

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

OCTOBER 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



“No Fear”

I really enjoy the fall season, but I really dislike Halloween. Don't get me wrong, I love the idea of going from house to house and getting free candy, but all the trappings surrounding Halloween just drive me crazy. I don't like dressing up in uncomfortable, unnecessarily costly costumes. I don't like having to walk in the dark and the cold. But what I dislike the most is all the spooky stuff. Whether it is scary costumes, decorations, or trailers for scary movies in between every show I'm watching, it is difficult to escape all the ways people are wanting to create scares.

I don't like being scared. I understand that some people have a thrilling sensation when they are scared and arrive safely on the other side, but I don't like the feeling of being scared in the first place. No scary movies for me, please. I go out of my way to avoid being scared. Just ask me sometime to discuss one of my many phobias.

But this time of the year some of the scary trappings of the season are unavoidable. You cannot go into a Walmart or Target without being met by spooky decorations for sale to make your home a scary place. Stephanie and I were walking around Walmart and saw a spider skeleton decoration for sale! It's a ridiculous idea. Spiders are arachnids and don't have a skeleton, but nevertheless, a skeleton spider was a pretty scary prospect.

Throughout my fear of this particular holiday season, I find I have to keep reminding myself of God's words from Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Despite my own fears and worries about dark and scary things, God seeks to reassure me, strengthen me, and support me. I can face my fears confidently and boldly because I know God is with me. I have his promise "I will strengthen you, I will help you." I hope that you find comfort in God's words in the midst of whatever might be seeking to frighten you today!

God's Blessings,
Pastor Nyck Greig



Sunday, October 29
At 6:00pm

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat on October 29 at 6:00pm. Come to the Trinity parking lot; park with your trunk facing in, around the perimeter of the parking lot; have 2-3 bags worth of candy in your trunk. You and your children, in costume, will then make your way around the parking lot gathering candy! Bring your own collection containers / bags as well. Some families like to decorate their trunk or car and you may do the same if you'd like. We'll share in a family friendly devotion following the event. Great for grandparents too! Call Mark Willert with any questions (716) 608-8907.

October is Pastor and Church Staff Appreciation Month!

God bless Pastor, all the teachers, musicians, office manager and volunteers who carry out the many needed duties necessary to spread the Word of God. Thanks be to God!



Altar Flowers

The 2024 sign-up charts are on the church coatroom bulletin board. Sign up for your special occasion today! Flowers are \$10 per arrangement and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! You can also pick them up on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We ask that 2 families to sign up for each week. Place payment (cash or checks made payable to: "**Trinity Lutheran Church**") in the Church Office message center.

** Please make sure to include your name and *
special intentions on the sign-up sheets.*



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.

Property & Grounds News

Grounds & Maintenance Committee would like to thank all those who helped take care of the gardens around the church and school. We continue to need your help. We continue to welcome volunteers who can pitch in for a few hours throughout the year. Our next regular meeting will be **October 14, at 8:45 AM** in the church. We will discuss up-coming issues and set a date for a Clean-up Day. If you want to know more, come to the meeting or see Linda, Jerry or Roger Meissner.



LWML Fall Event
Saturday, October 7th
9am-12noon

St. Paul Lutheran Church
(3487 N. Boston Road, Eden)

All ladies are invited to join us for our Fall event. The speaker will be Ann Werk. The hands-on project will be tying blankets and making "visual faith seed packets" which will all be given to Jericho Ministry in Buffalo, NY. RSVP to Lisa at "lisadq@rocketmail.com" by October 2 if you plan to attend.

MITES and Stamps

MITES and stamps continue to be collected for mission work by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Please put your contribution in Linda Meissner's message center.

LADD Donations

LADD is in urgent need of clean gently used boys clothing size infant to 3 years old. Donations can be dropped off at the LADD Thrift Shop (2280 Seneca Street, Buffalo) or placed in the LADD box in the back of church. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Trinity's College Students

Trinity's confirmation class is now collecting names and addresses of current college students for our fall service project. Please email these residential addresses to charris@trinitywny.org

Emergency Need

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform and phone Pastor Greig (716) 336-1767, the church office 674-9188, or one of the Deacons.

Trinity School News

Fantastic School Year!

It is great to have students chatting in the halls and learning in the classrooms again. The building is full of life and love and LOTS of energy! We have been learning all about our "Connected" theme in chapel. Our 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." Today in chapel we sang, "Oh How I Love Jesus" with Mr. Willert on guitar. The whole school had their arms around each other swaying and singing. What a perfect picture of what "Connected" means! We are connected to each other through our love for Christ. Listening to our students praise God with their voices in chapel is my absolute favorite part of each week.



Sunday 9/24 - What a Busy Day!

