

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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



“White As Snow”

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” – Isaiah 1:18

After the big snowstorms of November and December, I wouldn't blame you if you were done with all of this snow. I read that the Buffalo area averages about 99 inches of snow per season, and we had already hit that average by the start of January, with much more snow to come. But I'm one of those strange people who prefers snow to rain. Part of the reason for this, for me, is that rain tends to make things muddy, wet and messy in a way that snow just doesn't. There is something beautiful about falling snow as it lights up the air all around.

One of the benefits of fresh snow is that it covers up the mud and dirty snow that has accumulated over the past weeks. This reminds me of a truth from the Bible, from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, where God says, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.”

Snow, then, takes for us an additional meaning. It draws us to one of the great promises of God, in which he offers us forgiveness of sin. This is such a comfort for sinful people like you and me. Although we are stained by our own guilt and sin, stained so deep that we cannot wash it away ourselves, God promises to wash us clean, make us white, white as snow.

Looking out of the window as I write this, it is snowing. Freshly fallen, white snow is covering up dirt, and footprints and leaves from the fall. All I see is smooth and white. It is uncontaminated. Because of Jesus, our Savior, that's what God sees when he looks at us. He does not see the times we have disobeyed him or broken his commandments. He doesn't see when we have neglected to do the good we ought to have done and have failed to do. He sees us as clean and pure. He sees the hard-won grace of Jesus reflected in us.

Yes, even though we may be tired of the snow, it is a helpful reminder of the grace we have in Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Nyck



Ash Wednesday Services

February 22nd ~ 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

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 Kvilas, Vice Chair

David Anderson

Chris Kotowski

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, and April**. 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.

2022 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 19. After that date, please contact the church office for your statement.

Family & Friends Prayer List

Do you have a family member or friend listed on our prayer list that is printed in the weekly announcement sheet? Trinity's Card Ministry would like to send them a card. If you think they would like to receive a card, please contact the church office (716) 674-9188 / Email: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net with their address. You can also inform the office if a name should be removed so we can keep the list updated.



Shut-In Members

If you know of a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Nyck 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.



LWML Workshop Event

On **Saturday, February 4, 2023**, Lutheran women in mission will meet at Faith Lutheran Church, 1230 Bowen Rd, Elma, NY 14059, from 9AM -12 noon to construct wheelchair bags for an East Aurora facility. Registration is \$5.00 per person and begins at 9AM. There will be a short devotion before the workshop. Please RSVP to Lisa Hoover at lisadq@rocketmail.com or 716-698-3313. See Linda Meissner if you want to carpool from Trinity's parking lot. Save the date: April 29, 2023, Spring Event in Springville, from 9AM-12PM. Details to follow.

Cancelled Stamps & Ink Cartridges

LWML is still collecting cancelled stamps and empty ink cartridges. 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. Ink cartridges can be brought to church and placed in the purple tote that's located in the coatroom.

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.

Trinity School News

Thrivent Action Team Grants at Trinity School

Did you know that we regularly use Thrivent Action Team Grants at the school? Here are some ways we have used them this year to help us spread God's love:

- **Grandparents Day** - We were able to invite 100 grandparents to the school to do activities with them. We also were able to have them worship with us in chapel. It is so important to build faith relationships between grandchildren and grandparents!
- **Puerto Rico missions** - The fifth and sixth graders were able to purchase Christmas gifts for the ministry team that works with LCMS missionary, Ruth Maita and her family. How encouraging it was for the ministry team to be encouraged and showered with gifts from children at Trinity!
- **Neighborhood prayer walk** - Every year for National Lutheran Schools Week, the students at Trinity pray for our neighbors and make them Christian crafts. The middle school students then walk around the neighborhood to distribute the gifts and invitations to Trinity church. The Thrivent grant allowed us to purchase the materials for the crafts.
- **Advent wreath puzzles** - We were able to purchase beautiful wooden Advent wreath puzzles for the lower grade classrooms and all of our 4 year old preschoolers. These advent wreath puzzles were given with advent calendars, devotionals, and invitations to our worship services at Trinity.
- **Congregational seat cushions** - As part of our National Lutheran Schools Week activities, we always like to thank the congregation for its support. This year we were able to purchase portable seat cushions for use in the church. The students decorated the backs of the seat cushions.
- **Family Advent Night** - Mark Willert, Pastor Nyck, and Stephanie Greig ran a wonderful Family Advent Night for the members of the church and school. This event helped spread the wonderful message of Jesus' birth. It was a fun night of worship, crafts, and pizza! Thrivent allowed the necessary supplies to be purchased.

