

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

AUGUST 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: (716) 336-1767
Mrs. Sarah Gabel / Mrs. Katie Willert, School Co-Principals, 674-5353

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

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday Evenings 5:00pm
(outdoors - weather permitting)

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am



***“We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”***

– 1 Corinthians 1:23-24

“We preach Christ crucified”. This is the theme for this year’s Synodical convention of the LCMS. John W. Sias, secretary of the LCMS, encourages us to “make these words our own, speak them with one voice as the congregations of our Synod... What is to be preached, every time, everywhere, to everyone? Christ, and Him crucified – and just so, Christ the power and the wisdom of God and our righteousness, our sanctification, our redemption. What does it mean for us in this world? Suffering, scorn, for the wise not only count us fools but are shamed by our preaching, and by it those things that make much of their being something are brought to nothing. But what does it mean for the world that we are in it with this preaching? Life beyond all their knowing! For He who is low and despised, who seems to be nothing, is revealed to be everything the only foundation that is laid, the One in whom all things are ours – the world, life, death, present, future – and we are Christ’s, and the Christ – even Him crucified – is of God (1 Corinthians 1-3). Let us not boast in men or of men, but he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. So we will be prepared as one to meet any challenge.”

This last part is so important because there are many challenges facing our synod, from the pastoral shortage, to the recent closing of universities, and most importantly how to share the gospel to a culture that has become increasingly hostile to our message. How do we tackle all of these challenges while remaining faithful to God’s Word? These are the issues that we hope to address at these conventions and it is no different this year.

Please keep the Synodical convention in your prayers as we gather that we would tackle these issues with God’s guidance according to His will.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School program will begin **September 10th at 9:15 AM!** Registration forms can be found on the table in the narthex. Place completed forms in Sarah Gabel's mailbox in the church coatroom.

Volunteers Needed: Please contact Sarah Gabel at sgabel@thinktrinitychristian.com or (716) 982-2586 if you are interested in volunteering. We provide all the materials and curriculum. All that is required is a love for children and sharing Jesus with them!

Rocky Railway VBS Thank You

THANK YOU so much to everyone who helped to make our Rocky Railway VBS a great success! Numerous adults and teens dedicated their time and energy to make this event possible. Each of them played a crucial role in creating a positive and enriching experience for all of the kids who attended. Please continue to pray for all those who attended a great week here at Trinity's VBS. A special thank you goes out to Joan Kopra and Pastor Nyck for organizing this year's wonderful program and to Bob Rodgers (and friends) for setting up the amazing train display!



Trinity's Handbell Choir

Can you ring a bell or would like to learn? Trinity's Handbell Choir rings about once per month, October through June, at various services. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning in September. Please contact Ellen Makey (esmky23@yahoo.com or 961-8378) for more information.



Men in Ministry 8th Annual Golf Outing at Turkey Run Sunday, August 20, 2023 12:00PM - 4:00PM

Ladies and men welcome! The cost is \$35 per golfer (includes greens fees, riding cart and food; on-course beverages \$3 each). We are limited to 72 golfers ~ sign up in the narthex as soon as possible but no later than 7/30. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for food and beverages (cash bar) for \$15 at approximately 2:30PM.

Payment Requirement: All fees will be collected **prior** to the outing. \$35 per golfer / \$15 non-golfer. **Payment is due no later than August 6** and may be given to Nevin Hope, Dave Sirgey, or Teresa in the church office. If cash, please place it in an envelope along with a list of the names of those from whom you are paying. If check, make it payable to Dave Sirgey and place it in an envelope along with a list of the names of those from whom you are paying.

Refund Policy: If the outing is cancelled due to weather, golfers will be issued a gift certificate from Turkey Run Gold Course for the amount they paid, which may be redeemed in 2023 or 2024 and applied toward green fees, cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant. If a golfer is unable to participate due to illness or some other unforeseen circumstance, he/she will be issued a gift certificate from Turkey Run in the amount of \$22 with the same guidelines outlined above.

Voters Meeting Sunday, September 10, 2023

There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 10 following the 10:30am worship service. All confirmed members of Trinity are encouraged to attend and vote. On the agenda will be the 2023-2024 Church/School Budget and open board positions (1 Executive Board member and Secretary). Anyone wishing to be considered for either of these positions should contact Brian Makey. Copies of the budget will be available in the narthex for your review prior to the Voters Meeting.

