

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2023

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



“Coexist” bumper stickers and T-shirts are popular, and the “coexist” mindset is even more popular. And while people of different religious faiths should be able to coexist peacefully in society, different theological beliefs cannot simply “coexist” as though any strongly held religious belief is as truthful and valid as any other. During this Epiphany season (the weeks immediately following Christmas, we read how Jesus reveals himself as the very Son of God. He does not come to earth as just another religious figure among many to choose from. He comes as the only Savior of the whole human race. He is the Light that releases all people from the darkness of sin and unbelief.

Throughout the next several weeks we will be examining in our scripture lessons and sermons who Christ reveals himself to be and how we can confess Christ as the only Savior in our “coexist” culture.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck

New Wednesday Bible Study

Join us starting on **January 4th** for a new Bible Study – Read the Bible for Life. Read the Bible for life will help you grasp the grand story of Scripture. You will learn how the various books of the Bible fit together to present the story and communicates God’s redemptive message. And you will discover new skills for listening to, understanding, and responding to God’s Word in ways that will change your life. Wednesdays from 10:30am to Noon in the narthex.

Titus Bible Study

On Sunday Mornings from **9:15am-10:15am beginning on January 8**, we will be beginning a new study on the book of Titus. In this *Book of the Bible* series, Chip Ingram unpacks the book of Titus. He challenges us to display the gospel in our lives through doing good. We do good works not to earn God’s favor, but as a result of God’s favor. When the gospel has truly taken root in our lives, it produces the fruit of godliness. As we pass these things on to future generations, the Church stands in bright contrast to the darkness of the world. Join us!



Joshua Makey Ordination Service

Please join us for a Service of Ordination for Joshua Makey on **Sunday, January 8 at 5:00pm** here at Trinity. All are welcome to attend this service of celebration.



2023 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

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 / 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.*

2022 Financial Statements

The 2022 member financial statements will be generated the second week of January. Check your church mailbox or the table in the narthex for your statement.

Outreach Committee News

Thank you to everyone who purchased items for the young men and women of the Renaissance Campus for our Angel Tree this year! They are always very appreciative and thank us for thinking of them during the Christmas season!



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.



Taste of Trinity Sunday, January 29, 2023

The Taste of Trinity is back! On January 29th following the late service, we will gather in the school gym to taste the yummy cooking and baking creations of Trinity church members and school families. Tickets will be for sale at the door for \$5 per sheet of 10 tickets. Each dish prepared will cost between 1-2 tickets to sample. Proceeds from this event will fund future special in-person events at the church and school.

It takes MANY cooks/bakers to feed the crowd, as this is one of our most popular events. If you would be willing to cook/bake, please fill out the form in the narthex and return it to the school office or the Willert mailbox at church **by January 22nd**. More details are on the form.

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.

Executive Board

Brian Makey, Chair
Lynnae Kwilas, Vice Chair
David Anderson
Chris Kotowski
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.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the men and women who assisted in decorating the church for the Christmas Holiday season. It was much appreciated!

~ Mark Ganschow, Deacon

School News

Classroom Mission Projects

Our mission at Trinity Christian School is, “to guide 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.” As part of living a lifetime of service, the school received a grant this year from the Lutheran Church Extension Society to help us run classroom mission projects. Each classroom chose a different mission to sponsor for the year. Here is what we have been up to!

Pre-School - Preschool chose to sponsor the SPCA. They have purchased supplies for shelter dogs, had Paws of Love dogs come to visit the classroom from the SPCA, and had a presenter come visit the school to teach about dog safety.

Kindergarten - Kindergarten is doing a playdough prayer program. Playdough Prayers is a multigenerational, intentional prayer ministry that equips students, families, and community members to pray using a creative tool. Students will make playdough and prayer cards to distribute throughout the year.

1st and 2nd Grade - First and second grade is purchasing and collecting hats, mittens, and winter clothing for the Buffalo City Mission. They have already sent several boxes of items! They will be making toiletry care packages for the 2nd trimester.

3rd and 4th Grade - The third and fourth graders are raising money and purchasing supplies for the juvenile diabetes foundation. They are planning a field trip in the spring to visit Oshei Children’s Hospital to learn more about how children with diseases like diabetes are cared for.

5th and 6th Grade - The fifth and sixth graders have adopted a Lutheran missionary family from Puerto Rico. They sent money for hurricane relief, cards, and supplies for their children's ministry. They then shopped for Christmas gifts for the family and their mission team, and wrapped and mailed the gifts. They have also facetedimed with the family twice and plan to continue developing a relationship with the family. They pray daily for the family.

