

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2022

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

Rev. Nycholas Greig, Pastor, 674-9188 / C: (804) 382-6199
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 @ 10:30 am

“New Year, New You”

It's that time of year again. A time to make New Year's Resolutions.

“I'm going to eat healthier.”

“I'm going to exercise more.”

“I'm going to learn a new skill or hobby.”

“I'm going to be more generous with my time and money.”

“I'm going to spend more time in devotion and prayer.”



An oft repeated statistic says that only 8% of people achieve their New Year's Resolutions. I don't have a way of proving this, but I do have my own history of failed New Year's resolutions to indicate that this is probably true.

This past year our congregation made a New Year's resolution of sorts, embarking upon a visioning process that has culminated in a new vision statement for us to focus on going forward. *We are a caring, welcoming family of believers sharing God's love by equipping every generation to serve all people as Jesus did for us.* This resulting vision helps us understand who Jesus says we are as members of Trinity and what we are called to do.

Now if we are going to be the caring, welcoming family of believers we are called to be, it changes how we act. It makes a difference in our own hearts and lives. We cannot share what we do not have and so if we are to share God's love, we need to experience God's love. God's love must be something we ourselves know and believe, being reminded of this as we worship together, learn together and support and equip one another.

This year, instead of forming a New Year's resolution that will pass and fade with our passing attention, commit yourself to a grander vision given to you by God to share his love and build others up. This doesn't depend on our strength or abilities. He will help you accomplish it. And be encouraged by the words of Paul in Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



Schedule Changes

Effective January 9, 2022

Sunday Worship at 10:30am
(no longer at 9:30am)

Sunday Meetings at 9:15am
(Sunday School, Confirmation Class,
Sr. High Sunday School, Adult Bible Study)

Saturday Worship at 5:00pm

After careful review of our current worship times and education offerings, we have decided to change the time of our Sunday morning schedule to a **9:15am Educational Hour** (Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Sr. High Sunday School, Sunday Adult Bible Study) and **10:30am Contemporary Worship service**. This change will go into effect starting on **January 9th**. We feel this new schedule provides us with the opportunity to emphasize our Sunday morning education opportunities and create fellowship on Sunday mornings. This also gives us the freedom to re-evaluate our worship services in the future. We understand any change to the worship schedule directly affects the members of Trinity. We pray that this schedule meets the needs of you and your family as we joyfully worship together and serve at Trinity.

~ Pastor Nyck



2022 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2022 sign-up charts are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. 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.*

40 Days of Purpose Revisited Begins January 9, 2022

Do you remember the book Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren? It was all the rage in the early 2000's as it addressed significant questions people had regarding what is the meaning of life, and what is my purpose? Many churches engaged in a congregation wide study together, including Trinity. But even 15 years later these questions still remain just as pertinent as they did back then, and this issue is one that is worthy of being revisited. Starting **January 9th** we will be taking another look at this book as a congregation to once more glean understanding for not only what our purpose is, but how we can put it into practice in our daily lives. We are encouraging everyone to read (or re-read) the book over the next 40 days starting on January 9th. We will be engaging with the topics presented in the book week by week in our weekly worship services during that time. We will also be asking all members of Trinity to engage in a small group (preferably outside of a small group you are already engaged with). **Sign-up forms can be found in the narthex; place completed form in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.**

Executive Board

The Executive Board meets monthly, typically on the third Monday of the month. Along with regular reports and business, we are working on growing our church's mission and ministry. We are currently working on the following:

- Ministry Clarity Process (Vision)
- Board of Stewardship

Executive Board

Chris Kopra
Chris Kotowski
Lynnae Kwilas
Brian Makey, Chair
Robin Makosy
Laurel McClellan, Secretary

Advisory Members

Pastor Greig
Lisa Lafferty, Board of
Education

Treasurer

Ben Makosy



Recycle Greeting Cards

If you'd like to recycle your holiday or special occasion cards, please save them and place in my message box at church. Cut off the front cover of your card (no personal writing allowed on the flip side). NO Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings cards are accepted **unless** they are Christmas religious. Christmas religious cards will be used to make Christmas Booklets for those in nursing homes; all other cards will be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Thank you.

