

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2021

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

“Jesus Helps Us To See God”

There's a story about some older men who gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their college graduation. Naturally, all of them had changed in appearance over the years – they were grayer, heavier, balder, more wrinkled and so on. But instead of providing name tags, as some reunions do, the master of ceremonies decided that it would be more fun to have each man stand up in turn and have the others try to identify him using as a guide the picture from their college yearbook, which the men had on the tables in front of them. As they proceeded, they were able to identify all but one man. Nothing in his present appearance gave him away. Finally, the man said, “All right! I see that you do not remember me. Wait just a moment and I will give you a clue.” With that, he stepped out of the room and then came back with a good-looking young man by his side. “This,” he said, “is my son. Now do you know who I am?” Almost immediately several men called out his name. The appearance of the son, who resembled his father, enabled the other men to identify the father.

Jesus helps us to see God! Of course God is God, not human. God doesn't 'look' like Jesus physically. He is spirit. Yet as the Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians: “Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” That's the presence of God we have just celebrated at Christmas. God came down at Christmas to fulfill the gracious promise of a Messiah who would redeem His people. In doing so, Paul adds: “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8) Jesus is the faithfulness, the grace, the mercy and the lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world.

We who believe in Him and follow Him are to love and serve others as He did. Like Jesus helps us to see God, we are to help our neighbors see God and the gift from above – Jesus! In this Christmas and Epiphany season as we begin a new year may we be those who help others see God and His love in Jesus. Let us reflect His love to all around us. Let us humble ourselves and offer our lives as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God!

**A Blessed and Joyous New Year to you -
and to all who see Jesus and God through you!**

~ Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

Rev. Dennis J. Krueger
132 Reserve Road
West Seneca, N.Y. 14224

December 20, 2020 (Advent IV)

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
146 Reserve Road
West Seneca, N.Y. 14224

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Six years ago it was my privilege and joy to accept and commence my calling to serve as the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. I could not have imagined at that time I would be writing you to request to be released from my call as your Pastor so soon. Our God is a God of surprises who often times leads us down paths we didn't plan for or expect. Such is the case for me now.

Almost the same time I began my ministry with you at Trinity I also began occasionally preaching and ministering at the Niagara Lutheran Health System – The GreenFields. It brought back memories of my vicarage, almost 35 years ago, when I served as a half time parish vicar and half time Chaplain through the Lutheran Service Society of Buffalo. As you know, I have been serving as a half time Chaplain since March of 2020 at the GreenFields Continuing Care Community. In September of 2020 they extended a calling /contract to me to become their first full time Chaplain and to develop and expand the Pastoral Care Department to minister to their 450+ residents and 550 staff. I believe the Lord has led me and prepared me to accept this calling. I am very humbled, almost overwhelmed, at the responsibility of this new calling. Perhaps the Lord is telling me that I will need His help and not to try to go it on my own!

As of 12/31/2020 I request to be released from my Call to serve as the Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in West Seneca, New York. I do not wish to leave Trinity though, and hope that I can remain a member of the congregation and a possibly a part of the ministry team down the road in some way. It has been a joy to serve at Trinity for the past six years and I am very thankful for the loving support of the congregation through some challenging times. While a time of transition is probably necessary where I cannot be involved much in a pastoral role, I am always ready and willing to serve and help out where needed.

I am excited about the future of Trinity! I pray for God's guidance of the vision and calling process. I am encouraged by the rich resources of gifted and committed leaders at Trinity. Trinity has been a blessing to me and will be a great blessing to the kingdom of God and the surrounding West Seneca community! To God be all the glory!

Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

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.



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.

Nomination / Call Committee

The Committee is working hard and the process is going well. We have almost completed a comprehensive, 50 page, self-study document that will be provided to Chris Wicher, Eastern District President, for his approval. Once this self-study document is approved by President Wicher, the search for candidates will begin. Our goal is to provide this document to the district by the end of the year.

