

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 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



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 10:30 am
(Effective 9/10/23)

“Back To School”

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.” Proverbs 1:5

I was one of those strange kids who loved going back to school. I genuinely enjoyed learning. I liked the structure. I was, dare-I-say-it, good at school. There is always something special for me at this time of year getting ready for a new school year to start. Not to mention that nowadays there is the added excitement, being a parent, of being able to send my kids off to a great school like Trinity.

As the back-to-school season approaches, we are reminded of the importance of learning and growing in knowledge. Just as students prepare to embark on a new academic journey, as believers, we too are called to embrace a lifelong journey of learning in our faith and in the world around us.

In Proverbs 1:5, we are reminded that wisdom comes from listening, learning, and seeking guidance. Just as students sit at the feet of their teachers, we too must sit at the feet of God, the ultimate source of wisdom. Our journey of faith involves a continuous pursuit of understanding His Word, deepening our relationship with Him, and applying His teachings in our lives.

In the classroom of life, God is our ultimate Teacher. He imparts wisdom through His Word, His creation, and through the experiences He allows us to go through. Just as a teacher carefully plans lessons for their students, God orchestrates situations and challenges in our lives to teach us valuable lessons that shape our character and our faith.

To learn, we must first acknowledge that there is always something new to discover. This requires humility – a willingness to admit that we don’t have all of the answers. Just like students who eagerly open their minds to new subjects, we should open our hearts to receive God’s teachings, even if they challenge our preconceived notions.

At school students learn through challenges, late nights studying and exams. Similarly, our spiritual journey demands perseverance. We will face trials, doubts, and questions along the way, but these are opportunities for growth. Through perseverance, our faith is refined and strengthened.

Education becomes meaningful when knowledge is applied. Likewise, our faith is most powerful when we apply the wisdom we gain from God’s Word. As we learn about love, forgiveness, compassion, and grace, we should actively practice these virtues in our daily lives.

Finally, just as students are grateful for the opportunity to learn, we should be thankful for the privilege of growing in our faith. Each day is a chance to gain new insights, to draw closer to God, and to become more Christ-like. A heart of gratitude keeps us receptive to God’s teachings and eager to learn more.

As we enter the back-to-school season, let’s approach our faith journey with the same enthusiasm and dedication that students (like I was) bring to their studies. Let’s remember that God is our ultimate Teacher, and His Word is the most valuable textbook we’ll ever have. Through humility, perseverance, and a heart of gratitude, we can embrace the lifelong learning process that leads us closer to God and shapes us into His image. Just as Proverbs 1:5 encourages, let us be wise in listening, learning, and seeking guidance from the One who holds all wisdom in His hands.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Effective 9/9/23 & 9/10/23:

Saturday at 5:00pm

*(Traditional / Blended - liturgy, hymns
and worship songs)*

Sunday at 10:30am

*(Contemporary - music led by praise teams;
service projected on the screen)*



Our Sunday School program will begin **September 10th at 9:15am!** 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@trinitywny.org 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!

Confirmation

Confirmation classes are scheduled to begin on Sunday, **September 10 at 9:15am.** This year Confirmation will include 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Families will receive information soon!



Are You a Part of a Ministry Here at Trinity?

If so, please scan the QR code using your phone's camera and fill out the short form. This will help us get our confirmation students more involved in the workings of the church. Thank you for your help! Here is the link if you don't have a smartphone:
<https://forms.gle/DZDzFaMFYqmGKLsh9>



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Bible Class will resume with the rest of Sunday School on **September 10th at 9:15am.** We will be looking at the Parables of Jesus with the help of theologian R.C. Sproul. During Jesus' earthly ministry, one of the primary ways He would instruct His disciples was through parables. People would gather from far and wide in order to listen to what Jesus said about the kingdom of God, and the most common way He would explain the kingdom was in parables. But what does God want us to learn from these parables? In this series, Dr. R.C. Sproul examines several parables of Jesus, exploring the rich truths they reveal about who Jesus is and what He came to achieve through His life, death, and resurrection.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on **September 6th from 10:30am-11:30am** for a 12 week series on the latter half of the book of Romans. 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.

Join pastor J.D. Greear in this series where he walks, chapter by chapter, through the second half of Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Discover the timeless relevance of the book of Romans and encounter the power of the gospel.

Ladies Bible Study

The Monday Evening Ladies Bible Study group will begin on **Monday, Sept. 11 at 7:00pm** in the church narthex. This study meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. All women past high school age are welcome to attend!



Trinity Fall Campfire & Dinner September 15, 2023 at 6:00pm

Here's a chance to hang with your family as well as get to know some others from Trinity church and school! An awesome way to start off the new school year. We supply the hot dogs, you bring whatever else you or your family would like (beverages, fireside snacks, etc). Don't forget the lawn chairs or blanket to sit on. We'll also enjoy a family-friendly devotion with a couple songs around the campfire.