~ Linda Rowsell

School News



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we go! Since the end of October, thoughts and events seemed to revolve around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now it's time for Lutheran Schools Week, re-enrollment and Open Houses, Taste of Trinity (1/23/22), fundraisers, spring events and planning for next year. The "Circle of Life" at Trinity! We will be having our annual basket raffle and a carry-out spaghetti dinner in March, so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

I hope you all enjoyed a Christmas blessed by love and family. The students had a December full of a variety of events, supported by hard-working staff, (mostly) healthy students, and frazzled parents. The Christmas Celebration on 12/15, the PK concert on 12/20 and the Pageant on 12/23 all went very well, and all who attended were blessed by the efforts of the students!

Thank you, Prayer Partners, for your many cards and gifts for your partners at Christmas. They love knowing they are prayed for.

The students are collecting food and clothing items for Hearts for the Homeless this second trimester. They seem to appreciate the opportunity to bring things, rather than dollars, for our chapel recipients. A representative will be coming in January to share more information about Hearts for the Homeless with the students.

We pray for health and healing for our country, our loved ones and all who are suffering as we enter this new year filled with the hope found in our newborn Savior. We pray that Trinity, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continues to grow and thrive in service to our Lord!

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School



Taste of Trinity **Sunday ~ January 23, 2022** **At Trinity School**

Save the date!!! Refer to upcoming weekly *Life at Trinity* announcement sheets for more information.

Teen Parenting Small Group

Our "Tough Guys and Drama Queens" parenting small group topic we had planned to start the second week of January will be postponed until after our Trinity "40 Days of Purpose".

If you are still interested or haven't let Mark Willert know, please do so mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com.



Trinity School Alumni

Abby Anderson, a Trinity School graduate and current high school senior at Buffalo Seminary, is the pitch (conductor) for an acapella group at her school. The group consists of 10 members and includes Abby's sister Joanna who is a freshman. Recently the group sang at the North Buffalo Tree Lighting Ceremony held at St. Margaret's Church on Hertel Avenue. Way to go girls!!



Thank You Parent Shoppers!

The December youth Drop & Shop event sponsored by Thrivent was a huge success! Emma Hope, Abby, Joanna, and Luke Anderson, and moms Noel and Carol all worked to make the event a successful fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering. Children enjoyed pizza, Christmas cookie decorating stations, face painting, ornament making, and the Christmas movie The Star. 27 children from both the church and school attended and \$560 was raised toward the 2022 National Youth Gathering. If you'd like to make a special donation to our students going to the gathering, please contact Noel Anderson or send it in to the church office and we'll make sure they get it!



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church to make it look so nice for the holiday season!

~ Mark Ganschow, Deacon



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.

LWML Winter Event

Saturday, February 5 9am-12noon
First Trinity Lutheran Church
(1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda)

Ladies of Trinity, you are invited to this informative event which will break up the monotony of winter. Pastor Christ will be teaching on Romans 12:6 (our various gifts), followed by a speaker from the Family Justice Center. The service part of the meeting will be a choice of 4 stations for women to use their gifts: tying blankets, creating blessing bags of toiletries, writing cards of encouragement, or doing a cross/Bible verse craft. The blankets and bags will go to the Family Justice Center (for domestic violence shelters) and the cards and crosses will go to residents at Greenfields Assisted Living. Although we do not have an active society, we continue to support the functions and mission projects of the Zone and National LWML organizations through collection of Mites, cancelled stamps and used brand name ink cartridges. Young ladies, as well as mature sisters, are welcome. Drinks and snacks will be provided by the ladies of St. Paul, Batavia. If the event needs to be cancelled due to Covid 19, a shorter event will be held on Zoom. RSVP to Lisa Beller Hoover at lisadq@rocketmail.com by January 24th if you can attend this special event.



Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2022) 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!

2021 Financial Statements

The 2021 member financial statements will be generated the second week of January. Check your church mailbox or the table in the narthex for your statement.



The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of January, we will be collecting pancake mix and syrup. Please do not donate any expired food. Items will be delivered to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden.

YOUTH SCOOP

January Events:

January 12: Jr. & Sr. High gym night 6:30pm-8:00pm at the school.

January 15: Jr. & Sr. High sledding or winter hike (depending on snowfall) from 1-3:30pm at Chestnut Ridge.

January 30: Sr. High only - hot chocolate bar before church!

December Movie Night:

For the December movie night, the youth had a great time watching the movie classic, Polar Express. After watching they discussed the many parallels that are in the movie relating to faith and God. Some very interesting conversation! Plenty of pizza, Christmas cookies, and eggnog (some tried for the first time!) were consumed.



Ten Ways for Families to Engage Kids in Worship: Tips 8-10

(Continued from October & November newsletters)

~ Taken from Faith Formation Ministries

8. **CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS:** As a member of God's family, it's important for your child to be present at the celebrations of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Try to provide your child with an up-close view during baptism, and welcome the newest member together after the service. Use a rainy day to make some "Welcome to God's Family" cards together and send them when a new baby is baptized. Whether or not your child fully participates in the Lord's Supper, he or she IS experiencing it. Enfold children who aren't participating by whispering what you are remembering as you eat and drink, and reminding them "Jesus loves you too!"
9. **TALK ABOUT WORSHIP ON THE WAY HOME:** Ask kids about what they saw and heard in worship. Affirm their insights and encourage them to learn more. Ask if they wonder about anything that was said. As you talk, use the language of worship to build your children's vocabulary.
10. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE:** Make regular church attendance a family priority. Worshiping with God's people is the best way to help your children feel that church is a place where they belong.



Media Fact Sheet

Release Date: September 1, 2021

History: Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation in St. Louis to be *Stephen Ministers*. They assisted him in providing Christian care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties. These trained caregivers were so enthused about their ministry, they encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer *Stephen Ministry* to more congregations.

Over the next few years, Dr. Haugk traveled to congregations and trained Stephen Ministers. This quickly proved to be inefficient, since he could visit only a limited number of congregations, and these congregations were then dependent on him to train additional caregivers. So in 1978 Stephen Ministries held the first Leader's Training Course and trained the first *Stephen Leaders*—representatives of various congregations who then returned home to train and supervise their own Stephen Ministers. Since then Stephen Ministries St. Louis has specialized in "training the trainers" through the Stephen Ministry system.

Definition of Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around the congregation.

The Organization: Stephen Ministries St. Louis is a not-for-profit, transdenominational, religious and educational organization founded in 1975. The St. Louis-based staff of 40 provides support for ministry in more than 13,000 congregations worldwide. Dr. Haugk serves as Executive Director.

The Name: The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry Statistics: These statistics are updated annually. Statistics can be obtained online at stephenministries.org or by calling Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600.

- **Congregations:** More than 13,000 congregations are enrolled in Stephen Ministry. They represent 185 different Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.
- **People:** More than 75,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have been trained as Stephen Leaders at Leader's Training Courses. These Stephen Leaders have, in turn, trained more than 600,000 congregation members to be Stephen Ministers. Since 1975 Stephen Ministers have provided distinctively Christian care to more than one-and-a-half million people in one-to-one Stephen Ministry caring relationships and have also used their caregiving skills to touch the lives of millions more in other ways.

The Stephen Ministry Logo:

The logo Stephen Ministry congregations use consists of a cross and circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives as a result of our sin. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is through the cross of Jesus that we again are made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.



