

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

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

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



“Guided to the Cross”

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” – 1 Corinthians 1:18

A television show I really enjoy is Arrested Development. It is a comedy about a dysfunctional family and all of the misunderstandings and problems they get into. A lot of the comedy comes from hilarious word play. In one episode the character Maeby is interested in becoming a Christian for the ulterior motive of being allowed out of school. She asks her uncle where she can get one of those necklaces with the “t” on them. He blankly responds, “It’s a cross.” Misunderstanding, she asks, “Across from where?” Ba-dum-dum.

The cross is the central focus of the season of Lent. It is not just a symbol to us as Christians. It is not a letter “t” we where to impress others. It is a driving force in our lives that pulls us closer to Christ and motivates us to journey forward in our faith. It is a constant reminder of the price that Jesus paid for our sins.

In this world where we can be guided by so many other distractions, it is important to remember that the cross is the only place where we can truly find our source of forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week throughout the season of lent we are going to let ourselves be guided back to the cross for those things only the cross can bring. Our series “Guided to the Cross” reveals how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Nyck Greig



Ash Wednesday Services

February 14th ~ 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 3, 2024

There will be a congregational meeting following the 10:30am service on Sunday, March 3. The following items will be presented:

- Calling (hiring) a Director of Youth and Family Life Ministry
- Paying off the Church Mortgage using the ERC funds

Please pray for God's guidance for our congregation as we look to meet the goals of our Ministry Plan.



Altar Flowers & Candles

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom.

Flowers: Flower donations are needed for **February, March, and April**. They 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.

Altar Candles: \$25 per month. Many months are still open.

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.

2023 Giving Statements

Statements have been generated and were placed in members' church mailboxes. Statements for those without mailboxes will be on the table in the narthex until February 11. After that date, please contact the church office for your statement.

Stewardship Committee

We've just formed a stewardship committee to focus on our many blessings of time, talent, and money. The committee includes Sally & John Clark, Lynnae & Chris Kwilas and Jane & Dave Sirgey. With God's help, and yours, we plan to do great things here at Trinity. Please pray that the Lord guides our plans.



Financial Update – January 2024

Time flies! We're already one-third of the way through our fiscal year. We're currently on track with our financial plan. As of December 31, 2023, we're about \$60,000 in the black (this is expected as much of the school tuition is received early in the fiscal year). Offerings and expenses are on track with our projections. The full financial report is posted on the bulletin board in the coatroom. If you have any questions, please let me know: (716) 863-7403 or djsirgey@gmail.com.

~ Dave Sirgey
Finance Committee

Hope Willert's Missionary Work in Zambia

Hope Willert graduates from college in May, and will be heading back to Zambia for at least 5 months, most likely longer. She feels God's call on her life to be a global missionary, and she will be continuing her missionary work and training with the organization, Poetice. She needs to raise financial support for her work and training. There are sheets in the narthex with more details and donation information. Donations can also be given to Mark or Katie Willert. Above all else she asks for your prayers and thanks you for your continued support on this journey.



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.

Trinity School News

National Lutheran Schools Week

The theme of National Lutheran Schools Week was “Connected”, with the verse 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.” We thank God that we are connected to God through Christ, His Son, and that we are connected to the other 1,600 Lutheran schools across the country. Here are some highlights of the week at Trinity:

Monday: Connected to Christ! *John 15:5*

- Cards for Lutheran school in Hawaii and Neighborhood Walk Gift
- Hawaiian Dress Day! Wear your Hawaiian shirts or floral patterns!
- Eat lunch with your special friend

Tuesday: Connected to the Father and His Creation! *Psalm 139:14-15*

- Super Family Olympics
- Wear your Super Family Colors and Crazy Hair!
- “Anything But a Backpack Day”! Bring your stuff to school in anything except a backpack!

Wednesday: Connected to the Spirit! *Galatians 5:22-23*

- All school chapel
- Wear your witness gear (Christian message or band) or dress like a
- Bible character
- Special Friend Prayer Boxes and Congregational Banner

Thursday: Connected to the Church! *John 17:20-21*

- Country Western v. Country Club! Dress like a cowgirl/cowboy or dress like you are headed to the country club
- Movie Day!

