’ve heard the coronavirus called the evil murderous enemy. Given all that the world has endured for the past three months or more, the mounting number of deaths and devastated economies, that’s quite understandable. Yet, can we possibly see this corona pandemic in a positive light, a perspective-lifter? The actual word “corona” means a crown or a circle light such as that around the sun and moon.

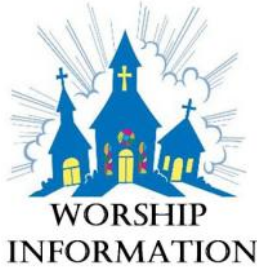
Perhaps this tragic worldwide pandemic is a wake up call, all be it at a devastating cost, awakening us to reframe and reform our priorities. When one encounters a problem with no immediate solution, their response to the situation may take them up or drag them down. You can lash out at the difficulty and disruption, resenting it and feeling sorry for yourself. Or, the problem can be a ladder enabling one to climb up and see life from a much different, and dare I say, more positive perspective. Viewed from a faith based long-term vantage point, the obstacle (corona pandemic) that frustrated you is merely a momentary trial. Once your perspective has been lifted up, you can look away from the problem and not focus on yourself so much. Rather than be shrouded in fear and worry, you can turn to the Lord and see the light of His presence shining upon you. In Him the sin barbed crown of thorns becomes a corona of light, hope and life.

~ ~ ~

“We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

~ Pastor Dennis J. 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 mid-week video visits from Pastor Krueger, weekly Children’s Church, and weekly Chapel services.

Ladies Bible Study

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 8 at 7:00pm. Due to the mandatory closure and then Memorial Day weekend, we do not plan to meet in May.



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).

Help Needed

Outreach is looking for a volunteer interested in helping with building a small item out of wood. If you are interested, please contact Joan Kopra for more details at 681-6334.



Mother’s Day Service

May 10, 2020

10:30am

We will be holding another “drive-in style” worship service on Mother’s Day (May 10) at 10:30am at Trinity. It will be held outside. People are invited to come and sit in their cars while the service is transmitted to your radio (just like at the drive-in!). We hope you can join us!

REOPENING THE CHURCH & SCHOOL

At some point we will be reopening the church and the school for worship and instruction. When? No one really knows and we have not been informed on when, what phase etc. When we do, remember...

NOT EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE ~ NOT EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME

We will all have to remain faithful, patient and safe. The Executive Board and the school staff have already begun discussing a checklist on how to return to gathering for worship, activities and school. We will need the help of many members sometime soon to thoroughly clean the church and school, as well as cleaning in between services. Now is not the time to speculate on “how” we will reopen and what we will do, just yet.

As most of you know, we have been offering online worship services, children’s church and school chapel services. Our teaching staff have been conducting online instruction with their students. We have been emailing weekly bulletins that correspond to that week’s worship service. On Easter Sunday we gathered for a drive-in style worship service that was well attended by members and neighbors around the church. We will also offer another drive-in worship on Mother’s Day, May 10th at 10:30am. Again, everyone is urged to stay in your car and wear a mask if you need to roll down your window or get out.

God bless you and be with you. Stay home! Stay safe! Keep in touch with one another online or by phone. Watch and pray – Wash and stay safe!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Trinity School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Trinity Family,

The educational challenges continue, along with all of the other new challenges we are handling daily. I pray that you are safe and strong, and that you are fully trusting that the Lord provides you with all you need to thrive as His child at this time.

Teaching continues at the school in all grade levels. Academics are moving forward, but texts, Zooms, Youtubes, etc. are providing the more important emotional support and social interaction that the children need right now. As adults, we (try to) understand the importance of our new normal in the light of our medical 'knowledge'. For our children, the support and reassurances of family, teachers, friends is a constant in an unsettling and different world. This is a unique opportunity, though, for parents and families to experience interactions that would not have possible otherwise! Personally, seeing all of the families out riding bicycles or walking together, creating artwork on driveways and doing science investigations in gardens or at the water's edge and more is exciting! Are family relationships being built and strengthened by our forced isolation? What a blessing!

We see countless examples of God's hand sharing joy, love and generosity at this time. We are blessed, at the school, to have the opportunity to reach out to our families on a daily basis. The children and parents are seeing and hearing not only math and ELA, but also, and most importantly, about God's love and faithfulness, His forgiveness and mercy, and the sacrifice of His Son for our sake. As of this writing, we don't know yet if school will resume this spring. I'm doubtful of it. But what we DO know is that our students will celebrate their graduations, one way or another, the children's accomplishments and victories throughout the school year will be acknowledged, and that through it all, God is glorified!

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal

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.

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 for this period will be accepted **until May 10th**.

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. ⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—
from Mount Mizar.”

Psalm 42:5-6

Easter “Drive-In” Service Success!

Trinity’s “Drive-In” Easter Service was wonderful! Almost 60 cars attended and some neighbors even sat in lawn chairs on their grass to worship with us. Flyers were distributed to neighborhoods around the church advertising the service and we were glad that some were able to attend. The Easter Bunny made an appearance after the service and families were presented with Easter lilies to take home. We also donated loose “plate” offerings totaling \$320 to the West Seneca Food Pantry to help those in need during this difficult time.