Stephen Ministries: Media Fact Sheet

How the Stephen Ministry Works: Pastors, church staff, and lay leaders attend a Leader's Training Course, taught by the Stephen Ministries faculty, to learn how to implement Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained Stephen Leaders then begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained *Stephen Leaders* then return home to begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation.

Stephen Leaders recruit and select laypeople from the congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers and provide them with 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving. Topics include listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations such as divorce, terminal illness, grief, and childbirth. Stephen Ministers also are trained to recognize when a care receiver's needs go beyond the care a Stephen Minister can provide and how to refer the care receiver for additional care.

At the end of training, *Stephen Ministers* are commissioned by the congregation. Stephen Leaders then link each Stephen Minister with a *care receiver*—a person in need of one-to-one Christian care. A Stephen Minister normally is assigned to only one care receiver at a time and meets with that person for about an hour each week.

Stephen Ministers also meet twice monthly for supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministers initially commit to two years of service, but after those years many recommit to serve additional years.

Terminology: The organization, based in St. Louis, is *Stephen Ministries St. Louis*. The lay caregiving ministry system congregations implement is *Stephen Ministry*, once it has been implemented in a congregation. The pastors and laypeople trained by the Stephen Ministries faculty to direct their congregation's Stephen Ministry are called *Stephen Leaders*. The people trained to provide one-to-one care to those in need are called *Stephen Ministers*. Those who receive the care of Stephen Ministers are referred to as *care receivers*.

Important to Note

- Stephen Ministers are not counselors. They are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not counsel or advise. Please do not refer to them as counselors.
- Stephen Ministry is a supervised ministry. Stephen Ministers engage in twice-monthly supervision to ensure that they are providing the best-quality Christian care.
- Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. What a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister remains confidential. Even in supervision, the names of care receivers and specific details are never discussed.
- Stephen Ministers do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

Other Ministry Resources

In addition to Stephen Ministry, Stephen Ministries St. Louis offers many other resources to enhance congregation ministry.

These other resources from Stephen Ministries include:

- *Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life*
- *Journeying through Grief*
- *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering*
- *Cancer—Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead*
- *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*
- *Caring for Inactive Members*
- *Antagonists in the Church: How to Identify and Deal with Destructive Conflict*

Media Opportunity: We hold introductory workshops about Stephen Ministry across the U.S. each year (stephenministry.org/workshop). Members of the media are invited to attend these workshops as our guests. Interested media persons can contact our Communications Department at (314) 428-2600.

Happy Birthday

1/3	Susan Tedesco	1/12	Stephanie Greig	1/22	Kim Caldarella
1/4	Daniel Rowsell Abigal Blamowski	1/13	Brynn Gabel Martha Royal	1/24	Kathy Herman Kyle Lelito
1/6	Peter Szeider Macsen Courteau	1/14	Jack Iannuzzelli	1/26	Patricia Hartman
1/7	Bob Eising	1/18	Dennis Glinski Jr.	1/27	Stacie Bookhagen Ella Meunier
1/8	Daniel Nickerson	1/19	David Anderson Lindsay Iannuzzelli	1/28	Tricia Glinski
1/10	Carolyn Carr Joanna Anderson		Myah Meunier	1/31	Paul Thompson Rev. Nyck Greig
1/11	Linda Rowsell	1/20	Ruth Zawadzki		
		1/21	Christa Wilkening		

No January Anniversaries



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.**

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 Nyck, one of our elders, or the church office know! We want to care for all!!!



Firewood Available

Dead ash tree wood from the property has been cut into 16-18 inch pieces, split and stacked next to the school and playground. It is for sale for \$90 per cord or \$3 per bundle of 8 pieces. Please place cash or check in an envelope marked

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's Angel Tree. Your gifts to the young men and women at the Renaissance House Campus were greatly appreciated!



Member Email Addresses

Does Trinity have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving Trinity's weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address or you can write your name and email on a piece of paper and place it in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

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

Name

Rev. Nycholas Greig
Kathleen Fretthold
Mark Willert
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

Contact Information

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