

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

APRIL 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



“How To Avoid The Post-Easter Lull ”

We spend so much time preparing for Easter. We spend 40 days during Lent preparing our hearts and minds. We plan Easter egg hunts, Easter family dinners, and fill Easter baskets for kids or grand-kids. There is so much to do and celebrate. And rightly so! 1 Corinthians 15:57 tells us, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” We have the victory and we celebrate at Easter.

Personally, there is always a strange lull that comes over me after Easter. There is a slowing down in the time period between Easter and the large number of summer activities. I’m not the type of person for whom taking a breather is natural. I struggle to take a break. I’m sure I’m not alone. There always feels like there is something more we can do, even when there’s not. But maybe finding busy work is not what God wants for us during this time. What if God intends this time after the Christmas and Easter seasons to be a time of “Sabbath” rest, growing closer to him. What if all we are intended to do during this time is regroup, reflect and rejoice in all that He is and all that He has done for us.

Maybe this “post-Easter lull” is also a time to reconnect with Christ, reconnect with others and connecting others to Christ. Paul seems to emphasize this idea in Philemon 1:6 saying, “I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” Paul uses the word “koinonia” for “sharing your faith”; another translation would be fellowship, caring for those close to you. Paul is suggesting here that by engaging in this “post-Easter” fellowship we are putting the Easter experiences we have had to their proper use: fellowship with one another for our good and for Christ’s sake. Therefore, let us use this upcoming time “post-Easter”, this celebratory victory lap, as a way to practically demonstrate how Christ has worked in us. Not by busying ourselves, but by taking time to regroup and rejoice in this world he redeemed and the people he has placed in our lives.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Services

April 1 at 5:00pm
April 2 at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Service (w/ Holy Communion)

April 6 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Service

April 7 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Easter Services

(w/ Holy Communion)

Saturday, April 8 at 5:00pm
Sunday, April 9 at 8:00am & 10:30am

Trinity's Vision / Ministry Plan

A presentation of our Vision / Ministry Plan was presented at a congregation meeting on March 12, 2023. Copies of the plan are on the table in the narthex for anyone who was unable to attend the meeting.

From the Executive Board ...

Proverbs 29:18 says "where there is no vision, the people perish". But the opposite of this passage is also true. Without people who believe in the vision, the task of fulfilling the vision will not be done.

We are excited to have a vision. We have spent over 2 years praying, planning and developing our ministry plan. It is now time to put this plan into action. And that takes people, people like you and me. I hope you will encourage your family, friends and members you know to get involved and be a part of helping Trinity meet the goals of this ministry plan.

Over the next few months, the Executive Board will be using the plan to add and fill boards and committees to meet the targets of the ministry plan. We will also be working with existing boards and committees to encourage them to get started on the targets that relate to their board or committee.

It is our hope and prayer that everyone in our church will be involved in meeting and carrying out this plan so our community knows we are a welcoming family of believers sharing God's love. We want our members and our community to know their Savior, Jesus Christ and have a personal relationship with him.



Easter Egg Hunt Help Needed

Trinity's Outreach Committee is in need of help for the annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on **Sunday April 2nd at 12noon**. 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!

Wednesday Bible Study

Starting April 12th we will be resuming our Wednesday Morning Bible study from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM. Having finished our study of "Reading the Bible for Life", we are going to be putting those principles to work with our study of the book of Romans. Assisting us in this endeavor is the RightNow Media video study led by pastor J.D. Greear. The book of Romans is considered by many to be one of the most important books ever written on the Christian faith. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life.



Trinity Garden Club

Trinity's Garden Club is in need of volunteers on Tuesday evenings during the month of May from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. We will be cleaning up the church lawn and flower beds. Bring your own tools. No experience necessary!

