

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JULY 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



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday Evenings 5:00pm
(outdoors - weather permitting)

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

“God Bless Our Native Land”

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.
(Lutheran Service Book 965:1)

Our native land is much on our minds this election year. Campaign commercials have already begun flooding the airwaves. Candidates are promising social and economic programs they say will make our country stronger, safer and more prosperous. Perhaps even more than laying out their platform, they are attacking their opponents. Each side seeking to make you believe that the other guy is a path to certain destruction!

But the true health of our country will not be found in the campaign promises of any politician—Republican or Democrat. Instead, this comes from our reliance upon God and the salvation offered us through Jesus Christ. After explaining how the military might of armies and horses cannot save, the Psalmist says, “Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.” (Psalm 33:20-22)

Thankfully, we live in a country where we are granted a fundamental liberty to publicly confess this faith in God. In the middle of the patriotic songs, fireworks displays, and Fourth of July cookouts, and throughout this campaign season, be sure to exercise your religious freedom and pray. Ask God’s blessings upon our native land, its leaders and its citizens. “May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you” (Psalm 33:22 NIV).

So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!
(Lutheran Service Book 965:2)

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



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.**

The Rite of Confirmation

On Sunday, June 9 at the 10:30am worship service, we observed the Rite of Confirmation. Our five Confirmands shared their personal Professions of Faith and pledged commitment to God's Holy Word and the Lutheran Doctrine. God bless and keep them! Our Confirmands this year are:

Luke Anderson Mary Harris
Audrey Diehl Abigail Lafferty
Gabriella Tripi



Holy Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism was God's gift to:

Giovanni Anthony Ferrara, son of Anthony & Hillary Ferrara, on 3/16/24.

Jack David English, son of Kevin & Amanda English, on 6/2/24.

Benjamin George Besch, son of Justin & Tonia Besch, on 6/16/24.



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. Register by July 7 at 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!

Grounds & Maintenance

The Grounds and Maintenance Committee can use some apprentices to help care for the grounds. The members of the committee are aging and need to pass along the knowledge of maintaining the church and grounds. By having volunteers doing this work, thousands of dollars are saved each year. Please consider pitching in. Contact Linda Meissner or any Committee member. There is still time to care for a garden on the grounds.

Bob Boldt Service of Remembrance

There will be a service of remembrance at Trinity for Bob Boldt on **Saturday, July 20 at 10:00am**. All are welcome to attend.

Missing Bible

Have you found or seen an older bible anywhere in the church over the past few weeks? Rev. David Belasic is missing his bible and asking for help from anyone who may have seen it. It is a cherished family treasure.

Trinity School News

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

The 172nd graduations at Trinity for grades Kindergarten and 8th grade were held on Tuesday, June 18th. What a pleasure to celebrate these students and their accomplishments. Noel Anderson was the speaker at the 8th grade graduation, and she gave a wonderful reminder to the graduates to always come “Back to the Cross”. We pray blessings on all of the graduates as they continue on in their education and spiritual journeys.

Kindergarten Graduates: Jayden Gray, Easton Hedberg, Ahava Han, Dallas Smith, Gabby Adams, Kinsley Kinkiewicz, Zoey Reiman, Simeon Gay, Kennedii McKernan, Kara Hojnacki, Keyliann Rivera

8th Grade Graduates: Luke Anderson (St. Francis), Gavin Daley (Orchard Park), Abigail Lafferty (West Seneca West), Jeanie McFarland (Christian Central Academy), Jayden Wagner (St. Francis)

8th Grade Awards:

- Valedictorian: Abby Lafferty
- Salutatorian: Jeanie McFarland
- President’s Outstanding Academic Excellence Award: Abby Lafferty and Jeanie McFarland
- President’s Outstanding Academic Achievement Award: Luke Anderson, Gavin Daley, Jayden Wagner
- West Seneca Police Award: Jayden Wagner
- NYS Attorney General Triple C Award: Jeanie McFarland
- State Comptroller’s Award: Gavin Daley, Luke Anderson
- Christian Athlete Award: Luke Anderson, Jeanie McFarland
- Christian Citizenship Award: Abby Lafferty



End of the Year Celebrations

In addition to graduations, we had several “end of the year” activities. Here are a few highlights:

Field Day: Grades K-8 traveled to Fairmount Park on June 7th to compete with other Buffalo area Lutheran schools in events such as the soccer kick, softball throw, dash, shuttle run, distance run, and long jump. It was a wonderful chance to fellowship with our sister schools.