And it is only February! We plan on using several more Thrivent Action Team Grants before the end of the year. Our mission at the 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." All of us at the school would like to thank Thrivent for partnering with us in our ministry of service to the students and families at Trinity Christian School, as well as the local and global communities that we help with these grants.

~ Katie Willert, Co-Principal



Christmas Programs for Trinity School

The students in grades PreK-8 had Christmas programs in December. All of the students sang and played instruments. Through all of it, the birth of Jesus was proclaimed! Thank you to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Aures, Miss Harris, and Mrs. Schmidt for putting such wonderful programs together!



YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night

Our last gym youth night on January 18 and saw lots of running around and excitement ... football! We played touch football with the kids having a blast, making touchdowns, throws and plays that would impress the Bills (ok, maybe not that good)! Our devotion was centered around being sensitive to those around us who may either be quiet or awkward, and trying to understand, interact with, and be a friend with them. We talked about having the heart of Jesus in it all. **Our next youth night will be February 15 from 6:30pm-8:00pm** and will be Valentine's themed! Ever play the game "Honey if you love me would you please, please smile?" It starts out awkward but when the dramatics start it's hilarious! In the pic the kids are enjoying ice cream (cotton candy flavor) donated from Pioneer from their end of season clean out. Thanks Pioneer!



Youth Watch Bills Playoff

While they were bummed at the outcome, Trinity youth still enjoyed getting together and watching the game. Half-time saw a brisk pickup game of football over in the gym. While watching the game there was pizza and pop supplied by one of the parents and lots of snacks consumed. The group stopped to pray 3 times. Once in thanks for the food, once for injured players, and the last at the game's end, thanking God for a great season! The event was held in the youth room in the church basement watching the game on the large screen TV. As you can imagine, there was A LOT of energy with this group!

Spring and Fall Retreats to Return at Pioneer!

Excitingly, very soon Pioneer will share the dates of the youth retreats for the Spring and Fall of '23. We'll need parent chaperones, so please consider helping out. Keep an eye in the church weekly bulletin for more information. The last youth retreat was held before Covid started in the Fall of 2019! Plans for the spring retreat for 2020 were in the works but were put on hold due to Covid. Then the closure of camp happened. There were even plans to start Buffalo area wide youth events; however, those were also affected by Covid. It will be exciting to get things going again!!!

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

Joshue Makey Ordination

***Congratulations to Joshua Makey on his ordination on January 8, 2023!
You will be a blessing to the people at Good Shepherd!***

Joshua Makey is the eldest son of Brian and Ellen Makey and was raised here at Trinity, West Seneca. Joshua graduated from Trinity Christian School in 2002 and was confirmed the same year by Rev. Ron Habledank. He attended Orchard Park High School, graduating in 2006. He went on to attend Concordia College – New York where he received a bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education and a Lutheran Teacher's Diploma in 2010. Joshua taught at Lutheran schools for three years before beginning seminary training, during which time he met his future wife, Sarah. Sarah and Joshua were married in Patchogue (Long Island), New York in May 2015. Shortly after this, Joshua stepped back from seminary. He and Sarah moved to East Aurora, New York, where Joshua worked at J.C. Ehrlich Pest Control and Sarah earned a Teaching Assistant Certificate. Upon returning to seminary in the fall of 2020, Joshua completed a year of training on campus, followed by a vicarage at the Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills in Birmingham, Alabama. This past fall, Joshua completed his final semester of seminary training and received placement as the sole pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Joshua was installed as pastor of Good Shepherd on January 15, 2023.



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.



Happy Birthday

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|------|---|------|---|------|----------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 2/5 | Luke Anderson | 2/13 | Robert Moeller Sarah Makey Landon Heckman | 2/23 | Amelia Iannuzzelli |
| 2/6 | Laurel Szeider | 2/14 | River Rowsell Morgan Ringle | 2/24 | Gary Ecker |
| 2/7 | Sue Brehm | 2/15 | Gregory Kopra | 2/25 | Olivia Wilkening |
| 2/9 | Kathie Schindler Zachary Powers | 2/17 | Nathan McClellan | 2/27 | Gerry Swart |
| 2/10 | Steve Meden Kris Heckman Chris Kwilas | | | | |

Happy Anniversary

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|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 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 2023) devotion booklets are still available. They can be picked up in the church narthex. Please take one to use for your home devotions!

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

We continue to collect food to be donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry and the pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Non-perishable items can be placed in the red wagon in the church entry. Thank you!

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.



Member Contact Info

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number or email address? Does Trinity even have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving our weekly informational emails, 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) or you can leave your new information in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!

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
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