Hope Willert - Mission Internship

Hope Willert is considering going into mission work upon graduation from Houghton University, and will be doing a summer mission internship through Revive Wesleyan this summer. She will be spending the first 6 weeks of the summer doing global missions training in Zambia, Africa followed by 6 weeks of local missions training with the Revive staff and various Buffalo missions. She is very excited about this opportunity! She needs to raise almost **\$2,500 by April 1st** towards her training. There are letters from Hope further detailing her internship, as well as ways you can financially contribute if interested, on the table in the narthex. Of course, above all else, please keep her in your prayers.

Trinity School News

Accreditation Update

Trinity Christian School has spent all year preparing for their 5 year accreditation process. The staff has spent hours and hours writing answers to questions and assembling evidence, all with the goal of showing that our school provides the best Christian education possible. As a culmination of those efforts, a visiting accreditation team will be at Trinity School April 25-27. They will spend three days visiting classrooms, speaking with staff, and reviewing documentation. At the end of those three days, they will hopefully decide to re-accredit Trinity Christian School. Please keep the school and staff in your prayers during this process. We are excited to show off our amazing school!

Spring is Sprung - New Activities at School

Spring is here! I know it doesn't always feel like it, but it is here. It says in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" I always feel like this in the spring. It sneaks up on us a little at a time, and before we know it the grass is green and the sun is warming our faces. God is so good to bring new life to us every spring. It is a gift I look forward to all winter long! I hope you have seen your first robin, and smelled that fresh scent in the air. But the best gift of all in spring is Easter, the gift of eternal life we have in Christ's resurrection! I pray you are able to enjoy that gift with family in worship this Easter season. We have some new things going on this spring at school! Starting this spring will be: *(Look for pictures of all the excitement next month!)*

- Volleyball
- Mini-Garden Club
- Running Club
- Board Game Club
- Dance Troupe

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

The PreK and Kindergarten classes celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. They did lots of fun activities and had Dr. Seuss themed snacks. Of course, they read Dr. Seuss books too! Miss Harris's kindergarten class really got into the spirit!



Academic Rolls for 2nd Trimester

Our students did a great job in the 2nd trimester! Congratulations! Keep up the good work!

3rd Grade High Honor Roll: Natalie Schieber, Riley Greig, Lucy Hojnacki, Raelyn Mathewson

3rd Grade Honor Roll: Elijah Holmes, Brianna Burgos

3rd Grade Merit Roll: Mackenzie Holley, Anastasia Dougherty, Angelo Muscarella, Reece Hite, Kaidyn Ferraraccio

4th Grade High Honor Roll: Sawyer Daley, Jesse Hojnacki, John Mills

4th Grade Honor Roll: Cody Adams, Lydia Schieber, Everett Webster, Samantha Riordan

5th Grade High Honor Roll: Ethan Webster, Jayce Mathewson, Luke O'Connor, Ethan Widman

6th Grade High Honor Roll: Luka Dudas, Elliana Adams

6th Grade Honor Roll: Hayden Sirgey, Katelyn Barnas

6th Grade Merit Roll: Elizabeth McFarland

7th Grade High Honor Roll: Abigail Lafferty

7th Grade Honor Roll: Jean-Marie McFarland, Luke Anderson

7th Grade Merit Roll: Jayden Wagner

8th Grade High Honor Roll: Lilly Ackley, Andrew Hunneshagen, Olivia Strzelec

8th Grade Merit Roll: Johnathan Holley



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



YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night

At our last Youth Night on March 15th, we played a variety of games, two hand touch football (their latest favorite they want to play every time!), train wreck, and had some open gym time where the kids played and interacted on their own. We had some yummy ice cream once again, and fantastic job by Kate Barnas and Ellie Adams for leading the devotion for the evening (see pic)! Our next Youth Night will be **Wednesday, April 19th from 6:30pm-8:00pm!**



Jr. & Sr. High Retreat at Pioneer

We are so excited that Pioneer on the Lake will be holding Spring and Fall Youth Retreats once again! Traditionally we've had lots of youth attend from Trinity Church and School. See the flyer on page 6 of this newsletter for more details. 5th thru 12th grade students can sign up with Mark Willert. Payment for the May 19-21 retreat needs to be submitted by April 16. Lisa Lafferty and Mark Willert will be chaperones, and if there are any other parents or volunteers that would like to attend please let Mark know. It's always a good time, even for adults!

