

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

DECEMBER 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 / 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
Sunday @ 9:30 am

“THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR”

You know the holiday song well! “It’s the most wonderful time of the year... with holiday greetings and hearts all a glowing; kids jingle belling, friends come a calling and much mistletoeing ... it’s the ha—happiest season of all! That was until the pandemic of COVID-19 and the shroud of fear laid siege! Advent, Christmas, New Years, and Epiphany will be very different! Last Spring I’d sarcastically said a number of times that my hope was that we would be able to gather for our Christmas Eve candle light service as we have many times. I guess I’m not a prophet because that will not happen. Oh, we’ll still gather for worship, light candles and sing. But it will be from a good distance apart, wearing masks with a limited number of people. That saddens me, as I’m sure it does many of you.

Now I realize that the “wonderful news” of the birth of Jesus is not diminished. The hope we have in the advent of the promised Messiah in the manger is not weakened. But I’m angry at how effectively satan has used politics and the pandemic to “steal, kill and destroy.” Many politicians have used the corona virus to manipulate and further their own agendas on both sides of the aisle (and in the lobby too)! The media has spun the pandemic into a chaotic pandemonium. Churches are closing – not just for a time, but for good! Our nation is sharply divided and poised against one another. Many businesses have closed, people lost their livelihoods and unemployment has soared. And I could go on, but won’t.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly!” John 10:10

This can be the most wonderful time of the year, but not for the reasons the song suggests. We can celebrate the One who has come to give life and hope abundantly! If ever there was a time to celebrate that life and hope it is now! We can and ought to sing boldly (with mask on) of the joy that has come into the world in the babe of Bethlehem. Don’t let the enemy, the evil one, steal and destroy our celebration of the Emmanuel! On many occasions Jesus said “Fear not! I am with you always!”

Certainly we need to take precautions and be safe! Trinity can currently accommodate about 80 (33%) worshippers per service at a safe distance from one another. If we go to the “red” status we can accommodate about 60 per service. FYI: Last Sunday we had only 18 on Saturday evening and 41 on Sunday morning. Don’t let pandemonium panic steal away and destroy the wonder of the season.

The sanctuary is sanitized, windows are cracked open slightly (so wear your coat), masks are required and hand sanitizer is provided. It is much safer to gather in church to be fed the Bread of Life than to go to the grocery store for a loaf of bread. For our most vulnerable members and friends who rightfully fear leaving their homes at all, we will continue to record and post services on line.

This truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year to gather together for worship and to celebrate the gift of the Christ child! Don’t let pandemonium panic and fear steal away and destroy the wonder of this season!

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1

A Wonderful and Blessed Christmas to all!

~ Pastor Dennis Krueger

Holiday Worship Schedule

<i>December 24th @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>10:00pm:</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 25th:</i>	<i><u>NO</u> Christmas Day Service</i>
<i>December 26th @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>First Sunday After Christmas Service</i>
<i>December 27th @ 9:30am:</i>	<i>First Sunday After Christmas Service</i>
<i>December 31st:</i>	<i><u>NO</u> New Year's Eve Service</i>



Angel Tree

The Outreach Committee will once again be sponsoring the Angel Tree to support the young men and women from the Renaissance House campus. They are truly appreciative of this blessing each and every year and we thank you for your support. Our format this year will be a little bit different from years past due to the pandemic and recent changes with areas of Erie County moving into the orange zone. Requests for angels will be made **by phone** to either Teresa in the church office (674-9188), Joan Kopra (681-6334) or Rachel Eising (481-7813). They will be able to assign you a name and a gift item (either women's lounge pants or men's basketball shorts). All gifts will be due back to church by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**. There will be a bin placed outside of the church under the overhang for gifts to be dropped off (due to possible changes with in-person church services). Gifts should NOT be wrapped, but can be placed in a gift bag. You may also just drop off the item in the bin and Outreach can provide the gift bag to allow more room for dropped off items. Please mark your item with the name that you were given. Thank you so much for your support with

Thanksgiving Meals For Family Promise

This year, Trinity's Outreach Committee was able to assist five different families with a complete Thanksgiving meal through the organization Family Promise of WNY. More information can be found about this organization at: fpwny.org. Outreach was able to provide the meals by using a Thrivent Action Grant. Thank you to Thrivent for continuing to support great causes!

Cookie Walk & Caroling

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we will not be holding our annual Cookie Walk and Christmas Caroling. We hope to resume these activities next year.



2021 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2021 sign-up charts are on the table in the narthex. Sign up for your special occasion today!

Flowers: \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! We are asking that 2 families sign up for each week. Payments should be placed in the **Church Office's message center** - make checks payable to "**Trinity Lutheran Church**" (*memo: Altar Flowers*).