Please keep our committee and congregation in your prayers as we search for the candidate that God has already selected to lead us.

~ Dave Sirgey

Financial Update

Happy New Year to my Trinity Family! Trinity continues to be blessed even during this difficult time. Through five months of our fiscal budget, July 1 to November 30th, our bottom line is virtually even: Total Income \$291,692, Total Expenses \$291,313. Regular offerings are up about half a percent over last year. Your faithful stewardship enables us to continue our ministry moving forward.

Our special ministry accounts are in good shape and we were able to borrow the needed funds from the accounts for the parsonage window project. Please continue to support the Building the Future Account as this is used to pay a portion of our regular monthly mortgage payment.

Doing God's work is now more important than ever.

Yours in Christ,
Dave Sirgey, Finance Committee



2021 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2021 sign-up charts are on the Welcome Center in the narthex or you can call the church office to 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.*



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.

2020 Financial Statements

The 2020 member financial statements will be generated the second week of January. For everyone's safety, statements will be mailed out this year by January 20.



You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving. Visit our church website (www.trinitywestseneca.com), click on the "Give Now" button at the top right of the page, and follow the instructions.

School News



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Out with the old, and in with the new!! While that may be the way many of us are feeling in regards to 2020, I am not going to give up on 2020 too quickly. If ever there was a time in which God's power and grace was displayed amidst fear and sorrow, this was it! Over and over again, through the staff or the parents or the congregation or the Eastern District (and more!) our school family was deeply blessed and enriched, strengthened beyond what we could have imagined and showered with unforeseen blessings! "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! For from him and through him and to him are all things. " Romans 11:33, 36

Our school is open, our staff is healthy, the parents are being incredibly conscientious, the cleaning and sanitizing continues, and most importantly, our students are hearing the Word every day. It was difficult to accept that we would not be able to share the joy of the Season with the congregation and school families at the annual Christmas Celebration. Many other fellowship opportunities in December also had to be cancelled. The students, however, are making tremendous strides in their studies, and the staff is still managing to provide some fun and enriching social and/or faith-based activities for them! Mrs. Anderson was able to record each of the classes presenting their musical praise and compiled them into a Youtube video. We cannot share the link for privacy reasons, but if you contact the school office (jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com) and request the link, we can provide it to you. Please do not share it, either. Thank you. I pray you are blessed by the witness of our students through their music.

The first trimester chapel offerings for the Buffalo Burrito Project allowed us to provide 100 bundles of scarves, socks and treats for the Buffalo homeless, along with over \$500 for the purchase of food supplies. Many of the students were excited to participate in OCC, as well, and we were able to contribute over 20 boxes! We are now collecting offerings for Evergreen Lutheran School in inner city Detroit. It is a small LCMS PK-8 school striving to provide free or low-cost Christian education for under-privileged, low income families.

May the Lord bless us all with His Peace, Comfort and Joy in the new year!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School

Effective Parenting in a Defective World

Our girls didn't pop out with a manual when they were born and we bet yours didn't either. We either learned how to raise kids from our parents (the way we were raised) or we had to learn from somewhere. The title of this article is one study Katie and I did that made an absolute difference. Now our girls are in college (and we're still learning to navigate adult children) but this was one worthwhile resource that gave us an awesome foundation to get us where we are.

We're going to offer this over Zoom and will start on Wednesday, January 13th starting at 6:30pm or 7:00pm, depending on the schedule of those involved. We can adjust the ongoing dates as well. Traditionally this has been done in someone's home as a small group but thanks to Covid, Zoom will work great, and you can participate from the comfort of your home. The format involves a 25 minute video of teaching by Chip Ingram, followed by guided group processing and discussion.

If Katie and I were going to recommend one thing out of the small group studies, as well as books we've learned from, this would be the one. It's full of practice advice and tools to impliment from toddlers to tweens. Contact Katie or myself (Mark) to let us know that you're in (Mark: mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com).

