

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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

“Celebrating God’s Love”

Not that I forgot, but my wife, Stephanie, has reminded me that Valentine’s Day is near. It’s the time for flowers, chocolates, and romantic greeting cards. It’s the time to remember love and think of those special to us.

However, Saint Valentine, the namesake for our modern holiday, was not feeling a lot of warm sentiments of love on the fourteenth day of February in about the year 269/270 A.D. There seem to be three traditions surrounding Saint Valentine, but all three end the same. One tradition claims he was a priest in Rome who assisted those imprisoned during the persecution undertaken by Emperor Claudius II. Valentine was arrested and put on trial, and when he would not forsake his faith, Valentine was sentenced to death. Another tradition says Saint Valentine defied the same Emperor Claudius, who prohibited young men from getting married in order that they might better serve the Roman Empire as soldiers. Supposedly Valentine continued to perform marriages, an act that led to his eventual imprisonment and death. A third tradition reports that Saint Valentine actually sent the very first valentine to a jailer’s daughter whom he befriended during his time in a Roman jail. He is said to have signed the note, “From your Valentine.” All three of these traditions end in Saint Valentine’s martyrdom on February 14th when he was beaten with clubs and then beheaded.

The thread that connects each of these three stories (regardless of whether the details of them carry more fiction than fact) is the theme of *love*. Truly it is good to focus our attention on love—the ways in which we show our love to those special to us, the Christian love we have for fellow members of the family of Christ, and most importantly, the love God shows to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. *Jesus is the source of love we share and the model of love we follow.* Saint John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, teaches us,

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:7-11 ESV)

In this month that celebrates love, remember first and foremost God’s love. Additionally, think of ways you can reflect God’s love to those near-and-dear to your heart. How do you show your love to your spouse, your children, your family, your Christian friends? Look at the people you know, and share God’s love with someone who does not know Jesus as their Savior. And in everything you do, celebrate the fact that God loves you—now and forever!



Happy Valentine’s Day!

Pastor Nyck

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
- Delegates for the District Convention
- Church Directory

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



Altar Flowers & Candles

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom.

Flowers: Flower donations are needed for **February & March**. They 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.

Altar Candles: \$25 per month. Many months are still open.

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.



2021 Giving Statements

Statements have been generated and were placed in members' church mailboxes. Statements for those without mailboxes will be on the table in the narthex until February 13. After that date, please contact the church office for your statement.



New Member Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member at Trinity? Are you interested in finding out more about what Lutherans believe? Are you wanting to develop a closer relationship with God but don't know where to start? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, join us Sunday afternoons from 1:00m-2:30pm on February 20th and 27th, and March 6th. In these three classes we will give an overview of Lutheran beliefs, and what membership at Trinity entails with the goal of welcoming new members on March 13th. For more information or to sign up please contact Pastor Nyck: pastornyck@gmail.com.

RightNow Media

I'm excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it's been called the "Netflix of video Bible studies"). This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include free discussion guides and handouts.

Our church believes that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life—at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.

You will soon receive an email invitation to set up your account for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it by February 7th, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.)

To get started, simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!

Prayer Chain

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.

School News



From the Principal ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We're more than halfway through another pandemic school year already. We are blessed to be open, running effectively, and even anticipating some upcoming events! Pencil in the Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle for March 26, for example, and our spring musical will soon be in production. God is good!

