

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 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
EFFECTIVE 9/12/20:

Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 9:30 am

“TRINITY IS RE - OPENING!”

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.” Psalm 122:1

AMEN! HALLELUJAH! Trinity Lutheran Church is re-opening the church for worship services! Who would have thought this would have lasted almost half a year? Finally, back to normal! Normal? Not quite. Yes, we are moving back inside the sanctuary for worship services on Saturday, September 12th at 5:00pm and Sunday, September 13th at 9:30am but not quite back to “normal.” A variety of precautions and safety measures need to be followed to protect all who gather for worship.

- ◆ MASKS! MASKS! MASKS! You must wear a mask when you enter, exit or move around in the church. You may remove your mask when you take your seat in church.
- ◆ Social and seated distancing are required! The sanctuary seating will be marked out to keep everyone at a safe distance from one another. Families (pods) may sit closer together.
- ◆ Obviously, if you are quarantining for any reason please worship online rather than in person. We will continue to record and post services online, probably the Saturday evening service.
- ◆ Follow all the movement guidelines when entering and exiting the church.
- ◆ There will be no fellowship time inside the church and no coffee. Visiting with one another is encouraged but needs to move outside the church. Everyone is asked to exit the church promptly following the service except for those involved in altar, cleaning and other duties.
- ◆ While some churches are avoiding singing, we will include congregational singing. Wearing your mask is not required. If you like to really sing out and project, you might want to wear your mask though.
- ◆ Saturday service music will be led by the organ, singers and musicians from the balcony. Worshippers are asked to please sit closer to the front of the church.
- ◆ Sunday morning music will be led by our Praise Teams from the front. Several pews will be restricted seating (12 or more feet) in front of the team.
- ◆ No one is allowed to sit in the balcony except those involved in leading the music and projection of the service.
- ◆ No one is permitted to go down into the basement because school classrooms are set up and would need to be disinfected once again before Monday morning.
- ◆ Once the service has begun a picture of the gathered worshippers will be taken and put on file for Covid-19 tracing purposes (that hopefully will never be needed).
- ◆ We will not be entering the school building either for the same reason.

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“TRINITY IS RE - OPENING!”

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- ◆ There will be no Sunday School or Sunday Bible Classes offered to begin with. We will review this as we go along.
- ◆ There will be no Children’s Church, but we will offer a Children’s sermon in the service.
- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed as we have been for our Drive-In services – at least in the beginning. We will also review this as we go. No common cup!
- ◆ The church will be sanitized via a misting process and cleaned after both services. FYI – this is why we are only offering one service on Sunday morning because there is very little time to sanitize and clean between the services.
- ◆ We are planning to continue to broadcast the Sunday service over the FM transmitter should someone prefer to stay outside and for our neighbors who may have grown used to listening in.
- ◆ Thursday worship services and recording will be discontinued after the Labor Day week-end.

It’s not quite “normal,” but it’s a step in the right direction. To some these guidelines may seem excessive, to others not restrictive enough. For the good of Trinity Lutheran Church and all members, let’s strive to be flexible and observe the above measures for the protection of all. If you feel it is not safe for you to return to worship in the sanctuary, please call the church office to arrange for a pastoral visit and home communion.

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

CALL TO SERVE AS CHAPLAIN AT THE GREENFIELDS

As many of you know, I have been serving as a part time interim chaplain at the Niagara Lutheran Health System – The Greenfields since Pastor Belasic retired in March of this year. The Greenfields has decided to expand the position to a full time called chaplaincy. In August the search committee extended a Call/Contract offer to me to serve as their first full time Chaplain pending the approval of the Pastoral Care Committee and the Board of Directors. This process of approval won’t be completed until the end of September. The projected starting date would be October 1st.

I have really wrestled and struggled with this situation. I am very happy to serve as the pastor of Trinity, but have at the same time truly enjoyed serving at Greenfields. I’ve asked myself where I believe the Lord would have me serve in His kingdom and where I can be most effective. After much prayer and consideration, I believe that if the call to Greenfields is approved I will accept it and ask to be released from my call to Trinity as the sole pastor of the church. As Trinity explores the future of its ministry, a new pastor will need to be a vital part of that vision.

