

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MAY 2025

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



“Sharing the Peace of the Easter Resurrection”

As we step into the beautiful month of May, we are reminded of the blooming flowers, the warming sun, and the spirit of renewal that surrounds us. This month, we focus on the grace and tranquility that the Easter resurrection brings to our lives and how we can share this peace with those around us.

Finding Peace Within

Before we can share the peace of the Easter resurrection with others, it is crucial to find and nurture that peace within ourselves. This can be achieved through prayer, reflection, and gratitude. Spending time in personal devotion allows us to connect deeply with God's presence and experience the calming assurance that His love provides. As we cultivate this inner peace, we become better equipped to spread it to those around us.

Extending Peace to Others

Sharing the peace of the Easter resurrection involves extending kindness, compassion, and understanding to others. It means being a beacon of hope in times of distress and a source of comfort in moments of sorrow. Here are a few ways we can share this peace with those in our community:

- **Acts of Kindness:** Simple acts of kindness, such as helping a neighbor, volunteering at a local charity, or offering a listening ear to someone in need, can make a significant difference in someone's life.
- **Words of Encouragement:** Offering words of encouragement and positivity can uplift spirits and instill hope. Let us be mindful of the power of our words and strive to speak life and love into the hearts of others.
- **Prayer and Support:** Let us intercede for those who are struggling and offer them the peace that comes from knowing they are not alone.

As we embark on this journey of sharing the peace of the Easter resurrection, let us remember the words of Jesus in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." May these words inspire us to be bearers of His peace, bringing light and hope to those around us.

In closing, let us recommit ourselves to living out the message of Easter every day. By sharing the peace of the resurrection, we can make a meaningful impact in our communities and honor the profound gift of Christ's love. May this month of May be filled with blessings, joy, and the enduring peace of our Savior.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

Sunday Morning Bible Study

“The Mission of Jesus”

Sundays 9:15am - 10:15am

It's easy to think of the Bible as a collection of short stories, but each one makes up a greater story – one story of a God who created the universe and entrusted it to His human partners to care for it. They were unfaithful, and it fell back into chaos and sin. But God didn't give up on His creation. He decided to redeem it, preparing the way through His covenant with Israel and finally by sending His son, Jesus, to become the cornerstone of it all through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. What would this mean for a people oppressed by the Roman Empire, and what does it mean for believers today? Follow the rabbi through the world of Jesus, hiking through the Galilee region, exploring the ruins of Rome, and kneeling on the stones of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as you discover how the gospel of Jesus confronts the gospel of Imperial Rome.



Trinity Garden Club

On Tuesday, May 6, 13 & 20 from 6:00pm-7:00pm, the Property & Grounds Committee is looking for volunteers to help clean up the grounds and beds around the church and spread mulch. Bring your own tools, gloves and kneeling pads. We hope to see you!

Time and Talents Gardeners: Thank you to the volunteers who took care of flowers and shrubs around the church and school last summer. We will need help caring for those areas again this year. If you haven't volunteered and wish to do so, see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281) or sign up on the green sheet in the narthex.

Trinity's New Property & Grounds Manager

We are happy to announce that Mark Ganschow is our new Property & Grounds Manager. As you may know, Linda Meissner stepped down from this position last fall after several years of dedicated service. Thank you Linda and welcome Mark!

FREE Piano

Pastor Belasic's family is trying to find a good home for a Wurlitzer upright piano. If anyone is interested, please contact the church office.

DOMESTIC MISSION TRIP

Participate in a mission trip
right here in the States

Trinity has partnered with Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) to serve the people of Appalachia.