Here are some comments from our members:

“My family enjoyed the Easter service. It did bring out strong emotions, but it also gave a sense of unity. It made us feel we are not alone in this and that we could still somewhat socialize without the scare of possibly getting the virus. My family feels that we strongly need the reminder that Jesus and God are with us now more than ever and we do have our fellow disciples to help us all get through this. It also helps with the cabin fever feeling we are all getting. I hope we can continue having Sunday service in this manner while we all get through this unprecedented time. Thank You!”

“I totally enjoyed the opportunity to be together for worship although we were apart. I appreciate the efforts put forth by the musicians, ushers and deacons and all involved to make the service happen. To have even a small sense of normalcy during this abnormal time makes a difference in all aspects of daily living. I personally really like having that weekly ”recharge” and compass adjustment even more so now. I enjoy the weekly services online. It’s a reminder that the church isn’t the building.”

“We enjoyed the Drive in Easter service and sermon. It certainly will be one we won't forget including honking the horns in response to Christ has Risen. Although we had to social distance from our cars it was good to be able to get out of the house and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We want to thank everyone that helped set up and prepare the service and the Choir. Also thanks to Bob and Anna for the Easter lily plant.”

“The church service on Easter Sunday was excellent! It was all set up very nice. Unfortunately it wasn't done in church because of the circumstances, but other than that I felt the blessings. It was so nice to see so many people in cars there and Pastor Kruger did a excellent job. I could just feel the Holy Spirit going through Pastor Krueger to share the Easter blessings to all. It was wonderful! God bless you and hopefully we can do this again.”

“I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful Easter Sunday services. I also truly appreciate the weekly internet services as well. They provide me with a great deal of comfort during these trying times. Keep up the great work!”

“I LOVED being at church for Easter for the Drive in! I REALLY miss hugging people and MISS our Sunday School kids so much! But I'm glad we can connect virtually and over the phone, or even a little text! We can also be the church during this time; we can get outside and spend time with Jesus ANYWHERE WE GO and even when we are at home too because Jesus is with us EVERYWHERE we go!”

“Thanks so much to all involved in making the Easter "Drive-In" service a joyous and meaningful event. We are so blessed at Trinity to have faithful people who are so willing to use the gifts they have been given in service to God and to the members of the congregation. May God bless you and keep you in His steadfast love, now and always. He is Risen ... He is Risen, indeed!”

“Thanks to all involved for putting the service together. It made it seem a little more like Easter. Very much appreciated!”



Trinity's Stephen Ministers and leaders hope and pray that you, your loved ones, and the people you care for are healthy and safe. We know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone—raising the level of fear, stress, and anxiety for people all over the world and underscoring the importance of caring. If you are feeling stressed and/or anxious, we are here to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, and needs someone to talk to, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders: Pastor Krueger (997-5666), Don Meissner (479-4862), Kevin Kot (445-5923) or Colleen Kot (445-5922). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.

VBS 2020 Cancelled

We are sad to announcement that, due to our current circumstances, Trinity will not be holding Vacation Bible School this summer. We plan to resume VBS in 2021.



Attention All Leaders

If your ministry, team, board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting in July 2020 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Dave Sirgey **by May 31**. Call or email the church office (674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net) to request a form.



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.



