

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

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



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

“Amazing Grace”

*Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!*

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the writing of the great hymn of faith “Amazing Grace”. There are so many great explorations of the gospel in this hymn: Lost to found, blind to sighted, in danger to safe and secure, or death to life. In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of this hymn, our worship theme throughout Lent and Holy week will explore how the words of this beloved song impact our lives as Christ disciples today. We will do this by examining how various characters throughout the Bible experienced the amazing grace of God each week.

Ash Wednesday – David (Psalm 51): We find comfort that King David confessed his sins to God and received amazing grace in God’s forgiveness and a connection to Jesus, the Savior.

Week 1 – Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7): We see God’s amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God’s people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant.

Week 2 – The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32): We hear of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father’s lavish compassion toward us.

Week 3 – The Blind Man (John 9:24): We witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all.

Week 4 – The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14): We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity.

Week 5 – Paul (1 Timothy 1:15): We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Palm Sunday – Peter (Luke 22:33-34): We wave our palm branches to our coming King, and we ponder the amazing grace that came to Peter, who denied Jesus yet was fully forgiven by him, just as we are, and called into service for him.

Maundy Thursday – John (Mark 10:45): We see that John experienced amazing grace in the Lord’s Supper, humbly receiving the body and blood of Jesus in the bread and wine.

Good Friday – The Penitent Thief (Luke 23:43): We recognize that the penitent thief crucified with Jesus received amazing grace when Jesus promised him that he would be with the Lord in paradise that very day.

Easter – Mary Magdalene (John 20:18): We come to understand that Mary Magdalene witnessed amazing grace outside the empty tomb when she encountered Jesus risen from the dead.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Nyck

Congregational Meeting

March 12, 2023 ~ After the 10:30am service

A presentation of our Strategic Plan will be presented at this meeting. All Trinity members are encouraged to attend.



Easter Plants

Trinity will once again be ordering plants to be placed in the church for Easter Sunday. Plants can be taken home following the 10:30am Easter Sunday service or can be picked up from the church the following week Monday-Thursday from 8am-3pm. Order forms can be found in the bulletins for the next several weeks. Order deadline will be Sunday, March 26. Forms, along with payment, should be placed in the church office mailbox in the coatroom (cash or checks made to "Trinity Lutheran Church"). Thank you for helping to beautify our church for Easter!



Easter Egg Hunt Help Needed

Outreach will be hosting the annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday April 2nd! If you would like to help out with the event by filling eggs, setting up the hay/eggs, passing out snacks on the day of the event, clean up, or anything else, please let a member of Outreach know (Joan Kopra, Jan Bullock, Chris Kopra, Rachel Eising, Lynnae Kwilas). Thank you!



Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 12th at 2:00am.
Remember to turn your clocks ahead!



Cookie Walk ~ A SWEET Success!

This was our first fundraiser for our summer mission trip to Kentucky, although it was no where near being a crummy event. In fact, it raised over \$650 which is enough for the cost of 2 people. A sincere thanks to all who baked! Your all "good cookies" and really helped make our dream crumb true. The picture is all that was left of the many, many dozens baked. They were taken to the City Mission as well as the West Seneca Police Department.

Thanks also to all who bought our cookies. One supporting member, while munching, said, "We need to make this happen more often!" In truth, we had wondered if this would be a successful event since it wasn't around Christmas or another holiday. But with our Trinity members' big support, it certainly made it all worth the risk! You're all a batch made in heaven. ♥

Trinity School's Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle

Saturday, March 25, 2023

11:00am-2:00pm

Dinner Tickets: \$12 pre-sale / \$14 at door



Trinity Christian School's Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle is coming up! Tickets can be purchased from any Trinity student, staff member, or the school office (716-674-5353). Your continued support of this event is greatly appreciated!

Donations Needed: A list of items needed for this event will be on a posted board in the narthex soon. Please consider donating items. Monetary donations and gift cards / baskets for the raffle would also be appreciated. Any donations - food or raffle items - may be dropped off at the school office.

Trinity Christian School News

Principal News!

Before we put the ALLELUIA'S away for Lent, we have a reason to celebrate! The Board of Education has unanimously approved Mrs. Sarah Gabel and Mrs. Katie Willert as permanent co-principals! We have been so impressed by their performance in the short time they've shared the role: not only have they overseen a smooth transition of leadership in a hectic accreditation year, but they have implemented new activities and programs that will help ensure the future success of the school. Most importantly, they have hearts for Jesus, and will strive to keep His saving love the primary focus at Trinity Christian School.

