

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MARCH 2021



Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, New York 14224
Church: (716) 674-9188, School: (716) 674-5353

Rev. Ronald Habedank, Vacancy Pastor, H: 585-902-6005 / C: 984-6021
Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold, Interim School Principal, School: 674-5353

Church Website: www.trinitywestseneca.com
Church Office E-mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net

WORSHIP TIMES

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

Our Mission: To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ

“Don’t Give Up!”

It was the morning of July 4th, 1952 when Florence Chadwick slipped into the icy waters by Catalina Island and began her attempt to be the first woman to swim to the California coast. From time to time sharks moved toward her but were driven off by rifle shots. Then the fog set in, thick and dark. For 16 hours she swam. The trainer in a boat following her shouted words of encouragement. Florence had never quit, until then. Not knowing she was only a half mile from her goal, she asked to be pulled from the water.

While thawing out she said, *“Look, I’m not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land, I might have made it.”* It was not the cold water or the fatigue of swimming for so many hours that defeated her; it was the fog. She couldn’t see her goal.

How are you doing in the midst of the “fog of life”? This kind of fog isn’t caused by a “weather” front but more so by “whether” or not... you have a job... your children are doing OK... you’re healthy... you have a place to stay... you have enough to eat... you can look toward a bright future... or you can’t or don’t. Sometimes your hope for today and your view for tomorrow is blocked by the “fog of just living”.

I want you to know that with Jesus in your life you will never go into that fog alone. With you comes the One who is your Hope for tomorrow and for eternal life. Jesus is the One whose presence in your heart takes away gloom and doubt with His joy and peace.

This Lenten season we once again see our Savior Jesus walk up and take that cross of suffering for you and for me. A friend of mine once told me that if the Roman soldier hadn’t nailed Jesus to the cross He would have done it Himself because His love for us is so great He would rather go through hell, by dying for us and our sins, than to be in heaven without us. That kind of love will get us through any kind of “fog” life throws at us and give us hope for today as well as help us keep our eye on the real goal, heaven.

Oh, two months later Florence tried again and this time, even with the same dense fog, she swam with faith and her goal clearly in mind, and she made it. She became the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel and she beat the men’s record by two hours.

God is good, so keep your eye on the goal for yourself, and for Trinity.

Continued blessings to you and all those you love.

~ Pastor Ron



March 27 ~ Palm Sunday Eve Service at 5:00pm

March 28 ~ Palm Sunday Services at 9:30am

April 1 ~ Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

April 2 ~ Good Friday Service at 7:00pm

April 4 ~ Easter Sunday Services with Holy Communion at 9:30am



Mid-Week Lent Videos

Music ministry is preparing mid-week Lenten meditation videos based on the music of Lent that will be posted to our church website each week for all to view. There will be no in-person mid-week Lent services.

New Member Class

Trinity will be holding a New Member Class series on **Sunday, March 7, 14 & 21 at 10:45am** at church. Please contact Pastor Ron (585-902-6005 or 984-6021) or the church office (674-9188) if you are interested in attending the classes or would like more information.



"Alternative" Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all Trinity members! The Outreach Committee is hoping to host an "alternative" Easter Egg Hunt this year, since we are unable to safely hold a community event as in years past. We are looking for any and all ideas that you may have. One idea that we have is to invite people to our walking path where we would have laminated easter egg pictures with activities to do or "challenges". Participants would then email us upon completion for a chance to win a prize. We are open to suggestions. Please email Rachel Eising (rachel.acquard@gmail.com) or Joan Kopra (thekoprafamily@gmail.com) with any suggestions. Thank you!

Executive Board Message

On January 31, 2021 Pastor Krueger received a peaceful release from his call as Pastor here at Trinity. As an Executive Board, we missed the opportunity to properly acknowledge and thank Pastor for his time and dedication to our congregation. It was our plan to hold a recognition event sometime this summer once Covid restrictions ease up, but we failed to inform the congregation of our intent and, for that, we truly apologize. At the time of the recognition event, we would like to present Pastor with a gift. If you would like to contribute to this, please send your contribution to Teresa in the church office or place your labeled gift in the offering plate.

Nomination/ Call Committee Update February 22, 2021

The Nomination/Call Committee completed the extensive self-study document, required by the Eastern District, and provided it to district President Chris Wicher. President Wicher has provided the call committee with a list of potential candidates. We also received nomination ballots for two additional candidates to consider.