School Picnic at Pioneer on the Lake: All of the students in grades K-8, and many family members spent a gorgeous day at Pioneer on Monday, June 17th. The students played games, did scavenger hunts, had a hotdog picnic, went on beach walks, and enjoyed chapel in the outdoors. And, of course, the 8th graders had their annual shaving cream battle. A good time was had by all!

Class Night / Sports Banquet: Over 100 people attended this annual event. The 8th grade class was celebrated with a special video, gag gifts, and awards. Students that participated in sports were honored with pins and trophies.

Closing Chapel and Awards: Pastor Nyck led our closing chapel service on Tuesday, June 18th to close our 172nd school year. He reminded our students to stay “Connected” to Jesus over the summer. Following chapel, an awards ceremony was held for students in grades 1-8. There were awards for worship attendance, PE, Art, Honor Rolls, and classroom awards for grades 1-2.

West Seneca Community Days 5-K: The Running Club, led by Sarah Gabel, participated in a very HOT 5-K on June 20th in West Seneca. They did a great job and had a lot of fun. What a great experience for them all.



School Work Day

We need your help! Please join us on August 3rd from 8:30am-12:00pm for a school work day to prepare our school for the 2024-2025 school year. Projects will include painting, cleaning, etc, so please wear old clothes. Donuts and water/juice will be provided! Kids are welcome to come and help, but must be supervised by their parent during the event. Thank you!! Contact Sarah Gabel (principal@trintiywny.org) with any questions.



Men in Ministry 9th Annual Golf Outing at Turkey Run Sunday, August 18, 2024 12:00PM - 4:00PM

Ladies and men welcome! The cost is \$40 per golfer which includes greens fees, riding cart and food (on-course beverages \$3 each; no outside alcoholic beverages allowed). We are limited to 72 golfers ~ sign up in the narthex as soon as possible but no later than 7/28. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for food and beverages (cash bar) for \$15 at approximately 2:30PM.

Payment Requirement: All fees will be collected prior to the outing. Payment is due no later than **August 4** and may be given to Nevin Hope, Dave Sirgey, or Teresa in the church office. Please place payment (cash or check made to "Trinity Lutheran Church") in an envelope labeled "TMIM Golf Outing" and list the names of those from whom you are paying.

Refund Policy: If the outing is cancelled due to weather, golfers will be issued a gift certificate from Turkey Run Gold Course for the amount they paid, which may be redeemed in 2024 or 2025 and applied toward green fees, cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant. If a golfer is unable to participate due to illness or some other unforeseen circumstance, he/she will be issued a gift certificate from Turkey Run in the amount of \$23 with the same guidelines outlined above.

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

West Seneca News

Community Food Drive

The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Community Food Drive during the month of July! Donated items will replenish food pantries in West Seneca and neighboring communities. When donating, please be mindful of expiration dates. They can not accept expired products. Cash/checks (made out to the West Seneca Food Pantry) will also be accepted at the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce office.

Donation Sites:

- West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, 1300 Union Road (inside the Community Center and Library) weekdays 9:00am-2:00pm
- WNY Federal Credit Union, 1937 Union Rd
- GEICO Local Office West Seneca, 1102 Union Rd

Farmer's Market

The West Seneca Farmer's Market runs May 16 thru September 12 on Thursday evenings from 4pm-7pm on the grassy hill at Union Road & Main Street, next to West Seneca Town Hall. Approximately 40 vendors are featured. Stop by and check it out!



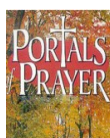
Kathy is Taking Requests!

Is there a hymn or contemporary Christian song that you would like to have included in a Saturday service this summer? Give me your list on a note in my mailbox or email me at kmherman@aol.com or text me at 716-481- 1805. I can't guarantee they will all be used, but I will do my best to work them in if possible.

~ Kathy Herman

The Red Food Pantry Wagon

We continue to collect food to be donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry and the pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Non-perishable items can be placed in the red wagon in the church entry. Thank you!



Portals of Prayer

July - Sept 2024 devotion booklets are now available. They can be found on the tables and Welcome Center in the church narthex. Please take one and use it for home devotions! Give one to a friend who may be in need too!

