

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

AUGUST 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, School Principal, School: 674-5353

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

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday Evenings 5:00pm
(outdoors - weather permitting)

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am



40 Days of Purpose ... Revisited

The most basic question everyone faces in life is *“Why am I here? What is my purpose?”* Many of the self-help books written today suggest that people should look within at their own desires and dreams, but Pastor Rick Warren says the starting place must be with God and His eternal purposes for each life. Real meaning and significance come from understanding and fulfilling God’s purposes for putting us on earth ...

- **You were planned for God’s pleasure.** So, your first purpose is to offer real worship.
- **You were formed for God’s family.** So, your second purpose is to enjoy real fellowship.
- **You were created to become like Christ.** So, your third purpose is to learn real discipleship.
- **You were shaped for serving God.** So, your fourth purpose is to practice real ministry.
- **You were made for a mission.** So, your fifth purpose is to live out real evangelism.

16 years ago, beginning in September 2005, 181 members of our congregation (meeting in 13 small groups) studied Rick Warren’s *“The Purpose-Driven Life”* and explored its implications for the lifestyle of individual Christians ... a lifestyle based on eternal purposes, not cultural values. They took a serious look at God’s incredible plan for our lives ... a look that enables us to see the big picture of what life is all about and what it means to live the life God created us to live.

We’ll kick this campaign off on Sunday, September 12th, and wrap things up on Sunday, October 24th. Those who choose to participate via the internet will receive an email each day containing the material appropriate for that day. Those without internet access may choose to receive a hard copy of the material for the coming week following weekend worship services. It should take no more than 15 – 20 minutes of your time each day to read the material. Hopefully, you will then spend some time discussing each day’s offering with your spouse and/or family or members of a small group. Those participating in small group sessions will also have access to video presentations designed to help facilitate their discussions.

There is no book to buy, and participation in a small group is optional, but strongly encouraged. Whether you took part in the original campaign and would like to revisit the material again or are interested in getting involved for the first time, all are welcome and strongly encouraged to participate.

This has been a crazy year. The Corona virus, civil disobedience, racial upheaval, gender confusion, border disturbances, threats of biological and chemical weapons, and a world at war ... probably have you asking yourself, *“What is going on? And perhaps, more to the point, “What on Earth am I here for? How can I make a difference? What does God expect of me?”* **If that’s the case, this study is for you. If you’ve never asked yourself those questions ... this study is for you.**

Check the weekly announcements on the internet, bulletin, Life at Trinity and/or the Trinity Church Tidings for more information in the weeks to come.

Nomination / Call Committee Update

We are excited to announce that Pastor Nycholas Greig has accepted our call! He feels that Trinity is where God is leading he and his family and it's a good fit for them.

As you know, we extended a call to Pastor Nyck on July 12th. He and his wife, Stephanie, just completed a two day visit with our Trinity Church and School family where he was able to meet with representatives of the Executive Board, Elders, Deacons, Board of Education, Youth & Family Ministry, Property & Grounds, Outreach, Missions, and Music. He also met with Pastor Ron & Carolyn, Kathy Fretthold and Teresa.

The visit included a tour of the campus. Pastor Dennis and Lynn had the parsonage looking so good that I wanted to move in! The school on the other hand looked like it was torn apart to paint walls and wax floors, which I think is a good thing. Pastor Nyck and Stephanie were impressed with our campus. Our goal was to give them a true picture of our congregation and its dedicated church and school family.

Please pray for Pastor Nyck, his family and our congregation as we move forward.

~ Dave Sirgey, Chairman
Nomination / Call Committee

Recognition of Pastor Krueger Saturday, August 21st

A reception for Pastor Dennis Krueger will be held at church on Saturday, August 21 following the 5:00pm service to acknowledge his time and dedication to our congregation during his tenure here at Trinity. Pizza and refreshments will be served. At this event, we would like to present Pastor Krueger with a farewell 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.

Property Projects

The parsonage windows have been paid off in full. Thank you for your financial support of this project!!!

Trinity's current venture is the installation of a new boiler for the church and the removal of the existing chimney. An envelope will soon be included in our offering envelope packets for anyone wishing to make donations toward this new project. Until this happens, feel free to use the Parsonage Windows envelope or any other envelope for this purpose; please indicate "Boiler / Chimney" on them. Thank you!