Trinity School News

Full Steam Ahead For Our New School Year!

Trinity Christian School is getting ready to start its 172nd school year. Our theme for this year is “Connected”. The theme verse is John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” As Christians, we are all connected to Christ, the source of our strength. We are also connected to each other, as a family of believers. We have almost 100 students coming to Trinity in grades PreK-8th this year to learn and grow in Christ. What a blessing! Please keep the students, families, and staff in your prayers as we begin this school year.



Preschool Volunteers Needed

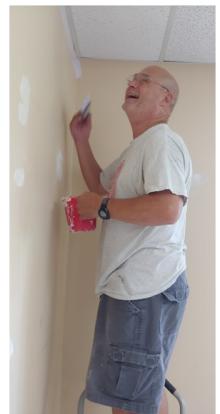
Do you have a heart for working with young children? We have a great opportunity for you! We are in need of volunteers in our preschool program. We need volunteers on Monday and Thursday mornings. This could be a one morning a week commitment, or more - whatever fits your schedule! Contact Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org) for more information.

Corporate Sponsorship

Do you have a connection to a business that may be interested in supporting the school? We have started a corporate sponsorship program at the school. There are forms on the purple table in the narthex. They are due by Sept. 15th. Please email Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org) with any questions.

Work Day Success!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who came to school to help at the Work Day on August 19th.





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 (trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net / 674-9188). Readers are needed for both the Saturday and Sunday services. Volunteers will be asked to read 1-3 passages from the Bible, which will be given to them in advance.



Music News

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 on September 21. Please contact Ellen Makey (961-8378 or esmky23@yahoo.com) for more information.

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.

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are 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 Trinity Cemetery

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.



Mission Day of Giving

On **September 12, 2023**, you will have the opportunity to help Lutheran Women in Mission raise funds for the mission grant recipients this biennium. It is a day of giving wherein the women and men of LWML are invited to donate to our Mission Grant Goal for 2023-2025, in honor of someone who has made a difference in their lives. And now, we are extending the invitation to you, personally! You can find a list of these grants at [Mission Grants - Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(lwml.org\)](http://MissionGrants-LutheranWomen'sMissionaryLeague.org). As you peruse the list of recipients you will discover a series of 21 organizations whose objectives are clear — in their unique ways each one is honoring God by serving others. To that end, every dollar you donate toward "September to Remember" will be sewn into these ministries, and our prayer is that the Lord would cause the people being served to reap a beautiful harvest by His provision. Further, we have been blessed with a **\$10,000 matching gift**, which means you will have the opportunity to double the impact of your giving! Thank you for your generosity.

MITES and Stamps

MITES (spare change) and cancelled first-class stamps continue to be collected for mission work by the LWML. Please put your contribution in Linda Meissner's message center.

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 (716-674-9188) to find out more information.



Altar Flowers

There are still openings for flower donations for the remainder of 2023 and the 2024 sign-up chart will be posted soon. Arrangements are only \$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. Remember to list your special intentions, which will be printed in the Life at Trinity announcement sheet on the date you sign up for.

YOUTH SCOOP

Hi All! This month I thought I'd write in paragraph form about things that have happened and those that are coming up. In August we had two youth nights that saw 2 students at one and 1 student at the other. July had seen some good numbers on the 19th at the Websters house (about 15). It's much easier to plan for larger groups and I asked parents to RSVP for the second August date which was helpful. For the one boy that showed up in August, we did something special with parental permission. :) Long story short, families and kids are busy. Summer sports and vacations are the main reasons. Thanks to the parents that also communicated why their kids wouldn't be able to attend. You're the best. ♥

What's next for youth nights? A few things affect how we will schedule and I'm waiting to hear back from St John in Orchard Park regarding partnering youth nights into the Fall. We started that last April but took a break from it during summer months due to schedules. Keep an eye on the church bulletin and email updates for dates and info.

Speaking of email updates, toward the end of last school year we incorporated using our church wide contact information, communication and tracking program called Church 360. It was a rough start and we are still working out the bugs. My use of it will vary slightly from how Teresa (our church secretary) uses it. When you think about it, in youth ministry we pull from, track and categorize a wide variety of areas of youth. They include day school kids and families (remember you have to communicate with the parents too - sometimes the mom or sometimes the dad but usually the former!), public school, Jr. High, Sr. High, Confirmation age, Trinity church active and non-active members, and kids who attend youth group that don't belong to any of these groups. A very sincere thank you to Teresa who inputs all this info and updates it 2x a year! (Personally I think she is a saint, but Mother Teresa is already taken).