Basketball and Cheer Club

We have had an exciting basketball season so far here at Trinity!

- Our JV team is in the middle of a winning season. Pastor Nyck has led the charge - teaching skills and Christian sportsmanship. Try to catch one of our last home games - 3/3 at 4:30pm and 3/10 at 3:45pm.
- Varsity basketball is played with Chris Kopra at the Hub on Saturday mornings. They have also had a winning season, and will be finishing up soon.
- Cheer Club for students in grades K-2 was so much fun! Led by Mrs. Gabel, they did a great job cheering at the home games this season. They were very cute and very full of Hawks spirit!



Lutheran Schools Week

Wow! What a fun week we had for National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January! We had snacks, did fun activities, and dressed up in wacky ways. Those things were fun, BUT here are some of my highlights from the week:

- The By Kids/For Kids Craft and Bake Sale raised \$300 to send to Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool in Pittsburgh, PA! They used this money to help pay the tuition of a family in need.
- We have a mountain of donated goods to give to Family Promise, our adopted ministry for LSW.
- Our students made and distributed gifts to our congregation (seat cushions and bookmarks) and our neighbors (votive candle holders).
- We had wonderful worship experiences with our whole school. If you haven't seen the video on the school Facebook page of the students singing "Oh How I Love Jesus", you HAVE to! Please follow/like us on Facebook to see more of our posts.

These kids really love Jesus, and their actions this week show it! Our prayer is that they keep that fire alive in their hearts, and that is our #1 mission here at Trinity!



YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night

March 15th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Our next youth night is March 15 from 6:30-8pm! We will be saying goodbye to Luka Dudas as he will be moving out of state. We will miss you Luka!

Lots of fun was had at our last Youth Night on February 15th! Elizabeth McFarland did a fantastic job leading the devotion focused on love being a verb, and not only a noun ~ that our actions should show the love of Jesus around us! We also had a great time playing games and eating ice cream. Some awesome Christian fellowship!



Youth Retreat at Pioneer May 19-21, 2023

The fun filled youth retreat is back! It's the first one at the new Pioneer on the Lake! We'll have service opportunities to help out camp, meaningful devotion times with awesome songs, amazing Christian fellowship, and games and activities that will leave you wanting more. Give the phone and game system a break, come out to camp and be with others who want the same. Be sure to save the date with more info to come!!



Financial Update

Through the first 4 months of our fiscal year (Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022), we are about \$15,000 in the black. This is somewhat misleading as almost half of our tuition revenue has already been received. The December storms took their toll on revenues as our Christmas offerings were about \$3,500 less than budgeted and our December general offerings were about \$5,000 below what we budgeted. If you are in a position to make a special offering to reduce this budget deficit (maybe a tax refund), please considering doing so. A financial summary is posted in the coatroom. Any questions, please contact Dave Sirgey (djsirgey@gmail.com)

Executive Board

Over the past several months, the Executive Board has been working on the following:

- Job Descriptions
- Employee Retention Tax Credit
- Vision and Ministry
 - working with Pastor and Vision coordinators on Strategic Plan
 - developing Strategic Plan timeline
 - developing organizational structure



LWML Mites are so called for the parable of the widow who gave her last mite. When put together those small donations can amount to thousands of dollars to support missions to countries around the globe. If you can make such a donation, please put your donation or mite box in the message center marked Gerald & Linda Meissner. If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to BUFFALO ZONE LWML, note MITES on your check.

Cancelled stamps, cut out with a 1/2-inch border, can be put in the message center also. They are used to purchase bibles for prisoners.

If you have **empty Brand Name ink cartridges**, you can recycle them for LWML by putting them in the purple plastic tote in the coatroom. Thank you for supporting women in mission.

Shut-In Members

If you know if a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Ron and the church office know! We want to care for all!!!



Personal Hygiene Kits for Lutheran World Relief

The Ladies' Bible Study group is putting together Personal Hygiene Kits to send to **Lutheran World Relief**. **Would you like to help?** We would like to give members and families of the congregation the option of making up a kit (or kits). In view of the earthquakes in Turkey and war in Ukraine, this is an opportune time "to look to the interest of others" (Phil. 2:4). Below are instructions for putting kits together. Our Ladies Group is planning to assemble kits on March 13th. Kits will be collected through March 31. Please follow instructions carefully.

PERSONAL CARE KITS SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER:

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT:

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap)
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE metal (toe)nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS:

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

You can bring your completed kit to church. There will be a plastic tote for collecting them.

