

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

DECEMBER 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. Sarah Gabel / Mrs. Katie Willert, School Co-Principals, 674-5353

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



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

“Be Born in Us Today”

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

Throughout December we will be exploring a worship series “Be Born In Us Today” where we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

- **Week 1 - Be Born in Us Today Bringing Blessing** (Genesis 12:2): God promises Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. When Jesus was born, that promise came true with an abundance.
- **Week 2 - Be Born in Us Today Bringing Renewal** (Isaiah 40:31): The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ’s birth restores our strength that we might serve him.
- **Week 3 - Be Born in Us Today Bringing Guidance** (Psalm 31:3): The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, often doubting God’s plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus on the scene, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way.
- **Week 4 - Be Born in Us Today Bringing Power** (Exodus 15:6): John the Baptist pointed to the power of God present in Jesus Christ. As we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus, we point others to the power at work in our lives through our Emmanuel, God with us.
- **Christmas - Be Born in Us Today Bringing Light** (Luke 2:11): Jesus is born for us all on this silent night in the little town of Bethlehem. His first cry announces to the world that the darkness of sin is done away with by the shining light of his amazing love.

May these services be a blessing to you and your family as we gather throughout this Christmas season giving praise and glory to our God who chose to be born a man to come to earth to save us.



God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

Holiday Worship Schedule

<i>December 18th @ 10:30am:</i>	<i>Sunday School Christmas Pageant & Service</i>
<i>December 24th @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 24th @ 9:00pm:</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Communion</i>
<i>December 25th @ 10:30am</i>	<i>Christmas Day Service</i>
<i>December 31st @ 5:00pm:</i>	<i>New Year's Eve Service</i>
<i>January 1st @ 10:30am:</i>	<i>New Year's Day Service</i>



Advent Celebration **Tuesday, December 6, 2022** **6:00pm in Trinity School's Gym**

Looking for a great way to kickoff Advent? All ages are invited to come together for an evening of food, worship and fun that will include a FREE pizza dinner, a brief family friendly worship, and festive activities. All this within an hour and a half to get you back home for your evening. All ages are welcome! Be sure to sign up **by December 1st**! Let us know your name, phone #, how many children, and how many teens/adults. Email Youth and Family Coordinator, Mark Willert "MWillert@thinktrinitychristian.com" to sign up or use the form included in upcoming worship bulletins. Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring this event!

Advent Celebration Help Needed:

We have some great events for families at Trinity and we could use your help for this one. If you would be willing to help run one of the fun centers or crafts — we provide all the materials -- please let Mark Willert know mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com. Thanks!



Sunday School Pageant

Our Sunday School children will be leading worship with their annual Christmas pageant on **December 18th at the 10:30am service**. Please join us!



We will once again be sponsoring an Angel Tree for the young women and men at the Renaissance House Campus. Please watch for the angel tags on the tree in the church entryway. Once you choose a name:

- Purchase a pair of basketball shorts (boys) or PJ / lounge pants (girls) in the size listed on the tag
- Place the item in a gift bag
- Attach the angel tag to the bag
- Return to church **by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th**

Thank you for your support of this project!

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who donated gift filled shoe-boxes for Samaritan's Purse to help spread the love of Jesus during the Christmas season. We collected over 50 boxes this year. Please remember to pray for the child who receives your box along with the good news of Christ!



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. They will be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Thank you.

~ Linda Rowsell

Trinity School News

Grandparents Day

We had over 100 grandparents at the school for Grandparents Day at the end of October. We have not been able to have Grandparents Day since 2019, so it was wonderful to bring back this event. The grandparents had refreshments with their grandchildren, did a photo booth, participated in classroom activities, and attended a chapel filled with musical selections by their grandchildren and a message by Pastor Nyck. We thank God for the gift of grandparents and cannot emphasize enough the blessings they are to our students.