Trinity's 175th Anniversary Events

SAVE THE DATE:
175th Anniversary Potluck
September 22, 2024
After the Sunday 10:30am service



School Alumni Pictures

The 175th Anniversary Committee is asking that alumni of Trinity School submit a present-day photo to include in a display for September 22, 2024. You may send your own photo Kathy Herman (kmherman@aol.com) or ask Jan Bullock, Noel McKernan, Linda Meissner or Mark Willert to take your photo. We would like them before August 31st. Your cooperation is appreciated!

3rd Annual Pioneer Fest Sunday, July 21, 2024

Headliner this year will be Mac Powell, former lead singer from the Christian rock band, Third Day! Join us for a FREE festival day of bounce houses, face painting, tractor train rides, food and Perry's Ice Cream for purchase at the Country Store, and amazing music from The Good News band and Christ Church Worship band throughout the day. All the fun starts at noon; community church service prior at 11am! **Concert and festival admission is FREE!!!!** Bring a friend and a lawn chair for seating! <https://pioneeronthelake.com/pioneer-fest>

“Called To Be” Verse for July

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” *2 Corinthians 4:6*

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Night

Unfortunately, our June 26 Youth Night was cancelled due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, July 10 from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Webster's house**. Swimming, soccer, games ... bring a bathing suit, towel and a snack to share!

Trinity Lutheran Church's History (Part 5)

DID YOU KNOW? Trinity conducted its first Vacation Bible School in 1965.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1963, Pastor Hoyer requested permission to wear the traditional vestments of the ministry, the cassock, surplice and the stole. The request did not meet with the approval of the entire membership at first, some holding that it was "too Roman". However, after a complete explanation of the history, the significance and the Lutheran traditionalism of these vestments, his request was granted. (*excerpted from "Trinity Lutheran Church, The Next 25 Years 1949-1974"*)

DID YOU KNOW? In the summer of 1970 a huge rock was unearthed during the construction of a large water supply line. It was the idea of a member, Clarence Hofheins, and through his efforts that the rock was placed on the front lawn of the church. The rock is symbolic of Jesus Christ, the rock of our salvation and a symbol of strength and permanence.

Holy Land Tour

Dr. Charles and Susan Whited of **First Trinity (Tonawanda, NY)** invites you to join them for a **10 day tour of the Holy Land**. The departure date has been changed to October 20, 2025. We will visit Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem, take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, walk the path Jesus took from the Garden of Gethsemane to the dungeon in Caiaphas' house, travel the Via Delarosa (way of the cross) through Jerusalem, and so much more. It is the spiritual adventure of a lifetime. For information call (716-835-2220) or email Pastor Chuck at cwhited@firsttrinity.com.

Jesus explanation to the parable, Mark 14:14-20:

The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Which kind of seed are you? Challenge: Read the Gospels for 15 minutes each day this summer. Take root.

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

She was
patient, loving,
and accepting.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

Happy Birthday

7/1	John Kern	7/18	Judy Schmidt	7/24	Thea Schultz
7/5	Ed Schindler	7/19	Barbara Halvorsen Nolan Heckman	7/26	Judy Jaeckle
7/7	Madison Jaskier	7/20	Annette Neth Jessica Nickerson	7/27	Rev. Dennis Krueger
7/10	Leslie Tripi Zachary LoVullo	7/21	James Manzo	7/28	Diane Roncone
7/12	Eleanor English	7/22	Janine Wackowski	7/29	Marie Thompson Natalie Monahan
7/14	Bryce Zawadzki	7/23	Joanie Metzler Andrew Eising	7/30	Hope Willert
7/16	Kim Meissner			7/31	Jenna Wackowski
7/17	Samantha Canazzi				

Happy Anniversary

7/1	Christopher & Erin Kotowski	7/8	Andrew & Rachel Eising
7/3	Larry & Marie Thompson Chris & Lynnae Kwilas	7/12	Ryan & Beth McKernan
7/5	Fred & Thea Schultz Dave & Noel Anderson	7/17	Justin & Betty Jo Smith
7/8	Ed & Kathie Schindler	7/18	C.J. & Lindsey Lehsten
		7/19	Leslie & Tim Tripi



Cemetery News

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity’s 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.
- 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.

Shut-In Members

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

Shut-ins can receive our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet and monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter by mail or email. Contact the church office (674-9188) to find out more information.



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.

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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