

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 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

“Family Mission Statement”

The changing of the calendar to January also brings with it a new season in the church calendar as well. The Epiphany season is one which we recognize how God revealed his missional purpose for the world through the coming of His Son. Even before he was born, in the angel’s announcement to Joseph, Jesus’ missional purpose is revealed. “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21. Our God is a missional God, who acts with a purpose. Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, all people are called into a relationship with God.

What about you? What is your purpose? Why do you do what you do? Christian people today are called to continue to play a roll in God’s ongoing mission. You were baptized into Christ Jesus. You are called and equipped for a specific ministry.

Throughout the these first few weeks of January and early February, we are going to be engaging in a sermon series designed to address a central question on this topic: In what ways can you, your family, and our family of faith share the Good News that the Savior of the world has come?

To help you prepare for this task, here are the questions we will be tackling each week. Please make an effort to answer them and apply them to your life keeping God’s purposes for you in mind.

Develop your own (or, your family’s) mission statement:

1. What is the most important mission or goal I/we should be working toward?
2. Why should family members (and our church family of faith) work at growing closer as a family?
3. What can you/ your family members (mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, step families) do to encourage and maintain a strong, Christ centered family?
4. What does your family (or, our church family of faith) do to support and strengthen its family members?
5. What would be missing in our community if our Christian family ceased to exist?
6. How have you seen families celebrating the joy of being family and Christians celebrating the joy of being part of the family of faith?

I hope that these questions inspire thoughtful contemplation, healthy discussion and a growing realization of how God has called and equipped you/ your family to serve Him in the year ahead!

God’s blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Bible Study News

Wednesday Morning Bible Study New Topic Coming in January 2024 “A Survey of Church History”

Many committed, knowledgeable believers still know little about the history of the church. As a result, they're missing a testament to God's steadfastness over the centuries. Now, a monumental new teaching series sheds crucial light on church history, demonstrating God's promise to build and preserve his church so that “the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am beginning on January 3, 2024 as we watch a video series from Dr. W. Robert Godfrey as he takes believers through the history of the church covering theology, apologetics, notable church fathers, and much more.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study New Study Starting January 2024 “You and Me Forever”

Marriage is Great, But it's not Forever. This seven session Bible study series, based on the book *You and Me Forever* from best-selling author Francis Chan and Lisa Chan, will challenge you to view your marriage like never before. These seven inspiring videos will help you dive deeper into the content of the book as you explore themes like:

- It's until death do us part. Then comes eternal rewards or regrets depending on how we spent our lives.
- While we cannot allow lesser things to destroy our marriages, we also cannot allow marriage to distract us from greater things.
- A jealous God asks us to pursue Him first and most. Then life makes sense, and everything falls into its proper place.
- Love, laughter, and intimacy were all created to be enjoyed. So there is a way to love family deeply without ignoring heaven.
- It all comes down to our focus.

Jesus was right. We have it all backwards. *The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage.* All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at **9:15am beginning January 7, 2024.**

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will resume on Monday, January 8 at 7:00pm in the church narthex. This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. All ladies 18 years of age and up are invited to join!



2024 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2024 sign-up charts are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. Sign up for your special occasion!

Flowers: \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! You can also pick them up on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We are that 2 families sign up for each week. Payments should be placed in the **Church Office's message center** - make checks payable to **“Trinity Lutheran Church” (memo: Altar Flowers)**.

Altar Candles / Oil: \$25 per month . Up to 2 families can sign up each month. Checks should be made payable to: **“Trinity Lutheran Church”** and placed in the Church Office message center.

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

Angel Tree Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who purchased items for the young men and women of the Renaissance Campus from our Angel Tree this year! We had twenty nine angels; all were taken and returned. Thank you! The Outreach Committee also purchased puzzles and crafts with a Thrivent Grant for the kids at Renaissance House. They are always very appreciative and thank us for thinking of them during the Christmas season!