Kids in the Kitchen Club

Students in grades 6-8 have just finished up a 5 week program called Kids in the Kitchen. Feedmore of WNY ran the program, and it was a smashing success! The students learned about nutrition while cooking healthy foods. At the end of each session, they were given the ingredients of the featured recipe to take home and make with their families. We look forward to participating in this program again next year.

School Advent Celebration

The students in grades 1-8 will be having an Advent Celebration on **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00pm** in the church. This will be a worshipful and joyous time full of singing and instrumental music by the children. Please come and join us!



RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you for your generous support to date for our school's gift card fundraiser. This is a monthly opportunity to raise money for our school. It's easy to do. Pick up a form from the table in the narthex, check the gift cards you want, attach a check payable to Trinity Christian School, and place the form and check in Jane Sirgey's mail slot. Due dates for the school year are:

Dec 4th	Mar 5th
Jan 8th	April 9th
Feb 5th	May 7th

Orders will be placed on the 10th of each month and gift cards will be received within 3-4 days after the 10th. Any questions, please contact Jane Sirgey, 545-9928 or janesirgey@gmail.com.

Trinity Christian School . . .





**66th Annual
Christmas Candlelight Vespers
Sunday, December 11th at 4:00pm
At First Trinity Lutheran Church
(1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.)**

In just a few weeks it will be time again for this cherished tradition in Western New York. This year's theme is "Light for the Nations", inspired by the hymn Savior of the Nations, Come. Through missions in other lands and through our own personal witness to friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors, we shine the light of Christ in places and pockets of darkness. Join us for this special annual event!

Call Accepted by Joshua Makey

Joshua Makey has received a Divine Call to serve as Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. Josh will graduate from the seminary in St. Louis, MO in December. Josh and Sarah expect to begin serving at Good Shepherd in January 2023. Congratulations and God's blessings!

LWML News

The Eastern District LWML has fulfilled 2 of the 7 grants with Mites from churches like ours. One of those was to Pioneer on the Lake! From 10/31/21 - 10/30/22 our ladies gave \$198. Mites are those extra bits of change you collect that, when pooled, can make an impressive contribution. Make it a family affair to save coins in a mite box. See Linda Meissner if you do not have one. Or a check can be written to LWML Buffalo Zone and given to Linda M.

Dates To Save:

- September 22-24, 2023: Eastern District LWML Retreat returns to Pioneer
- June 14-16, 2023: LWML Eastern District Convention in Pittsburgh, PA

2023 National Convention

The 2023 National Convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 22-25, **celebrating 80 years of ministry!** Ladies are challenged to do something in multiples of 80 and send photos or some other documentation to the organizing committee. That could be \$80-\$800 in mites; 800 diapers for donation; 80 can of food; 80 hours of visitation, etc. Creativity is the key.

Resources

Find bible studies, devotions, group resources, gifts at the national website: lwml.org. There's even an app in the App Store.

Domestic Mission Trip

**Ready to roll up your sleeves?
Make your mission trip right here in the States!**

Trinity has partnered with Christian Appalachian Project to serve the people of Appalachia.

When: Sunday, July 9, 2023 thru Friday, July, 14 2023

Where: Eastern Kentucky

Age: Anyone 14 years of age or older

Service: Making homes safe, warm, dry and accessible/ home repairs/yard work

Cost: \$325 includes room and board (there may be Some travel expenses). **Don't be deterred by costs! Mission funds available to help offset these costs**

For registration information please contact:

Colleen Kot – 445-5922

Kevin Kot – 445-5923

Mark Willert – 601-8570

Lisa Lafferty – 393-9629

You **MUST** register at: <https://eightdaysofhope.com>

- Click on **Volunteer Today** (Top Right)
- Scroll down, click on **Volunteer Registration**
- Fill in your personal information; click dates you will attend
- Under "Church or Organization" use **Trinity West Seneca**
- Read release form
- Click on **Submit**

Other forms to register minors will become available



2023 Altar Flowers & Candles

The 2023 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: \$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.*

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night

Our next youth night for grades 5-12 will be **December 14 from 6:30pm -8:00pm** in the school gym! Bring a friend and you get an extra scoop of ice cream! Games, a devotion and LOTS of fun. This is a chance to make some new friends as well! Thanks to the Sr. High who help out too. Extra scoop for you!

