

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MAY 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

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT PINGEL

PRESIDENT OF THE LCMS EASTERN DISTRICT

The subject of hospitality is an important one for our churches (and other businesses and organizations.) But the subject takes on heightened value for us given that it is a *scriptural* issue. Hospitality is mentioned in a number of places in the Bible. For instance:

“Extend hospitality to one another.” (Romans 12:13)

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers.” (Hebrews 13:2)

Hospitality is by definition “The friendly and generous reception of guests.” Synonyms include such words as friendliness, welcome, and warmth.

Hospitality is grounded in the Gospel. The Scriptures tell us *“Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.”* (Romans 15: 17) We who have been the recipients of mercy, grace, and all the blessings of life from the hands of our beneficent Heavenly Father now open our arms and hearts to others in the name of the Savior.

One of the best ways to think about hospitality is in terms of our own homes. When you are expecting guests at your house, what do you do to prepare? And when they actually arrive, what actions do you take? Do you offer them something to drink? Do you offer them a snack, cookie, or slice of pie? Do you provide them with a comfortable chair to sit on? Do you provide a comfortable environment for them during their stay? What “extras” do you include to make their time with you all the more enjoyable?

I like to think of hospitality in our churches in terms of a “front door” and a “back door.”

“Front door” is a reference to the way we meet, greet, and treat visitors. Do we have a process in place? Have we thought things through in terms of EVERY Sunday, from the time the door is unlocked to the time the last person leaves? Often, when I bring up the subject of hospitality, the response is: “We have coffee hour once a month.” What about visitors who show up the other three or four Sundays? “We have coffee and cake after first service.” What about people who come to the second service the first time they visit? Is anything left for them?

Sometimes coffee and cake is offered in a room far away from the worship area. “Fellowship time is in the gym.” Where is the gym? Where do I go? Will someone take me there—after all, I’ve never been here before. Why not locate the coffee and cake in proximity to the worship area? What about people who don’t like coffee? Is there something for their children? Do we reserve a box of cookies in case we run out or do we just show the visitors crumbs and tell them to come back next week? Are the items displayed in such a way as communicates care was taken? Any thought to seasonal niceties on the coffee counter?

When people do stay, how do we ensure that at least someone will speak with them? All too often, church members are busy being friendly with each other but fail to see the new face in the crowd. Are visitors spotted and invited into circles of conversation? Is any of the conversation guest directed? “What brings you here? How did you hear about us? Do you live nearby? Gee, we’re glad you came our way. We hope you will return!” What might be characterized as “small talk” is a lifeline to a newcomer, who often feels out of place and awkward.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Desk Of President Pingel

(Continued from page 1)

Hospitality is also important at what I would consider the “Back Door.” In other words, it is important that we “practice hospitality” with those already “in” the church. Our brothers and sisters in Christ need to be the objects of hospitality, too! A person can “join” our church but very easily fail to be “integrated” or fully “assimilated” into the community of faith. Think of your coffee hour as something of a safety net used to gather members of your church into closer fellowship with each other. There is a sense in which we are to “welcome one another” in the Name of Jesus every time we gather. The various aspects of hospitality, in my opinion, need to be intentional and continually cultivated, lest they “slip away,” which can all too easily happen.

There is much more that could be said about hospitality. The first step is to observe. This Sunday, why not observe, and reflect. How well do we practice hospitality? What could we do better, so that Christ’s welcoming love flow through us so as to touch the lives of others?



Bisons Baseball Game Friday, June 2nd at 7:05pm

Join your Trinity family for an evening of baseball, fellowship and fireworks! Game tickets are \$15 / tickets with hotdog & soda are \$23. **Registration deadline is May 21.** Forms can be found on the table in the narthex. Completed forms and payment (cash or check made to “Trinity Lutheran Church”) should be put in Mark Willert’s church mailbox. This is a Lutheran Charities of WNY sponsored event.