2023 Financial Statements

The 2023 member financial statements will be generated mid-January. Check your church mailbox or the table in the narthex for your statement.



Recycle Greeting Cards

If you'd like to recycle your holiday or special occasion cards, please save them and place in my message box at church. Cut off the front cover of your card (no personal writing allowed on the flip side). NO Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings cards are accepted **unless** they are Christmas religious. Christmas religious cards will be used to make Christmas Booklets for those in nursing homes; all other cards will be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Thank you.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the men and women who assisted in decorating the church for the Christmas Holiday season. It was much appreciated!

School News

Thank You to Our Board of Christian Education!

Did you know that January is Board of Education Month? Trinity Christian School has an outstanding Board of Christian Education that works hard to support and lead the school. They meet monthly to discuss policy, get updates on the school from the co-principals, and pray for the school. They also work between meetings on various tasks to benefit the school. Our current Board members are: Lisa Lafferty, Jessica Daley, Nick Gatto, Ellen Makey, and Renee Widman. We thank them for their hard work and servant hearts for the school. We are also excited to welcome Brad McKernan to the Board starting in 2024.



First Trimester Academic Awards

We have finished up our first trimester, and the students are working so hard! We passed out academic awards in chapel in December. We are proud of all of our students and their effort in learning!

Merit Roll (85%-89% average):

Jayden Wagner, Emma Bertram, Anastasia Dougherty, Brianna Burgos, Elijah Holmes, Elizabeth McFarland

Honor Roll (90%-94% average):

Katelyn Barnas, Levi Haas, Ethan Widman, Everett Webster, Hannah Haas, Aliza Haas, Norah Daley, Raelyn Mathewson, Travis Barnas, Gavin Gabel, Vada Mills, Nathan Farrell, Caleb Adams, Charlotte Giambra, Luke Anderson

High Honor Roll (95%-100% average):

Abby Lafferty, Gavin Daley, Jeanie McFarland, Peyton Hansen, Natalie Schieber, Riley Greig, Lucy Hojnacki, Jesse Hojnacki, Sawyer Daley, Johnny Mills, Lydia Schieber, Cody Adams, Sammie Riordan, Ethan Webster, Elijah Stoddard, Jayce Mathewson, Ellie Adams, Luka Dudas, Hayden Sirgey

Anxiety in the Classroom

Did you know that about 1 in 3 elementary students struggle with anxiety? Anxiety has increased dramatically in children since the Covid 19 pandemic. At Trinity we see so many students struggling to handle anxiety. Mrs. Willert and Mrs. Gabel will hold a parent night on **January 11 at 6:00pm** to discuss anxiety in children and teach parents strategies that may be useful at home. Childcare will be available. Anyone in the school and congregation is welcome to attend.



Christmas Celebrations at School

We had several wonderful activities celebrating the birth of our Savior!

- **Grinch Day** - Everyone dressed in green and did fun Grinch activities. We even had a "Who Feast" at lunch, where the students ate with their special friends.
- **First and Second Grade Pageant** - The first and second graders acted out the Christmas story in their annual pageant. This is always a favorite school wide activity!
- **Preschool and Kindergarten Concert** - The preschoolers and kindergartners sang songs along with the first and second grade pageant. Everyone enjoyed seeing the cute faces and hearing their wonderful voices.
- **Grades 1-8 Concert** - The students in grades 1-8 sang and played instruments for family, friends, and congregation members. Mrs. Anderson did a fantastic job planning a worshipful event for everyone, and the kids did a great job!
- **Pancake Breakfast** - Mark Willert, Ron and Carolyn Habedank prepared our annual pancake breakfast on the day before Christmas Break. The students look forward to this every year. It is amazing how many pancakes those little bodies can hold!
- **Santa Visit** - Santa came to see the students and help hand out gifts. The younger students really look forward to this every year.