Friday: Connected to His Commission! *John 15:16*

- Wear your Trinity Spirit Wear or purple
- Trinity’s Got Talent Show 1:30 pm - Parents and family welcome!

Sunday, 2/4: Lutheran Schools Week celebration in church

- All students singing in church
- Winter Carnival/Open House 11:30am-3:00pm (following 10:30am service)



Winter Carnival & Open House February 4th 11:30am-3:00pm

Trinity School will be having a Winter Carnival and Open House on February 4th from 11:30am-3:00pm. Food and games for everyone! Tours for prospective families. More details to follow, but for now, please save the date and spread the word to anyone interested in a quality Christian education. We would love to see all church members and school families there. If you would like to help with the carnival, please see Joan Kopra, Sarah Gabel, or Katie Willert.

Snow Moving Thank You

The church and school would like to thank Mark Willert for all of his snow blowing, ice chopping, salting, and shoveling work on the property during the annual “once in a generation” storm! He spent many hours clearing paths for church, school, emergency exit doors, the cemetery, the Greigs, the mailboxes, and the fire hydrant. And this had to be done over and over again. We appreciate his servant's heart.

YOUTH SCOOP YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night February 14 6:30pm-8:00pm

Our next youth night will be on Valentine's Day, February 14th 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Lots of fun, games, a devotion and something sweet!



Puerto Rico Mission Trip

Mark and Hope Willert will be heading to Puerto Rico for a mission trip February 22 - March 2. Please keep them in prayer. They will be joining up with missionaries Rev. Gustavo and Ruth Maita and their family. Ruth helps lead educational outreach at LCMS mercy centers in Puerto Rico, which was established by LCMS Disaster Response following the impact of Hurricane Maria on the area. Rev. Gustavo is pastor of Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. (Our Trinity school 5th and 6th grade classes have been supporting and been in contact with the Maitas the last few years!) Mark and Hope plan to plug in to the ministry and church connecting and serving the local people there. They have never been on a mission trip together and are very excited for this opportunity.

Hope plans to graduate in May, fly back down to Zambia, Africa (where she was for six weeks last summer), take the extensive training missionary courses over the next four months with the organizing ministry Poetice, and remain there as a full time missionary!



Family & Friends Prayer List

We will be updating the "Family & Friends In Our Prayers" list that appears in our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet. If you currently have someone on this list who is still in need of prayers, or know of someone who can be removed, please let Teresa in the church office know by February 25th (716-674-9188 or trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net). The new revised list will begin in March.



I want to say a huge "THANK YOU" for all the gifts that were given to me during the holiday season. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

~ Robby Brown



Save the date for LWML events:

LWML Workshop Event: February 24, 2024, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 44 Chapel Road, Kenmore. Ladies will meet for a devotion and to make beaded bracelets for shut-ins, using symbolic colors and corresponding to scripture verses. Registration begins at 8:30am. There will be a \$5 charge, and snacks and beverages will be served. Donations of canned goods and staples will also be accepted. Please RSVP by 2/17 to Sharon McGuan, 716-803-3767 or salmcg23@gmail.com. Trinity ladies could carpool from church.

The Eastern District Convention: June 14-16, 2024. This will be held in Mars, PA, near Pittsburgh. Theme: Rooted in Christ Col. 2:6-7. Keynote speaker is Heidi Goehmann, a licensed clinical social worker, mental health counselor and deaconess. The LWML will be celebrating 80 years of service! Ask Linda Meissner for more details or find information in the LWML Winter Link.

Eastern District LWML Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake: September 20-22, 2024. Theme: Hope Abounds, Romans 15:13. More details to come.

West Seneca Community of Churches News

Lenten Journey 2024

The West Seneca Community of Churches reflects on the meaning of following Christ's footsteps in our 2024 Lenten Journey theme "Walk In Love". Various congregations in West Seneca will host a program **each Wednesday at 6:30pm** during Lent and will offer light refreshments at the conclusion.