CompassCare Walk for Life

This year, Trinity will be joining hundreds of churches and organizations in New York who will be hosting their own Walk for Life. Meet here at church on **Saturday, May 6 at 9am** if you would like to participate. We will be walking on the trail that borders our property; you can do as many laps as you choose; light refreshments will follow. To register, go to CompassCareWalk.com; search for Trinity Lutheran Church and sign up! It's that easy! Donations may also be made at this website or by check made payable to Compass Care. Please see Robin Makosy (430-6468) with any questions. Thanks for your support for pre-born babies and their moms!



VBS 2023 - Rocky Railway July 24-28 9am-12pm

Trinity will be hosting a Vacation Bible School program this summer the week of July 24-28 from 9am-12pm! Kids entering PreK-3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade will be welcome to join us. For those interested in registering your child for the VBS program, stay tuned for more information in the weekly Life at Trinity bulletin inserts and future newsletters for how to register!

Volunteers Needed: We also need many volunteers to make this event a success. Please refer to the poster in the narthex for a variety of different volunteer opportunities (along with their descriptions). You can also speak with Joan Kopra (thekoprafamily@gmail.com) or Pastor Nyck (pastornyck@gmail.com) if you would like to help out in any way! Thank you so much!



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!



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 (674-9188) if you are interested in purchasing a plaque. Orders for this period will be accepted **until May 8th**.



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

Spring Activity Updates

There are lots of fun activities going on over at the school this spring! The volleyball team is in the middle of its season, and they are doing a great job! Mini-Garden Club has been making some beautiful container gardens with Miss Harris. The Board Game Club has been enjoying their game time with Pastor Nyck. Running Club with Mrs. Gabel will be starting in a few weeks.



Successful Accreditation

The National Lutheran School Accreditation team was here at Trinity April 25-27. They were very pleased with everything going on at the school, and have re-accredited the school for another 5 years. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this process, and for all of your prayers and support. We also thank the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church for sharing the cost of the accreditation process.

Family Blessings Breakfast

Did you notice all of the hand-made flowers in church at the end of April? Those were from our Family Blessings Breakfast. We had the parents of our students come to breakfast and chapel on April 19th. It was a wonderful morning of fellowship and worship. We discussed how our families are like those beautiful flowers, pretty alone, but even more beautiful together. We thank God for the blessing of all the families here at Trinity!



Trinity School Musical "Frozen Kids"

Friday, May 12th at 1:00pm & 7:00pm
Saturday, May 13th at 1:00pm

Trinity Christian School will be putting on the musical Frozen Kids on May 12th and 13th. Please come see our talented grade 1-8 students! Admission is FREE! A free-will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the musical.

Family Fun Festival & School Open House

Trinity Church and School will be having a Family Fun Festival and Open House on **May 5th from 4pm-7pm**. The Outreach Committee and the school are working together on this event to welcome the community, as well as promote the school. Please come join us for an evening of free family fun! There will be carnival games, an ice cream truck, and Open House for the school. All Trinity students are doing special projects to present. This event is perfect for anyone considering Trinity as a school option. Please invite family and friends, so we can show them our amazing school! We need a lot of help to make this event a success. Please contact Katie Willert or Sarah Gabel (principal@thinktrinitychristian.com) or Joan Kopra to volunteer.

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

On April 26 we officially had our first Youth Night combined with St. John of Orchard Park. What a blast! We also won the first game of dodgeball! A great evening with 19 youth and 4 adults. Kate Barnas did a fantastic job of leading a devotion on the topic of judging others!

We will hold two Youth Nights in May. Our first one is on **Wednesday, May 10 from 6:30pm-8:00pm** and is weather dependant as the gym is in use and we will be outside for the activities. Our second will be on **May 24**. St. John will continue to join us! It's great to see the interaction and fellowship between our two groups.



Property & Grounds News

Project Update:

Hallelujah! The boiler / chimney project is paid off. Thanks to all who contributed to the project, especially the generous donor that helped us to cross the finish line. You no longer need those envelopes for the boiler project, BUT why not use them to fund **parking lot repairs**. We will need to repair, reseal and restripe the lot in the near future. Let's get a head start!