DOMESTIC MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Participate in a mission trip right here in the States

**Trinity has partnered with Christian Appalachian Project (CAP)
to serve the people of Appalachia**

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

Where: Eastern Kentucky

Age: Anyone 14 years of age or older

Cost: \$50 minimum contribution

Registration deadline is April 30, 2023

For registration instructions and answers to any questions, please contact Kevin Kot (716-445-5923), Colleen Kot (716-445-5922), or Mark Willert (716-601-8570)



Spring

May 19-21, 2023

Join us for a fun-filled weekend retreat May 19-21, 2023! This weekend will be jam-packed with meaningful worship, relevant teaching, a service project, devotion time, awesome Christian fellowship with friends new and old, and lots of fun games! It's a weekend your teen will wish will never end!

Participating churches—St. John-Depew, Trinity-West Seneca, St. John-Orchard Park, St. Paul-Amherst & more!

COST: \$125/Youth \$75/Adult Chaperone

Deposits due by May 1st, 2023

One chaperone for every 15 youth members.

Both Weekend Retreats include five (5) meals - Friday pizza party, Saturday 3 meals, and Sunday breakfast.

Cost per weekend - \$125/youth camper and \$75/chaperone (staff/teacher/parent).

Contact the Pioneer office at 716-383-6157 or office@pioneeronthelake.com for further information and/or to reserve your spot. And save the date for our Fall retreat Sept 29th-Oct 1st!

REGISTER NOW

716-383-6157

www.pioneeronthelake.com



**Does the joy of Easter seem far away?
Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!**

Carrying a Butterfly

By Ashley Clark / From: "All God's Creatures"

***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you."***

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

A neat thing about living along the Gulf Coast is that every September, I get to see swarms of Gulf fritillaries. We have their host plant, the passion vine, growing along our fence line. As the whimsical purple flower open toward the sun, the butterflies seem to come from north, south, east and west. Then they lay eggs, and a new generation of butterflies is born. I love watching the orange caterpillars, with their menacing black spikes, and the beautiful butterflies they become.

Last week, a cold front came through and brought with it some heavy winds. My son and I were playing outside during a break in the rain, and as we were running, I noticed an old butterfly with worn wings climbing up a tall blade of grass amid the storm. I reached out with care, and it climbed onto my finger. Naturally, I thought about keeping it forever, but instead, I used my other hand to block the wind from its wings while I searched for a better spot in the yard for the butterfly. I settled on a thick bush full of flowers, where it could get nectar and burrow between the leaves as needed between gusts of wind.

The butterfly immediately unrolled its wings and began to drink from the flower, as I stood in awe that for the second time in two weeks, a butterfly had crawled into my hand. I thought about how a similar principle holds true with the people around me. **Sometimes, when the winds of life pick up, others who are struggling may be more apt to accept encouragement or help. I hope and pray that I'm able to see them and take the opportunity to block the wind for a little while. May I always remember the difference I can make in other's lives.**

***Walk of Faith: Did someone who is hurting come to mind as you read these paragraphs?
How can you encourage that person amid struggle, depression, or loss?***

**If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry
by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Don Meissner: 479-4862,
Kevin Kot: 445-5923, Colleen Kot: 445-5922.**



Environmental Stewardship

We are called by God to be stewards of His creation (Gen. 2:15).

There are many ways to manage the environment in which we live. We enjoy the trees, flowers and fresh produce and most of us enjoy the outdoors, especially on a sunny day. But do you consider that the way in which mankind uses the resources in the environment has a great deal to do with the sustainability of it? Most of us have heard about greenhouse gases and pollution of air, land and water. WE are a part of producing all that. How can YOU participate in mitigating that pollution?