7th and 8th Grade - The seventh and eighth graders collected money for the first trimester. They raised over \$50. They also looked into some of the events in our country where 8 Days of Hope has been involved recently, including the relief effort for hurricane Ian. They will be having Kevin and Colleen Kot come in and talk to the kids and share their experiences with 8 Days of Hope for the second trimester.

This year, as a school, we also sponsor the orphanage in Haiti, have raised money to send to Lutheran churches and church workers affected by the hurricane in Florida, participated in Angel Tree, and will be holding a craft sale to raise money for the preschool at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, PA (Josh Makey’s congregation). We strive to teach our students to follow Jesus’ command in the Great Commission where He said to, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” *Matthew 28:19+20.*



Career Connections Program

The middle schoolers are learning all about different careers and how they connect to education and faith. In December, Brad McKernan came in to talk to the students about being a Physicians Assistant. He explained how his love of science and his desire to serve, started in his Trinity School days, helped eventually lead him to his present career. He encouraged the students to keep learning, and praying to ask God for His guidance. We appreciate Brad donating his time to help guide future generations! We look forward to hearing from Chris Kopra, Larry and Terri Szrama, Mark Habedank, and Autumn Lewandowski in the new year.



School News

(Continued)



Poetry Contest Winners

The students in grades 7+8 at Trinity Christian School participated in the WNY United Healthy Choices Art and Poetry Contest. This contest encourages students to live a drug and alcohol free life. Luke Anderson, grade 7, won an Honorable Mention for his poem. Abby Lafferty, grade 7, won second place for her poem. We are very proud of their accomplishments. All of the winning entries were on display at the Hamburg Fairgrounds Festival of Lights for the month of December.

1st Trimester Honor Rolls

High Honor Roll:

Grade 8: Lilly Ackley, Andrew Hunneshagen, Olivia Strzelec
Grade 7: Abigail Lafferty, Jean-Marie McFarland
Grade 6: Luka Dudas, Elliana Adams, Katelyn Barnas, Hayden Sirgey
Grade 5 : Luke O'Connor, Jayce Mathewson, Ethan Webster
Grade 4: Sawyer Daley, John Mills, Cody Adams, Lydia Schieber
Grade 3: Natalie Schieber, Riley Greig, Lucy Hojnacki

Honor Roll:

Grade 8: Johnathan Holley
Grade 7: Luke Anderson, Jayden Wagner
Grade 5: Ethan Widman
Grade 4: Everett Webster, Jesse Hojnacki, Samantha Riordan
Grade 3: Raelyn Mathewson, Elijah Holmes

Merit Roll:

Grade 6: Elizabeth McFarland
Grade 3: Mackenzie Holley, Brianna Burgos, Angelo Muscarella, Reece Hite

Silverware Needed

We are in need of more silverware for our hot lunch program at school. If anyone has some old silverware they are not using anymore, please give it to Sarah Gabel or Katie Willert. Thanks so much!

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:

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

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.

Christmas Kickoff - Celebratory Worship, Food & Fun

By Mark Willert

Trinity held their "Christmas Kickoff" Family Event on December 6. This year's celebration looked a bit different from previous years. We started out with a free meal of pizza for everyone in the gym (nailed the amount ... as not a slice was left and everyone had their fill!), with worship and a craft after. This year our worship contained a family friendly message by Pastor Nyck centered around an object lesson about the poinsettia plant. It also featured a puppet skit written by master writer Dave Sirgey, with the youth performing the skit. Well done Pastor Nyck, Dave and teens! Trinity School's 5th through 8th grade also wrote a Christmas-themed profession of faith that was read aloud by everyone (see page 6). After worship, we left the church and returned to the gym for the craft. Young families could either make a gingerbread house together, or others could make a live Christmas wreath. Thank you Stephanie Greig for leading us in that! Thank you also to Thrivent for sponsoring the evenings festivities!



5th-8th's Christmas Creed 2022

I believe that Christmas isn't about the gifts or the food. I believe that Christmas is about the King's birth. Jesus was born to save.

Christmas is about joy, not about presents.

Christmas should be spent with your family and friends.

I believe that Jesus came as a baby, God's only Son. Sent from Heaven to Earth,
as our beloved savior.

Christmas is a time of kindness and goodwill.

Christmas is a time to think about the good things in life, a time of celebrating Jesus' birth.

I believe angels came down and told shepherds about Jesus; a gift from God; His only Son,
and the shepherds spread the word.

He was born of Mary in a manger.

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Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and sometimes we lose sight of that.

Christmas should not be a time of fighting but a time of joy and peace.

Wise men came with presents.

We idolize presents and food, when we should be thanking God.

We should not idolize the things we receive,  
but use them as a reminder God gave us the gift of Him, through Jesus.

