

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JUNE 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 (thru 6/11/23)

Sunday @ 9:30 am (effective 6/18/23)



“Background Noise”

I’m one of those type of people who loves to listen to things while I work. Podcasts, music, even a familiar TV show are all comforting background noise. But the thing about background noise is that it is only effective if it doesn’t distract from the work being done. It works when it is firmly “in the background” as something that can be safely ignored without really missing anything.

Unfortunately for increasing millions of people in the wider culture, Christianity has become just that, background that can be easily ignored. Another term that is frequently used for Christianity is irrelevant. Irrelevance happens when your interests and someone else’s don’t overlap. For many Christianity feels like a long list of rules that matter to someone else. Some may try to “hang in there” out of a sense of duty or obligation. They might make a sincere effort to participate in church, maybe because it is important to people they care about. But Christianity just doesn’t stick.

The book Good Faith by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons records that “Three out of four US adults have some Christian background, but about three in five American Christians are mostly inactive in their faith.” For far too many, church is boring and Christianity has faded into the background.

“Our culture’s underlying moral and ethical standard has become ‘do what you want as long as you don’t hurt anybody.’ By that standard, ‘proclaim Jesus as Lord and live under his rule and reign’ is ... well, irrelevant.” Which is why we need to hear God’s word from Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Far from what the world values, we find God’s word good, and acceptable and perfect!

If you are interacting with people who feel that Christianity is nothing but irrelevant, background noise, try to encourage them to see how meaningful your faith is to you, and what it could mean for them.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



Beginning June 17 & 18

Saturday Evening at 5:00pm
(outdoors - weather permitting)

Sunday Morning at 9:30am

Voters Meeting

Sunday, June 11 at 11:45am

There will be a Voters Meeting on June 11 following the 10:30am service to vote on Trinity obtaining a line of credit loan from LCEF. All confirmed members are eligible and encouraged to vote.



Trinity's Sunday Worship & Picnic at Pioneer

Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 11:00am

Join your Trinity family for worship on July 2 at 11:00am out at Pioneer on the Lake (9324 Lake Shore Rd, Angola). After worship enjoy our church pot-luck picnic ~ please bring a dish / dessert to share and your own beverages. This worship will be in place of our own 9:30AM worship service - so **no worship at Trinity that Sunday.**

Grounds & Maintenance

Grounds and Maintenance Committee can use some apprentices to help care for the grounds. The members of the committee are aging and need to pass along the knowledge of maintaining the church and grounds. By having volunteers doing this work, thousands of dollars are saved each year. Please consider pitching in. Contact Linda Meissner or any Committee member. There is still time to care for a garden on the grounds.



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

Trinity will be hosting a **FREE** Vacation Bible School program this summer the week of July 24-28 from 9am-12pm! All children ages 3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade are welcome to attend. Go to Trinity's website (www.trinitywestseneca.com) 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!

2023-24 Budget Requests

It's time to continue planning our future together at Trinity. If your ministry, team board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting September 1, 2023 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Dave Sirgey (djsirgey@gmail.com) **by July 1st**. Ministry Goal / Cost Sheet forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex or you can contact the church office to request a form.



Altar Flowers

There are many open spots for altar flower donations for 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. 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. 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**).

Trinity School News



Growth:

GROWTH. That is the word on my mind today. At this point in the year I see it everywhere with our students. Let me give you some examples...

- The 7th and 8th graders led chapel on Wednesday. It was so touching to hear them read their original devotions and see them leading songs for the younger students. There is nothing more beautiful than to see their growth in faith over the years they have been at Trinity!
- I was in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom yesterday, and one first grader proudly read me a book that he would not have been able to read a few months ago. What exciting growth!
- Some teachers were commenting just this morning how much positive growth they had seen in the behavior of a student. Thank you God!

In 2 Peter 3:18 we are told, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." As teachers, we love to see growth in all areas, but here at Trinity we are especially thrilled by spiritual growth. How has your child grown this year? How have you grown this year? Take some time to think about that. Ask your children/family members how *they* think they have grown. What a great topic of conversation at dinner tonight!

Accreditation Details:

We did not have the full accreditation report at the printing of last month's newsletter, so I wanted to provide you with more details this month. Here are some highlights:

- The visiting team found the following areas to be of particular strength at Trinity Christian School: Christ-Centered Family Culture, Student-Driven Instruction, Collaborative Teamwork in the Staff, Strong Christian Leadership, Strong Church/School Relations, Importance of Lasting Relationships, Servant Leadership, and Student Leadership.
- Our accreditation score was higher than it was 5 years ago.
- Our accreditation score was significantly higher than the national average.

Thank you again for your prayers and support for this process! We were thrilled that the team identified the Church/School relationship as a strength. Let's keep that going as we move forward with our new vision in the church.



