

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JUNE 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 (thru 6/9/24)
Sunday @ 9:30 am (effective 6/16/24)



“Commencement”

This month brings a number of graduation celebrations. But graduation is sometimes referred to by a different name: commencement. “Graduation” brings to mind an ending. “Commencement” is about beginning. High school graduates will soon commence the next phase of their life, whether that be college, work or the military. College graduates will enter the labor pool. Graduates from Trinity Christian school will go to a wide variety of high school experiences. Graduation is a time of anticipation of the future. We certainly congratulate our graduates for their accomplishments in the past, but we also pray for God’s blessings as they step into the future.

This month brings to a close a number of congregation events. Sunday school has concluded. Many Bible classes and small groups do not meet during the summer as many participants travel. Confirmation instruction has ended for the year and several students will conclude their confirmation instruction as they are confirmed on June 9th. Many of our ministries take a break during the summer.

However, we never “graduate” from discipleship. There is never a time when we, as God’s people, look back on our spiritual life and say, “I’ve been there; done that,” or “I’ve learned all I need to know about God or the stories shared in His Word,” or “I’ll take some time off and pick up my life as a child of God again in the fall.”

Summer months may bring a change of routine for you—summer vacation for kids, time away from home to the beach or the mountains or to visit family. Yet, do not let these summer months be an ending of healthy spiritual disciplines. Allow the change of routine to be a cause to commence gathering, growing and going in new and different ways.

While on vacation, seek out a place where you can worship. If you still want to stay connected to Trinity, follow along with our services on YouTube. Begin personal devotions or family devotions, spending part of each day reading God’s Word and praying. Seek out new opportunities to serve your neighbors and community to share God’s love in real and practical ways.

The Psalm-writer says to God, “My times are in your hand” (Psalm 31:15 ESV). May we use the time God has given us—this summer and all year long—to be the people He has called us to be.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



Beginning June 22 & 23

Saturday Evening at 5:00pm
(outdoors - weather permitting)

Sunday Morning at 9:30am



Trinity's Sunday Worship & Picnic at Pioneer

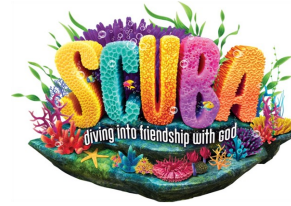
Sunday, June 30, 2024 at 11:00am

Join your Trinity family for worship on June 30 at 11:00am out at Pioneer on the Lake (9324 Lake Shore Rd, Angola). After worship enjoy our church pot-luck picnic ~ please bring a dish / dessert to share and your own beverages. This worship will be in place of our own 9:30AM worship service - so **no worship at Trinity's sanctuary that Sunday.**

175th Anniversary Committee News

Free Will Donation: We have been planning events for this Fall and for 2025. In order to communicate the events and get started with plans, we need starter funds. On **June 1 & 2 and June 8 & 9**, a box for donations will be on a table in the narthex. Please consider a donation and consider coming to our next meeting, **Thursday, June 20 at 2:00pm.**

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA: For the **175th Anniversary**, we will be featuring **alumni** of the church and school in the September and **veterans** in November. We plan to do "Then and Now" photos of church members. We hope you alumni and veterans will join the fun by letting us photograph you after church on **June 1 & 2 and June 8 & 9**. Be ready ... you could be on camera! Or send one of your own photos to Kathy Herman (Kmherman@aol.com or text 716-481-1805).



VBS 2024 - Scuba **July 22-26 9am-12pm**

Trinity will be hosting a Vacation Bible School program this summer the week of July 22-26 from 9am-12pm! All kids entering PreK-3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade will be welcome to join us. A registration link will soon be open on Trinity's website (www.trinitywestseneca.com) or simply scan the below QR code.



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!

Donations: If you are unable to help out during the week of VBS, please consider making a donation of supplies. Watch for the donations board in the narthex and help as you are able, thank you for making this year a success!