February 21: Queen of Heaven RC (4220 Seneca Street)

February 28: TBD

March 6: TBD

March 13: Trinity Lutheran (146 Reserve Road)

March 20: Agape UMC (2846 Seneca Street)

Pastor Nyck will be leading the service at Trinity on March 13, based on John 13: 1-17 where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples. There will be a low-keyed fellowship following the service, with light refreshments and coffee/water. Volunteers will be needed to set up a few tables and put out the snacks. Also, volunteers will be asked to donate small cookies, home or store made. If you are reading this and would like to help, please let Nancy Hope know (716) 674-8544 / text: (716) 426-9342. Thank you in advance.

The offerings collected will be divided between Plymouth Crossroads (which helps young men who are homeless because of family issues) and the West Seneca Pantry's Emergency Cash fund (which aids clients with sudden financial needs). The pantry distributed 77,000 pounds of food this past year, which equals 28,000+ meals. Your support is appreciated. 40 more households were added to the families served. November, followed by December, had the most food given away in 2023.

Crop Walk

May 5 will be the annual Crop Walk which fights World Hunger. The walk is from Ebenezer UCC to Reserve Rd and back (2 miles). Since it is on May 5, there may be a Taco theme that develops. This would be for a great activity for Trinity's youth and adults and others who like to walk. More information will be available soon.

Burchfield Building

The Burchfield site at Clinton and Union is nearly completely repaired, all parts of the building are usable and safe, and all programs have been restored. There are monthly art shows by local artists and photographers. A clothes line has been restored, on which bags with individual crafts for kids are hung – free for families to take and do at the park or at home.

Women's Day of Prayer

The annual Women's Day of Prayer will be held **Friday, March 1**, most likely at Agape Methodist Church on Seneca Street, at 1:00 PM. All women are invited.



Concordia University Nebraska

A Cappella Choir Concert

Saturday, March 2 at 7:00pm

At First Trinity Lutheran

(1570 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda)

Concordia University's A Cappella Choir has been performing concerts and joining congregations in worship for over 86 years. Questions? Contact David Werth at 716.276.8263 or dwerth@FirstTrinity.com



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for 2024 Summer Camps!

Join us for camp this summer!

06/30-07/5: Family Camp

07/21-7/26: Family Camp

07/21-7/26: Stronger Together Agape Camp

07/28-08/4: Music Week

Please call Pioneer's office (716-383-6157) to register and secure your spot!

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A **FREE**....

Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Rd. West Seneca NY 14224

When: Sunday, March 24, 2024

Time: 12 pm

Ages: 0-10

Dress for the weather as this is an outdoor event

Bring your own bag or basket to collect eggs





Happy Birthday

2/1	Lynn Krueger	2/11	Heidi Kosicki	2/18	Carolyn Flattery Lucas Eising
2/2	Eric Osberg	2/12	Loren Pletscher Tonia Besch	2/19	Janet Bullock Lisa Lafferty
2/5	Luke Anderson	2/13	Robert Moeller Landon Heckman	2/23	Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/6	Laurel Szeider	2/14	River Rowsell Morgan Ringle	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/7	Sue Brehm	2/15	Gregory Kopra	2/25	Olivia Wilkening
2/9	Kathie Schindler Zachary Powers	2/17	Nathan McClellan	2/27	Gerry Swart
2/10	Steve Meden Kris Heckman Chris Kwilas				

Happy Anniversary

2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman
2/11	Richard & Helen Schultz	2/26	George & Linda Hodge
2/14	Michele & Edward Baun		

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2024) devotion booklets are still available. They can be picked up in the church narthex. Please take one to use for your home devotions!

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!

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform Pastor Nyck (716-336-1767), the church office, or one of the Deacons.



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.

Member Contact Info

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number or email address? Does Trinity even have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving our weekly informational emails, 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) or you can leave your new information in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Pastor	Rev. Nycholas Greig	674-9188 / (716) 336-1767 / 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