We are working hard to find the candidate that God knows is the best fit for Trinity. Please pray for our call committee team – Nevin Hope, Lynnae Kwilas, Erin Kotowski, Trevor Jelowski, Robin Makosy, Kevin Kot and myself.

Sincerely,

Dave Sirgey, Chairman
Nomination / Call Committee



Through seven months of our fiscal budget, July 1 to January 31, our bottom line is still in the black: Total Income \$440,215, Total Expenses \$409,084. This was in large part due to second semester tuition payments. Regular offerings are, however, down about 6% vs. last year as we missed out on the usual increase in attendance over the holidays.

Our special ministry accounts remain in good shape. Please continue to support the Building the Future Account as this is used to pay a portion of our monthly mortgage payment.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Sirgey, Finance Committee

School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've embarked on a Lenten journey based on the book of Job. How long has it been since you've read it? It has been a few years for me. I decided on Job because I was starting to feel sorry for myself. The changes, sacrifices and challenges that the pandemic brings were overshadowing my joy in Christ. (I and my family have been very blessed to have suffered no lasting or even significant losses because of the pandemic.) Reading through the first chapters of Job rapidly puts daily challenges into an eternal perspective. Once again, the Scripture shines the light of truth and on all things. The love and power of God reveals what is truly important in our lives and my daily trials are revealed as the little tests of faith that they are. Job was called to faithfulness despite massive losses. I pray I am being empowered in "mini-doses" every day, as I call on Him to guide me. That doesn't mean I'm not tired of our current situation, as we all are, or that it isn't having terrible, terrible effects on so many people. As Lent progresses, however, with an increased focus daily on the sacrifice of the cross, trials may become less all-encompassing as they are overpowered by the joy of forgiveness and salvation. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28* Jesus didn't need to specify what each person's burden may be - it doesn't matter. All that matters is that our rest is in HIM, just as He promised!

At school, February brought Valentine's Day parties, the conclusion of Lutheran Schools Week and the distribution of over 500 goody bags to front line and essential workers, a close to our November-February mission drive, the Easter chocolate sale, and mid-winter break! The response for goodies for the bags was overwhelming, and many, many people were touched by the kindness and generosity of our students. We collected and sent \$300 of chapel offerings to Evergreen Lutheran School in downtown Detroit for tuition assistance, along with hand-crafted bookmarks for students, families and staff. Also, our school families sold over \$9,000 retail of Easter chocolate! It's been a busy month. March brings report cards with the end of the second trimester, the Annual Fund Drive, and Lenten observations. Our March theme is "Sent to Serve...our Church Family". The students will be focusing on how we can all be servants within our congregations. That can be a tall order for a 6-year-old! We're trying to help them understand that attendance, listening, and participating are excellent ways to serve, don't you agree?!

Once again, many, many thanks to so many of you who contribute in so many ways to support the mission efforts of YOUR school. This year, especially, the absolutely vital work the school is doing in the lives of the students and families cannot be overstated. Just that they can walk in the door each day is a blessing! Your staff has grown and adapted in many ways that I can't even fathom, in order to provide that safe, loving and learning place the children are craving. May God bless Trinity as we await His will for a new pastor, and live in the confidence of His love and care for us. God keeps His promises!

~ Kathleen Fretthold

Principal, Trinity Christian School



You Can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry

.. Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are members of Trinity who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Dennis Krueger (997-5666), Don Meissner (479-4862), Kevin Kot (445-5923) or Colleen Kot (445-5922)

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

MITES For LWML

Mites are the important way mission projects of the LWML are supported. In 2020, a grant to provide materials to make hygiene kits for girls living in poverty around the world was funded. There are 6 other grants to be fulfilled, including those to provide meals, housing, bedding and bibles to those living in poverty, need, rehab or recovery. Please consider writing a check (Buffalo Zone LWML) or filling a MITE BOX with your pocket change as a donation. You can drop the check in the offering plate or leave a mite box in Linda Meissner's message center. Many small donations combine to cause great blessings.