REDUCTION: For a start, how about buying less. Do you really need 10 pairs of jeans, shoes, you name it? Can you continue to use your old phone, laptop, toaster, automobile? Have you bought more food than you and your family can consume? Do you really NEED that item? (You may even save some hard-earned money!) Maybe you can borrow that tool/item. Try to use fewer disposable items.

REUSE: Get items repaired if possible. Check out second hand options. What have you stored away, that you can rediscover? Or, if you are not using an item, donate it to a reuse organization (ie., LADD, Habitat for Humanity).

RECYCLE: Many municipalities and towns have recycling programs, but you have to *participate* by separating the appropriate trash. Towns and county governments have special days on which hazardous wastes are collected. Check web sites for times and locations. It's possible to search online for businesses which recycle electronics and components.

DISPOSAL: Throw it out only as a last resort and do it in a sustainable method. DO NOT CONTAMINATE THE SOIL, AIR OR WATER with waste oil or other chemicals.

Use this WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY to become an effective environmental sustainer.

*Isaiah 51:6 "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will ever fail."*

Emergency Contacts & Shut-Ins

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.

Are you or another member of Trinity no longer able to attend services for some reason (medical or other) and would like home visits from Pastor Nyck and our elders? Contact Pastor or the church office to make arrangements.

RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser

This gift card fundraiser 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. The next order due date is **April 9th**. Gift cards will be received within 3-4 days after the 10th. Any questions, please contact Jane Sirgey, 545-9928 or janesirgey@gmail.com.

Memorial Plaques

You can remember deceased loved ones who were once 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. The cost is \$25. Please contact the church office by May 8 if you are interested in purchasing a plaque (674-9188).



Altar Flowers

There are many open spots for altar flower donations in the upcoming months. Flowers are \$10 per arrangement 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. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the church coatroom or you can contact the church office at 674-9188. Please make sure to include your name and special intentions on the sign-up sheet. Payment (cash or checks made payable to **"Trinity Lutheran Church"** / **memo: Altar Flowers**) should be placed in the Church Office message center. Thank you for helping to beautify our church!

Happy Birthday

4/1	Sarah Makosy	4/17	Robbin Blajszczak	4/26	Jean Newton
4/5	Robert Boldt Mary Havens	4/18	Marcia Nickerson Tim Monahan	4/27	Kathy Stephen
4/7	Carol McMenamin Kris Zawadzki	4/19	Heidi Cosandier Bethany Lafferty Austin Smith	4/28	Justin Cornell Corbin Stefanik
4/9	Robert Cislo Stacy Conti	4/21	Scot Zawadzki	4/29	Anne Gurney Sandra Lelito Kelcy Strong
4/10	Betty-Jo Smith	4/22	Mark Rodgers Lisa Berton Steven Wrobel	4/30	Natalie Ecker
4/11	Brody Zawadzki				
4/12	Linda Hope	4/24	Jennifer Canazzi		
4/13	Don Rieman Colleen Kot	4/25	Lori Strong		

Happy Anniversary

4/3	Sheri & Christopher Courteau	4/20	Gerald & Linda Meissner James & Ryan Rowsell
4/5	Duane & Sarah Gabel		
4/12	Charles & Nancy Stevens	4/23	Robert & Anna Eising
4/15	Steve & Robin Makosy	4/24	Trevor & Courtney Jelowski
4/17	Lindsay & Jordan Iannuzzelli		

Trinity Cemetery News . . .

ANY burials or spreading of ashes in Trinity's Cemetery are prohibited without pre-approval from the Cemetery Board. Both state and cemetery regulations need to be adhered to.

Burial plots are still available in our 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 in order to purchase plots.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 16-22, 2023. A sincere "Thank You" to all the people who volunteer their time and talents at our church and school! You are truly appreciated!!!



Do you have someone that you would like to add onto Trinity's prayer chain? If so, please contact Judy Schmidt at judyschmidt349@roadrunner.com / (716) 926-9054 with your request.



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

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