Family Advent Celebration

Our Family Advent Celebration on November 29th was a meaningful and fun evening for 54 kids and adults from our church and school! It started with a pizza dinner (no cooking for Mom!), followed by a family friendly time of worship and then an opportunity for families to make gingerbread houses or a live wreath. You can see the fun in the faces of the families as they spent time together and also interacting with others. Thanks to Pastor Nyck and Stephanie for helping out with the crafts and to Thrivent for sponsoring!



YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Gym Night

Our last Youth Night on December 13 saw the greatest number of students this year. 18 of them came out for the Christmas themed gym night starting out with a pretty intense game of keep away with the rubber chicken! Then a pickup game of two hand touch football, followed by a devotional time that centered around Jesus taking our burdens and sin. To show how burdens weigh is down, Luke Anderson stood at the free throw line making shots wearing a large backpack. Each time we added a large dictionary, and named something in their life that weighs them down. As you can imagine, he could no longer make the shots. But in Isaiah 9:6 it tells us that the government is on his shoulders! Translated also meaning a heavy burden- and that's where Jesus helps us out. He says, in this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world. (John 16:33) Last, we opened the white elephant gifts where the kids had a blast seeing what each person gave and what they received! An epic evening with awesome fellowship and Christmas message.

Our next youth night will be **January 17 at 6:30pm!** Come out for a fun evening of games, friends, a devotion and snack. :)



Thank You Confirmation Class!

Thanks to the members of our confirmation class who help out with the kids during the children's messages at our Sunday worship services. You are a blessing!



Congratulations to St. Francis High School senior Jonas Herdlein for achieving 2nd honors for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 academic year. Way to go Jonas!

AED Training at Trinity

Trinity has been blessed with the donation of two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) from the Brooks Hospital system. Thank you Chris Kotowski for facilitating this donation! To assure that people know how to properly use the equipment, we have arranged for Independent Nursing Care to perform an AED training course on **Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 10am-12noon** in the church narthex. This will be free for Trinity members (\$40 for non-members). Space will be limited to 25 people. A sign-up sheet is in the church narthex. Deadline to register is January 21.

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church's History - Part 3



1858-2023 A Time to Build

The story of construction at Trinity started with building a church, that also served as a school, in 1851 while Rev. Ernest Buerger was pastor. Following close behind was the building of a school in 1858 while Paul Buerger (the pastor's son) served as principal. That school is part of the present teacherage. The parsonage came next in 1862, at 296 Reserve Road while Rev L. Muckel was pastor. He served from May 1860 -November 1864.

This remarkable amount of construction in such a short period of time was made possible by a congregation that gave sacrificially of their blessings and the gracious generosity of its founding Pastor. Pastor Buerger was paid in groceries and did not take a salary from this young parish from 1851 until 1855. More sacrifice followed by Pastor Muckel who not only served Trinity but also a congregation in Elma as well as serving as principal for a short time in 1861 until his health would no longer allow him to do so.

In 1869, a larger church building was constructed which served the congregation for over 80 years, until in 1946, when the congregation outgrew the facility. A school building was erected and dedicated on November 2, 1924, the 75th anniversary of our congregation. This building was used for many years for classroom instruction, and later remodeled for housing after the present school building was constructed in 1956. In 1948, just prior to the centennial year of the congregation, the present red brick parsonage was constructed on two lots adjacent to the church, replacing the old one down the road. By the early 1950's, the congregation had outgrown the facilities. The decision was made to expand the church building, incorporating the old building with the new construction. The cornerstone was laid in 1954 for our red brick church with its sturdy bell tower. Since then, we have remodeled and added an entrance and elevator lift to make the building accessible.

Our 175th Year Is Approaching!

If you are interested in planning a celebration in the coming year, please contact Linda Meissner (Lam.ambit@yahoo or 716-648-1281). We will need a committee to plan and individuals to take on specific responsibilities. If you have the gift of hospitality, or a love of history, or want to know more people of the congregation, we need you. How about meeting either January 11th or 15th at 7PM? Choose one and let Linda know, preferably by email.