*"By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."* Proverbs 24:3-4

Time and Talents for Trinity:

Last fall the congregation was given an opportunity to work as a family, group or individual on the gardens around to church and school. We have more openings available: 2 people for the front of church; another for the east side (old entrance side); and another person for around the parsonage. See the green sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Linda Meissner for more information. What a great opportunity for a family to do service!

That Nasty Patch:

You may have noticed that plaster and paint is missing above the altar! Well, there is a problem outside, up on the peak of the church. The Grounds & Maintenance Committee have contacted a masonry contractor and hope to have an estimate for repairs soon. When the outdoor leaks are repaired, we will repair the inside.



Personal Care Kits

During the month of March, the Ladies Bible Study Group collected personal care items per Lutheran World Relief guidelines to make 57 kits which will be taken to the ingathering site in Hilton, NY. From there they will be shipped to Maryland and then to anywhere in the world there is a need. With the earthquake in Turkey, war in Ukraine and many weather disasters, the ladies wanted to help in a tangible way.

*Lord thank you for the opportunity and the resources to send these personal care kits. May they provide some comfort to those who receive them.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Altar Candles & Flowers

Flowers: There are many open spots for altar flower donations in the upcoming months. Flowers are \$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.

Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the church coatroom or you can contact the church office at 674-9188. All 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.*



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!



MITES For LWML

Mites are the important way mission projects of the LWML are supported. Each year many grants are issued to provide for those in need. Please consider writing a check (Buffalo Zone LWML) or filling a MITE BOX with your pocket change as a donation. You can drop the check in the offering plate or leave a mite box in Linda Meissner's message center. Many small donations combine to cause great blessings.

Other Ways to Assist LWML

You can also help by donating cancelled stamps with 1/2 inch border and used ink cartridges. In the coatroom is a purple tote for collection of ink cartridges. These are redeemed for money which is put into the mite funds. Stamps can be put in Linda Meissner's message center.



Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery. The cost is:

- 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 to purchase plots in our Cemetery

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.

Emergency Contacts & Shut-Ins

If a member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform 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? Is so, please contact Pastor or the church office to make arrangements.

Pioneer on the Lake

Servant Saturday, May 20, 2023

Come share your time and talents and help us build a firm foundation for future generations. We want to be good stewards of all God has given us here at Pioneer! Servant Events offer projects that are suitable for all ages and abilities, from children and teens to skilled workers and craftsmen. Hot lunch will be provided. Questions? Call us at **716-383-6157**.



Car Cruise

Join us every Friday from **June 9th-Oct. 13th, 2023, 5pm-dusk**, weather permitting, for our Lakeside Car Cruise-In! All are welcome to this family- friendly event. Park in the Herr Road parking lot and enjoy classic cars on our lakeside property! The Country Store will be open for hot dogs, hamburgers, Perry's ice cream, and more. Bring a lawn chair and stay for the sunset as we enjoy classic cars and God's beautiful creation! Questions? Call us at **716-383-6157**

Join us for the 2nd Annual Pioneer Fest!

Please join us in welcoming **Laura Story** to our stage **Saturday, July 22, 2023!** Time to be announced. This is a **FREE** concert and event for the whole family! Join us for a fun-filled day. Come early and enjoy swimming on our beach, bounce houses, face painting, food, and fun for everyone and so much more! Food for purchase and Perry's Ice Cream will be available at our Country Store!



Summer Camps

July 2-7: Pastor - Nyck Greig / Worship Leader - Mark Willert

July 9-14: Pastor & Worship Leader TBA

July 16-21: Pastor TBA / Worship Leader - Mark Willert

July 23-26: Stronger Together Family Camp for families of persons with disabilities.
Hosted by LADD and Jacob's Ladder Special Needs Fitness.

July 30-Aug 6: MUSIC WEEK!