So many great things happened on Sunday, 9/24! We had the students from the school at the 10:30 service to sing. We blessed the backpacks of all students in church. Bibles were passed out to all 3rd grade Trinity School and Sunday School students. The teachers and volunteers from the church and school were installed and prayed over for the school year. Kathy Fretthold, the Eastern District Education Executive, was in attendance to present the school with its accreditation certificate. Last, but not least, we welcomed everyone over to the school to tour the halls and classrooms, and to enjoy some yummy ice cream. What a blessing to have so much to celebrate!



First Trinity Meat Raffle a Success!

Friday, September 22nd was a first at Trinity Lutheran Church and School - a Meat Raffle! A good time was had by all, and lots of meat went home. Thanks so much to all of our volunteers for making this event a success. Money raised goes towards scholarship support for Trinity students.



Upcoming Events

- **Grandparents Day:** We look forward to hosting our annual Grandparents Day celebration on October 25th. We love nothing more than to get grandparents in the building bonding with their grandkids.
- Worship storyteller and dancer Denise Chapman will be back at Trinity to help lead our Grandparents Day chapel on September 25th at 10:00am. Denise uses her gifts of storytelling and dancing to lead worship in an exciting way. Please join us for chapel that day if you are available.

Youth & Family Ministry Updates

Youth Retreat

As of the time of writing this article a few of our youth are looking forward to attending the retreat out at Camp Pioneer, September 29 to October 1. They will be involved with activities like different games, devotional and worship times, group building activities, free time, campfires, T-shirt making, Romans and Christians, "deck hockey" with the pool noodles, prayer walk and lots of other neat stuff! Stephanie Greig and myself are the chaperones as well as helping run the retreat.



Youth Night

We had a great Youth Night on September 20! We actually got to cheer on the Special Olympics participants here at Trinity on our sports field! We watched and cheered for about a half hour. The kids loved it and so did the participants! We sat in the stands cheering loudly, doing the wave, and encouraged the players. The rest of the evening we played a few games of touch football and GaGa ball. Our devotion time was centered around the idea that people with special needs are an awesome part of God's family too. The evening ended with a campfire and s'mores. Before everyone left we grabbed a picture with Jesus in the school. (See pic) Our next Youth Night will be **October 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



Meat Raffle Babysitting

About 10 Jr. and Sr. high students helped with the babysitting of Trinity's first ever Meat Raffle on September 22! (See pics) Chris Harris did a fantastic job organizing the babysitting event which saw 30 children age 3 and up! The babysitters of course were the best, keeping the kids entertained and in check. A good time was had by all.



Trunk or Treat: Always a family favorite, coming October 29 at 6:00pm. Come dressed in costume, with cars parked in a circle and some bags of candy to be shared from your trunk. A devotion will be shared immediately after in the school. We always see an awesome crowd for this, well over a hundred people. Grandparents can be a part of it all too!

Confirmation Class: This year we are using different materials from Concordia Publishing House and focuses on Luther's Small Catechism. We also begin the class with a fun group building activity to help students get to know each other! Students - please remember to bring \$35 payment for the books to class. :)

Sunday Morning Senior High Class: This year our class is led by Lisa Lafferty and they are using material from The Bible Project, which explains different books of the Bible using a video in sketched or comic form. It really is very informative and keeps your attention. It prompts some very good conversation among the students.

Thank you to the handful of Junior and Senior High youth that showed up in helping the Haas Family move in! Thank you also to Christine Harris for being the adult overseeing the kiddos helping! What a way to welcome the Haas Family back to the area!

Spring 2024 Jr. & Sr. High Retreat at Pioneer: Mark May 17-19, 2024 in your calendar for this event!

Trinity Family Campfire

Our Family Campfire event was held on September 15, which was the biggest turnout ever and saw well over a hundred people. A simple evening consisting of a provided hot dog meal, lots of fellowship and interaction, and also a family-friendly devotion and songs. It was a great way to start the school year as well as spend some time together getting to know others!



Trinity's 2023 Outreach Report

- In April we hosted the free community Easter Egg hunt for children and received Thrivent Action Team funds to help support it.
- Trinity outreach purchased 250 memo pads and pens to give to visitors with the help of a Thrivent Action Team fund.
- On May 5th we supported the school in helping with the Family Fun Day.
- For the first time since COVID, Trinity hosted a Rocky Railway VBS for the community during the day from July 24th through the 28th. Approximately 65 children attended daily. This was done with donations from members and a Thrivent Action Team fund.
- During the month of August, 19 thank you bags were assembled to be given to the new families with children who are attending Trinity School this year. This also was done with Thrivent Action Team funds.
- We will once again be encouraging members to support Operation Christmas Child in November and the angel tree in December.

Yours in Christ,

The Outreach Committee - Joan Kopra / Chris Kopra /
Andrew, Rachel and Nora Eising / Janet Bullock / Lynnae Kwilas



From the 9/10/2023 E-publication of "FROM THE DESK - Resources & Guidance from the Eastern District Staff".