Our November Youth Night ended up being a guys night - no girls! Among other things, we had lots of fun playing keep away... when ever you caught the football you had to do a little dance. Hilarious! Don't think we would have done that with the girls around. So much fun. The devotion was on running the race of life and faith, centered around 1 Corinthians 9:24. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.



Musicals, Plays, Sports ... Oh My!

If any of our youth have dates or schedules of events they are involved in for December, please give the information to Teresa in the church office and she can include them in the newsletter and bulletin. Our church members love to support our youth in what they are doing!

Youth On A Mission ... Trip!

Next summer we're planning on going to Kentucky to serve and help people who have been affected by the flooding this past year. The need is great and we get to be the hands and feet of Jesus! This is also an intergenerational trip, so invite your relatives (aunt's, uncle's, grandparents) too! Ages 14 and up. Contact Mark Willert for details.



Raising Teens Parenting Small Group

"Tough Guys and Drama Queens" by Mark Gregston, will be our next parenting focus. You thought the terrible twos were challenging and now you're reeling with what to do with the challenges of Jr. High and teen-hood! Starting the end of January 2023, Mark and Katie Willert will lead this video based group that is packed with practical ideas and help. Find out how not to get blindsided by your child's teen years. We can meet in person or virtually - as we did the last one. Contact Mark Willert if you are interested and we'll work with everyone's availability.

Trunk or Treat Fun!

On October 30th, many people showed up from the school, church and community to collect candy and enjoy the costumes and fellowship! Everyone came inside (first time since Covid!) and shared in a devotion about being the body of Christ. As a part of it, a very entertaining yet meaningful skit was shared by Trinity teachers, Pastor Nyck, and some of their family members.



Naples Daily News NEOPOLITAN

FAITH & VALUES

Earth Angels

Stephen Ministers Offer Emotional and Spiritual Support in Times of Trouble

by Beth Francis
emfrancis@naplesnews.com

Mary Larrabee's life was a mess. Her marriage had just ended in divorce, she underwent two major surgeries, and then her grown son was murdered.

"As a friend of mine put it, the manure truck just kept backing up and dumping on me," Larrabee said.

Then she heard about Stephen Ministry at her church.

The ministry matches specially trained members of a congregation with people going through a tough time. Nationwide, more than 10,000 churches representing more than 150 different Christian denominations offer Stephen Ministry.

"It enriches the church to have this consistent outreach available to anyone in the community who needs help."

Larrabee was matched with Stephen Minister Kathy Ames, a fellow member of North Naples United Methodist Church, and the two met once a week for more than a year.



"I'm stronger and I know how precious every day is," says Mary Larrabee, right, who was helped with a life crisis by her Stephen Minister Kathy Ames. "She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart. I call her my earth angel."

"She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart," Larrabee said of Ames. "I call her my earth angel. She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn't give me specific advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain."

Now that the formal Stephen Ministry relationship has ended, the two remain friends.

"I will always be grateful to her for all of her prayers and all that she did to help me," Larrabee said.

Stephen Ministry began in St. Louis in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, found he was unable to meet the needs of all the people in his congregation. He trained nine laypeople in his church to assist him in providing Christian care to people who needed encouragement.

It went so well that Haugk began training Stephen Ministers in other congregations. That, in turn, led to the establishment of the Stephen Se-

ries Leader's Training Course, which trains pastors and lay leaders to go back to their congregations and train others to become Stephen Ministers.

"We train the trainers," said Joel Bretscher, Director of Communications at the Stephen Ministries headquarters in St. Louis. "We train the Stephen Leaders who then go home to train the Stephen Ministers in the congregation." Stephen Ministers then provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual care to people in need.