Altar Candles / Oil: \$25 per month (per family). Two families should sign-up each month to cover the total cost. Checks should be made payable to: "**Trinity Lutheran Church**" and placed in the Church Office message center.

**Please make sure to include your name and *
special intentions on the sign-up sheets.*



Food Pantry

For the month of December, we will be collecting boxes of rice and potato mixes. Items can be placed in the red wagon in the church entryway and will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you for your support!



Church Facility Usage

Now that church services are being conducted inside the building and groups/committees are slowly beginning to resume meeting, it is important to remember to follow these important steps when using any of the church meeting rooms and/or facilities:

1. Contact the church office to schedule/reserve your meeting space.
2. Sanitize the table and door handles of the room after you use it. Cleaning products can be found in the janitor's closet off the church entryway.
3. Turn off all lights.
4. Turn down the heat (if applicable).
5. Lock the church door as you leave.

The Church Coat Room

As the weather gets colder, people will be wearing coats and jackets to church. Please do not hang them up in the coat/mail room. Why? We do not want people to congregate in the small coat room – or in the narthex fellowship area. As an additional precaution we want to avoid people's coats from being hung up and slid into contact with other's jackets. There should be plenty of room in the pews as we maintain social distancing. Thank you for your cooperation!



Weekly Service Bible Readers

Readers Needed:

Are you willing to occasionally read the Scripture readings during Saturday or Sunday worship services? If yes, please contact the church office (674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net).

Coordinator Needed:

We are looking for someone to take over the coordination of the Sunday 9:30am service readers. It requires putting together a schedule and notifying the readers in advance of the Bible passages for their assigned week. We can get you started. Please contact the church office if you are able to help.



Recycle Greeting Cards

ALL types of greeting cards are still being collected. Only the card front is collected (cut off back) and must be free of any personal writing on the back of this part. **NO** Hallmark, Disney, or American Greeting cards can be accepted. Please put them in Linda Rowsell church message box. Thank you.

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Plaque located in the church's fellowship area. They're only \$25! Order forms can be obtained from the church office. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 3rd.**

Nomination / Call Committee

The process is underway. The devotion at our first meeting centered upon considering our own calling as we consider calling a pastor to Trinity. The first step is to gather all the information required by the District for this undertaking. Please keep the process and the committee in your prayers.

~ Dave Sirgey

Lay Delegate Needed

Trinity is in need of a Lay delegate and an Alternate Lay delegate for the Eastern District Convention which will be held in June 2021. As of now, we believe it will only be a one day event, most likely in the Pittsburgh area. If anyone is interested or would like additional information, please contact Bob Eising or Pastor Krueger.

Member Contact Info

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number or email address? Does Trinity even have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving our weekly informational emails, 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) or you can leave your new information in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2021) devotion booklets will be available soon. Please take one and use it for home devotions! God bless your devotion and prayer times!

Cornerstone

On November 13, 2020, members of Trinity's Property & Grounds Committee cracked open the 1924 cornerstone from the old school which was demolished in the Fall of 2019. All that was found was a small parcel encased in mortar. It looked like pages folded and possibly wrapped in cloth. There was no plastic to preserve memories back then. No treasure was found in the stone. *"Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy ... but store up treasures in heaven." Matt.6:19-20*