2024-25 Budget Requests

It's time to continue planning our future together at Trinity. If your ministry, team board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting September 1, 2024 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Dave Sirgey (djsirgey@gmail.com) or Lisa Laffery (lisalaff@gmail.com) **by June 16th**. Ministry Goal / Cost Sheet forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex or you can contact the church office to request a form.

Trinity Family,

Thanks so much for your thoughts, cards, meals, and prayers. I am feeling much better, gaining strength slowly but surely. It doesn't look like the doctors are going to be able to diagnose whatever I had. Thankful that God is in control.

~ Dave Sirgey

Trinity School News

“Back to the Cross” School Musical

The Trinity students did a fantastic job on the musical, Back to the Cross, on May 3rd. This musical followed the story of 4 children traveling back in time to learn more about their faith. Through their catchy songs and snappy dialogue, the Trinity students shared the Gospel with all in attendance. A big thank you to Mrs. Anderson for directing the musical.



8th Grade Washington DC Trip

The 8th grade class had a wonderful time in Washington DC. They enjoyed all of the monuments, touring the Capitol Building, the Holocaust Museum, the Air and Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Mt. Vernon and more. Thank you to all of the congregation members for supporting the class with their fundraisers. Thank you to Ashley Kopra for planning the trip, and Noel and Dave Anderson, and Lisa Lafferty for chaperoning.



Running Club

Sarah Gabel has been leading 21 of our 3rd-5th grade students in a running club. They run once a week after school around the path, and will be racing in the West Seneca Community Days 5K in June. It is great to see so many of our young people picking up such a healthy hobby.



Music Concert Dates

We have such an amazing music program here at Trinity Christian School! We have two concerts coming up in the church, and we would love to have you join us!

5/22 - Piano and Drum Recital at 6:30pm

6/5 - Instrumental and Voice Recital at 7:00pm



Graduation Dates

We are pleased to announce graduation dates and times for all of our Trinity graduates! All are welcome. All graduation ceremonies will be held in the church.

PreK - 6/6 at 9:00am

Kindergarten – 6/18 at 9:00am

8th grade - 6/18 at 7:00pm

YOUTH SCOOP

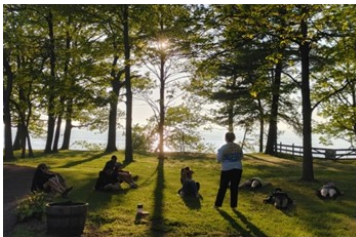
Youth Night

Our next Youth Night is **June 26 from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Webster's house**. Swimming, soccer, games ... bring a snack to share! Here's a pic from the last youth night. A record for the year - 19 kiddos! The devotion was about cookies based on Psalm 119:103 *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth"*.



Camp Pioneer Youth Retreat

Much fun with had by all at the Pioneer Spring Retreat 2024! Games, group building activities, times of service to camp, fantastic devotions by different leaders, lots of time singing praises to God, amazing weather in His creation, sunset campfire, and hearts drawn closer to Him. 35 youth and 10 adults were present (9 youth and 2 adults from Trinity). Thanks to Stephanie Greig and Mark Willert for helping to lead the weekend and chaperoning. Save **September 27-20** for the Fall Retreat!





Eight Days of Hope – Buffalo 2024 Ellicott District July 20-27, 2024

Eight Days of Hope is a family friendly event. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. You can volunteer for as many days as you like from 2 days or all 8 days. Volunteer for 3 days and receive a 1-day pass to Kingdom Bound at Darien Lake!

Follow these steps to register:

- Go to eightdaysofhope.com
- Scroll down to EDOH – Buffalo 2024
- Click on Learn More
- Click on Volunteer – Fill in form
- Under Church/Org. use **Trinity West Seneca**

Please let Kevin or Colleen Kot know when you register or if you have any questions so we can pass on additional information.

Kkot57@gmail.com or 716-445-5923
knckot@verizon.net or 716-445-5922



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

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity's Cemetery:

- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.
- **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.