When: Sunday, August 3, to Friday, August 8, 2025

Where: Eastern Kentucky

Age: Anyone 14 years of age or older

Service: Making homes safe, warm, dry and accessible/home repairs/yard work

Cost: **ADULTS** - \$325 Includes room, board, and travel expenses

YOUTH – Ages 14 to 21 – **NO** Registration Fee

Any Questions? Please contact:

Kevin Kot: (716) 445-5923 / kkot57@gmail.com

Colleen Kot: (716) 445-5922 / knckot@verizon.net



LWML Spring Event

Saturday, May 3 9:00am - 12:00pm

At Trinity Silver Creek Lutheran Church
(15 Porter Avenue, Silver Creek, NY)

Register by April 28 to Sharon McGuan (salmcg23@gmail.com). The fee is \$5.00 ~ beverages and brunch food items will be provided.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall (look for purple balloons); park in front of the church or on the side street “Adams St.”. Speaker will be Kathy Park, who will discuss the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Chautauqua County, who provide a voice for abused and neglected children in foster care.

Ingathering items needed for CASA: Amazon gift cards to purchase craft items. Cash and checks are always good too!

Hands on Project: Coloring bookmarks and book plates to go to CASA of Chautauqua County.

Call Linda Meissner (716) 648-1281 for more info.

West Seneca Food Pantry

The West Seneca Food Pantry is in need of rice (any types: boil in bag, minute type, etc. - regular size boxes are best), and cereal. Cash and check donations (made out to “West Seneca Food Pantry”) are always needed for milk, dairy products, fresh produce and meats. Monetary donations should be put in a clearly marked envelope and can be placed in the weekly offering plate or in the church mailbox in the coatroom. Any other non-perishable foods would also be greatly appreciated.

~ Sincere thanks from the WS Food Pantry

Trinity School News

Spring School Musical: “Annie Kids!”

Friday, May 2nd at 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Mark your calendars for our upcoming production of Annie Kids on Friday, May 2, with performances at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Our talented students have been working hard with Mrs. Anderson to bring this heartwarming musical to life, and we can't wait to share it with you! Come and join us for an unforgettable show filled with music, laughter, and fun. We hope to see you there!

Family Blessings Breakfast

We were thrilled to welcome parents and special adults to our Family Blessings Breakfast—a heartwarming morning filled with delicious food, meaningful projects, and a special chapel time. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect, share thoughtful conversations, and spend quality time together. It was great to have Pastor Dennis Krueger back to lead us in chapel on our theme of Endure, based on Hebrews 12:1-3, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* We are so thankful for the chance to bond with our school families and for the strong partnership we share with parents as we help our students **Learn, Grow, and Serve in the name of Jesus.**



Volleyball News

Volleyball is finishing up for the season. We had two teams this year - Varsity and Junior Varsity. They both did a fantastic job and learned a lot! Thank you to our coaches, Joy Stoddard and Kimberly Thomack. The Varsity team will move on to the playoffs in early May. Their first game is on Thursday, May 1st at 5:00pm at Cardinal O'Hara High School. They will play again at 6:00pm in the championship game if they win the first game. Come on out and cheer them on! Go Hawks!



7th and 8th Graders Participate in Shark Tank!

Our 7th and 8th graders dove into innovation during our very own **Shark Tank** event! Students brainstormed creative inventions and innovations, then pitched their ideas to a panel of “Sharks” in hopes of securing a mock investment. Our incredible Sharks—Scott Glassman, Grace Willert, Kimberly Thomack, and Bjorn Webb—were thoroughly impressed by the students' originality, professionalism, and persuasive presentations. It was an exciting day full of creativity, critical thinking, and confident public speaking!



YOUTH SCOOP

May Youth Nights Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

May 7: Pizza Night / Open Gym
May 14: Captain Potato Chip
May 21: Gaga Ball & Lava Tag
May 28: Rapid Fire Questions

May H.S. High Point Night

Thurs., May 22: 6:00pm-8:00pm
Prayer Craft Night

Youth Board Meeting

Our next youth Board meeting is **Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00pm** in the church narthex.

Easter Breakfast

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Easter Breakfast. There was a beautiful sunrise with the good news of Christ's resurrection and reminder to our resurrection some day. There was an awesome turn out for the breakfast, and we are so thankful for everyone who donated items, helped make food, serve food, and attended. \$670 was raised for the youth attending the National Youth Gathering this summer. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



VBS 2025 - True North August 4-8 9am-12pm

All kids entering PreK-3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade this Fall will be welcome to join us. Scan the QR code to register.