“Your LCMS District \$ At Work”

The generous contributions from our 121 congregations and our partnerships with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and the LCMS enables us to serve our God and members in many ways.

A significant portion of the Eastern District budget is for administrative costs for our full and part-time staff (compensation, benefits), legal and professional fees for a portion of our accounting work and annual audit, and for the maintenance of our Williamsville, NY facility.

The staff strive to serve where we are able and most needed:

For Our Congregations – assisting in governance, roster records, coordinating the call process and filling vacancies, participation in ordinations, installations, celebrations, other meetings, and visitations. Other contributions are in counseling, problem resolution, providing guidance and resources in areas like stewardship and evangelism, Small Church Clarity, and other programs. On the business side, assisting Treasurers with accounting and tax questions and providing the LCMS Treasurers Manual and salary guidelines.

For Our Schools – helping with staffing issues, problem resolution, attendance at installations and celebrations, coordinating and participating in our school’s accreditation efforts (a significant undertaking), networking, and best practice implementation across all districts nationally.

Financial Aid, Debt Reduction and Continuing Education – these areas have been addressed in previous newsletters and “From the Desk” communications. President Pingel strongly supports the District helping all (prospective and current) church workers, minimizing their financial burden, and allowing them to continue to learn, grow and be equipped to serve.

Conventions, Pastor and Teacher, Youth and Pastor Wives conferences, Council of Presidents, Board of Director, and Circuit Visitor Meetings – these are beneficial in so many areas and appreciated by all who participate. The District follows a schedule to fund and participate in many conferences and meetings. Some are annual and others every three years like such as the District and Synodical conventions. All the conferences are educational with expert speakers and presentations. The ability to meet and get to know co-workers, share knowledge and experiences, discuss current challenges, and gain new ideas are invaluable. The District BOD meets 4/5 times per year and consists of a wonderful and diverse group of Christians who volunteer their time to help direct the staff and Eastern District succeed. Some of the meetings are in person, which is great; others are held via Zoom to help with controlling expenses.

Synodical Support – it is the District’s practice to tithe. We return 10% of your mission and ministry gifts to the LCMS national headquarters in St. Louis.

Special Needs in Times of Tragedy, Soldiers of the Cross – it is common for the District provide financial assistance to others when special circumstances arise. Some examples in recent times are help for the victims of the Tops shooting, Hurricane relief and support for the citizens of the Ukraine. We also partner with Synod in a program called “Soldiers of the Cross” when serious challenges arise with Eastern District members. Often it is a severe health issue where the District can help with medical costs. This financial aid is then matched by Synod to provide further assistance.

Website and Communications / Resources – Rev. Peter Johnson (Faith, Rochester) and his wife Stephanie do a terrific job supporting our website and all District communications including our Enews and "From the Desk".

I may have forgotten a few other items, but I believe this covers the vast majority of what the Staff / District office is doing and how your gifts are utilized. I’d like to add that it is a pleasure working with this dedicated District Staff, our Treasurer and Board. They all do their very best to serve you and our Lord and Savior.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

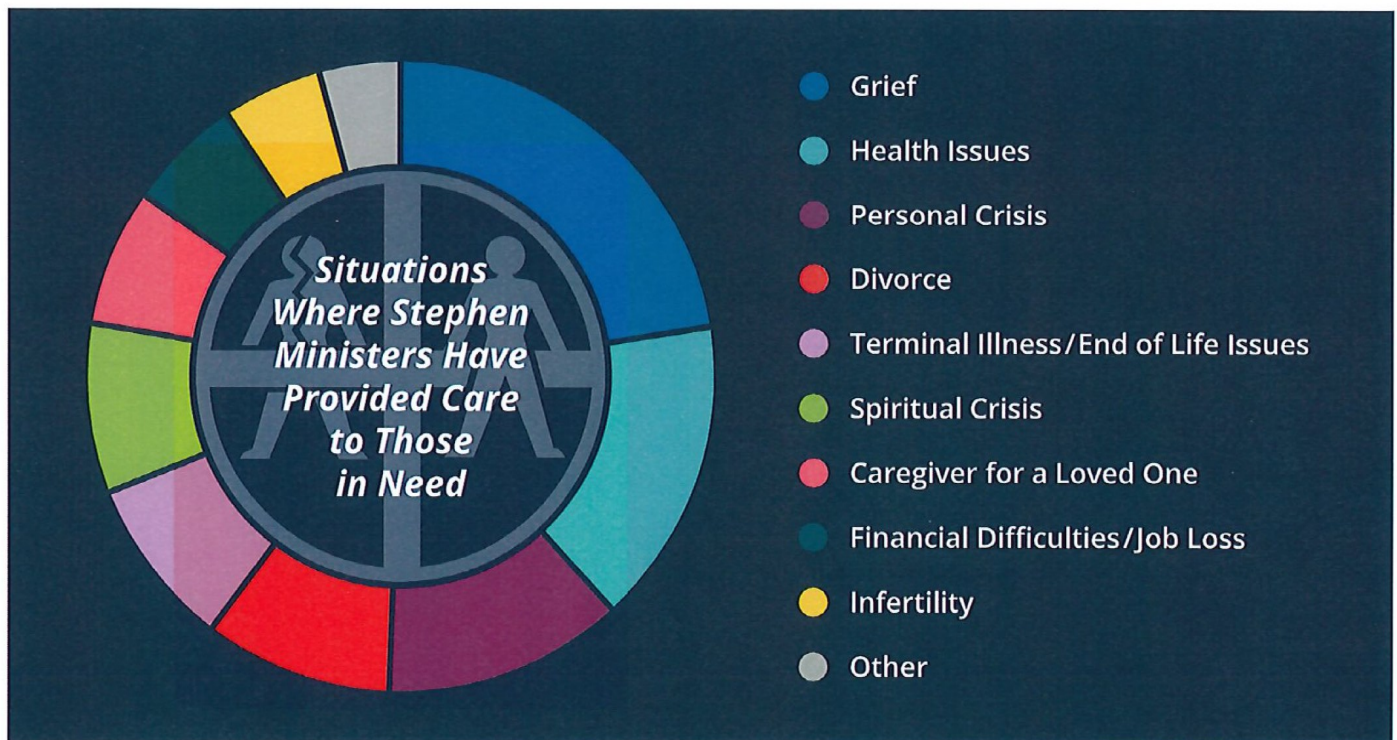
Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