Our Lutheran Schools Week celebrations at the end of January allowed students and staff to have some fun each day (very welcomed after the Bills loss, especially...). Our annual theme of *In All Things ... Jesus Reigns!* was the perfect starting point for our planning. We took some time each day to thank God for the blessing of Christian education, to appreciate the joy of sharing the name of Jesus, and for our dedicated staff. We compiled a list of (most of) our faculty and staff and the years they've been in Lutheran education as an educator or staff member. Here they are: Karen Schmidt (PK3) and Kathy Fretthold, 29 years; Katie Willert, Mark Willert and Christine Harris, 26 years; Judeen Babcock, 22 years; Angela Aures (PK4), Sarah Sirgey and Noel Anderson, 15 years; Derek Robinson, 12 years; Ashley Kopra, 8 years; Lindsay Schieber (gr. 2), 2 years. Isn't that amazing? What a wealth of experience and knowledge! The faculty and staff here at Trinity are exceptional in their dedication, longevity, and that so many are Called or Synodically trained. They continue to witness to students and families daily, striving to fulfill our mission of "Guiding our children in faith, learning, character and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a lifetime of service to God and man." Our many dedicated volunteers in the building, on the grounds, and on the Board of Christian Education also support and guide us with their energies and talents! We have so much to celebrate.

Thank you for remembering your Prayer Partners, for supporting the school through prayer and resources, and especially for your continuing love for Jesus and His calling for us here at Trinity.

~ Kathleen Fretthold
Principal, Trinity Christian School

From the School Board ...

Dear Trinity Families,

After eight years serving as Principal of Trinity Christian School, Mrs. Fretthold will be stepping down at the end of this school year. She's been a blessing to the entire Trinity family and has been vital to the continued growth and success of the school. Especially in these past couple of years of navigating completely new and unprecedented challenges, her leadership has been indispensable. We will certainly miss her!

We're already working hard to make this a smooth transition! The board is actively seeking someone to fill the position. Mrs. Willert and Mrs. Gabel have agreed to an interim co-principal position if a suitable Principal candidate is not found by the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. They've been learning administrative duties from Mrs. Fretthold for over a year, have extensive experience at Trinity, and are prepared to lead the school next year, if needed.

Mrs. Fretthold has agreed to be available as a consultant for the staff next school year. We appreciate her being willing to continue to provide guidance and support, and ensure the success of the next school year.

~ Lisa Lafferty
School Board Chairman

YOUTH SCOOP

Jr. & Sr. High Upcoming Events:

- 1/29 - Sledding/Hiking @ Chestnut Ridge
- 1/30 - Hot chocolate Sunday for Sr. High
- 2/12 - Beauty & The Beast at WSW High to see Faith & Bethany in the ensemble
- 2/16 - Jr. and Sr. Night Gym Night 6:30pm-8pm
- 2/22 - Jackbox Night

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

For the month of February, we will be collecting cans of tuna and chicken. Items will be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Thank you!

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 "Firewood" in the offering plate.

Church & School Financial Update As of 12/31/2021

As shown below, we are about where we expected to be half way through the fiscal year (July 2021 - June 2022). The first half of the boiler / chimney project has been paid (\$33,000) using \$15,000 from Church Memorials, donations, and the budgeted church account for major repairs.

	Budget 7/1/21-6/30/22	First Half Actual \$ to Date	% of Budget
Revenue:			
Offerings - regular	\$336,000	\$170,076	51%
Average weekly	\$ 6,462	\$ 6,541	101%
Offerings - special	\$ 12,100	\$ 4,091	34%
Tuition	\$342,078	\$204,164	60%
NYS Aid, STEM, AID*	\$27,600	-	0%
All Other	\$ 18,350	\$ 4,173	23%
Total:	\$736,128	\$382,504	52%
Expenses:			
Gross Payroll	\$541,617	\$268,309	50%
Fringes	\$ 69,391	\$ 32,277	47%
LCEF Loan	\$ 20,790	\$ 12,128	58%
All Other	\$130,320	\$ 72,092	55%
Total:	\$762,118	\$384,806	50%
NET:	(\$25,990)	(\$ 2,302)	XX

* no state funds received to date

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Sirgey at djsirgey@gmail.com or (716) 863-7403.

Youth Basketball: Come out, see a game, and support!