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need, Bretscher said.

"Ordained pastors often find there are more needs for care than they can provide, so Stephen Ministers are there to supplement, but not replace, pastoral care," Bretscher said.

In Stephen Ministry, women are matched with women and men are

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Earth Angels—Stephen Ministers Offer Emotional and Spiritual Support in Times of Trouble

matched with men. It is also important to note that Stephen Ministers are available to care for anyone in the community who is hurting, not just church members, said Becky Jarrell, Director of Congregational Care at North Naples United Methodist Church.

"We are here for anyone experiencing a life crisis, whether it's death, divorce, illness, relocation, financial difficulty or whatever the need," Jarrell said. "It enriches the church to have this consistent outreach available to anyone in the community who needs help."

"It's a wonderful thing to see God working in people's lives."

Over the past eight years, North Naples United Methodist Church has trained more than 60 people to become Stephen Ministers, she said.

At Community Congregational

Church in Naples, there are more than 20 active Stephen Ministers, said Gini Reinhold, Director of Congregational Care.

"The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you throughout your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay," Reinhold said.

Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training and commit to serving for two years. Most choose to serve much longer after they find they get as much out of the ministry as they give, Reinhold said.

"It's a wonderful thing to see God working in people's lives," she said. "There's something special about knowing that God has put you in a certain place at a certain time to help a certain person. Stephen Ministers grow a lot as a result."

Patty Lengemann knows what it's like to be on both sides of the fence. She had her own Stephen Minister about five years ago when she went through a divorce.

"I know how wonderful it is to give and receive," Lengemann said.

"My Stephen Minister gave me the courage to start over again. Now I want to give something back."

"The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you through your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay."

Lengemann, a member at Community Congregational, has had two care receivers since she became a Stephen Minister.

"So far, I've been matched with people going through the same kind of pain I experienced, so I'm able to identify with what they're going through," she said. "I'm able to share my experience with them and help them to see that, when God closes one door, he opens another."

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thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help to keep the grounds trimmed, weeded, watered and the church, school and parsonage in beautiful condition. Thanks also to those who helped with organizing, setting up and working at the fundraisers and other outreach projects. Thank you for using your time & talents for the Lord's glory. WE thank the Lord for those talents!