Successful Family Fun Festival and Open House

We had a wonderful Family Fun Festival and Open House on May 5th. The Trinity children of both the congregation and the school had a wonderful time showing off their projects and playing the carnival games. We had a great turn out for the Open House, giving tours to 8 families. We have enrolled 6 new students as a result of the Open House. A big thank you to everyone that helped out!! This was definitely a joint effort! Way to go team!



Fantastic Frozen Kids!

The students did a great job performing Frozen Kids on May 12th and 13th. I hope you had a chance to get to the school to see it. They worked so hard, and it really showed. Thanks so much to Mrs. Anderson for leading the students in the production.

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Our Youth Nights coupled with St. John continue to be good times! Our one on May 10 was held at St. John and we had one awesome game of kickball! Then we had freezie pops and a devotion lead by Pastor Nate Hartke and some singing. This month's Youth Nights will be held at Trinity on **June 7th & 21st from 6:30pm-8:00pm.**



Camp Pioneer First Youth Retreat

The very first youth retreat held at Pioneer On the Lake was on May 19-21 saw 35 area youth, and almost half were from Trinity. Other churches represented were St. John Depew and Grace Lutheran. Big thanks to adults Lisa Lafferty, Stephanie Greig and Grace Willert (who both helped with programming), and Jr. chaperone Kyle Heck. Thank you all for your energy and guidance for our kiddos! A great weekend (although some rain on Saturday) that included times of play, meaningful worship, campfires and service time to Pioneer! Trinity served by painting outdoor tables and chairs, assembling lamp posts, tearing down an old shed, doing dishes, serving food, and generally moving things around camp. Save the date for the fall retreat which is the last weekend in September!





Trinity Men in Ministry *8th Annual Golf Outing*

Women and Men golfers welcome!

Sunday, August 20th, 2023
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

\$35.00 per golfer ...

includes Greens Fee, Riding Cart, & Food
(on-course beverages - \$3.00 each)

BUFFET

*Pulled Pork, Macaroni Salad,
Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Brownies
Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks
(Beer, Wine, Liquor - Cash Bar)*

Non-golfers welcome to join us for food and beverages (cash bar) at the course at approximately 2:30 PM. (\$15.00 fee for non-golfers)

72 golfers maximum, sign-up as soon as possible but no later than July 30th, 2023. Sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Turkey Run Golf Course
11888 Bixby Hill Road
Arcade, NY 14009



Property & Grounds Project Update

Great news! The boiler / chimney project is paid off. Thanks to all that contributed to the project, especially the generous donor that helped us to cross the finish line. Oh no! What do I do with my special boiler / chimney envelopes? Simply fill them with cash /checks and we'll use the funds to begin saving for parking lot repairs.



Eight Days of Hope – Buffalo 2023 Lovejoy District July 15 -22, 2023

Eight Days of Hope is a family friendly event. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. You can volunteer for as many days as you like from 2 days or all 8 days. Follow these steps to register:

- Go to eightdaysofhope.com
- Scroll down to EDOH – Buffalo 2023
- Click on Event Details
- Click on Volunteer – Fill in form
- Under Church/Org. use Trinity West Seneca

Please let Kevin or Colleen Kot know when you register or if you have any questions so we can pass on additional information.

Kkot57@gmail.com or 716-445-5923
knckot@verizon.net or 716-445-5922

Cemetery News

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity's Cemetery:

- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.
- **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.

Volunteer to Lead Worship at Elderwood Assisted Living

There is a need in the community for a Saturday morning (9:30am-10am) worship service at Elderwood Assisted Living, 580 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca. A member of the Ladies' Bible Study is presently doing this but cannot be there every week. Calendar schedules are made up on the 15th of the month for the following month, so please RSVP as soon as possible. There are on-line resources available as well as using the Portals of Prayer or other devotional helps. Contact Linda Meissner 716-648-1281; Lam.ambit@yahoo.com

LADD HELPS!!

**Lutheran Assoc. for Developmentally Disabled
2280 Seneca St., Buffalo / (716) 825-7774**

Have you wondered who receives the benefits of profits from the clothing and items sold at our store (after rent & heat bills)? Here is a partial list of disabled clients helped from 2022 to present:

- Classes for two men to build a canoe thru Bflo. Maritime Craftsmanship Org.
- Provided six in-home massages for client on breathing machine
- A tricycle for a girl with down-syndrome
- Special piano lessons for girl who is blind
- Chair lift to enable wheelchair-bound client to get into pool
- Financial help for 10 campers to attend Agape Camp at Pioneer on the Lake in July
- Special chair to help get disabled campers onto the beach

Thank You for your donations (clean clothing, toys, dishes, linens, small appliances, house wares, silverware). Please patronage our store. **WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?** Call Lois Rodgers @ 716-662-5995 or Linda Rowsell @ 716-652-1314



Pioneer on the Lake Family 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.