As I already announced, I am committed to Trinity and would continue to serve as the pastor of Trinity until the end of the year on a part time basis allowing for the congregation to meet and discuss how to proceed in the interim and with the calling process. I have discussed this matter with the Executive Committee. At that point it is up to Trinity to determine the best way to proceed, with the advice of the district and the Circuit Visitor. I have indicated that I would be open to continuing to serve on a limited part time basis after that if Trinity deemed it appropriate and helpful to do so.

All of this came as a bit of a surprise to me over the past five months. I certainly was not looking to retire or leave Trinity so quickly. I see God’s hand at work in all of this for me and for Trinity. I certainly hope to stay a part of Trinity Lutheran Church as a member and maybe as a part of the ministry team if it fits into the future vision. So, no farewells or good-byes, at least not yet!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Trinity School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Isaiah 43:18-19 says "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 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." Those verses have come frequently to mind as we, here at the school, struggle to find our way forward in such unknown territory. For every new challenge that arises, the temptation to become frustrated, impatient, or complacent is waiting to overtake us. Colossians 3:23 directs us "Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man." Maintaining and displaying a positive, Christ-driven attitude is more important than the content of the many protocols, policies and practices that are the new direction for this school year. Above all, the love of Jesus prevails. It is our purpose!

Our theme for this year, provided by the LCMS School Ministry team in St. Louis, is "Sent to Serve", based on Matthew 20:28. It couldn't be more appropriate! Especially in adversity, staying focused on others and their needs draws us away from our own insecurities and allows us to step forward in faith. Our teachers are preparing classrooms and receiving training that will allow them to minister to our students and families in safety and confidence. You are welcome to visit the school website to view our Return to School Plan, Safety Protocols, Remote Learning Outline (should the State close all schools again) and the modifications that are being made to our day to day program that allow us to teach in-person within State Mandated guidelines. The staff and I are in regular communication with parents as to the changes and expectations for this year. We pray that God will allow us to continue to teach in our buildings for the good of His children! We have been blessed with the opportunity to minister to even more families this year, so please pray that the seed of the Gospel is planted and/or flourishes in those hearts, by His grace, through our words and actions.

I'm deeply saddened that we cannot employ the generous work of our many congregational volunteers within the school for the start of this year. We love their kind and loving example for the students and depend on their service to support our program and our staff. You will be dearly missed! The generous support of the Congregation is always deeply appreciated and an integral part of the mission of Trinity. Nurturing boys and girls as servants of Christ is a privilege and joy that will never be taken for granted. Praise God that we are so deeply blessed with this opportunity and responsibility every day!

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal



Otto and Grace served the Lord from baptism to grave in their earthly lives. During the years when the children were growing up, finances were tight. But they were rich because of the inheritance Jesus has laid in store for those who believe in Him. *"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told. And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be where I am."* (John 14)

When Otto was called home, Grace still had seven years to sojourn here. After a lifetime of meticulous money management, she was still worried. It had plagued her all her life. But God provided. She was cared for. She was comfortable. Yes, she even was content.

True to God's provision, there was an abundance beyond her needs and she passed that on to family as inheritance. In her will she wrote, "I urge my heirs not to set their hopes on uncertain riches, but to take hold of the life which is life indeed through faith in Jesus Christ." Those words coupled together with a modest financial inheritance are a true gift. The family was not perfect. No family is. But in the end, God's grace wins the day. Understanding *that* is a true inheritance from the Lord.

Do you want help to craft a plan that will enable your family to celebrate that same inheritance? Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.

PANDEMIC WOES – RE-OPENING REPURCUSSIONS

Church conflict is a growing pressure point for pastors and congregations during the coronavirus pandemic. So says a new report from Religious New Service, based on a July survey by LifeWay Research. Here are excerpts:

When asked about the pressure points they are feeling most, 27% of evangelical and mainline pastors cited maintaining unity and addressing conflict and complaints. Just 8% cited disagreement and conflict as issues in an April survey. Three months matter!