Volunteers Needed: We need many volunteers to make this event a success. Please refer to the poster in the narthex for a variety of different volunteer opportunities (along with their descriptions). You can also speak with Joan Kopra (thekoprafamily@gmail.com) or Pastor Nyck (pastornyck@gmail.com) if you would like to help out in any way! Thank you so much!

LADD

If you are doing some spring cleaning, please consider donating clothing, small appliances, toys, dishware, footwear, jewelry, and linens to LADD. You can place items in the collection box at Trinity (top of stairs by the side door entrance) or drop them off at the store (2280 Seneca Street) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday from 10am - 3pm and Thursday 10am - 2:30pm. The shop is closed on Friday. Thank you!

Crop Walk 2025

SAVE THE DATE ... August 24: CROP Walk and Weidner's Chicken BBQ on Queen of Heaven Church's property to raise funds to fight hunger. Sit down/take out meal, safe walking path, games for kids. Come join your WS neighbors and friends to raise funds. The WSCC is working together with each church sending 5 -6 volunteers to make the event a success. If/when you decide to volunteer, please email Nancy Hope at nandr.hope@verizon.net or call at 716-674-8544 and leave a message if she's not home. Share the date with family and friends, get some sponsors for your walk - then come!

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.

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 for this period will be accepted **until May 4th**.



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia March Update

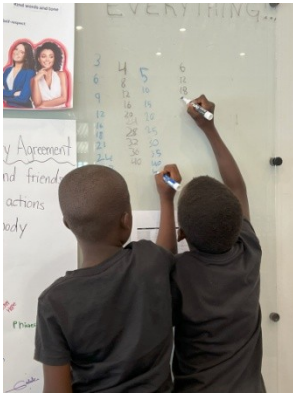


Ministry

Hello!

We have been working hard this month in school as we are preparing for our students to leave for term break in two weeks. Here in Zambia, most schools have three terms each year, each of which are three months long. After each term the students have three to five weeks off of school until the next term begins. So, April 10th is our last day of the first term this year and we are all very ready for a break - teachers and students alike!

Here are a couple of pictures from school this month, including a picture of our whole school staff! I love working with these ladies so much.



This month I was also able to participate in a few other exciting ministry opportunities. At the beginning of the month a Zambian youth ministry called Teen Street came to Poëtice and ran a training for all of the staff members who work with youth. It was an incredible opportunity to be able to learn about topics such as how to help and connect with students who have experienced trauma, ways to engage youth as a small group leader, and how to form stronger relationships with your youth. (The first picture from below is from this training.)

I was also able to participate in a gathering of many people who prayed for our Recreation Park that we have at Poëtice as it is officially opening. We all gathered to play sports and afterwards we all laid our hands on the ground and prayed that God would use this space to connect with people from all across Choma and that He would use it to bring people to Him. It was a surreal moment to know that I was there for the start of something that I know God will bless and work through in ways that we don't yet know.



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Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

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Life Update

We have officially moved into our house! YAY! It has been a journey figuring out lots of these details, but we are so happy to be living in a house of our own now. We are taking things one step at a time right now as none of us have so much money, so we are furnishing the house a little bit at a time. Currently our only piece of furniture is this table, which, as you can tell, we are very happy about - we spent the first two weeks in the house eating on the floor, so this was a major upgrade! None of us can afford a car yet, either, so I either walk or bike to work every day. While this has all been a big change, we are so thankful to have our own space now.



To be quite honest, this past month I have just felt pretty exhausted. I have felt like most mornings when I wake up, I really just want to go back to sleep. I feel like the initial spark and excitement of "Oh my gosh, I just moved to Zambia!" is gone and this has become my normal life. It has felt kind of like I have lost my joy, and it was really a struggle for me.