Church Greeters

We would like to resume having greeters at our worship services. Each greeter would be scheduled about once every 2 months or so, depending on the number of volunteers. They would need to be at church 15 minutes before the service begins, welcome people as they enter the church from the narthex, give them a bulletin, direct new people / visitors to visit our Welcome Center, and then stand by the narthex glass doors after church to thank people for coming and wish them well. If you could share your time/talents in this way, please contact Teresa in the church office (716) 674-9188 or see Don Meissner.



Trinity Lutheran Church's History Part 4

About 175 years ago, the first 12 families came from Buffalo to settle in the wilderness of Western New York. Orchard Park Road was just a trail for horse-powered travel and probably not known by that name! They most likely came in the springtime so they could cut lumber, plant crops and build houses. It wasn't until October 1849, that they incorporated as a Lutheran Congregation. Consider the courage it took to leave "civilization", but also the freedom to build a community based on the Word of God. Thank you, Lord, for those who heard your calling and built on Your firm foundation.



Pioneer on the Lake Camps

June 30-July 5: Family Camp: Pastor - Nyck Greig /
Worship Leader - Mark Willert

July 22-26: Stronger Together AGAPE Camp for families of persons with disabilities.
Hosted by LADD and Jacob's Ladder
Special Needs Fitness

July 28-Aug 4: MUSIC WEEK!

Aug 5-9: VBS Week



Media Fact Sheet

Release Date: September 1, 2021

History: Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation in St. Louis to be *Stephen Ministers*. They assisted him in providing Christian care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties. These trained caregivers were so enthused about their ministry, they encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer *Stephen Ministry* to more congregations.

Over the next few years, Dr. Haugk traveled to congregations and trained Stephen Ministers. This quickly proved to be inefficient, since he could visit only a limited number of congregations, and these congregations were then dependent on him to train additional caregivers. So in 1978 Stephen Ministries held the first Leader's Training Course and trained the first *Stephen Leaders*—representatives of various congregations who then returned home to train and supervise their own Stephen Ministers. Since then Stephen Ministries St. Louis has specialized in "training the trainers" through the Stephen Ministry system.

Definition of Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around the congregation.

The Organization: Stephen Ministries St. Louis is a not-for-profit, transdenominational, religious and educational organization founded in 1975. The St. Louis-based staff of 40 provides support for ministry in more than 13,000 congregations worldwide. Dr. Haugk serves as Executive Director.

The Name: The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry Statistics: These statistics are updated annually. Statistics can be obtained online at stephenministries.org or by calling Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600.

- **Congregations:** More than 13,000 congregations are enrolled in Stephen Ministry. They represent 185 different Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.
- **People:** More than 75,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have been trained as Stephen Leaders at Leader's Training Courses. These Stephen Leaders have, in turn, trained more than 600,000 congregation members to be Stephen Ministers. Since 1975 Stephen Ministers have provided distinctively Christian care to more than one-and-a-half million people in one-to-one Stephen Ministry caring relationships and have also used their caregiving skills to touch the lives of millions more in other ways.

The Stephen Ministry Logo:

The logo Stephen Ministry congregations use consists of a cross and circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives as a result of our sin. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is through the cross of Jesus that we again are made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.



Stephen Ministries: Media Fact Sheet

How the Stephen Ministry Works: Pastors, church staff, and lay leaders attend a Leader's Training Course, taught by the Stephen Ministries faculty, to learn how to implement Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained Stephen Leaders then begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation. These trained *Stephen Leaders* then return home to begin and direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation.

Stephen Leaders recruit and select laypeople from the congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers and provide them with 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving. Topics include listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations such as divorce, terminal illness, grief, and childbirth. Stephen Ministers also are trained to recognize when a care receiver's needs go beyond the care a Stephen Minister can provide and how to refer the care receiver for additional care.

At the end of training, *Stephen Ministers* are commissioned by the congregation. Stephen Leaders then link each Stephen Minister with a *care receiver*—a person in need of one-to-one Christian care. A Stephen Minister normally is assigned to only one care receiver at a time and meets with that person for about an hour each week.