For those of you with teens, the next study will be "Tough Guys and Drama Queens". Let us know if you'd like to know when that comes around. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of lighter schedules due to Covid.

~ Mark Willert

YOUTH SCOOP YOUTH SCOOP

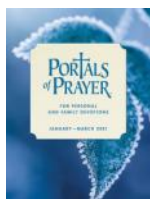
Sr. High and College Age Zooms

Our first zoom of the year for Sr. High will be Thursday, January 7 and for College age it will be Wednesday January 6. Please contact Mark Willert at mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com by Sunday January 3 with your email address to be included if you're interested or would like to know more.

Thank You!

"Many thanks to the skeleton crew that helped put up the Christmas decorations at church and to Bob & Lois Rogers for the annual donation of our altar Christmas tree. It is beautiful as always! Due to COVID and keeping exposure to a minimum, we did not have our normal crew but hopefully next year we can all share in this effort once again."

~ Mark Ganschow
Head Deacon



Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2021) devotion booklets are now available. They can be picked up in the church narthex or at any time from the clear plastic box located outside the church doors. Please take one and use it for home devotions. Feel free to take one for a friend too!

Cemetery News

Plots are available in Trinity's 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.



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!!!



Camp Pioneer Rebirth

Many folks know the sad news that Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY closed its gates for good the day after Labor Day, 2020. But soon after the announcement made last January of the plans to close, a group of people started to wonder and talk of how it might be possible to open once again so this "Warm place in the Son" would continue to reach out with God's love.

At Pioneer, a physical meeting in March took place with people from Ohio and locally that were just a handful in total. Since then much has happened and there is now a new non-profit formed called "Friends of Pioneer" who's board of directors reaches coast to coast (thanks to Zoom and Covid). They are currently working on raising 2.2 million to purchase the property by March 2021 and continue ministry there with plans to open for the 2021 camping season. The rebirth of Pioneer will continue to be strongly rooted in the teachings of the LCMS and is in the process of becoming a Registered Service Organization within the LCMS.

For much more info and to become a part of this groundswell of support, visit friendsofpioneer.org. You can also visit the Facebook group page FRIENDS OF PIONEER for the latest updates and be a part of the community of support. The banner in the picture was recently hung on the fence in front of Pioneer facing Lake Shore Road, to let the people know that Pioneer will continue to exist as a beacon of light and hope within their community.



The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of January, we will be collecting pancake mix. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you!



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many people are experiencing an unexpected effect of the crisis: pandemic fatigue. **Trinity's Stephen Ministry** is trying to help. Pandemic fatigue is the mental and emotional exhaustion stemming from the stress and challenges of COVID-19. As time goes on, more and more people are feeling worn down by the crisis and need care. **Trinity Lutheran Church** is stepping up with aid from its **Stephen Ministry**, a ministry providing care, compassion, community and a listening ear. The care they provide is highly confidential, and the lay members who serve as caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, are very well equipped to provide that care.

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit, interdenominational, Christian education organization founded in 1975 and based in St. Louis. Congregations and other organizations use resources from Stephen Ministries to strengthen and expand their caring ministry. Individuals use them to improve their ability to relate to and care for others, grow in faith, and journey through life crises.

Trinity started its Stephen Ministry in 2016 and has a vibrant ministry ready to serve members and the community. There are eight Stephen Ministers now ready to care for hurting people. Job loss, divorce and chronic or life-threatening illness are common reasons to receive care from a Stephen Minister. Sometimes, having a safe person who isn't a friend or spouse to talk with offers a place for individuals to share the pain they're carrying.

Stephen Ministers at Trinity Lutheran Church aim to help with Pandemic Fatigue. The reasons individuals need care from a Stephen Minister really haven't changed. However, the pandemic has brought with it a whole new layer of emotional stress—working from home, balancing work life with children at home learning virtually, worrying about aging parents, especially those in nursing homes and long-term facilities. As human beings, we are meant to live in a community, but COVID-19 has driven a wedge between many families and friends. Pandemic fatigue is real, and many don't recognize it until it sneaks up on us, affecting how we relate to others.