Then, about two weeks ago, as I was walking back from house church, I began to notice things - I saw a tree that I walk past every day that is absolutely marvelous with its huge, swirling trunk and its wide branches that provide such comforting shade from the Zambian sun. I noticed a field of sunflowers and stopped to look at them. As I did this, I had the revelation that I have just been going through the motions for the past month - wake up, get through school, and then go home exhausted. I wasn't seeing the beauty the God has placed all over in each day of my life - the delicious meal, the calm Saturday morning with a visit from a neighborhood cat, or a visit from a happy little chameleon. I realized that there are so many little blessings that God has been giving me that I have simply been passing by because I am so focused on just getting through the day. I realized that I need to work on slowing down and living in the moment rather than just going through the motions. This has been such a valuable revelation and has really helped me to live this life that God has given me to the fullest.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the teachers as we finish out the last two weeks of this term; pray that God would give us strength, energy, and patience. And also pray for the students, that God would give them the ability to continue to work hard through the end of the term.
- Pray that God would continue to bring back my joy and help me to slow down and notice all of the blessings that he has given me.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! None of this would be possible without each one of you. Feel free to email me if you have any questions, comments, or just want to chat!

Blessings,

Hope Willert

hope@poetice.org

Easter Egg Hunt Success!

Thank you to everyone that helped make this year's annual community Easter Egg Hunt a success. We had **over 175 kids** partake in the event and everyone seemed to have a fun time.

~ Trinity's Outreach



STEPHEN MINISTRY DEVOTION

Ministry from Afar

When we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again.

1 Thessalonians 2:17–18a



Stephen Ministry is, by nature, in-person care. When your care receiver is hurting, there is no substitute for being fully present with him or her—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Likewise, many other parts of a congregation's ministry, such as coming together to worship, are also typically done in person.

During this time of social distancing, though, being physically present with others isn't possible. To preserve the safety of those they serve, churches everywhere—and the Stephen Ministry at these churches—are having to make some challenging adjustments, ministering from afar much more than usual.

The Example of Paul

The Apostle Paul often needed to minister over a distance as well, which he did through his many letters to scattered groups of Christians. Through these letters, we can gain insight into how Paul related to believers when he couldn't actually be with them.

Most scholars believe that Paul's earliest surviving letter is the one we know as 1 Thessalonians. This letter demonstrates some important principles to keep in mind in this challenging time.

First, Paul's ministry was built on in-person relationships. Because of his prior, face-to-face ministry, Paul could tell the Thessalonians, "We

Ministry From Afar

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loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well” (2:8a). These relationships were built on Christ-centered love and compassion. That same foundation helps us keep our relationships strong when, for a time, we can’t meet face to face.

Second, we learn from 1 Thessalonians that ministering from afar was not Paul’s first choice. He says, “When we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again” (2:17–18a). We can take comfort in knowing that Paul, too, found it challenging to be apart from those he cared for. But when it became necessary to minister over distance, he did so wholeheartedly, using the tools he had to address this growing church’s needs. For us, although caring from afar may not be ideal, we can accomplish real ministry using the tools available to us.

Third, while Paul’s letters met real needs, he always looked forward to meeting his fellow believers again. He wrote 1 Thessalonians, in part, to comfort the church following the deaths of some in the faith community (4:13–14). Even as he offered that care, though, he expressed his eagerness for the day he could support them in person: “Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith” (3:10). We, too, can look ahead to the time we will meet our care receivers in person once more.

In Anticipation of Coming Together Again

If Paul were here today, we can only imagine how he might make use of the devices and apps we have now, just as he made extensive use of letters in his own time. Of course, these tools wouldn’t be a replacement for his in-person ministry, but they could still serve as a powerful means of ministry between visits—or at times when visits just weren’t an option.

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Ministry From Afar

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Likewise, we can be grateful for the technologies we have today that enable us to stay connected with our care receivers when we are not able to be physically present with them. And we can seek to use those tools in the best ways possible, anticipating the time when we can resume our in-person care.

Here's a prayer we can all join in saying during this time.

Prayer

Lord God, the Scriptures say that when we call, you answer. You are always there for us, hearing and responding to every thought and every need. Thank you for the privilege and power of providing in-person care, as well as for ways to stay connected when we can't be physically present. Guide us during this unique time, helping us exercise wisdom and discernment in using the communication tools available today. Amen.