STEPHEN MINISTRY

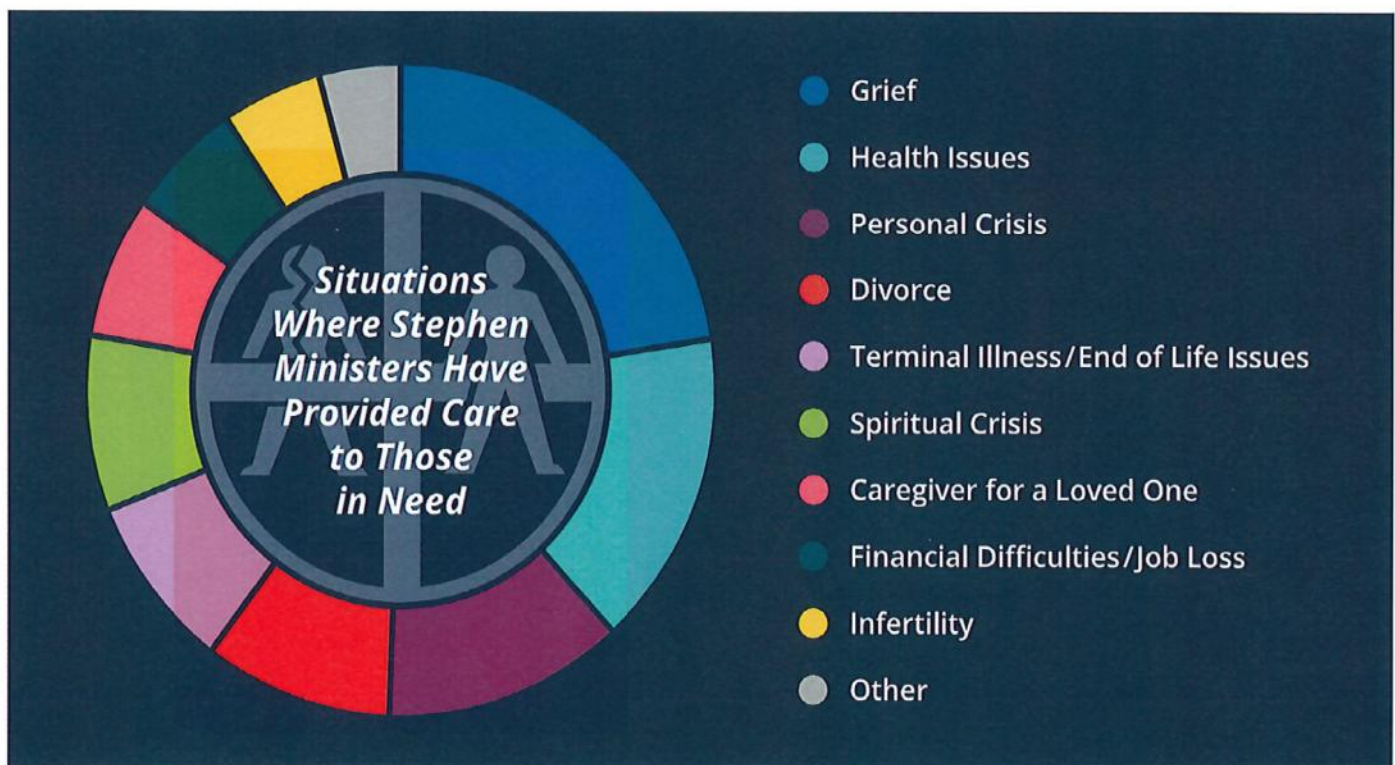
Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

*Although my needs changed as I went from wife to caregiver to widow, my Stephen Minister's love and support remained a constant. She was **there at every stage of my journey**, helping me through some of the most difficult moments of my life—so I could begin to heal.*

Susan ●

*When things seemed like too much to handle, **my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm**. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.*

James ●



*My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and **most importantly, he refused to give up on me**. I'll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.*

Ralph ●

*When I was with my Stephen Minister, **I felt Jesus was with me**. I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.*

Ashley ●

(Continued on page 6)

STEPHEN MINISTRY (Continued)

*After the death of my mom, **I needed someone who would listen**—even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.*

Molly ●

*My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. **He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do** but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.*

Brian ●

*I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—**she'll just be there without trying to fix me** or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.*

Nancy ●

*My Stephen Minister's weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. **She was a steady reminder of God's presence**, helping me know I was never alone.*

Heather ●

*When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.*

Andrew ●

*My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and **gives me a safe, confidential relationship** where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.*

Celeste ●

*I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was **a tangible expression of God's love**. It changed my life.*

Julia ●

*Stephen Ministry showed me the face of Christ. **God brought me exactly what I needed** through the care of my Stephen Minister, and that demonstrated to me how God cares for each and every one of us.*

Frank ●

- **Stephen Ministry** is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.
- Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.
- Visit stephenministries.org to learn more about Stephen Ministry and see stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

Happy Birthday

12/1	Logan Cosandier	12/11	Peter Schueler	12/20	Karen McCoy
12/2	Michele Baun	12/12	Bradley Ringle	12/21	Sandra Gertis
12/3	Helen Boldt Luci Zarbo	12/13	Nancy Stevens	12/22	Kevin Kot Lisa Cislo
12/4	Jordan Paz	12/14	Anna Eising	12/23	Noel Anderson Chris Kotowski
12/5	Jonah LoVullo	12/16	Vince Zarbo Gianna Conti	12/28	Beverly Osberg Judith Boersch Carolyn Lehsten
12/6	Ella Thompson	12/17	Noell McKernan Katelyn Barnas	12/29	Joy Belasic Nick Gatto
12/7	Joan Sullivan Justin Smith Emma Hope	12/18	Tristan Sullivan Bransen Gabel Gavin Courteau	12/30	Eve LoVullo
12/8	Steve Makosy	12/19	Jerry Meissner Evan McCoy	12/31	Donna Yox
12/9	Matthew Wrobel	12/20	Eleanor Gass		
12/10	Aliza Haas Hannah Haas				

Happy Anniversary

12/23 Dan & Joan Sullivan

12/27 Brian & Ellen Makey



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

674-9188 / 997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com