Beyond the suffering of the virus, lives are being torn apart by job loss, and people may think they aren't suffering as much as others, but their pain is real. When we don't ask for help, we are withdrawing ourselves from experiencing a blessing. Stephen Ministers have a true gift for listening and praying, and they ask for nothing in return. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to serve you. It's a free gift. There is no expectation on you to give back in any way. Being a Stephen Minister gives such joy.

Individuals can meet with Stephen Ministers in person when it's safe to do so. They can also connect by FaceTime, Zoom or simply a phone call. Stephen Ministry is focused on helping people receive the help they need right now—help they might not reach out for themselves.

If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our 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.

Trinity Has Been Blessed and Is a Blessing to Others

Trinity Church & School was blessed this year in spite of the pandemic. Since we have been blessed with much, much is expected of us. In order to be a blessing to others, we supported many missions this past year, including the following:

- Haiti orphanage and children (above and beyond the budget)
- Eastern District Missions (from your mission envelopes)
- Buffalo Burrito Project
- Operation Christmas Child
- Eight Days of Hope
- Bread of Life Outreach Center (food pantry)
- LADD
- LWML
- Saint Bosco's Orphanage, a Catholic orphanage for boys in Guyana, S. America
- Renaissance House (Angel Tree)
- Josh Makey's move to attend seminary

We also set aside two percent of our general offerings to enable us to participate in additional mission opportunities. We know that there is an endless list of worthy causes that need help right now. We can't support them all, but we have chosen the following ten organizations to support at this time by donating \$700 to each:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Eastern District/LCMS | 6. Compass Care |
| 2. Greenfields | 7. LADD |
| 3. Buffalo City Mission | 8. Bread of Life Outreach |
| 4. Food Bank of WNY | 9. Lutheran Hour Ministries |
| 5. St. Luke's Food Pantry | 10. Mission of Hope |

Over the next several months, we will include write-ups on each of these organizations in the monthly newsletter which will tell us a little about them and highlight how they serve others.

LCMS - Eastern District

As we near the close of 2020 the Executive Board has elected to distribute most of the accumulated offerings designated to "missions" to ten different missions and organizations. Each organization will receive \$700.00. One of the organizations Trinity supports and is sending offerings to is the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - The Eastern District. The District is not really a "mission organization" in and of itself, but it promotes, coordinates and equips mission and ministry throughout much of New York and Pennsylvania. One of the primary functions of the district is to assist congregations in the calling process of a pastor or teacher as it is doing right now for Trinity. Our Eastern District is one of the four original districts of the LCMS. There are 123 congregations, 9 elementary schools, 48 preschools and about 32,000 baptized members in the district. Like all the districts of the LCMS it relies heavily upon the support of its congregations and members. Rev. Chris Wicher currently serves as the President of the District and our own school principal, Kathy Fretthold also serves on staff as the Director of Education. What a privilege it is to help support our work together as the Eastern District.

Compass Care

CompassCare is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to erasing the need for abortion by transforming women's fear into confidence. CompassCare Pregnancy Services has been Western New York's trusted source for reproductive healthcare for over 35 years. They operate professional medical offices in Buffalo and Rochester, with staff dedicated to serving women facing unplanned pregnancies by transforming their fear into confidence. Many of you are familiar with the Southtowns Pregnancy Center. In August, 2019 SPC joined with Northtowns Pregnancy Center and CompassCare to form CompassCare Buffalo. In the year 2020, 356 preborn lives have been saved and 182 women have submitted their lives to Christ. The goals of CompassCare for 2021 are: to improve patient services; to educate the community on the equal value of every life; to establish more life saving services in more abortion hub regions like New York City; and to protect our ability to do all this life saving work. CompassCare provides all services at no cost to patients; and thanks to generous donors such as Trinity Lutheran Church, they will continue to serve "one woman, one region at a time".