Jesus was sent to earth to pay for our sins. He endured terrible pain so that we may have  
a pathway straight towards Him.

Jesus' kind compassionate soul saved us. Who died on the cross for our sins.

I believe Christmas is a time to be thankful for our Messiah, and our God that ultimately saved us.

**Now we rejoice and praise Him!**



## Ladies' Bible Study Group Sends Christmas Cheer to Needy Family

We all hear about special efforts at Christmas time. Well, our ladies and the congregation, friends and families came together to fulfill the wish lists of a family of 7 children and 2 parents. It all started when a good-hearted woman came into the LADD Thrift Store and told of a family for whom she was purchasing items. She shared the circumstances. Some of our Bible Study members volunteer at the store and brought up the idea to give Christmas gifts to this family at the group meeting. The good-hearted woman acted as liaison between the family and the ladies' group and asked for a wish list from each member of the family, which ranges in age from a 22 year old college student to a 7 year old and the parents. Nancy H., who leads the bible study and is also a LADD volunteer, organized the items on the lists and asked the members to donate items of their choice. When other congregation members and friends and family heard about the project, they wanted to help as well. We received a Thrivent Action Grant to fill in any items that were not donated and extras, like groceries. Some of the children's wish list items were sheets, pillows, school clothes and shoes, and Winter gloves, scarves and boots. On December 12, we gathered the donated gifts, organized and wrapped them. The wrapped gifts were then packed in large plastic sacks for each family member and stored until December 22, at which time they will be delivered to the family home. At the end of our session, we all gathered in a prayer circle to give thanks to the Lord God who enabled us to share our blessings with those in need. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts to bring them to a strong faith in Jesus our Savior.



## YOUTH SCOOP

### Youth Gym Night

Our next youth night for grades 5-12 will be **January 18 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!

### Puppets in Action!

We've had some great response to the puppet skits we've done in our worship. Any students in 7th through 12th grade interested in being a part of a puppet team, please contact Mark Willert and we'll get some things going!

### Laughs, Games and White Elephants!

Our December 14 Youth Night was a trip! We played some new games, played the favorite keep away, and enjoyed the December classic White Elephant gift giving (wrapping up and giving away something you have that you don't want anymore!). The devotion talked about how our Christmas traditions and celebrations don't always go as planned. We focused on the true meaning of Christmas and based it on the Old Testament prophecy: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

### Parents of Teen Small Group "Tough Guys and Drama Queens"

This small group for parents of teens, led by Mark & Katie Willert, will begin the week of January 22, 2023 and will meet weekly for 7 weeks (as the schedule allows). It's really packed full of practical advice helping parents navigate some of the challenges of the teen years. The deadline for sign up is January 13 so materials can be ordered.

### 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! Come to the informational meeting after church on November 13th, to find out more. If you can't make it please let Mark Willert know!

### Musicals, Plays, Sports ... Oh My!

If any of our youth have dates or schedules of events they are involved in over the next few months, 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!

### Families - A Christmas Morning Idea!

We all have our awesome family traditions and ways we like to do things. Here are two quick and easy ideas of how to keep the main thing the main thing on Christmas morning.

1. Start out by reading Luke chapter 2, verses 1 to 20. This will remind everyone of the reason why we celebrate Christmas and only takes 2 minutes.
2. If you have a manger scene (most people do), take baby Jesus out and wrap him in a box. The bigger the better- especially if it's the biggest gift around the tree! Or the smallest. After reading Luke 2 mentioned above, have one of the kids (draw names if you like to keep it fair- or have them pick a number) open the box revealing baby Jesus, the best and most important gift of Christmas, and place him in the manger. You could also save baby Jesus to be put in the manger at this time and not before. Briefly talk about Jesus being the biggest and best gift of Christmas, or if in the smallest box, how great and awesome things can come in small packages but mean the most.

If you can make these a family tradition, your kids will grow up remembering this family time favorite, and above all remembering what Christmas is all about. ♥



***“Deck the Halls”  
Sunday School Christmas Pageant***





A Stephen Ministry Story

## Sent by God, Just for Me

**I** was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

*She was  
patient, loving,  
and accepting.*

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry and the care Stephen Ministers provide, visit [stephenministries.org/stories](https://stephenministries.org/stories).

## 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:** July 9, 2023 thru 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

### ***Happy Birthday***

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

### ***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 8<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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!!!



### **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.



### **Portals of Prayer**

**Portals of Prayer** (Jan-March 2023) 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!

### **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 / pastornyck@gmail.com  
674-5353 / principal@thinktrinitychristian.com  
608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com  
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net  
674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com