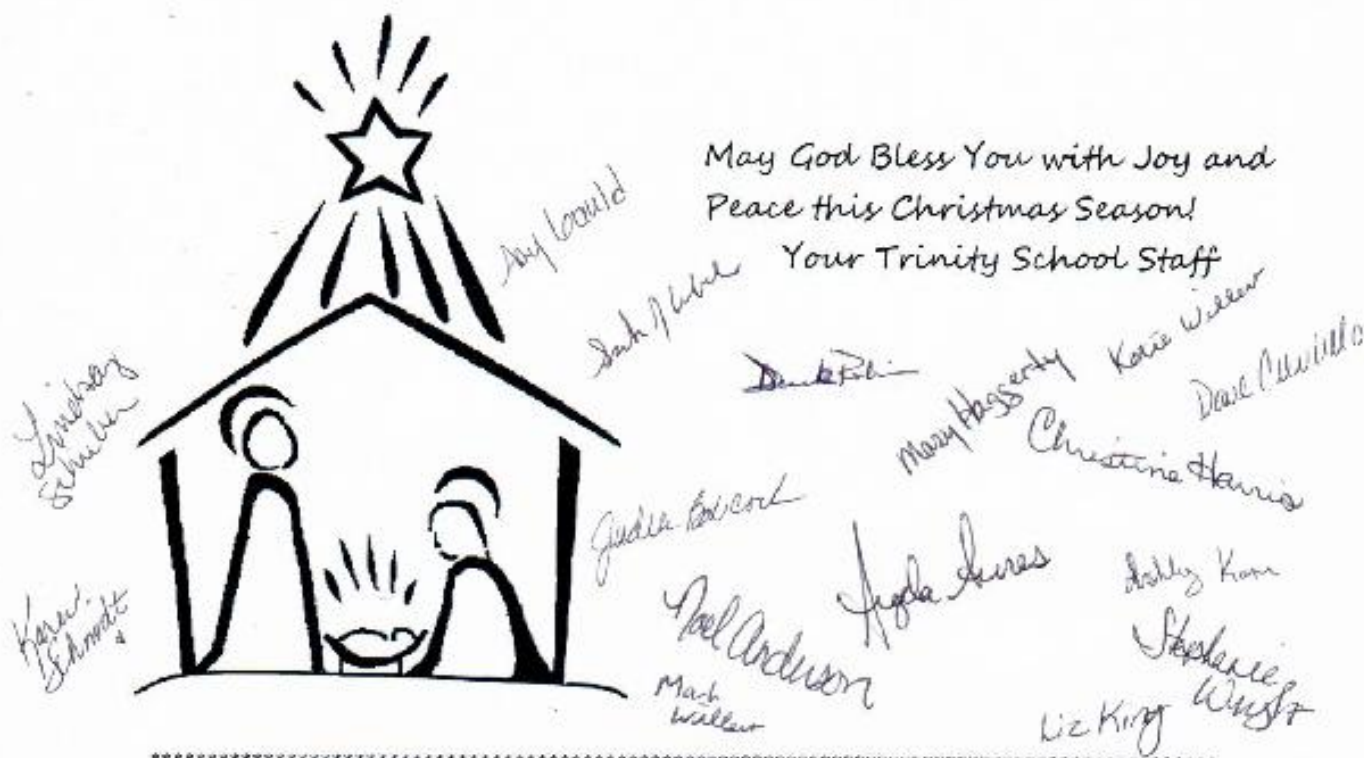
Shop South Buffalo Holiday Event Friday, December 9, 2022

Local participating stores and restaurants will be open for this holiday event from 5pm-9pm (LADD will be open 3pm-9pm). Check online for more information at www.shopsouthbuffalo.com.



The Red Food Pantry Wagon

We will continue to collect non-perishable food to be donated to the food pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden and the West Seneca Food Pantry.



MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022, 7 PM

PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Happy Birthday

12/1	Logan Cosandier	12/12	Bradley Ringle	12/21	Sandra Gertis
12/2	Michele Baun	12/13	Nancy Stevens	12/22	Kevin Kot Lisa Cislo
12/3	Helen Boldt Luci Zarbo	12/14	Anna Eising	12/23	Noel Anderson Chris Kotowski
12/5	Jonah LoVullo	12/16	Vince Zarbo Gianna Conti	12/28	Beverly Osberg Judith Boersch Carolyn Lehsten
12/6	Delaney Colson	12/17	Noell McKernan Katelyn Barnas	12/29	Joy Belasic Nick Gatto
12/7	Joan Sullivan Justin Smith Emma Hope	12/18	Tristan Sullivan Branson Gabel Gavin Courteau	12/30	Eve LoVullo Cecilia Colson
12/8	Steve Makosy	12/19	Jerry Meissner Evan McCoy	12/31	Donna Yox
12/9	Matthew Wrobel	12/20	Karen McCoy		
12/10	Bill Carr				
12/11	Peter Schueler				

Happy Anniversary

12/23 Dan & Joan Sullivan

12/27 Brian & Ellen Makey

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 Plaque located in the church's fellowship area. They're only \$25! Order forms can be obtained from the church office. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 8th.**

Cookie Walk & Caroling

Unfortunately, we will not be holding our annual Cookie Walk and Christmas Caroling again this year. We hope to resume these activities in 2023.



Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Pastor
School Co-Principals
Youth & Family Coordinator
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Nycholas Greig
Sarah Gabel / Katie Willert
Mark Willert
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

Contact Information

674-9188 / (804) 382-6199 / pastornych@gmail.com
674-5353 / principal@thinktrinitychristian.com
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com