If you are not receiving our youth email updates and would like to, please share your updated information to our new email address which is "YouthMinistry@TrinityWNY.org". No caps needed but it reads easier.

A few other upcoming events to note is our church and school **Campfire Night on September 15** (see separate article) and of course the kid and family favorite, **Trunk-or-Treat on October 29 at 6pm**. Also, keep an eye out for our youth and teen **FALL RETREAT info at Camp Pioneer the weekend of September 29**. We will need parent chaperones to be able to attend. Parents enjoy themselves too!

We have an opportunity to help out some young families and babysit for the first ever at Trinity School's Meat Raffle on Friday September 22. Please let me know if you are able. 8th grade and up.

Our **Confirmation (6-8th grade) and Sr. High Sunday morning classes** will start up on September 10 at 9:15am. Confirmation will meet in the 5th and 6th grade school class room and Sr. High in the youth room in the church basement. Thank you to Lisa Lafferty who will be teaching a majority of the classes and myself teaching once a month. Thanks also to Chris Kopra who will be teaching Confirmation classes once a month; I will be teaching twice a month, and Pastor Nyck once a month. This year Confirmation Sunday will be held on June 9!

Most of you know that I lead a worship team once a month, usually the first Sunday. Any youth interested in being a part of that please see me! The more the better. Sr. High are able to practice during the morning class time before worship, however Confirmation students need to remain in class but can hurry over after.

I'm sure we will be making a trip this fall out to Pioneer to rake some leaves. Always a fun time! Maybe we'll do an overnighter!?!

In a few hours of writing this, those who went on the summer mission trip to Kentucky will be getting together for dinner at the Kot's house and planning our presentation for worship on September 16 and 17. Faith Flattery and Nathan Barnas were the two teens representing and working hard (literally blood {Nate}, sweat and tears). Both have personally shared how the trip deeply affected them and their faith. I can personally attest to seeing that and it's powerful stuff. Please look forward to hearing what they have to say in worship along with the other adults who attended. A heartfelt and sincere thank you to Kevin and Colleen Kot for making all the details of that event happen. Also, the previous year(s) fundraising! There's a lot that goes into those last two sentences. You are a blessing and it couldn't have happened without you. They have a vision to see this continue! Multi-generational mission trips are such a win.

Last, I'm excited to announce that our first Board for Youth Ministry will meet for the first time on Wednesday, August 30! This is not only a planning, guiding or decision making board but it's members will also help make the ministry happen. Part of our new Vision at Trinity is to build a more robust youth ministry. If you are interested in being a part of it in any way, please contact me at mwillert@trinitywny.org.

~ Mark Willert , Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

Rocky Railway VBS Thank You

We had a great week of VBS July 24-28. God blessed us with beautiful weather and an average of 65 children each day. The children learned to trust Jesus through various songs, bible stories, crafts, games, and train themed activities. The children even received a free train ride on the last day. Thank you to all our volunteers who shared Jesus' love throughout the week and to all the generous donors who contributed supplies and monetary gifts to make this event a success. A big thank you to Bob Rodgers and friends for setting up an amazing train display.



Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

Happy Birthday

9/2	Jessica Ecker	9/11	Megan Diehl	9/24	Megan Manzo
9/4	Amy Lipinoga	9/12	Michael McKernan	9/26	Robert Brown
9/5	Marjorie Doan	9/13	Sarah Gabel	9/27	Alan Kerner
	Mark Willert	9/15	Robert Stefanik		Rachel Antes
	Faith Flattery		Steven Ringle	9/28	Neil Schueler
9/7	Travis Ecker	9/16	Lisa Lopez	9/29	Jeremy Heckman
	Jennifer Sherer		Katie Wackowski	9/30	Chuck Stevens
	Brielle McKernan	9/20	Wesley Pletscher		Nora Eising
9/8	Roger McClellan		Mark Zawadzki		Marcus Wrobel
9/9	Kim McLaughlin	9/21	David Lein		Caleb Eising
9/10	Ron Hope		Deborah Kerner		

Happy Anniversary

9/5	Jeremy & Shannon Heckman	9/17	Mark & Michele Ganschow
9/8	Neil & Sue Schueler		Gregory & Megan Diehl
9/10	Linda & Leslie Wrobel		PJ & Kim Colson
	Timothy & Justine Monahan	9/20	Alan & Deborah Kerner
9/11	Joanne & Craig Jaskier		Christopher & Kim McLaughlin
9/14	Paul & Kristen Zawadzki	9/24	David & Marilyn Lein
9/15	Steven & Maria Wrobel	9/26	John & Karen McCoy
		9/28	Roger & Laurel McClellan

Members' Email Addresses

Does Trinity have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving Trinity's monthly newsletter via email, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address or you can write your name and email on a piece of paper and place it in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.



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.



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 or 926-9054 with your request.

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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