West Seneca Community of Churches Lenten Journey Services

Join us each Wednesday at 7:00pm this Lent for worship, guest talks and fellowship.
Free will offerings will be donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry and World Kitchen Central.

March 1: St. Peter's UCC (1475 Orchard Park Road); Theme: Being One - A Life in Hope

March 8: St. John's Lutheran (3512 Clinton Street); Theme: Being One - A Path to Follow

March 15: 14 Holy Helpers R.C. (1350 Indian Church Rd); Theme: Being One - A Life of Prayer

March 22: Trinity Lutheran (146 Reserve Road); Theme: Being One - A Path to Forgiveness

March 29: Agape UMC (2846 Seneca Street); Theme: Being One - That We All May Be One

April 1: Agape UMC (2846 Seneca Street); Concluding Event: Walk With Me



Trinity Brothers and Sisters in Christ YOU can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry

... Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are members of Trinity who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Don Meissner (479-4862), Kevin Kot (445-5923) or Colleen Kot (445-5922).

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

West Seneca Community of Churches (WSCC) News

Trinity will host Baccalaureate Services for West Seneca East High School 2023 graduates on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. West Seneca West Baccalaureate Services will be held at St. John Lutheran Church (Clinton Street) ~ date TBD.

Community support and attendance is encouraged for a Passion-type production - WALK WITH ME- to be presented by Agape Methodist Church (formerly New Hope Methodist) on Seneca Street between the Thruway entrance and Harlem Road. It will be on March 31 and April 1 in the evening.

Life Guards are being hired for the West Seneca Town pool. The pool will be open this year - schedule is dependent on the number of guards and staff.

Active shooter response is being offered again by the West Seneca Police. Call them to get the dates and to register. Police Captain John Urbanski is the member on the WSCC.

The WS Police will be sending officers and possibly police dogs to **Trinity's Easter Egg Hunt** and **Trunk or Treat** as part of their increased efforts to be out in the community for positive reasons.

WS Food Pantry is serving more families. 45 families were served the first week of February. **The need for peanut butter is constant.** Cash donations are used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat.

At the WSCC monthly meetings, West Seneca School Superintendent Matthew Bystrak gives updates on various upgrades, changes, and planning that are happening in the district schools. At this time, major improvements in the science labs at both WS East and West are in the planning stages; East Senior will be moving the main office to the main entrance for security reasons; and security upgrades are going on throughout the district. He also stated that the district appreciates the support and aid given in times of need by the churches and their clergy in town.

** Representing Trinity at the WSCC meetings are Nancy Hope and Pastor Nyck. **

YOU ARE INVITED TO A **FREE**....

Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Rd. West Seneca NY 14224

When: Sunday April 2nd 2023

Time: 12 pm

Ages: 0-10

Dress for the weather as
this is an outdoor event

Bring your own bag or
basket to collect eggs



Happy Birthday

3/1	Carolyn Habedank Beverly Weiss Abigail Lafferty	3/9	Carolyn Minko Michael Monahan Mary Scutt	3/15	Roger Meissner John McCoy	3/26	Travis Rodgers
3/2	Nevin Hope	3/11	Don Weiss	3/16	Gigi LoGalbo Patricia Peterson	3/27	Maryanne Ringle
3/3	Ryan Hamann	3/12	Brady Manzo Gavin Gabel	3/17	Emma Tripi	3/29	Lynn Metzler Karen Tedesco
3/4	Brian Makey	3/14	Judeen Babcock Rhonda Carlone PJ Colson	3/24	Peter Colson Marian Post Debra Wrobel	3/31	Dan Sullivan
3/5	Erin Kotowski			3/25	Lars Osberg		
3/7	Hillary Ferrara Amanda English Micah Anderson						

Happy Anniversary

3/29 Robert & Helen Boldt

3/30 Robert & Mary Ann Moeller



Portals of Prayer Booklets

Portals of Prayer (April-June 2023) devotion booklets will soon be 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.



Altar Flowers

Altar flower donations are needed for **March & April**. Sign up for your special occasion today! The chart is on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. Flowers are \$10 per arrangement and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! You can also pick them up on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We ask that 2 families to sign up for each week. Payment (cash or checks to **"Trinity Lutheran Church"**) can be placed in the Church Office message center in the coatroom.

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform and phone Pastor Nyck (804-382-6199), the church office (674-9188), or one of the Deacons.

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.



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!

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

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