

# TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

## MAY 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: [trinitywestseneca.com](http://trinitywestseneca.com)  
Church Office E-mail: [trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net](mailto:trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net)



### WORSHIP TIMES

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

## “JUST SMILE !”

### *April showers bring May flowers. What do May flowers bring? - PILGRIMS !!!*

I know it's an old joke but when I heard it the other day I just had to smile. At this time of year it seems like I see a lot more smiling going on. Maybe I was too busy to notice before, but smiles just seem to be on more and more peoples' faces lately.

I asked a few of our members what they like best about Spring. With a smile on their faces they gave me answers like: the warming sunshine, getting out in the garden, planting flowers, putting away the snow shovel, washing windows, getting the boat ready, finally planning for a summer vacation!

Spring just seems to bring out a feeling of joy in all of us. We've made it through a hard winter; we're tired of all the gray days that winter brings here in Western New York; and we look forward to getting out of the house and enjoying the wonderful way God brings everything back to life.

As Christians it should not only be the changing of the seasons or the potential for enjoyment which puts a smile on our lips. No, the real reason to celebrate is the fact that WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE. Just like we have been through a hard winter with our weather, we have been through the "gray days" of our lives caused by our sin. We have once again gone to Calvary and witnessed the love God has for you and me as His Son Jesus died for our sins.

After the pain and suffering of that, we waited in anticipation for the dawn to break on Easter morning. AND DID WE SMILE! As a church we smiled BIG and BROAD as we celebrated with words, worship, and song. You know, I can honestly say, I didn't see one frown on the faces of all the people who worshipped with us on Easter. And we should be happy because our sins were paid for by a loving Savior; we are happy because HE IS RISEN and the tomb is empty; we are happy because, as believers, we, too, will rise; and we are happy BECAUSE WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE. I see Easter people every time I see you and you have been given the best news in the world – CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! So tell someone!

And the next time you feel the joy of friends and family, the next time you feel joy in just being alive and able to celebrate a new season and a the new life you have in Christ, let those around you know it - JUST SMILE!

May God continue to bless you and those you love as we bask in the glow of the empty tomb.



Continued Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ron



## Congregation Vision Event

Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Join us for an evening of conversation and visioning facilitated by Pastor Billy Brath of LCEF. This all-congregation event begins our Ministry Clarity work with us prayerfully exploring God's vision for our congregation and what He is calling us to next. Please join us, this process only works with your involvement!

### *Something to think about ...*

God, who do you say we are? Ever wonder if we're pursuing our vision or His vision here at Trinity? Aubrey Malpurs, in his classic book Advanced Strategic Planning says that vision encourages unity, creates energy, provides purpose, fosters risk taking, enhances leadership, promotes excellence and sustains ministry. Let's pray to know God's vision for our church and school and then be inspired to pursue it.



In May, the Ladies Bible Class will meet on Monday 5/3 and 5/17 at 7:00pm in the church narthex. Wear your masks and bring your chair or use a folding chair. All ladies are invited!

## CompassCare's Walk for Life

The Walk for Life weekend is the largest pro-life event in NY and is just around the corner! CompassCare's mission is to serve women and save lives. Join me at Delaware Park on May 1 by becoming a pledge-raising walker, a non-fund raising walker or pledging financial support. Go to [CompassCareWalk.com](http://CompassCareWalk.com) for all the information you need or give me a call at 430-6468. Thanks for your support!

~ Robin Makosy



## Live Steamed Services

Trinity's Sunday contemporary service is now being live streamed! The service can be accessed through our website "www.trinitywestseneca.com" and can be watched live or at anytime after the service time.

## Altar Candles & Flowers

**Flowers:** There are many open spots for altar flower donations in the upcoming months. Flowers 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.

Sign-up sheets are located on the Welcome Center in the narthex or you can contact the church office at 674-9188. All 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.\**



## Trinity Garden Club

Trinity's Garden Club is in need of volunteers on Tuesday evenings during the month of May from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. We will be cleaning up the church lawn and flower beds. Bring your own tools. No experience necessary!



## Attention All Leaders

If your ministry, team, board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting in July 2021 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Dave Sirgey **by JUNE 1**. Forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex or your can call or email the church office (674-9188 / [trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net](mailto:trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net)) to request a form.

## Trinity School News



### From the Principal ...

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We've made it to May! God is so good! We've made it through a few health challenges, some major fundraisers, we've started musical rehearsals and a modified volleyball season, and we are celebrating the reaching and exceeding of our Annual Fund goal, by a substantial amount! The Lord provided a long-term substitute for Mrs. Kopra when she's out on maternity leave, and He continues to bless us with good health and the ability to be here together each week. Your support through prayer, the Annual Fund, our BBQ and Meat Raffle fundraisers, your time and efforts, and your faithful giving continues to allow us to minister to our 90+ students each day. Those students have a safe and healthy environment, the companionship of their classmates, and the role models of their teachers to help them through this current physical and emotional health crisis. (I guess today is 'make a list' day!) It's easy to make long lists when blessings are being counted.