LWML Retreat
September 24-26, 2021

Think Positively, Save the Date! The Eastern District LWML is planning to hold its annual retreat **September 24-26, 2021**, at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler, PA (Lutherlyn.com). The theme will be "**Can Do - With Jesus**", "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." *Phil.4:13*. The Buffalo Zone is hosting the retreat. More details to follow.

Pioneer Update

Submitted by Mark Willert

Hello to Trinity and Friends of Camp Pioneer!

Many folks have heard of the closing of Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY. But not as many know that there is a grass-roots group working for the re-birth of Pioneer. The new "Friends Of Pioneer" board has been meeting since January 2020, to see where God leads and supplies ... and He certainly has been. Among many other details, the board already has nonprofit status in NY, and is on its way to becoming an RSO (recognized service organization) with the LCMS. We have also been working with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, not only to plan financially, but also to receive guidance in camp ministry. We've made a strong connection with Tim Kurth there, who works with LCMS camps around the US. He has been invaluable to us.

Yes, it is "go time" for us on the Friends of Pioneer board. The property acquisition we hope will take place by sometime in April and the current owners, Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center Inc., have been doing everything they can to help us succeed. At this point our board is in overdrive to make so many things happen behind the scenes. A big task and challenge now is also to start planning the involvement of others with gifts and talents to make things happen, because a lot needs done on the grounds. This alone is huge. Please pray for this as Pioneer cannot exist without many people willing to take on a task, oversee it, and follow it through. Those details are forthcoming. Please pray that God would give us wisdom, discernment and guidance in involving others, and making use of the gifts in the Body of Christ. Give thanks in your prayer also that He has done this already in great ways.

There will be a definite time for all to get involved who want to be. We absolutely love what service retreats and weeks do both for camp and in the hearts and lives of those involved. If you've been a part of one, you know too. We look forward to what God has planned for us in those. If there is anyone at Trinity that would be willing to be the contact person for Trinity, please contact Mark Willert.

Will we open this summer? That is what we're planning, at least to some extent. While the governor has given the OK for overnight camps to open, we cannot have any definite details or timeline yet until the property is acquired (sold and bought), and also because of the changing Covid restrictions. For now, continue to rally His people, put out the call to action, and make people aware that exciting things are happening.

Our website is FriendsOfPioneer.org. There, among other things, you can meet our board members and donate financially, if you like. You can also join our Facebook group page, "Friends of Pioneer" to get updates, as well as find over a thousand folks who have a heart for Pioneer and what we're doing. Most have camped and worked there, and have shared great pictures and stories of the past from our "Warm Place in the Son".

A sincere thank you to all that have responded in support so far to Pioneer's re-birth. We feel like this is a ripple turning into a roaring wave, and soon it will be time to ride it. We know this is a gargantuan task! But in true God fashion, He constantly puts things in place and truly amazes us, just like Paul says in Philippians 4:19, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."



Jr. & Sr. High Sledding!

We are planning a Jr. & Sr. High youth sledding outing on Sunday, March 7 at 2:00pm. Anyone interested in going sledding should contact Mark Willert at mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com for more info and to sign up! We'll need some parents as well to hang around.



The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of March, we will be collecting pasta and noodles. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you!

Cemetery News - IMPORTANT

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. Contact the church office, Mark Blajszczak or Roger Meissner for information on procedures and permission.

TRINITY LUTHERAN UPDATED COVID-19 IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

This is an update to previous guidelines posted in the September 2020 newsletter. If an item is not addressed in this update then the previous rule still is in place. If you have a question about a particular service then please ask.

****These guidelines follow NYS published religious house of worship guidelines from 2/2/2021. If new guidance from NYS is updated it will be reviewed and procedures will change in the church sometimes without warning***

For detailed guidelines please consult the NYS COVID-19 guidelines found on www.NY.gov

- **Occupancy in the church will be set at 50% of maximum capacity.**
 - Individual pews will now be roped or closed off to seating to enforce maximum occupancy and social distancing guidelines. Please do not remove the barriers to the individual rows.
 - If you arrive late to church and cannot locate a pew please ask a deacon/usher for help or find a seat in the overflow seating section in the narthex.