Thank You

Thank you to all who very generously helped support Joanna's Young Life Mission trip to El Salvador. She is fully funded and any donations from this point on will be used toward extra medical supplies for the team. We are truly blessed by the love, generosity and encouragement of this congregation to support the faith and witness of our youth. Jo is excited to share about this experience in February.

~ Dave & Noel Anderson



The 3-5 grade Sunday school class would like to thank everyone who donated items for the gift bags for the residents of Elderwood. We were able to put together 31 bags for the residents and were delivered personally to the residents who were in attendance at the 9:30am service run by Linda Meissner. Austin, Dallas and Hartley Smith helped to pass out the bags and sang We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

Christmas Caroling

Trinity church and school families took to Christmas caroling once again this year on the afternoon of Sunday, December 10. Sharing smiles, warm hearts, the message of Christmas and prayer, our travels took us to Lancaster, Depew and West Seneca. Thanks to all who participated and we look forward to December 8 next year! If you'd like to get in on the fun and heart-felt interaction, speak to Youth and Family Ministry coordinator Mark Willert.



Cookie Walk

Thanks to all who participated, baked, and bought our cookies for the youth retreat fund to help get our students to the Youth Quake Retreat in Pittsburgh in February. We raised \$462.63 with your help! This retreat is \$235 per student and now, with your support, it really cuts down the cost for those families. Thanks to Christine Harris who organized the event. Check out all the neat pics of the many people enjoying all those cookies!



Parents Night Out Babysitting

Thanks to the parents who supported our Parents Night Out fundraiser. Boy did we have a bunch of kids! We raised \$275 for our trip to Pittsburgh for the Youth Quake Retreat in February! Thanks to Christine Harris for organizing.





The Stephen Series: Caregiving for the Church of the Future

Pastors and church leaders sometimes face the challenge of helping congregation members move past the mistaken notion that only ordained clergy are called and gifted for ministry. When this notion dominates, ministry struggles. Trying to minister today under such restricted circumstances is like trying to drive on an expressway to the future with your eyes fixed on the rearview mirror.

When people act on the belief that God has uniquely gifted them for ministry, the church becomes the living body of Christ—members serve one another and reach out to the world with Christ’s love. With this visionary focus, faith becomes active, people are empowered,

ministry is multiplied, and the church moves safely and confidently toward the promise of the future.

The Stephen Series can help congregations shift their thinking from the past to the future, from a pastor-dependent mindset to an understanding that all God’s people need to be equipped for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11–12).

Here are some ways that the Stephen Series can help congregations move away from the mindset of the church of the past and toward a vision for becoming the church of the future.

The Church of the Past	The Church of the Future
The congregation’s caregiving ministry begins and ends with the pastoral staff.	1 → Trained lay people expand the amount of quality caregiving pastors and congregations can provide.
Lay persons are only asked to do tasks such as financial management, facility maintenance, serving dinners, etc.	2 → Trained lay persons are entrusted with significant relational ministry to those who need care.
Certain spiritual gifts are reserved for clergy and other professional church staff.	3 → Members realize that the Holy Spirit lavishes spiritual gifts upon all believers as God chooses, without regard to a believer’s position in the church.
The pastor ministers; lay people receive ministry. The pastor is the only or the main “player.” Lay people watch from the sidelines.	4 → The pastor is a “player-coach,” both ministering to and equipping lay people for ministry. Lay people aren’t sitting on the sidelines—they’re actively involved in ministry.
Involving others in ministry means more work for pastors. It’s easier for pastors to just do all the work themselves.	5 → Equipping lay people multiplies ministry and gives pastors more time to focus on those ministries that only pastors can do.
Church work is drudgery, and lay persons do it out of a sense of obligation.	6 → Lay persons who are equipped for ministry find it energizing and are highly motivated to serve.

