

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JULY 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

Sundays @ 9:30 am - "Drive-In" Style

Also online on the church website

"From Buildings to Online; From Sunday to Monday!"

Without a doubt, the last three months or more have challenged all of us to accept and adapt to a new normal! As we phase back to the so-called "old normal", how will we view these past one hundred days or so?

Certainly, for many, it has been a time of separation, loneliness and pain. For almost all of us, it has been a time of challenge, change and even crisis. For churches, it has been a time of a dramatic shift from worship in the building to on-line. Some churches have recklessly defied and resisted this change and continued to hold services in the church sanctuary. Most have sought out other options like services live-streamed or recorded and broadcast on the internet. Some have explored drive-in services and outdoor worship venues. Trinity has been offering both and will continue to do so through July.

When will Trinity move back inside the church building and back to "normal"? When it is safe — and we are prepared to safely do so. When we do, it won't be quite like the old normal. Various precautions will have to be taken like: limiting how many can worship at one time; the seating requirements (or social distancing); the wearing of masks; taking of temperatures; etc... For awhile at least, that will be the new normal. A couple of members have mentioned to me that some of our neighboring LCMS churches have already moved back into the church. That's true, they have. But they are taking necessary precautions like wearing a mask and not singing in order to do so. Trinity has been blessed with an ideal parking lot configuration to accommodate outdoor drive-in services which are much safer. Peculiar? Certainly! We look forward to moving inside the church as soon as possible — but safely.

In the mean time, I believe there is much to learn from this COVID-19 pandemic. For a very long time the church has become focused on the Sunday (weekly) worship services in the church (indoor or outdoor). We invest much of the resources of the church into offering these worship services. But the temporary loss of our ability to use our buildings has highlighted an often-forgotten truth: the church is the people of God, whether scattered or gathered. The church is not defined by our weekend worship services. Without a doubt, our gathering together around Word and Sacraments is a powerful blessing and God pleasing! Yet, the church is at its best when it is not so focused on Sunday, but on Monday! The mission of the church is not inside the building but on the front lines of the community, neighborhoods and internet. Perhaps God has used this catastrophic corona crisis to open our eyes to this true calling of His church. Maybe it's time to adjust our vision, realign our priorities and reallocate our resources. The church door will be open soon to come in — but it's always open to go out!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger



July Worship Services

Sundays at 9:30am ~ "Drive-In" Style

Churches are slowly reopening but with many modifications and changes. For the safety of our members and guests, Trinity has decided to continue with our online service and our Sunday morning 'Drive-In' worship service through the month of July. We are going to be adjusting it somewhat though. If worshippers would prefer to sit in a lawn chair outside, either by their vehicle or up front they can do so. Outside speakers will be added for additional sound besides just the car radio. We are also exploring the use of live music accompaniment like we would normally have in our regular summer outside services. Quite a few of our members have not yet tried the 'Drive-In' service. It's not like being together in the sanctuary for worship, but most have said it's better than sitting at home and watching it on a television or monitor. I would encourage members to at least try it before avoiding it all together.

** FYI - the reason we decided not to offer the summer Saturday night outside service is that we are not ready to come into the church in the event of rain. As we prepare to worship inside the church in August (maybe?), September (maybe?)... that still needs to be determined, we are needing to purchase sanitizing stations, face masks, and thermometers. Worship inside of the church will not be quite back to normal for awhile.

It Looks Beautiful!



Thank you to all those who participated in our Garden Club! We appreciate your green thumbs to help in making Trinity look so nice!

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.

Emergency Need

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 Church Picnic & Worship At Camp Pioneer Sunday, August 23, 2020

Mark your calendars! While it is not confirmed yet we are hoping to have a Trinity Church Picnic on Sunday, August 23rd at Camp Pioneer. We would plan to have worship that morning in the Chapel in the Woods followed by the picnic. Permission and details are pending, but hopefully this can be worked out. As many of you know Pioneer is closing after Labor Day week-end and likely being sold. So this may be one of the last, if not THE last, opportunity to worship and enjoy Pioneer Camp and Retreat center.



Altar Flowers

We will be placing flowers on our outdoor altar in July for Sunday 9:30am "drive-in" services. The church office will contact those individuals who had already signed up for July to confirm if they still wish to donate the flowers. At this time, flowers are still needed for July 12. If anyone would like to sign up for this date (\$10 each), please contact the church office (674-9188 / Email: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net). Arrangements may be taken home following the service if you wish.

Altar Candles

We are still in need of altar candle donations for July and August. The cost of candles is \$25 per month. If anyone would like to sign up to donate them for either of those months, please contact the church office (674-9188 / Email: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net). Thank you!



Portals of Prayer

July - Sept 2020 devotion booklets are now available. Booklets can be picked up from the marked container located right outside the church doors. Stop by at your leisure to pick one up!