Media Fact Sheet

Release Date: September 1, 2021

History: Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation in St. Louis to be *Stephen Ministers*. They assisted him in providing Christian care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties. These trained caregivers were so enthused about their ministry, they encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer *Stephen Ministry* to more congregations.

Over the next few years, Dr. Haugk traveled to congregations and trained Stephen Ministers. This quickly proved to be inefficient, since he could visit only a limited number of congregations, and these congregations were then dependent on him to train additional caregivers. So in 1978 Stephen Ministries held the first Leader's Training Course and trained the first *Stephen Leaders*—representatives of various congregations who then returned home to train and supervise their own Stephen Ministers. Since then Stephen Ministries St. Louis has specialized in "training the trainers" through the Stephen Ministry system.

Definition of Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around the congregation.

The Organization: Stephen Ministries St. Louis is a not-for-profit, transdenominational, religious and educational organization founded in 1975. The St. Louis-based staff of 40 provides support for ministry in more than 13,000 congregations worldwide. Dr. Haugk serves as Executive Director.

The Name: The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry Statistics: These statistics are updated annually. Statistics can be obtained online at stephenministries.org or by calling Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600.

- **Congregations:** More than 13,000 congregations are enrolled in Stephen Ministry. They represent 185 different Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.
- **People:** More than 75,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have been trained as Stephen Leaders at Leader's Training Courses. These Stephen Leaders have, in turn, trained more than 600,000 congregation members to be Stephen Ministers. Since 1975 Stephen Ministers have provided distinctively Christian care to more than one-and-a-half million people in one-to-one Stephen Ministry caring relationships and have also used their caregiving skills to touch the lives of millions more in other ways.

The Stephen Ministry Logo:

The logo Stephen Ministry congregations use consists of a cross and circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives as a result of our sin. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is through the cross of Jesus that we again are made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.



Stephen Ministries: Media Fact Sheet

How the Stephen Ministry Works: Pastors, church staff, and lay leaders attend a Leader's Training Course, taught by the Stephen Ministries faculty, to learn how to implement Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained Stephen Leaders then begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained *Stephen Leaders* then return home to begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation.

Stephen Leaders recruit and select laypeople from the congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers and provide them with 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving. Topics include listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations such as divorce, terminal illness, grief, and childbirth. Stephen Ministers also are trained to recognize when a care receiver's needs go beyond the care a Stephen Minister can provide and how to refer the care receiver for additional care.

At the end of training, *Stephen Ministers* are commissioned by the congregation. Stephen Leaders then link each Stephen Minister with a *care receiver*—a person in need of one-to-one Christian care. A Stephen Minister normally is assigned to only one care receiver at a time and meets with that person for about an hour each week.

Stephen Ministers also meet twice monthly for supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministers initially commit to two years of service, but after those years many recommit to serve additional years.

Terminology: The organization, based in St. Louis, is *Stephen Ministries St. Louis*. The lay caregiving ministry system congregations implement is *Stephen Ministry*, once it has been implemented in a congregation. The pastors and laypeople trained by the Stephen Ministries faculty to direct their congregation's Stephen Ministry are called *Stephen Leaders*. The people trained to provide one-to-one care to those in need are called *Stephen Ministers*. Those who receive the care of Stephen Ministers are referred to as *care receivers*.

Important to Note

- Stephen Ministers are not counselors. They are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not counsel or advise. Please do not refer to them as counselors.
- Stephen Ministry is a supervised ministry. Stephen Ministers engage in twice-monthly supervision to ensure that they are providing the best-quality Christian care.
- Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. What a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister remains confidential. Even in supervision, the names of care receivers and specific details are never discussed.
- Stephen Ministers do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

Other Ministry Resources

In addition to Stephen Ministry, Stephen Ministries St. Louis offers many other resources to enhance congregation ministry.