In-Person Worship Social Distancing

- ✓ Praise band to congregation = 12 feet
- ✓ Individual member social distancing = 6 feet in between household units

- **Masking**
 - ** The Executive Board understands that individual comforts with COVID-19 precautions vary. We ask that every member of Trinity respect everyone's' comfort level with precautions and follow the method of guidance which you feel will best protect you and your family during service. The following masking precautions are required to be followed by all attendees during any service****
 - **Masks are required to be worn at all times when moving about church.**
 - All staff/volunteers are required to don a face mask while moving throughout church
 - The congregation is required to wear a face mask when moving from your seat for any purpose.
 - Parents should try their best to have children face forward in church. If individuals sitting near children are uncomfortable we ask that you either don a face mask or find a seat which will make you more comfortable.
 - **A mask is not required to be worn while sitting AND not singing or projecting your voice.**
 - If you choose to sing then please put a face mask on in order to protect those around you.
 - Individuals are encouraged during this time period to listen to the praise band if they choose not to sing with a mask on.
 - **While standing a mask is required to be put on by the congregation.**
 - Individuals should be reminded during service if standing is needed then donning a face mask must be done.
 - In any service where social distancing among individuals cannot be maintained masks will be required and an announcement will be made.
- **Disinfection/Cleaning/ and other items of important note**
 - Readers will be asked to wipe the lectern after reading to the congregation. Wipes will be provided.
 - All members of Trinity are encouraged to stay safe and care for the safety and comfort of those around you. Please screen yourself for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to attending in-person.

Trinity Mission Support

As outlined in our January 2021 Trinity Tidings Newsletter, Trinity has been setting aside 2% of our general offerings to enable us to participate in additional mission opportunities. This month we will highlight two more of our \$700 donation recipients: LADD and St. Luke Food Pantry.

"LADD" - Lutheran Association for Developmentally Disabled

The LADD Thrift Shop is a wonderful thrift store where you can find household items, slightly used clothing and shoes for men, women and children, toys, books, and a variety of other items at affordable prices. LADD is located at 2280 Seneca Street in Buffalo and is open Monday thru Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm. Donations are always welcome! This is a way we can help others in need and spread the love of Jesus Christ.

LADD's History: Southfield LADD Thrift Shop opened on October 23, 1965. Since 1986, they have donated \$340,580 to Camp Pioneer for Developmentally Disabled (Agape) campers and \$117,000 to the Lutheran Service Society (enables camperships at Pioneer for Agape clients, Christmas dinners and presents, Christian education materials, bells and percussion instruments for the LADD Bell Choir, ramps built for 2 wheelchair-bound youths, and much more).

Although LADD was closed for 3 months during 2020 due to the Coronavirus, they were still able to contribute \$3,500 to Camp Pioneer (prior to their closure announcement) and \$15,370 to the Lutheran Service Society for their developmentally disabled clients.

St. Luke Food Pantry

For over 20 years, the St. Luke Food Pantry (900 Maryvale Drive, Cheektowaga NY) has supplemented the monthly needs of their community. The pantry serves families in the 14225 zip code. They provide nutritious food and have developed long lasting relationships with their clients.

They are supported by neighboring churches, Girl and Boy Scout Troops with cash and food donations. Trinity has donated to the pantry to show our support and Christian love for our fellow Lutheran Church. Together we make a difference in our communities.



“Thank You!” From Bread of Life Outreach Center

Dear Friends at Trinity Lutheran Church,

I want to acknowledge and thank you for yet another terrific donation to the Bread of Life Outreach Center.

We also have been blessed despite the additional challenges the COVID pandemic has brought to the world in this past year. We were able to meet the increased demand and continue serving all who came to our doors for assistance. Our ability to meet our mission of “feeding the hungry...” is totally due to people and communities such as yours. The generous sharing of resources or one’s time and talents, providing the wherewithal to serve those less fortunate, has been phenomenal. The generosity your church continues to bestow upon the Bread of Life Outreach is so appreciated and truly valued, especially considering the endless list of worthy causes that does exits.

With the being said, on behalf of the clients, volunteers and Board members at the Bread of Life Outreach Center, I’d like to thank you for the thoughtful donation of food and money along with the continued support for the Bread of Life Outreach and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Pat Thoman, Executive Director



Christmas 2020

The Makey Messenger

Winter 2020/21

Winter Seminary Update

Blessings from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is hard to believe that as I write this newsletter is already the end of January. Christmas and New Year's have come and gone, and a lot has happened in our country and world since then. Sarah and I would like to take a moment to update you as to our seminary journey.