In Memoriam

Helen Beckedorf was called to her heavenly rest on June 20, 2020. Visitation will be held at Amigone Funeral Home (6170 W. Quaker Road, Orchard Park) on Tuesday, June 30 from 4pm-8pm. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, July 1 at 10am. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Trinity School News



School Valedictorian Speech - Dennis Glinski

Greetings graduating class of 2020, 7th graders, staff, parents and my parents. I am honored to be this year's valedictorian. I really did not expect to get this prestigious title, but I am extremely grateful. I would like to thank my friends, some who I've known for a good amount of years and a few who I've known since I started going here ten years ago, for giving me some memories I'll cherish forever.

A few of these memories spring from our field trip last year to Pittsburgh. We visited the zoo and had a sub lunch at a restaurant in there. Later we rode the Duquesne Incline and experienced a beautiful view of the city from above. Right after that we walked around and saw a lot of buildings with some really neat architectural structure.

I've really missed you these past few months. I've missed the face-to-face interaction with all of you. Next year we will all move on to high school. It will be harder but as long as we have grit and determination we can do it. My advice to the 7th graders moving on to 8th grade is simply keep up the hard work. Don't forget, you will be the eldest class. That means it is up to you to set a good example for the rest of the students.

And now I'd just like to give a final thank you to my parents, teachers, and classmates. Thank you all for giving me the best ten years of my life! I'll miss all of you so much next year! Keep in touch.

School Salutatorian Speech - Noah McFarland

I would like to congratulate all my classmates and thank all of our parents, teachers, coaches, and everyone else who helped us get to where we are now. I would especially like to congratulate you, Denny, for beating me by a quarter of a point and earning valedictorian! I have a lot of respect for you, and I believe you will do great things in high school.

As I was thinking about all the people who have helped us reach this point, it reminded me of the passage in 1st Corinthians chapter twelve verse twelve. It says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body (like a family), so it is with Christ." This is exactly what we have at Trinity, a family. During my time at Trinity I have had many people come by my side to help me over the years. This includes teachers giving extra time to help students out, Mrs. Fretthold's leadership, Mrs. Babcock not only helping Mrs. Fretthold, but also helping students to feel a bit better when they were sick, and Pastor Kruger who came in every Friday to help teach us to defend our faith. I really enjoyed his classes and I greatly appreciate the time he devoted to strengthen our faith and getting to know us. For me, I was blessed to have people from the church willing to give extra time just to help bring me back from algebra every day of the week from another school. These are just a few of the examples of the many people who help form a family at Trinity.

Another great thing that Trinity has given us is prayer partners. I was greatly blessed to have Chris Kopra as my prayer partner and then also be my coach for soccer and basketball. People of the church at Trinity, just like Chris, give so much to help all of the students in the school, whether it is giving financially or giving time.

Now of course I am going to miss many things like my classmates and teachers when I leave Trinity, but then there are going to be some funny things I am going to miss like Mrs. Kopra always yelling for somebody to kill the spider in the room, or when Mrs. Willert puts a worm in her turtle's cage and we watch Virginia the turtle attempt to eat the worm. I am especially going to miss all the jokes and games that our class does at lunch whether the game is try not to laugh, or just fun chats.

I know that a lot of the graduating class is really bummed that we couldn't do a class trip, or have a normal graduation this year, but I would like to thank all the teachers and Mrs. Fretthold for doing extra work to make this graduation special. It really means a lot to us.

This is to my fellow eighth graders. As we head our separate ways to high school, I challenge you guys to be leaders amongst your friends and to be a follower of Jesus. I would greatly encourage you guys to find friends who support you and bring you in the right direction. Do not let yourself be part of the group that leads you away from God, and everything you have learned growing up. I wish all of you guys the best in high school. Remember that the most important person in the body is Jesus Christ. So I encourage all my classmates to look at the sign when you leave the parking lot on the tree that says you are entering the mission field, because once we leave this school it really does become the mission field.

YOUTH SCOOP

College, Jr. and Sr. Youth,

Way to go parents and kids, you made it to the end of the school year! Turn the page to summer and let's think about some of the things we could or can do ...

Here's a few ideas that have surfaced. Let me know if you are interested in any of them. Please email me at mkwillert@aol.com if so. Also, if you're not on our regular email list. Please email me the address you would like youth ministry event communications to go to. List the name of the youth, if they are Jr. or Sr. High, and the email address.

1. **BIKE RIDE** - we'd pick a cool place to go riding. Parents would drop off their kids and pick up at a set time. Let me know if you have suggestions.
2. **CARONA CAROLING** - we would meet at church, practice a few songs we'd like to do, then go to the shut-in's houses and sing to them at their front door or front yard. We would be in small groups for social distancing and parents would drive their own kids. Even if you don't like to sing, just mouth the words. Your presence will make them so happy!
3. **FREE CAR WASH** - held at Trinity, we would wash people's cars for free to share God's love with the community in this crazy time.
4. **YOUR IDEAS** - please share any ideas you may have that would be fun to do to get kids involved for the reason of fun, service, or growing closer to God.