Keep an eye out for more information about our school musical, graduation and other year-end events. If space permits, we'd love to have you join us! It is a joy to be able to plan at least a semblance of these great fellowship events again. We continue to fervently pray for the health and well-being of all. He is Risen indeed, alleluia!

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal



Regular offerings are down about 8% v. last year. Most of the drop has occurred since November. However, through nine months of our fiscal budget, July 1 to March 31, our bottom line is still in the black, Total Income - \$545,718, Total Expenses - \$537,473. This is due to tuition payments which come in early in the year.

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

### **Nomination/ Call Committee Update April 20, 2021**

The Nomination/Call Committee is working to develop a list of potential candidates to bring to the congregation at a congregational meeting. We received a second list of potential candidates from President Wicher. We have studied information on the pastors included in the lists and have talked to potential candidates. Some candidates have indicated, for various reasons, that they are not interested in considering a call at this time. We continue in an effort to find the candidate that the Lord wants at Trinity.

Please pray for our call committee team and for patience – Nevin Hope, Lynnae Kwilas, Erin Kotowski, Trevor Jelowski, Robin Makosy, Kevin Kot and myself.

~ Dave Sirgey, Chairman  
Nomination / Call Committee

### **New Addresses**

Joy Belasic  
GreenFields Terrace - B4  
5979 Broadway  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Charlie & Eleanor Gass  
5115 Parker Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075

## 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 the final two organizations who received a \$700 donation from Trinity: Mission of Hope and The GreenFields Continuing Care Community.

### Mission of Hope

Mission of Hope is an organization following Jesus Christ, that exists to bring life transformation to every man, woman, and child in Haiti. MOH provides education, medical care, and nutrition to hundreds of thousands of people in Haiti every year. They also partner with local churches to serve local communities through their Church Advancement ministry. The medical care they provide includes vision, dental, prosthetics, outpatient, and urgent care, as well as vaccinations, HIV prevention, and community health education. MOH schools provide students with a quality, Christ-centered education and daily nutritious meals. Other education opportunities include their Technical School, Farm School and Seeds Program. Their disaster relief efforts provided life saving support after the 2010 earthquake, as well as after numerous hurricanes, and more recently through COVID-19 food distribution, sanitation stations, and prevention education.

With the vision to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Haiti, Mission of Hope was founded in 1998 by Brad and Vanessa Johnson. It has grown from a small mission located on a barren piece of land in Haiti to a multi-country organization that focuses on partnering with local churches to help people in their communities see, feel, and hear the Gospel.

MOH seeks to accomplish their mission by following their Core Resolutions, which are:

- **Connecting People to Jesus:** Repeatedly sharing the Gospel message in targeted geographies.
- **Empowering Local Leaders:** Strategically developing national leaders to carry the vision to the nation.
- **Serving People Holistically:** Continuously striving to meet the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of every man, woman, and child.
- **Engaging People Relationally:** Intentionally modeling Christ's love through relationships.
- **Stewarding with Excellence:** Responsibly utilizing all resources and talents to their fullest potential for God's glory.

Members of Trinity have been on three trips to Haiti with MOH and the organization has served a vital role in building a strong foundation to support the Upper Room orphanage. They've helped to guide and educate our mission teams to effectively serve the people of Haiti and more specifically the Upper Room. You can witness God's hand in the success of this organization and they give all the glory to God because He has made it all possible.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

**More information on MOH can be found at: [missionofhope.com](http://missionofhope.com).**

### The GreenFields Continuing Care Community *Niagara Lutheran Health System*

Most of you know of or have visited the GreenFields Continuing Care complex on Broadway in Lancaster, NY. Trinity has had a number of members reside or rehab at The GreenFields. But did you know that the Niagara Lutheran Health System (NLHS) has reached the age of 65? Old enough for Social Security and Medicare! It has been serving the needs of senior individuals and those needing rehabilitation services in the greater Western New York area for over six decades. Did you also know that two members of Trinity Lutheran Church have served as the Chaplain of NLHS? Rev. David Belasic retired about a year ago, and Rev. Dennis Krueger currently serves as the first full time Chaplain. Trinity has a strong tie to The GreenFields!

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The GreenFields Continuing Care Community (Continued)

The Niagara Lutheran Health System was founded by The Lutheran Council on the Niagara Frontier, a pan-Lutheran organization consisting of more than sixty Lutheran congregations in WNY, in 1956. At that time it was the first free-standing nursing home in New York State. Today the NLHS is a network of organizations employing more than 500 dedicated professional and support staff providing a continuing care network of a wide spectrum of therapy and care options.