Sunday School News

Sunday School will begin on **Sunday, October 3rd**! We need your help to make it a success. If you are interested in helping lead music, being a teacher or aide for a class, or are willing to be on a substitute list, please contact Sarah Gabel at sgabel@thinktrinitychristian.com. We will have an informational meeting September 12th following the Sunday morning service for all who are interested.

LWML Retreat September 24-26, 2021

The Buffalo Zone Retreat Committee eagerly awaits your arrival at this year's Fall retreat at Lutherlyn Camp, Butler, PA. We trust that this will be a time of spiritual renewal, physical rest, encouraging fellowship and fun for you. **Sharla Fritz** will be the guest speaker. She has recently published a book, *God's Relentless Love*. She will be incorporating our theme, "**Can Do - With Jesus**" (Phil.4:13), as she leads sessions centered around the book. Tracy Gerardi will play for our entertainment, Saturday evening. See Linda Meissner for more info or go to east-dist-LWML.org/events.html for a registration form. Sept. 1, 2021 is the deadline.



Altar Flowers

There are several openings for flower donations in August. Arrangements are only \$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. Sign-up sheets are located on the Welcome Center in the church narthex or you can contact the church office (674-9188). Remember to list your special intentions, which will be printed in the Life at Trinity announcement sheet on the date you sign up for.



Readers Needed

Are you willing to occasionally read the Scripture readings during worship services? If yes, please contact the church office (trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net or 674-9188). Readers are needed for both the Sunday and Saturday services. Volunteers will be asked to read 1-2 passages from the Bible, which will be given to them in advance.

Trinity School News

From the Principal ...

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." *James 1:2-5*

These verses have been such a comfort to me over the last 16 months and continue to encourage me as we look toward the 2021-22 school year. The church and school were richly blessed to be able to minister to all of our students last year. As we welcome students back in September and also introduce new students and families to Trinity, we are once again facing the uncertainties of COVID and the health and safety requirements it engenders. As of this writing, schools have not received safety guidance from NY State or Erie County, but we know and trust that the Lord will continue to enable us to glorify Him through the ministry of the school through this challenge. Hallways are being painted (THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!), floors waxed, desks counted, textbooks ordered. We're thrilled to welcome Ashley Kopra back to the classroom and looking forward to enjoying many beautiful baby pics! Our enrollment is up for this year, praise God. We have actually reached our Kindergarten classroom limit size of 20 children - wow!

The staff and I are anxious to resume all the great congregational and school family fellowship events we've been missing so much! (Taste of Trinity... 😊)

We're excited to be partnering in mission efforts with the congregation, as well. Please don't hesitate to contact me if your organization would benefit from support from the students - whether it be cash or item collections, greeting cards or crafts, or even a video performance. The children love to help.

We'll be looking for folks to help out, once again, as classroom readers, Prayer Partners, lunchroom helpers or any other way you feel you'd like to be involved with the children. They benefit immeasurably from the example set by Christian adults. And you might just have some fun, too! Helping hands with building and maintenance needs are so very appreciated too. Several teachers recently shared their pleasure at having all of their student desks adjusted and repaired. Thank you, Ron! **ALL** of the support provided by the congregation is an exceptional gift to the school mission and gives glory to His Name. May our Heavenly Father bless you and keep you in peace during these beautiful summer days. We pray together that His will be done as we seek a new pastoral shepherd for our church and school.

~ Kathleen Fretthold, Principal



A BW's chicken BBQ to benefit the Plymouth Crossroads program will be held Thursday, August 5 in the parking lot of Ebenezer United Church of Christ on Main Street in West Seneca from 4 PM til sold out. The meal is \$12. Tickets can be purchased from Nancy Hope. Please call her at 674-8544 or see her after church on Sunday mornings.

Why are we supporting this fundraiser? Trinity is a member of the West Seneca Community of Churches (WSCC). Half of the offerings given during the 2019 WSCC Lenten Journey were given to Plymouth Crossroads, which is a program for homeless youth in Western New York. Our financial support was and is greatly needed and appreciated. Thanks for your support of this community ministry in advance!