God  **Loves**
MARRIAGE

strong
marriages
strengthen
churches



Lutheran Marriage Encounter - Winter 2021

During Difficult Times Like This, It's Even More Important To
**Help Married Husbands & Wives Improve
Their Communication Skills – Virtually!**



Give married husbands and wives in your congregation the opportunity to celebrate their special relationship while learning unique insights and tools to improve their couple communication for the long haul!

A *virtual* Lutheran Marriage Encounter experience will help your congregation's married couples reap

joyful long-term rewards for their relationship, their family, and their faith journey even during these special circumstances and special times. Even though Lutheran Marriage Encounter has held experiences "in person" for almost 50 years, virtual encounters are proving to be just as powerful and effective. In fact, a virtual experience may appeal to couples who cannot attend an event hours away from their home.

LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SPOUSE IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

Registration is now open for the next VIRTUAL

January 29 - 31, 2021

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Experience

**You Can Participate Privately from Your Home or
Anywhere That Affords You Privacy as a Couple**

Apply Now / Learn More at GodLovesMarriage.org!

**Questions? Contact Bob & Billie Dee Briggs
bobandbd@roadrunner.com • 330-608-3595**

**Pre-registration is required to send your encounter materials to you via
snail mail – don't miss out!**

Happy Birthday

1/3	Susan Tedesco	1/10	Carolyn Carr	1/19	David Anderson	1/26	Patricia Hartman
1/4	Daniel Rowsell		Joanna Anderson		Lindsay Iannuzzelli	1/27	Stacie Bookhagen
	Abigal Blamowski	1/11	Linda Rowsell		Myah Meunier		Ella Meunier
1/6	Peter Szeider	1/13	Brynn Gabel	1/20	Ruth Zawadzki	1/28	Tricia Glinski
	Macsen Courteau		Martha Royal	1/21	Christa Wilkening	1/31	Paul Thompson
1/7	Bob Eising	1/14	Jack Iannuzzelli	1/22	Kim Caldarella		
1/8	Daniel Nickerson	1/18	Dennis Glinski Jr.	1/24	Kathy Herman		
					Kyle Lelito		

Happy Anniversary

1/2 Bill & Bryana Haas



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 Board located in the church's fellowship area. They're only \$25. Contact the church office to place an order. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 3rd.**

Parsonage Windows Update

The parsonage windows will be installed on January 18 & 19 by Modern Windows of New York, Inc., an Orchard Park based company. Payment is due upon completion. They have offered a bonus to the church of \$200 if a referral results in the purchase of windows for a minimum of \$2000. If you are looking at replacing your windows, please keep this in mind. In order for Trinity to get a referral bonus, you must mention the church when placing your order. Modern Windows' hot line is 1-800-884-5846. Even if you are only getting quotes to get started on a project, call and mention Trinity Lutheran Church.

LWML

LWML MITES will continue to be collected throughout the year. Mites fund grants to mission projects for our district and on the national level.

What is the LWML? It's the primary group for the LCMS, where every woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports missions and serves the Lord with gladness. One focus of the **L**utheran **W**omen's **M**issionary **L**eague is to challenge and equip women of all ages, stages, ethnicities, and experiences to make a meaningful difference in the lives of hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people at home and throughout the world. This is done by helping every woman find personal opportunities in her daily life and in her congregation to be nurtured in faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to discover her unique gifts and value in God's family.

You can also help by donating cancelled stamps with 1/2 inch border and used ink cartridges and electronic devices. In the coatroom is a purple tote for devices, which has more information posted on it. These are redeemed for money which is put into the mite funds. Stamps and MITES can be put in Linda Meissner's message center.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Pastor	Rev. Dennis Krueger	997-5666 / tlckrueger@verizon.net
School Principal	Kathleen Fretthold	674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com