Some of our youth play on a team in the WNY Christian Basketball League. This league exists to provide spiritual growth, recreation and fellowship for young people. Its goals are to: Witness and introduce people to Jesus and the Christian life; Promote fellowship and fun between players; Practice and demonstrate Christlikeness in leaders; Play healthy, fun, competitive basketball. Below is the schedule if you'd like to come out and support our players. All games are played at the Hub at Revive Wesleyan church (Formerly Hamburg or Watermark Wesleyan). For any questions, please contact Chris Kopra: call/text (716)207-3008 / email: koprachris@gmail.com.

- 1/29/22 - 10:00 AM Cazenovia Baptist
- 2/5/22 - 9:00 AM Revive Wesleyan
- 2/12/22 - 9:00 AM West Seneca Christian
- 2/19/22 - 9:00 AM West Seneca Christian
- 2/26/22 - 9:00 or 10:00 AM - TBD Playoffs
- 3/5/22 - 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM - TBD Championship – if win 2/26

Trinity's Players: Isaac McFarland (Trinity School 8th grade), Louie Canastroro (Trinity School 8th grade), Jonathon Holley (Trinity School 8th grade), Luke Anderson (Trinity member and School 6th grade), Nate Barnas (Trinity member and School 8th grade)



Trinity's Outreach Updates



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who donated to Operation Christmas Child this year. Your gift filled shoeboxes have been sent around the world, please continue to pray for the children who have received them along with the good news of Jesus!

Angel Tree

Thank you for your support once again of the Renaissance House Angel Tree. The following is a message from the Kids Escaping Drugs Facebook page:

"We would like to thank our friends at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Seneca for generously donating gifts for our adolescents! Thank you for thinking of us and ensuring that our patients have a wonderful holiday!"



Community Helper Recognition

During the month of February the Outreach Committee will be donating sweet treats to the West Seneca Fire Department - Union Fire District to show our appreciation of their dedicated work. Please pray for all of our community helpers.

February Blood Donation



During the month of February, we are urging all who are able to make an appointment to donate blood. There is a national blood shortage, please pray for this need. All who donate or make an appointment in the month of February will be entered to win a \$50 Gift Certificate from the Outreach Committee. Look for more details in the Life at Trinity weekly announcements. You can sign up by going to <https://connectlife.simplybook.me/v2/> or call Connect Life @ 716-529-4270.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you experiencing a Winter in your life? Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with **Stephen Leaders**: Dennis Krueger (997-5666), Don Meissner (479-4862), Kevin Kot (445-5923), Colleen Kot (445-5922).

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



Happy Birthday

2/1	Lynn Krueger	2/11	Heidi Kosicki	2/18	Carolyn Flattery Lucas Eising
2/2	Eric Osberg	2/12	Loren Pletscher Tonia Besch	2/19	Janet Bullock Lisa Lafferty
2/3	Lois Rodgers	2/13	Robert Moeller Sarah Makey Landon Heckman	2/23	Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/5	Luke Anderson	2/14	River Rowsell Morgan Ringle	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/6	Laurel Szeider	2/15	Gregory Kopra	2/25	Olivia Wilkening
2/7	Sue Brehm	2/17	Nathan McClellan	2/27	Geraldine Swart
2/9	Kathie Schindler Zachary Powers				
2/10	Steve Meden Kris Heckman Chris Kwilas				

Happy Anniversary

2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman
2/11	Richard & Helen Schultz	2/26	George & Linda Hodge
2/14	Michele & Edward Baun		

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2022) devotion booklets are still 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!



Cancelled Stamps & Electronic Devices

LWML is still collecting cancelled stamps and unwanted electronic devices. Please consider taking a moment when opening your mail to cut off the cancelled stamp (leave a 1/2 inch border) and place them in Linda Meissner's mailbox in the church coatroom. Electronic devices can be brought to church and placed in the purple tote that's located in the coatroom.

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform Pastor Nyck (804-382-6199), the church office, or one of the Deacons.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Pastor	Rev. Nycholas Greig	674-9188 / (804) 382-6199 / pastornyck@gmail.com
School Principal	Kathleen Fretthold	674-5353 / kfretthold@thinktrinitychristian.com
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com