Trinity School Work Day August 21 8am-12pm

In preparation for the new school year, we will be holding one more School Work Day this summer on Saturday, August 21 from 8am-12pm. We will be working on renovating the playground. If you can assist with this project, we'd love to have your help! Older teenagers and adults are welcome to attend.

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. And Sr High Summer Schedule

Much thanks to the youth, teens and adults that went to serve at the Harvest House Ministry on July 23!! Your work will make a difference and God will use it in neat ways.

Jr. and Sr. High Pool party is scheduled for Sunday 8/1 at the Kot's house from noon to 4pm! Bring a snack to share if you like. Also, modest swimsuits please. If it's a 2 piece, please wear a t-shirt. Thank you Kots!!!

- ☑ 6/30 Youth night grades 6-12 (6:30-8:30)
- ☑ 7/8 - Fall event planning zoom meeting
- ☑ 7/12 - Youth Night grades 6-12 (6:30-8:30)
- ☑ 7/23 - Harvest House servant event
- ☑ 7/17 - 7/24 - Eight Days of Hope servant event
- 8/1 - Pool Party at the Kot's (12pm-4pm)
- 8/17 - Youth night grades 6-12 (6:30pm-8:30pm)
- 8/25 - Feed More WNY servant event
- 8/31 - Youth night grades 6-12 (6:30pm-8:30pm)

National Youth Gathering

Anyone interested in the National Youth Gathering for next summer, there will be a meeting **August 3 at 6pm** at Mark Willert's house - outside weather permitting, inside church if not. We'll share the information we have so far to get the ball rolling and parents can share ideas they'd like to organize for fundraising.

West Seneca Town Summer Events

Farmer's Market & Summer Concert Series

These events are held on the West Seneca Town Hall grounds Thursday from June 24 - August 18. The Farmer's Market is from 4:00pm-7:00pm; the concerts are held at 7:00pm in the Lion's Bandshell behind town hall. All are welcome to come and enjoy!

Bike Rides & Yoga

In addition to the weekly Farmers' Market, West Seneca Bikes offers a slow-paced family bike ride of 6-8 miles each Thursday during the summer. Riders can assemble at 6:45pm in the parking lot near the town ice rink and will roll out at 7pm. Riders should wear helmets and highly visible clothing; leave headphones or earpieces at home.

Valerie Halady, fitness instructor with the West Seneca Senior Center, will lead yoga classes on Thursday at 6:00pm. Participants should bring a yoga mat and water.



Do you have someone that you would like to add onto Trinity's prayer chain? If so, please contact Judy Schmidt (judyschmidt349@roadrunner.com / 926-9054) with your request.

Pioneer on the Lake: Looking for Liaisons

Pioneer on the Lake is looking for a congregational liaison from each church in the Eastern District to strengthen its ties to those parishes. If you would be willing to receive email communications a few times a year, submit provided bulletin announcements and posters to the Pastor, and communicate the needs of your church regarding outdoor recreation to Pioneer's Church Outreach Team, please reach out to us at office@pioneeronthelake.com. Thank you for considering this position. We value our relationship with you and your parish.

Local Missions Call . . . Trinity Answers!

Harvest House

Much thanks to the 20 youth, teens and adults that went to serve at the Harvest House Ministry on July 23! Your work will make a difference and God will use it in neat ways. Lots of weed pulling to beautify the grounds, indoor and outdoor windows, sorting infant clothing, sweeping, cleaning, and wiping down chairs were among the accomplished duties. The president, Carol Murphy, was more than grateful. Usually they turn away groups to help, but since they've been allowed to have people back in the building since March, our group is only the third to step up and offer! Thank you to Kevin and Colleen Kot for organizing! If you feel led to help this ministry, contact Kevin or Colleen Kot to get connected!

Harvest House offers help and care to new moms, offers job training and certification in the areas of nursing, electrical, and plumbing. They offer medical & dental care, and counseling services to adults who are uninsured or under-insured. They provide outreach and care for young adults who are a risk for HIV, STI's, substance abuse and/or youth experiencing homelessness. They offer housing assistance and referral services for individuals living with a chronic illness. At the Baby & Children's Ministry mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and other caregivers "shop" free of charge for items their children need. They also offer free Math and English tutoring. The Harvest House Retreat Center includes: a gymnasium; fully equipped kitchen; dining room seating 90, and much more!