HEALTH MINISTRY

“After this, Jesus and his disciples went out to the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.” John 3:22

In the Bible we see Jesus going off to a secluded place or a garden to pray. As you plan your summer pastimes, be sure to include time in Nature. Enjoy the created beauty of God. When the sun is shining and the sky is blue, it brightens your spirit. Breathing in the fresh air, one can envision the Lord Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit onto his disciples that evening after His resurrection. Close your eyes and just listen to the sounds around you or thank God for all He has given you to enjoy and sustain you. Some great places to do this are Reinstein Woods, Chestnut Ridge Park, Mossy Point Preserve and the Niagara Gorge, or take a walk along the path at Trinity. A good site to check out is WNYLC.org for a list of other natural treasures. Be sure to stay safe, stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.

“Jesus went out as usual to the mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.” Luke 22:39

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS



We know that there are some people who give their leftovers after everything else has been paid for and those who give off the top and live on their leftovers. The difference is peoples' priorities. Those who give their leftovers see themselves as being responsible to provide for their needs and comforts. The money for the Lord's work is what is left over after all expenses are paid. God is not part of their finances because they compartmentalize their faith. God is allowed only in their spiritual lives and not in their day-to-day activities. Those who make giving a priority see God involved in all their lives, especially their finances. They trust in God's promise that He will provide for all their needs. They rely on God's guidance and they give cheerfully of the first part of their income. Their trust is in God and not in themselves. Where are you in your giving and trust?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father thank You for Your Generosity to me. Help me to acknowledge that You are the source of all good things. Give me a giving heart. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



At birth, your parents gave you a name and, through that name, an identity. Wherever you are or go, you will respond to that name. In a similar way, you gained another identity when you were born as God's child in Holy Baptism. God has created and recreated you so that you belong to Him. Through His body and blood in Holy Communion, He forgives your sins and furthers His claim on you as His own. You have one identity through your parents, but a much more important one through your Lord. Because you belong to Him, you have another identity – that of steward. As God's steward, you see life as a gift and understand that all you have is on loan to you, and you willingly and responsibly manage what God has entrusted to you. When you acknowledge His ownership, you understand your identity as a unique individual, as child of God, and as His chosen steward.

Prayer: Father, thank You for my baptism and Your unconditional love. Amen.

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

Happy Birthday

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|---|------|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 6/1 | Peter Bullock Kasey Lelito | 6/8 | Helen Schultz Mary Colwell Peter Szeider Jeff Gertis Cadence Jelowski | 6/17 | Fred Schultz Bruce Heckman | 6/25 | Marilyn Lein Gregory Ringle |
| 6/2 | Rev. David Belasic Karen Hollowood Trevor Jelowski | 6/9 | Shannon Heckman Jacob Ecker | 6/18 | Dallas Smith | 6/26 | Kyle McCoy Camden Stefanik |
| 6/3 | Denise Meissner | 6/11 | Madelyn Monahan | 6/20 | Kristen Zawadzki Travis Barnas | 6/27 | Don Meissner Trevor Wilkening |
| 6/4 | Martha Birrer | 6/13 | Abigail Lelito | 6/22 | Larry Thompson Lenore Ecker | 6/29 | Lisa Osberg Hartley Smith |
| 6/5 | Norine Ecker Jered Cornell | 6/14 | Linda Daum | 6/23 | Jeffrey Wackowski Adeline Royal | 6/30 | Jennifer Evans |
| 6/6 | Henry Jelowski | 6/16 | Mark Blajszczak | 6/24 | Shana Caldarella | | |
| 6/7 | Brynn Zawadzki | | | | | | |

Happy Anniversary

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|------|---|------|-------------------------|
| 6/3 | Brad & Theresa McKernan | 6/20 | Frank & Sandra Lelito |
| 6/12 | Paula & David Winkelses Ingrid & Alan Hamann | 6/23 | Dennis & Tricia Glinski |
| 6/15 | Rev. Ron & Carolyn Habedank | 6/26 | Don & Beverly Weiss |
| 6/17 | Ron & Nancy Hope | 6/29 | Mark & Katie Willert |
| 6/18 | Joshua & Jessica Ecker Christa & Charles Wilkening | | |



Thank You Trinity's Garden Club!

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time on Tuesday evenings in May to help clean up and beautify the church and school flower beds and property. Your help was greatly appreciated!



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.

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.

The Bread of Life Outreach Center send the following note to Trinity in May:

Dear Family at Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all your donations of food to the Bread of Life Outreach. Your generosity is appreciated and valued. We are grateful to have you as supporters!

~ Ron Smith, Pantry Director

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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