NLHS began operating in the city of Buffalo in the newly constructed facility on Hager Street. In the mid 1990's, the Board of Directors began to focus on the possibility of developing a continuing care community in Western New York, where various levels of senior care that might be needed would be provided on a single campus. Today the vision has become a reality on the 52 acre campus on Broadway. While the location and facilities have changed, the mission to provide for the physical, social, and spiritual needs in a Christian environment remain the same. A wide variety of care and service options are provided from residential living and outpatient rehabilitation to long-term skilled nursing and memory care. Recently 24 new private rooms have been added to the GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center to expand services to the ever growing senior population. In 2019 the GreenField Childcare & Wellness Center was added to further minister to the needs of residents and staff.

The GreenFields is much more than a nursing home. It's a HOME! It's a Continuing Care Community that cares for heart and soul every day.



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for contributing \$700 to Southtowns LADD Thrift Shop. And thank you to the Executive Board for choosing us as a recipient. Also a thank you to LADD volunteer Jan Bullock for suggesting us to the Board for consideration for funds.

The money helped us to purchase laptops for two young people. One is for an autistic boy and one for a girl with Downs Syndrome who was just diagnosed with leukemia. With their laptops they are now able to socialize with family and friends.

God's Blessings to you,

Judy Jaeckle, Lois Rodgers, and  
all LADD volunteers

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$700 to the FeedMore WNY Foundation. Your professional collaboration and commitment to impacting our community is truly appreciated. Because you chose to give, thousands of Western New Yorkers of all ages can put nutritious meals on their tables.

Through home-delivered meals, meals served at congregate "stay Fit" dining sites and our network of 371 partner hunger-relief agencies and programs, FeedMore WNY provided nearly 16 million meals for our neighbors facing hunger in 2020 - almost 4 million more meals than what was provided in 2019!

Thank you again for helping us to distribute "more food" and do "more good" in WNY!

Sincerely,

Lisa Woodring  
Chief Development Officer



Trinity's Stephen Ministers and leaders hope and pray that you, your loved ones, and the people you care for are healthy and safe. We know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone—raising the level of fear, stress, and anxiety for people all over the world and underscoring the importance of caring. If you are feeling stressed and/or anxious, we are here to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, and needs someone to talk to, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders: Pastor Dennis 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.*

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## Opportunity to Serve

In the Bible, the words *servant* and *minister* are synonyms, as are *service* and *ministry*. If you are a Christian, you are a minister, and when you're serving, you're ministering.

Currently, there are two openings on the Board of Elders due to the expiration of existing members' terms of service. If you are a spiritually mature man or woman who desires to care for, pray for, and serve the people of God at Trinity please contact any member of the Executive Committee, the Board of Elders, and/or Pastor Ron and indicate your wish to be considered for appointment to the Board of Elders. God has a *ministry* for you in His church and a *mission* for you in the world.

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## 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 for this period will be accepted **until May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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## The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of May, we will be collecting cake mixes, canned frosting, and pudding. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden.



## 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](http://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.

## 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.

## Other Ways to Assist LWML

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

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## Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still 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 our 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.

*Trinity Christian*  
VIRTUAL SPRING  
**Meat Raffle**




SATURDAY **MAY 1**

STREAMS FACEBOOK  
LIVE @ 7PM

FIRST SPIN @ 7:15PM

*Tickets*  
**\$50**

INCLUDES:  
12 ROUNDS (3 CHANCES PER ROUND)  
FINALE, & CHANCE TO WIN  
5 HUGE GIFT BASKETS AND  
1 GRAND PRIZE



**PURCHASE BY APRIL 28**

PICK UP AT THE SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, MAY 8 FROM 10AM-NOON.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:** 1) Credit card through website - "Meat Raffle" dropdown under Fundraisers tab, 2) Mail or deliver cash or check to school office **OR** 3) purchase with cash or check from a school student. Include name, email, and phone number with all purchases. All proceeds benefit Trinity Christian School tuition and scholarships.

## Parents and Screen Time: Why We Need to be Mindful of Our Own Digital Habit

### 7 Tips to Be a Role Model of Healthy Technology Use to Your Kids

Sometimes children don't know how to compete with the phone to get their parents' attention and today's parents are the first generations to have technology interwoven into their lives. So it's not easy for them to know what the correct use of devices really looks like without having any role models before them.

What is clear is that **parents' relationships with their screens has a big effect on their relationship with their children**, as well as on their child's psychological development. In a relationship in which parents spend time with their children, are attentive to their needs and there is a good level of communication, stimulates child development. In a relationship where parents are distant, pay attention to other stimuli (like phones), we see the reverse – it negatively affects the child's emotional and behavioral development.