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.

Pastor's New Cell Number

Pastor Nyck has a new cell number: **(716) 336-1767**. Please use this number effective immediately to reach him in case of emergencies.

Trinity School News

Summer Reflections

As I sit here writing this, I am the only one in the school. The windows and doors are open letting all the breeze in. It is calm, and it is quiet. And I love it! Don't get me wrong - I wouldn't want it this way all of the time. The school is typically loud, busy, and humming with energy and learning; and that is how I like it! However, the beauty in the quiet is in its *rareness*. The quiet gives me time to reflect and pray. I thank God for Trinity - the awesome partnership between the school and the church for almost 175 years! I thank God for all of our students and members - past and present. I thank God for the joy in the voices of our new families when we tell them they are accepted to Trinity Christian School for the upcoming school year. I thank God that He uses me here at Trinity to serve Him with His people. I thank God for the staff that works so tirelessly in their service and dedication. I thank God for the multitude of volunteers that bless this school and congregation with their service. I thank God for the selfless love of so many that have poured wisdom and love into the personal lives of me and my family. God is so good, and my list of thanks could go on and on. It is a shame that it takes an empty school to get me to slow down and take a moment of quiet reflection. I need to be more intentional to take this time. I pray that you are able to slow down and take a few moments of quiet reflection this summer to thank God for the many blessings in your life. Our God is an awesome God!

- Katie Willert, Co-principal

School Aide Position

We are in need of an aide for our 1st & 2nd grade classroom Monday-Friday, from 12:40pm-3:10pm. Please send a letter of interest and/or resume to: principal@thinktrinitychristian.com.



Summer Projects Underway

We have exciting things happening on the Trinity property over the summer. Mike Webster and Bob Mathewson, two Trinity school dads, put new doors in the church basement to improve security for the classes that meet there. We have also installed new lighting in front of the school and in the parking lot. Jerry and Roger Meissner put the new gravel on the playground. Thank you so much for your help and for your annual fund donations, as part of that money is being used on these improvements.

School Work Day Saturday, August 19th

We have a lot more to do at the school! If you would like to help with small repair jobs, painting, and cleaning before the school year starts, we have a **School Work Day on August 19th from 8:30am-12:00pm**. We'd love to see you there!

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Some good times were had at our June and July Youth Nights. Our most recent one was held at the Webster's house with swimming, games and a devotion about accepting and rejecting others. Our August Youth Nights are on **8/2** and **8/16 from 6:30pm-8:00pm**. Keep an eye peeled for the email updates regarding location!



Mission Trip News

Thanking God for an excellent mission trip to Kentucky where we worked on people's houses and had some neat faith conversations. Faith Flattery and Nate Barnas were two attending teens, along with myself (Mark Willert) and a handful of adults. We can't wait to report all the neat things that happened but will plan on that in September. A sincere thank you to Kevin and Colleen Kot for all their efforts to make it happen and getting us there! And especially God for His awesome part in it all and keeping us safe!

Cemetery News

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

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.

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 will be accepted until September 11th.

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

She was
patient, loving,
and accepting.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.



LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat September 22-24, 2023 Pioneer on the Lake, Angola NY



The ladies of the Philadelphia Zone are hosting the 2023 Fall Retreat under the theme "Encourage One Another" based on Hebrews 10:25 *'not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.'* (**Hebrews 10:25 ESV**)

We are excited to be returning to Pioneer On The Lake this fall for our LWML Retreat. It will be great to see the sunsets on Lake Erie, walk the trails, breathe in the fresh fall air, and worship in the outdoor chapel. As you probably know, Pioneer is under new management and here comes change.

WHAT IS NEW:

New name: - Pioneer on the Lake **Full-time only registrations (NO PART-TIME)**
One price for all accommodations no surcharge for refurbished cabins
 Need to bring towels and linens (pillows and blankets provided) No Zipline

What has NOT changed

Awesome Speaker Interest Session Variety Cooks parade Quiet place to unplug
 Sunday worship in the outdoor chapel (weather permitting) Fantastic fellowship Opportunity to learn and grow

As registration is different this year with only full-time and one price for all accommodations a 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice method is being used to accommodate all registrants' housing preferences. Detail instructions are on the registration form. Also note that Pioneer on the Lake charges a surcharge (\$40) for single occupancy. Minimum occupancy requirements are noted on the registration form. Cabin configurations are included in this LINK issue.