Upcoming Area Events

CompassCare Walk for Life

May 3 @ 9am-12pm

Go to: "compasscarewalk.com" to sign up to walk or to donate.

Rummage Sale

**At Ebenezer United Church of Christ
(616 Main Street, West Seneca)**

**Fri. May 2 & Sat. May 3
8:00am - 3:00pm**

A suggested offering of \$1.00 will be collected as "admission" to the sale. Proceeds to be used to support Ebenezer's youth missions. A baked goods sale will be held on Friday and a hot dog roast on Saturday.

Women In Business Breakfast

The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Women In Business Breakfast on Wednesday, May 7 at 8:00am at Kloc's Grove (1245 Seneca Creek Road, West Seneca). Registration begins at 8am; breakfast at 9am. Tickets are \$25. There will also be a basket auction, raffle, and information tables hosted by women owned/managed businesses/organizations. Proceeds will benefit future programming.

Baskets & Bites

**At Ebenezer United Church of Christ
(616 Main Street, West Seneca)**

Sunday, June 1 @ 11:00am-2:00pm

Join us for an afternoon of "bites" (Cheesey Chick and Great Aussies Bite Food Trucks), a basket raffle (usually over 100!), and music by the Buffalo Silver Band.

Happy Birthday

5/1	Julie Blamowski	5/16	Chris McLaughlin	5/22	Stephen Hope
5/2	Amanda Kern		Rebekah Lafferty	5/23	Ingrid Hamann
5/6	Vince Canazzi	5/17	David Kosicki	5/24	Carson Wackowski
	Rachel (Colson) Graham		Renae Makey	5/25	Rev. Ron Habedank
	Grace Willert		Jackson Ecker	5/26	Christopher Kopra
5/10	James Conti	5/18	Linda Meissner		Sarah McLaughlin
5/12	Ethan Kopra		Theodore Rood	5/27	Carl Lehsten
5/14	Laurel McClellan	5/19	Joshua Ecker		Justine Monahan
5/15	Katie Willert		Nathan Ecker	5/28	Michael Canazzi
5/16	Arlene Burger		Matthew Lafferty	5/30	Michael Krause
	Peggy Wypior	5/21	Henry Greig		Neil Halvorsen
			David Brown		

Happy Anniversary

5/1	Peter & Bisty Colson	5/11	Gerry & William Swart	5/23	James & Lisa Manzo
5/9	Marcia & Daniel Nickerson	5/14	Dave & Jane Sirgey	5/28	Roger & Denise Meissner
5/10	Robert & Joan Kopra	5/16	Robert & Paulette Bogumil	5/31	Jon & Miriam Lafferty

Trinity's Men's Softball

Come cheer on our guys as they compete in the Southtowns Church Softball League! All games are played at the Nike Base (2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg). The diamond is indicated in () after each game.

Mon. 5/5 at 7pm vs St. John Lutheran I (diamond 2)
 Mon. 5/12 at 7pm vs Big Tree Wesleyan (diamond 3)
 Thurs. 5/22 at 6:30pm vs First Baptist W.S. (diamond 2)
 Thurs. 5/29 at 6:30pm vs First Baptist Hamburg (diamond 3)
 Mon. 6/2 at 6:30pm vs St. Bernadettes (diamond 2)
 Mon. 6/9 at 6:30pm - Position Round / TBD (diamond TBD)
 Mon. 6/16 at 8:15pm vs St. John Lutheran I (diamond 3)
 Mon. 6/23 at 6:30pm vs Revive Wesleyan II (diamond 1)
 Mon. 6/30 at 6:30pm vs First Baptist W.S. (diamond 1)
 Mon. 7/7 at 6:30pm vs Revie Wesleyan I (diamond 4)
 Mon. 7/14 at 8:15pm vs St. Bernadettes (diamond 1)
 Mon. 7/21 at 6:30pm - Position Round / TBD (diamond TBD)



Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery. 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 our 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.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Pastor
 School Co-Principals
 Youth Director
 Church Office Administrator
 School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Nycholas Greig
 Sarah Gabel / Katie Willert
 Nathan Thomack
 Teresa Lynch
 Judeen Babcock

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