Eight Days of Hope

Trinity also had a group of adults and youth who volunteered at Eight Days of Hope - Buffalo from July 17-24. Eight Days of Hope is a faith-based non-profit organization that lends a hand to spread hope to those in need. This year home maintenance tasks were preformed for families in the city's Masten District.



Mezcal and Missions

I have a new friend who's worked at Premier Wine at Quaker Crossing a long time. I met Ed Draves in a men's small group over at St. John in OP. No, the small group isn't about drinking alcohol in case you were wondering... 😊 But he's got this amazing thing going that connects mission and ministry with Mezcal. He'd like to do a presentation for us that will share how they connect and offer a triple Mezcal tasting at the same time!

He will share about Mezcal basics (Tequila is a type of Mezcal) and tell his story for about 10 - 15 minutes followed by a guided tasting of 3 different Mezcals (chosen from the places that partner in mission and one that's not available in the U.S.). He'll teach proper tasting techniques and encourage people to discuss the different "flavors" they sense. Then a Q&A session about the missions, opportunity to serve in those mission areas, Mezcal, or anything people feel like asking about. All provided for free and he appreciates the opportunity to share with people how they can donate or get involved with the mission.

There's absolutely no strings or expectations, but to be honest, the story he's told me about this connection and God working is worth hearing and I thought it would be worth sharing. And we'll get a little education and culture in the process! No date set yet, but if you're interested in this, let me know and we'll make it happen.

~ Mark Willert,
Youth and Family Life Coordinator
mkwillert@aol.com



Cemetery News

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity's 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.
- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.

Burial plots are still available in our 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 in order to purchase plots.

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of August, we will be collecting canned fruit. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden.

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were once members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Board located in the church's fellowship area. The cost is \$25. Please contact the church office (674-9188) if you are interested in purchasing a plaque. Orders will be accepted until September 6th.



From the Hallmark store and channel to QVC and Amazon, Christmas bells are ringing! Some people throw parties that mimic Christmas celebrations in backyards, at campgrounds and even on the beach. Tradition holds that the observance started at a girls' camp some 88 years ago. Others believe that it began in the Southern hemisphere by those wishing to experience a white Christmas. At Niagara Lutheran Health System – The GreenFields it feels like 'Christmas in July' as COVID restrictions are modified permitting more visitation and a return to gathering together for worship and activities. They are beginning to invite area clergy to return and lead our various worship services. They are also making plans to offer a "Chaplain Assistant" training program this Fall. If you want to visit a loved one or church member, please go to the website, www.niagaralutheran.org for the latest visitation guidelines.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