Stephen Ministers also meet twice monthly for supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministers initially commit to two years of service, but after those years many recommit to serve additional years.

Terminology: The organization, based in St. Louis, is *Stephen Ministries St. Louis*. The lay caregiving ministry system congregations implement is *Stephen Ministry*, once it has been implemented in a congregation. The pastors and laypeople trained by the Stephen Ministries faculty to direct their congregation's Stephen Ministry are called *Stephen Leaders*. The people trained to provide one-to-one care to those in need are called *Stephen Ministers*. Those who receive the care of Stephen Ministers are referred to as *care receivers*.

Important to Note

- Stephen Ministers are not counselors. They are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not counsel or advise. Please do not refer to them as counselors.
- Stephen Ministry is a supervised ministry. Stephen Ministers engage in twice-monthly supervision to ensure that they are providing the best-quality Christian care.
- Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. What a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister remains confidential. Even in supervision, the names of care receivers and specific details are never discussed.
- Stephen Ministers do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

Other Ministry Resources

In addition to Stephen Ministry, Stephen Ministries St. Louis offers many other resources to enhance congregation ministry.

These other resources from Stephen Ministries include:

- *Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life*
- *Journeying through Grief*
- *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering*
- *Cancer—Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead*
- *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*
- *Caring for Inactive Members*
- *Antagonists in the Church: How to Identify and Deal with Destructive Conflict*

Media Opportunity: We hold introductory workshops about Stephen Ministry across the U.S. each year (stephenministry.org/workshop). Members of the media are invited to attend these workshops as our guests. Interested media persons can contact our Communications Department at (314) 428-2600.

Happy Birthday

6/1	Peter Bullock Kasey Lelito	6/7	Brynn Zawadzki	6/16	Mark Blajszczak	6/25	Marilyn Lein Gregory Ringle
6/2	Rev. David Belasic Karen Hollowood Trevor Jelowski	6/8	Helen Schultz Mary Colwell Peter Szeider Jeff Gertis	6/17	Fred Schultz Bruce Heckman	6/26	Kyle McCoy Camden Stefanik
6/3	Denise Meissner		Cadence Jelowski	6/18	Dallas Smith	6/27	Don Meissner Trevor Wilkening
6/4	Martha Birrer	6/9	Shannon Heckman Jacob Ecker	6/20	Kristen Zawadzki Travis Barnas	6/29	Lisa Osberg Hartley Smith
6/5	Norine Ecker Jered Cornell	6/11	Madelyn Monahan	6/22	Larry Thompson Lenore Ecker	6/30	Jennifer Evans
6/6	Henry Jelowski Claire Haas	6/13	Abigail Lelito	6/23	Jeffrey Wackowski Adeline Royal		
		6/14	Linda Daum	6/24	Shana Caldarella		

Happy Anniversary

6/3	Brad & Theresa McKernan	6/20	Frank & Sandra Lelito
6/12	Paula & David Winkelses Ingrid & Alan Hamann	6/23	Dennis & Tricia Glinski
6/15	Rev. Ron & Carolyn Habedank	6/26	Don & Beverly Weiss
6/17	Ron & Nancy Hope	6/29	Mark & Katie Willert
6/18	Joshua & Jessica Ecker Christa & Charles Wilkening		



Trinity’s Garden Club!

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time on Tuesday evenings in May to help clean up and beautify the church and school flower beds and property. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Help Needed: We are still looking for volunteers to help care for the flowers and shrubs around the church and school during the summer months. If this is something you can assist with, please see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281) or sign up on the green sheet in the narthex.

Emergency Contacts & Shut-Ins

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

Are you or another member of Trinity no longer able to attend services for some reason (medical or other) and would like home visits from Pastor Nyck and our elders? Is so, please contact Pastor or the church office to a make arrangements.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Pastor
School Co-Principals
Youth & Family Coordinator
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

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

Contact Information

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