The actual end of the fall semester was December 18, 2020.

I finished all my class work on time. I received good marks in all my classes and learned a lot from each. From

December 19th to the beginning of January, I was on break. Sarah was working most of the time at her job at the Daycare center where we live in Mascoutah, Illinois. She and I however were able to visit my parents in New York for Christmas. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we did not go out, but it was still nice being at my parents for Christmas. We also were able to see my two sisters, Renae and Jamie (and Jamie's new husband Cory). The picture above is from our time at my parent's house.

After returning home to Mascoutah, Sarah went back to work, and I began a short winter term during January. As of my writing this newsletter, I have actually completed this short, but intense term. I was in only one class called Introduction to Pastoral Leadership. It was great class in which we learned about being a leader as a pastor in different congregational settings. Unfortunately, the entire class had to be done electronically online through Zoom. We were however able to have leaders from a small local congregation and a large local congregation join us online to share their insights about leadership within a church. It was very helpful!

Sarah and I would like to thank you so much for your support of the seminary! Because of your support, I am able to continue my studies and we as a couple are to grow toward whatever future ministry God has in store for us. Thanks again!

God's Blessings,

Josh and Sarah

Joshua's Classes for Spring Semester

- Conflict Resolution
- Law and Gospel
- Pastoral Leadership and Theology
- Church and World
- Greek and Hebrew labs

I have few classes on paper in the spring then I did in the fall because many of the classes this semester are full term.

Our Church involve at Zion Lutheran Church, Mascoutah

Joshua leads weekly adult Bible Class and preaches once a month. Bible class just completed a study of the Epistle of James and is now moving into a study of the Holy Spirit. Joshua also helps lead liturgy in worship during at least one of two weekend worship services.

Sarah participates in the hand chime choir which practices weekly and plays every so often during worship. She also participates in Ladies Aid meetings and seminary women's events.

One of Joshua's Favorite Bible Verses

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

One of Sarah's Favorite Bible Verses

I can do all things through him (Christ) who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 (ESV)



Happy Birthday

3/1	Carolyn Habedank Beverly Weiss Abigail Lafferty	3/7	Micah Anderson	3/15	Roger Meissner John McCoy	3/26	Bill Haas Travis Rodgers
3/2	Nevin Hope David Broderdorf	3/8	Juliet Paz	3/16	Gigi LoGalbo Patricia Peterson	3/27	Maryanne Ringle
3/3	Ryan Hamann	3/9	Carolyn Minko Michael Monahan	3/17	Emma Tripi	3/29	Lynn Metzler Karen Tedesco
3/4	Marilyn Kronthaler Brian Makey	3/11	Don Weiss	3/21	Andrew Caldarella- Flumerfeldt	3/30	Brenda Lipinoga
3/5	Erin Kotowski	3/12	Brady Manzo Gavin Gabel	3/24	Peter Colson Marian Post Debra Wrobel	3/31	Dan Sullivan Clara Bookhagen
3/7	Hillary Ferrara Amanda English	3/14	Judeen Babcock Rhonda Carlone PJ Colson	3/25	Lars Osberg		

Happy Anniversary

3/29 Robert & Helen Boldt

3/30 Robert & Mary Ann Moeller



Altar Candles & Flowers

We are in need of families to sign up to donate altar flowers and candles/oil.

Flowers: Flowers are needed for March. They are \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! Flowers can also be picked up from the church on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We ask that 2 families sign up for each week.

Altar Candles: \$25 per month. Available months for 2021: August, September and December.

Payments should be placed in the Church Office’s message center or can be mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to “*Trinity Lutheran Church*” (memo: *Altar Flowers or Altar Candles*).

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

Shut-In Members

If you know if a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Ron and the church office know! We want to care for all!!!



Portals of Prayer Booklets

Portals of Prayer (April-June 2021) devotion booklets will soon be 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.

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform and phone Pastor Ron (585-902-6005), the church office (674-9188), or one of the Deacons.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Vacancy Pastor
School Principal
Youth & Family Coordinator
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Ronald Habedank
Kathleen Fretthold
Mark Willert
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

Contact Information

585-902-6005 / 984-6021 / cronh156@aol.com
674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com