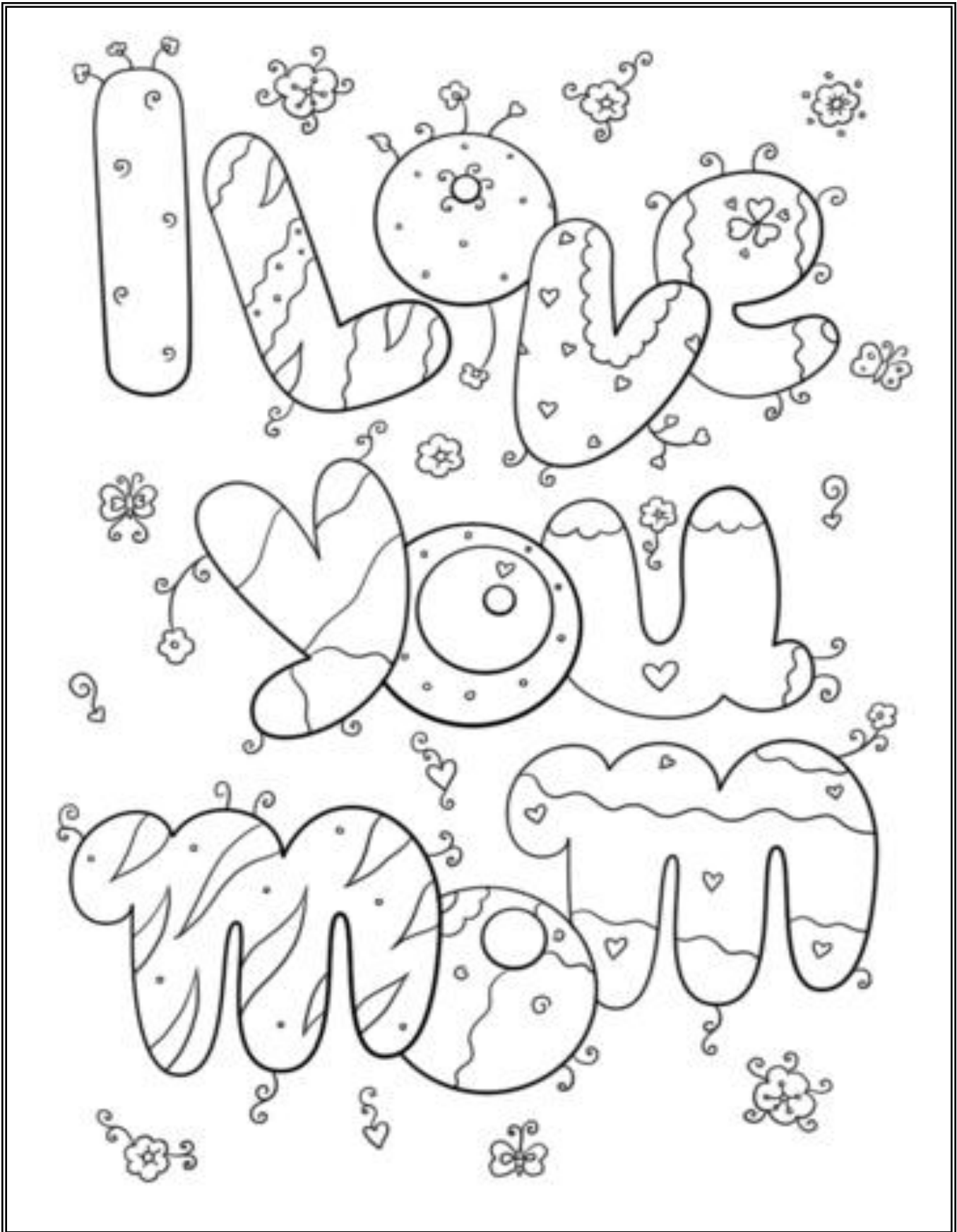
Lydia had been a lifelong member of her Church. You know her. She was the one who helped with every service project. During the hymns, she was singing loudly. When friends were struggling, she was at their house with food to ease their burdens. She was even known to whistle her favorite spiritual songs at times. One day, someone asked her, *"How can you be so happy all the time?"* Lydia answered, *"I'm not. I just know Jesus loves me."*

That was Lydia's story. What is your story? Certainly, there have been times that you have been dropped to your knees by the force of challenge. But other times, you have had the greatest day of your life. There have also been many days in-between. Yet from the day of your baptism, there has been one common thread. You know that Jesus loves you! That is your story. When the Lord's call removes us from the living out of these days, we long to have people know what we have known. We want them to know the love of Jesus too.

That's why we do our planning. We write a Christian testimony to place in our wills or use as a family blessing to leave behind. We order the distribution of our earthly gifts through a will or trust. We organize everything around the theme, *"I want everyone to feel loved by what God has done through my life. I want them to know Jesus."*

Life now seems to defy organization. Just about the time we put our plans in place, life changes and our plans need to be updated as well. Is it time for that review for you? Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfind.org or 716-863-4427 for more information.

Kid's Coloring Page



Happy Birthday

5/1	Esther Schuster Julie Blamowski	5/15	Katie Willert	5/21	David Brown
5/2	Amanda Kern	5/16	Peggy Wypior Chris McLaughlin Rebekah Lafferty	5/22	Stephen Hope
5/6	Vince Canazzi Rachel Colson Grace Willert	5/17	David Kosicki Renaë Makey Jackson Ecker	5/23	Ingrid Hamann
5/10	Bradley Ganschow James Conti	5/18	Linda Meissner	5/25	Rev. Ron Habedank
5/11	Victoria Hock	5/19	Joshua Ecker Nathan Ecker Matthew Lafferty	5/26	Christopher Kopra Sarah McLaughlin Joseph Thompson
5/14	Helen Beckedorf Shirley Lorigo Laurel McClellan Axl Farrell	5/20	Cynthia Carlson Ken Klopfer	5/27	Carl Lehsten Justine Monahan
				5/28	Michael Canazzi
				5/30	Neil Halvorsen

Happy Anniversary

5/1	Peter & Bisty Colson	5/11	Geraldine & William Swart	5/28	Roger & Denise Meissner
5/5	David & Laura Broderdorf	5/14	Dave & Jane Sirgey	5/30	Joshua & Sarah Makey
5/9	Marcia & Daniel Nickerson	5/17	Dick & Gigi LoGalbo	5/31	Lisa & Matt Lopez
5/10	Robert & Joan Kopra	5/23	James & Lisa Manzo		

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery. The cost is:

- Members - \$700 per plot with a \$100 discount per plot when purchasing 2 or more at the same time
- Non-members - \$1,400 per plot (no discounts given). Non-members must be relatives of a Trinity member to purchase plots in our Cemetery

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.

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5-6



Called To Their Heavenly Rest:

Ruth Walczak on February 29, 2020

Fred Preston on April 10, 2020

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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