*Although my needs changed as I went from wife to caregiver to widow, my Stephen Minister's love and support remained a constant. She was **there at every stage of my journey**, helping me through some of the most difficult moments of my life—so I could begin to heal.*

Susan ●

*When things seemed like too much to handle, **my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm**. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.*

James ●



*My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and **most importantly, he refused to give up on me**. I'll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.*

Ralph ●

*When I was with my Stephen Minister, **I felt Jesus was with me**. I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.*

Ashley ●

(Continued on page 9)

STEPHEN MINISTRY (Continued)

*After the death of my mom, **I needed someone who would listen**—even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.*

Molly ●

*My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. **He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do** but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.*

Brian ●

*I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—**she'll just be there without trying to fix me** or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.*

Nancy ●

*My Stephen Minister's weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. **She was a steady reminder of God's presence**, helping me know I was never alone.*

Heather ●

*When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.*

Andrew ●

*My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and **gives me a safe, confidential relationship** where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.*

Celeste ●

*I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was **a tangible expression of God's love**. It changed my life.*

Julia ●

*Stephen Ministry showed me the face of Christ. **God brought me exactly what I needed** through the care of my Stephen Minister, and that demonstrated to me how God cares for each and every one of us.*

Frank ●

● **Stephen Ministry** is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.

● Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.

● Visit stephenministries.org to learn more about Stephen Ministry and see stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

Happy Birthday

10/1	Bob Bogumil Rachel Eising	10/12	Jennifer Szeider Kaitlyn Schwab Liam Cosandier	10/25	Karen O'Brien
10/2	Rachel Jaskier	10/13	Frank Lelito Gabiella Tripi	10/26	Emily Gabel
10/4	Nakiya Harris	10/14	Nancy Hope David Sirgey	10/27	Sheila Swart Robin Makosy James Rowsell Joanne Jaskier Duane Gabel
10/7	Greg Diehl	10/15	Bennett Jelowski	10/28	Mary Ann Warner Karl Schultz Michelle Ecker
10/8	Emily Lelito Jonas Herdlein Levi Haas	10/16	Marilyn Smolka	10/29	Kevin R. Kot Ana Royal
10/9	Emma Monahan	10/21	Beth McKernan Max Rodgers	10/30	Lacey Harris
10/11	Paulette Darcy Sheri Courteau	10/23	Rebecca Hall		

Happy Anniversary

10/1	Mary & Joel Havens Bonnie & Mark Schwab	10/15	Carl & Carolyn Lehsten Dawn & Paul Barnas
10/3	Robert & Renee Stefanik	10/19	Harry & Judeen Babcock
10/4	Peter & Laural Szeider	10/21	Robert & Carol Cislo
10/7	Eve & James LoVullo	10/24	Gary & Lenore Ecker Stephen & Carol Hope Robert & Tracy Meissner
10/9	Michael & Noell McKernan	10/29	Donald & Gail Rieman
10/11	Heidi & Tom Cosandier		



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.

CHRISTMAS KICKOFF (AN ADVENT CELEBRATION)
11/29/23 6:00 P.M.

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@trinitywny.org
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@trinitywny.org
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org