In a study published in the journal Child Development, researchers wanted to see if excessive use of technological devices by parents could be the basis of childhood behavioral disorders such as hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder (ADD), etc. The researchers asked parents to indicate the number of times that the mobile, computer or tablet interrupted the time they spent with their children. What they found is that **lack of attention, even for a few moments, could trigger the beginning of a behavior disorder in children**. That is, the more parents were distracted by technology, the more behavioral problems the children had, including violent behavior and tantrums. In addition, these children had lower self-esteem and more relationship difficulties with others.

In another interesting investigation, carried out in fast food restaurants by the Department of Pediatrics of the Boston Medical Center, researchers found that **73%** of parents used their mobile phones and the majority did not pay attention to their children during the entire meal.

#### **3 Signs Your Child Feels Displaced By Your Phone Use:**

- **Does your child get extremely angry when you ignore them?** When the child wants to say something or share something and the parents are looking at the phone instead of paying attention, it is absolutely normal for the child to feel displaced and have a tantrum or great anger.
- **Does your child yell when they ask you something?** When the child speaks in a normal tone and is heard the first time, he does not need to shout it. If the child decides to raise his voice to see if you listens to him that way, he is only checking if you pay more attention to him.
- **Has your child stopped trying to get your attention?** If the child has understood that what you see on your mobile phone is a higher priority than them, they may give up and lose interest in spending time with you.

#### **Educating By Example:**

**Children learn by imitation.** It is the first way that children learn human behaviors. In the words of Albert Einstein, "**Educating by example is not a way to educate, it is the only way.**" And, in that sense, our parents are our first and most important educators. Children internalize the behaviors of adults, and will come to consider them normal, even if they are not. That's why it is essential that parents are aware and alert about what they project to their children.

When we hear the words "bad habits", we can quickly think of smoking, unhealthy eating, etc. But screen addiction can be just as harmful. Here are some tips to help you set the right example for technology use in front of your children.

#### **7 Tips For Using Tech In A Positive Way In Front Of Your Kids:**

1. **Don't reply instantly to all emails or messages.** This can lead us to make mistakes and even many times it is not necessary or convenient.
2. **Self-impose timetables for using screens.** If you want to impose schedules on your children, you have to be the first to impose them on yourself.
3. **Put the phone on silent when you are with your kids.** I hear from many kids who say, "**When my parents' phone rings, I cease to exist for them.**"

*(Continued on page 9)*



### Happy Birthday

5/1	Esther Schuster (90 <sup>th</sup> ) Julie Blamowski	5/16	Peggy Wypior Chris McLaughlin Rebekah Lafferty	5/23	Ingrid Hamann
5/2	Amanda Kern	5/17	David Kosicki Renaë Makey Jackson Ecker	5/24	Carson Wackowski
5/6	Vince Canazzi Rachel Colson Grace Willert	5/18	Linda Meissner	5/25	Rev. Ron Habedank
5/10	Bradley Ganschow James Conti	5/19	Joshua Ecker Nathan Ecker Matthew Lafferty	5/26	Christopher Kopra Sarah McLaughlin Joseph Thompson
5/11	Victoria Hock	5/21	David Brown	5/27	Carl Lehsten Justine Monahan
5/14	Laurel McClellan Axl Farrell	5/22	Stephen Hope	5/28	Michael Canazzi
5/15	Katie Willert			5/30	Neil Halvorsen

### Happy Anniversary

5/1	Peter & Bisty Colson	5/11	Geraldine & William Swart	5/23	James & Lisa Manzo
5/5	David & Laura Broderdorf	5/14	Dave & Jane Sirgey	5/28	Roger & Denise Meissner
5/9	Marcia & Daniel Nickerson	5/16	Robert & Paulette Bogumil	5/30	Joshua & Sarah Makey
5/10	Robert & Joan Kopra	5/17	Dick & Gigi LoGalbo	5/31	Lisa & Matt Lopez

### Parents and Screen Time *(Continued from page 8)*

4. **Keep the phone out of reach (and out of sigh).** If your phone is in another room, in your pocket or bag as much as possible.
5. **Lead an active lifestyle.** Do activities with them that involve movement. There is no better way to combat screen addiction and sedentary lifestyle than physical activity. Even better, try to take your kids outdoors.
6. **Don't sleep with electronic devices.** Taking your laptop, tablet or mobile to bed makes it difficult to fall asleep.
7. **Don't use technological devices as babysitters.** It is so tempting to take a moment for yourself and use screens to distract your children. But it's a big mistake because it so easily becomes a habit.

Throughout history we have been social animals, and this has been to our advantage. **We also spent the majority of our lives outdoors.** These are very primal parts of our being and key to our children's social and physical development. We are the first generation of parents to be thrown into a digital world, accelerated even more by the pandemic, but **it is our job to not let ourselves be replaced by screens.**

*Excerpts taken from <https://www.qustodio.com/en/blog/2021/04/parents-screen-time-mindful/>*

#### **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

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