These other resources from Stephen Ministries include:

- *Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life*
- *Journeying through Grief*
- *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering*
- *Cancer—Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead*
- *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*
- *Caring for Inactive Members*
- *Antagonists in the Church: How to Identify and Deal with Destructive Conflict*

Media Opportunity: We hold introductory workshops about Stephen Ministry across the U.S. each year (stephenministry.org/workshop). Members of the media are invited to attend these workshops as our guests. Interested media persons can contact our Communications Department at (314) 428-2600.

Happy Birthday

| | | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 5/1 | Julie Blamowski | 5/16 | Chris McLaughlin | 5/22 | Stephen Hope |
| 5/2 | Amanda Kern | | Rebekah Lafferty | 5/23 | Ingrid Hamann |
| 5/6 | Vince Canazzi | 5/17 | David Kosicki | 5/24 | Carson Wackowski |
| | Rachel Colson | | Renae Makey | 5/25 | Rev. Ron Habedank |
| | Grace Willert | | Jackson Ecker | 5/26 | Christopher Kopra |
| 5/10 | James Conti | 5/18 | Linda Meissner | | Sarah McLaughlin |
| 5/12 | Ethan Kopra | | Theodore Rood | 5/27 | Carl Lehsten |
| 5/14 | Laurel McClellan | 5/19 | Joshua Ecker | | Justine Monahan |
| 5/15 | Katie Willert | | Nathan Ecker | 5/28 | Michael Canazzi |
| 5/16 | Arlene Burger | | Matthew Lafferty | 5/30 | Neil Halvorsen |
| | Peggy Wypior | 5/21 | Henry Greig | | |
| | | | David Brown | | |

Happy Anniversary

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|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 5/1 | Peter & Bisty Colson | 5/11 | Gerry & William Swart | 5/23 | James & Lisa Manzo |
| 5/9 | Marcia & Daniel Nickerson | 5/14 | Dave & Jane Sirgey | 5/28 | Roger & Denise Meissner |
| 5/10 | Robert & Joan Kopra | 5/16 | Robert & Paulette Bogumil | 5/31 | Lisa & Matt Lopez |

Trinity's Men's Softball

Come cheer on our guys as they compete in the Southtowns Church Softball League! All games are played at the Nike Base (2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg). The diamond is indicated in () after each date.

Mon. 5/8 at 7pm (3) vs Revive Wesleyan I
 Thurs. 5/11 at 7pm (2) vs First Baptist West Seneca
 Thurs. 5/18 at 7pm (1) vs St. John Lutheran I
 Mon. 5/22 at 7pm (2) vs St. Bernadettes
 Mon. 6/5 at 6:30pm (4) vs St. Bernadettes
 Thurs. 6/8 at 6:30pm (1) vs St. John Lutheran I
 Mon. 6/12 at 8:15pm (1) vs First Baptist West Seneca
 Mon. 6/19 at 6:30pm (3) vs St. Bernadettes
 Mon. 6/26 at 6:30pm (4) vs Revive Wesleyan I
 Thurs. 7/13 at 6:30pm (2) vs St. John Lutheran I
 Mon. 7/17 at 6:30pm (4) vs Revive Wesleyan I
 Thurs. 7/27 at 6:30pm (2) vs First Baptist West Seneca



WANTED!

Men Who Love To Sing!

Queen City Chordsmen Acapella Chorus

St. John's Lutheran Church (55 Pleasant Ave., Lancaster). Interested? Contact Ron Hope at nandr.hope@verizon.net / (716) 674-8544, Jack Trenchard at jasutrench@hotmail.com / (716) 435-4218, or Denny Johnson at fallguybass@aol.com / (716) 572-4919.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Contact Information</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Nycholas Greig | 674-9188 / (804) 382-6199 / pastornyck@gmail.com |
| School Co-Principals | Sarah Gabel / Katie Willert | 674-5353 / principal@thinktrinitychristian.com |
| Youth & Family Coordinator | Mark Willert | 608-8907 / mwillert@thinktrinitychristian.com |
| Church Office Administrator | Teresa Lynch | 674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net |
| School Office Administrator | Judeen Babcock | 674-5353 / jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com |