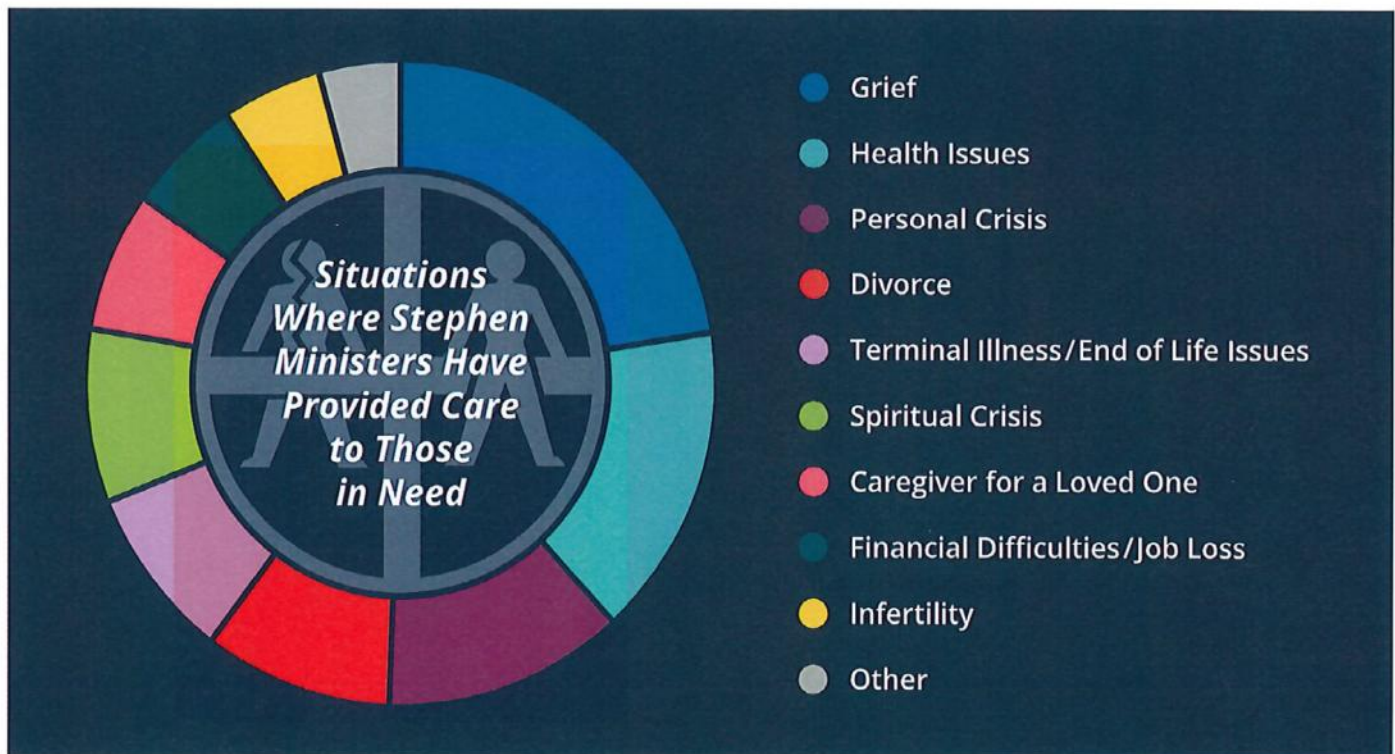
Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

*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 8)

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

8/1	Bitsy Colson Paul Zawadzki Amelia Babcock	8/11	David Winkelses Sue Schueler Harry Babcock	8/18	Jeffrey Kopra Kathryn Berton Blakelyn Hall	8/26	Reed Courteau
8/2	Adam Zawadzki	8/12	Paula Winkelses Bradley McKernan	8/19	Paul Veros Michael Zarbo Ben Makosy	8/28	Levi Kotowski
8/3	Andrew Kosicki	8/15	Lori Hock	8/20	Sara Lipinoga	8/29	Mary Ann Moeller Jayden Ecker
8/6	Nancy Ehlers	8/16	Mike Farrell	8/22	Ron Boersch	8/30	Mark Ganschow
8/7	Beverly Kinton Barbara Monahan Liam McKernan	8/17	Joan Kopra	8/23	Ellen Makey	8/31	Taylor Blamowski
8/10	Carol Ciso Renee Stefanik	8/18	Michele Ganschow Alan Tedesco Lynnae Kwilas	8/25	Lauren Jaskier		

Happy Anniversary

8/1	Dan & Linda Rowsell	8/18	Dan & Stacy Conti Christopher & Ashley Kopra
8/3	Mark & Robbin Blajszczak	8/20	Ronald & Judy Boersch
8/5	Jeffrey & Sandra Gertis	8/22	Julie & David Blamowski
8/6	Peter & Janet Bullock	8/23	Travis & Michelle Ecker
8/8	David & Heidi Kosicki	8/24	Rev. Dennis & Lynn Krueger
8/9	Matthew & Lisa Lafferty	8/26	Lars & Lisa Osberg
8/15	Carolyn & Kevin Flattery	8/27	Mark & Corine Rodgers
8/16	Kevin & Colleen Kot	8/28	Don & Kim Meissner

Emergency Need

If a family member is hospitalized or there is an emergency need, please inform and phone Pastor Ron (585-902-6005 / cell: 984-6021), the church office (674-9188), or one of the Deacons.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (July - Sept 2021) devotion booklets are still available. Booklets can be picked up from the tables and Welcome Center in the church narthex.



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!!!

Shut-ins can receive our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet and monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter by mail or email. Contact the church office (674-9188) to find out more information.

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

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