Unfortunately because of social distancing, we will not have the usual youth nights. Hopefully this summer we'll be able to resume them at some point! That being said, Lisa Lafferty lead some pretty fun zoom game nights. Thank you Lisa! We could do some of that again if there's interest.

GRADUATED 8th graders ... Welcome to Sr. High!! Well done and welcome!

Sr. High and College-age: We will be doing a zoom faith topic. We will be using topics from "I am Second". Please email me if you are interested! I hope to start ASAP not that school is out.

Parents: If any parents would like to zoom for planning and questions in the first week of July contact me and we'll set a time.

In closing, I heard it said today it's like a whole new world, which in many ways is so true. But have you found any good in it? It reminds me of the Bible verse in Isaiah 43:19:

"See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland."

So can you see some good that's come out of all this craziness? Talk about it as a family and make a list. Say a short prayer about the things on the list thanking God. Then post your list on the refrigerator as a reminder.

~ Mark Willert
Youth & Family Coordinator



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!!!

Shut-ins can receive our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet and monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter by mail or email. Contact the church office (674-9188) to find out more information.

From the Church Office ...

E-Mail Addresses: Have you been receiving information from Trinity via email? No? We can fix that! Contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address. Help us "go paperless"!

Contact Information: If you have moved, changed your phone # or email address recently, please contact the church office so we can update your information.



We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life! To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry 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.



Cemetery News

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity's 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.
- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.

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.

LWML

LWML mission grants need support.

Although the LWML has not been able to have the Eastern District Convention and will not be able to have the Retreat at Pioneer, the grants for the next biennium have been chosen and are in need of support with *mite money* sent by members and friends of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. If you have mite money, you can turn it into Linda Meissner or send a check made out to **LWML Buffalo Zone** to Bev Wicher, 19 Vernon Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. Grants will be listed in the July 1st **LWML Link** communication. Their website is east-dist-lwml.org.

Heart for the Homeless Blankets

During the pandemic stay at home time, Linda Rowsell and 5 of her granddaughters made seven colorful throws to be donated to Heart for the Homeless through the Buffalo Zone LWML. Thank you to Lin, Abby, Taylor, Lauren, Rachel and Maddie. They look great! Lin even added a short prayer, "May the warmth of this blanket feel like Jesus' angels holding you in His love."



Happy Birthday

7/1	John Kern	7/17	Samantha Canazzi	7/24	Thea Schultz
7/5	Ed Schindler	7/18	Judy Schmidt	7/26	Judy Jaeckle
7/7	Joshua Makey Madison Jaskier	7/19	Barbara Halvorsen Nolan Heckman	7/27	Rev. Dennis Krueger
7/10	Leslie Tripi Zachary LoVullo	7/20	Annette Neth Jessica Nickerson	7/28	James Smith Diane Roncone Greg Thompson
7/11	Matthew Schreiner	7/21	James Manzo	7/29	Marie Thompson
7/14	Bryce Zawadzki	7/22	Janine Wackowski	7/30	Hope Willert
7/16	Ken Mann Kim Meissner	7/23	Andrew Eising	7/31	Jenna Wackowski

Happy Anniversary

7/1	Christopher & Erin Kotowski	7/8	Andrew & Rachel Eising
7/3	Larry & Marie Thompson Chris & Lynnae Kwilas	7/12	Ryan & Beth McKernan
7/5	Bob & Lois Rodgers Fred & Thea Schultz Dave & Noel Anderson	7/17	Justin & Betty Jo Smith
7/8	Ed & Kathie Schindler	7/18	C.J. & Lindsey Lehsten
		7/19	Leslie & Tim Tripi

LCMS Foundation

In most communities, firework displays have been cancelled due to COVID. That might leave you scratching your head, wondering what you are going to do this year to celebrate the 4th of July. It could be that you have always staked out the same spot each year. Maybe friends and family have joined you there. What will you do now that life has changed? Does this mean that Independence Day has lost its purpose?

Loss of purpose is scary. We often live a big part of our lives without any “purpose” associated with what will happen to the financial gifts found in our estates after the Lord has called us home. That can be scary too! Sometimes, we don’t know how to begin addressing that purpose and organizing ourselves so that we can put together a purposeful plan, using legal documents prepared by our attorneys to direct gifts to Godly design. You are not alone. Nearly half of all Americans have yet to complete this work.

“Fred” and “Mary” had procrastinated throughout their marriage, never wanting to spend the time and navigate the legal complexities of getting everything in order. Finally, they partnered with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor to begin organizing their plans, understanding the entire scope of gifts the Lord had given them to manage. Through a few weeks of planning and lots of prayer, they completed their plan. At the end they shared, “*It feels so good to have this in place!*” Godly purpose feels good, for it resonates with God’s design for our creation.

You may not be able to reinject purpose into the 4th of July this year without fireworks. But you can apply purpose to your estate plans. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.

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

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