The Church of the Past	The Church of the Future
<p>If somebody volunteers, the job is his or hers. Never say no to a volunteer.</p>	<p>7 → Members appreciate guidance in finding ministries that match their gifts.</p>
<p>It is difficult to find volunteers. Pastors and lay leaders resort to arm-twisting and guilt trips in order to motivate members to serve.</p>	<p>8 → The Holy Spirit moves people to respond eagerly and willingly when they are offered meaningful opportunities to use their spiritual gifts to serve God.</p>
<p>In order to recruit enough lay persons to do church work, the work must be easy and little must be expected of them.</p>	<p>9 → Lay persons who answer God’s call to serve will aim high and give it their all.</p>
<p>Lay people tend to view church work as unpleasant tasks that must be done, but that are frequently found to be unsatisfying.</p>	<p>10 → Lay people who answer God’s call to serve experience great satisfaction and spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth.</p>
<p>Lay people will never accept the ministry of a fellow lay person. They expect the pastor to provide all the caring ministry that happens in the congregation.</p>	<p>11 → Lay people come to value the ministry of other lay people when the pastor and other trusted leaders clearly explain the biblical basis for ministry and publicly support the ministry of lay people.</p>
<p>Pastors who equip lay people to do caring ministry are just trying to avoid doing caring ministry themselves.</p>	<p>12 → Pastors who equip lay people for ministry care deeply and honor God’s design for the church. By equipping others, they can reach even more people with Christ’s care.</p>
<p>Lay persons see themselves as second-class citizens in the church; they believe their caring will always be inadequate and second rate.</p>	<p>13 → Gifted lay people, when trained and organized, can team with pastors as partners in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.</p>
<p>Congregation members who are facing a difficult time often tough it out alone because asking for help is a sign of weakness.</p>	<p>14 → Congregation members bear one another’s burdens and willingly give and receive care—which is just as God intended the church to be.</p>
<p>Quality ministries revolve around an extremely dynamic leader. When the leader leaves, the ministry dies.</p>	<p>15 → Effective training of lay leaders allows ministry to continue and even thrive through leadership transitions.</p>
<p>There is scant biblical evidence for lay persons being involved in the church’s ministry.</p>	<p>16 → The Bible casts a vision in which all believers employ their gifts in significant ministry for God’s kingdom.</p>

Happy Birthday

1/3 Susan Tedesco	1/12 Stephanie Greig	1/22 Kim Caldarella
1/4 Daniel Rowsell Abigal Blamowski	1/13 Brynn Gabel Martha Royal	1/24 Kathy Herman Kyle Lelito
1/6 Peter Szeider Macsen Courteau	1/14 Jack Iannuzzelli	1/26 Patricia Hartman
1/7 Bob Eising	1/18 Dennis Glinski Jr.	1/27 Ella Meunier
1/8 Daniel Nickerson Allison Meissner	1/19 David Anderson Lindsay Iannuzzelli Myah Meunier	1/28 Tricia Glinski
1/10 Joanna Anderson	1/20 Ruth Zawadzki	1/31 Paul Thompson Rev. Nyck Greig
1/11 Linda Rowsell	1/21 Christa Wilkening	

Happy Anniversary

1/2 Bill & Bryana Haas

Memorial Plaques

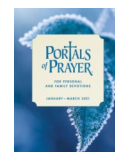
You can remember deceased loved ones who were members of Trinity in a special way by purchasing a small engraved tab plaque to go on our Memorial Board located in the church’s fellowship area. They’re only \$25. Contact the church office to place an order. **Order deadline for this quarter will be January 7th.**



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.

Cemetery News

Plots are available in Trinity’s 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.



Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2024) devotion booklets are now available. They can be picked up in the church narthex or at any time from the clear plastic box located outside the church doors. Please take one and use it for home devotions. Feel free to take one for a friend too!



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

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@rinitywny.org
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org