The online responses from 443 evangelical and mainline Protestant pastors appear to be a barometer of the division in the country over the best ways to respond to the pandemic. “Shutting everything down was a whole lot less complicated than the debates over how to reopen,” said Trevin Wax, a senior vice president at LifeWay. “There’s a sense in which the pastor, in trying to care for the congregation, feels somewhat beat up right now.” He said, “There are people who are shocked and appalled to find out that there are other people in their congregation who have completely different views on the best way to handle a pandemic.” One pastor said, “My people are in very different places regarding the virus. Some are losing patience and want to get on with normal life with little regard for the potential consequences. Some even believe that the pandemic is a hoax. Others are still practicing extreme social distancing and are having a tough time understanding others who are not taking this as seriously as they are.” Everyone has an opinion and wants theirs to be respected and followed.

The second-most-cited “pressure point” was pastoring at a distance, with 17% mentioning it. Thirteen percent cited safety and well-being of their members and 12% mentioned personal exhaustion and isolation as they struggle to keep the people of their congregations unified. Wax said, “Good pastors feel responsible for maintaining the unity of the church. It’s heartbreaking to read these comments from pastors who feel like a lot of the work they’ve done in preserving the unity of the church seems threatened right now over differences that are really a matter of wisdom and judgment and discernment.”

What Proverbs 11:14 (ESV) says about a nation also applies to a church: “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” Let us pray, reason and work together for the good of all and the unity of the church.

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 September 6th.



Altar Flowers & Candles

There are still openings for altar flower and candle donations for 2020. If anyone would like to sign up for any of these, please see the charts that are now located on the wall to the right of the member mailboxes in the church coatroom or contact the church office at 674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net . Flowers are \$10 per week and candles are \$25 per month. We ask for 2 families to sign up for each week / month. Payment (cash or checks payable to “Trinity Lutheran Church”) should be submitted to the church office. Thank you!

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are 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 Trinity Cemetery

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People***.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- . . . *after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- . . . *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- . . . *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- . . . *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- . . . *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- . . . *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- . . . *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- . . . *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- . . . *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- . . . *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed. www.stephenministries.org

Happy Birthday

9/1	Laura Broderdorf	9/10	Ron Hope	9/21	David Lein
9/2	Jessica Ecker	9/12	Michael McKernan	9/24	Megan Manzo
9/3	Harper Farrell	9/13	Sarah Gabel	9/26	Robert Brown
9/4	Amy Lipinoga	9/15	Robert Stefanik Steven Ringle	9/27	Rachel Antes
9/5	Marjorie Doan Mark Willert Faith Flatterly	9/16	Lisa Lopez Katie Wackowski	9/28	Neil Schueler
9/7	Travis Ecker Jennifer Sherer Brielle McKernan	9/19	Laurie Livingston	9/29	Jeremy Heckman
9/8	Roger McClellan	9/20	Jacqueline Paz Wesley Pletscher Mark Zawadzki	9/30	Chuck Stevens Nora Eising
9/9	Kim McLaughlin				

Happy Anniversary

9/5	Jeremy & Shannon Heckman	9/17	Mark & Michele Ganschow PJ & Kim Colson
9/6	Rev. David & Joy Belasic	9/20	Christopher & Kim McLaughlin
9/8	Neil & Sue Schueler	9/24	David & Marilyn Lein
9/10	Linda & Leslie Wrobel Timothy & Justine Monahan	9/26	John & Karen McCoy
9/11	Joanne & Craig Jaskier	9/27	Michael & Lori Hock
9/14	Paul & Kristen Zawadzki	9/28	Roger & Laurel McClellan
9/15	Steven & Maria Wrobel		

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Oct –Dec 2020) devotion booklets will be available soon. Booklets can be picked up from the narthex or at any time from the box located outside of the church doors.

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.



Members' Email Addresses

Does Trinity have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving Trinity's weekly correspondence and monthly newsletter via email, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address or you can write your name and email on a piece of paper and place it in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.

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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