Registration deadline is August 25th (postmarked by August 25th).

Thank you all who have registered for the upcoming fall. Currently we have 48 people registered. Our goal is 100. Things to keep in mind if you have not registered yet:

- All the Woodland Cottages and Karkau Lodge have been taken
- Make sure to identify 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices
- A registration form is needed for each person (even your spouse if he/she is coming)
- August 1st is the deadline to submit a campership application (see page xx in this LINK)
- August 25th is the registration deadline
- August 25th is the deadline to pay your balance if applicable



SPEAKER:



Retreat Highlights

We are pleased to have an opportunity to meet our newly elected Eastern District President **The Reverend John L. Pingel**. He will speak three times throughout the weekend and has agreed to have a meet and greet as one of our interest sessions. President Pingel previously served as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in South Buffalo and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. More details on President Pingel can be found in the 2023 Spring LINK.

THE INGATHERING is monetary donations for furnishings at Pioneer on The Lake.

INTEREST SESSIONS - can attend more than one

ED President Rev. John Pingel – meet and greet **Servant Event at Pioneer** – still finalizing activity
Grants Tune up – review of mission grant proposals before October 15, 2023 deadline
Tai Chi on the beach – tentative – see want ad in the LINK **Free Time**—Naps, walk the trails



LWML Totes – how many do you have in your collection? The tote bags may be from national or district conventions, special trainings like Assembly of Leaders, or LWML district retreats or Zone events. Plan to bring a tote with you to retreat this fall. The host committee will be providing totes for first timers and others who do not have an LWML tote.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



Ladies First Quartet is a female acapella singing quartet. They sing 4-part harmony in the barbershop style and do a wide range of songs from classic love songs from the 1940s to jazzy, contemporary up-beat songs. They are members of the Buffalo Gateway Chorus which is currently ranked 10th world-wide of over 550 choruses within Sweet Adeline's International. Their quartet competes annually on a regional basis and has been singing all over Western New York for 10 years.

Happy Birthday

8/1	Bitsy Colson	8/10	Carol Cislo	8/18	Michele Ganschow	8/23	Ellen Makey
	Paul Zawadzki		Renee Stefanik		Alan Tedesco	8/25	Lauren Jaskier
	Amelia Babcock	8/11	David Winkelses		Lynnae Kvilas	8/26	Reed Courteau
8/2	Adam Zawadzki		Sue Schueler		Jeffrey Kopra	8/28	Levi Kotowski
8/3	Andrew Kosicki		Harry Babcock		Blakelyn Hall	8/29	Mary Ann Moeller
8/6	Nancy Ehlers	8/12	Paula Winkelses	8/19	Paul Veros		Jayden Ecker
8/7	Beverly Kinton		Bradley McKernan		Michael Zarbo	8/30	Mark Ganschow
	Barbara Monahan	8/15	Audrey Diehl	8/20	Ben Makosy	8/31	Taylor Blamowski
	Liam McKernan	8/17	Lori Hock		Sara Lipinoga		
			Joan Kopra	8/22	Ron Boersch		

Happy Anniversary

8/1	Dan & Linda Rowsell	8/18	Christopher & Ashley Kopra
8/3	Mark & Robbin Blajszczak	8/20	Ronald & Judy Boersch
8/5	Jeffrey & Sandra Gertis	8/22	Julie & David Blamowski
8/6	Peter & Janet Bullock		Rev. Nycholas & Stephanie Greig
8/8	David & Heidi Kosicki	8/23	Travis & Michelle Ecker
8/9	Matthew & Lisa Lafferty	8/24	Rev. Dennis & Lynn Krueger
8/15	Carolyn & Kevin Flattery	8/26	Lars & Lisa Osberg
8/16	Kevin & Colleen Kot	8/27	Mark & Corine Rodgers
8/18	Dan & Stacy Conti	8/28	Don & Kim Meissner



Shut-In Members

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

Shut-ins can receive our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet and monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter by mail or email. Contact the church office (674-9188) to find out more information.

Worship Readers

Are you willing to occasionally read the Scripture readings during worship services? We have a wonderful group of individuals who currently volunteer to read each week, but there's always room for more. If you would like to be a part of this rotation, please contact the church office (716) 674-9188. Readers are needed for both the Sunday and Saturday services. Volunteers will be asked to read 1-2 passages from the Bible, which will be given to them in advance.

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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