

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

AUGUST 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



Dear Trinity Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we explore the powerful imagery of the Armor of God from Ephesians 6, I am reminded of the spiritual battles we face daily. Let us delve deeper into how God equips us to stand firm against the enemy's schemes and to live victoriously in Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-18 vividly describes the spiritual armor that God provides for every believer. This armor is not physical but spiritual, designed to protect us from the attacks of the evil one and to empower us to live boldly for Christ. Here's a breakdown of each piece:

1. **The Belt of Truth:** As followers of Christ, we are called to live in truth and honesty. The belt of truth holds everything together, keeping us grounded in God's Word and His promises.
2. **The Breastplate of Righteousness:** This piece guards our hearts against sin and unrighteousness. It reminds us that our righteousness comes from Christ alone, protecting us from the accusations of the enemy.
3. **Feet Fitted with the Gospel of Peace:** Our readiness to share the gospel and to stand firm in our faith is symbolized by our feet being shod with the gospel of peace. It enables us to walk confidently in God's purposes.
4. **The Shield of Faith:** Faith is our shield against doubt, fear, and the attacks of the enemy. It enables us to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one and to trust in God's protection and provision.
5. **The Helmet of Salvation:** Our minds are protected by the assurance of our salvation in Christ. It guards our thoughts and gives us confidence in our identity as children of God.
6. **The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:** This is our offensive weapon against spiritual darkness. By knowing and wielding God's Word, we can speak truth, proclaim victory, and resist temptation.
7. **Prayer in the Spirit:** Prayer is not just a piece of armor but the means by which we activate and utilize all the elements of our spiritual armor. It connects us intimately with God and empowers us to walk in His strength.

Are there areas where you need to strengthen your defenses? How can you actively use the armor in your daily walk with Christ? May we be encouraged to stand firm in our faith, equipped with the full armor of God. Let's remember that our strength comes from Him alone as we navigate life's challenges and joys.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

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

Sunday Morning at 9:30am



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School program will begin **September 15th at 9:15 AM!** Registration forms can be found on the table in the narthex. Place completed forms in Sarah Gabel's mailbox in the church coatroom.

Volunteers Needed: Please contact Sarah Gabel at sgabel@thinktrinitychristian.com or (716) 982-2586 if you are interested in volunteering. We provide all the materials and curriculum. All that is required is a love for children and sharing Jesus with them!



Scuba VBS Thank You

THANK YOU so much to everyone who helped to make our Scuba VBS a great success! Numerous adults and teens dedicated their time and energy to make this event possible. Each of them played a crucial role in creating a positive and enriching experience for all of the kids who attended. Please continue to pray for all those who attended a great week here at Trinity's VBS. A special thank you goes out to Joan Kopra, Pastor Nyck, and our Outreach Committee for organizing this year's wonderful program!



Trinity's Handbell Choir

Can you ring a bell or would like to learn? Trinity's Handbell Choir rings about once per month, October through June, at various services. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning in September. Please contact Ellen Makey (esmky23@yahoo.com or 961-8378) for more information.



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.

Voters Meeting

There will be a Voters Meeting at the beginning of September (date TBD) following the 10:30am worship service. On the agenda will be the 2024-2025 Church / School Budget, and election of open executive board positions and a new Property & Grounds coordinator. Anyone wishing to be considered for these positions should contact Brian Makey.

Property & Grounds

Our Property & Ground Committee needs help!

We are in need someone to fill the position of coordinator beginning this Fall. If you are interested or need more information about the duties, please contact Brian Makey or Linda Meissner.

We can also use some volunteers / 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 if interested.



August Altar Flowers Needed

We are in need of altar flower donations for August. If anyone would like to donate flowers, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. Each arrangement is only \$10 and you get to take them home after the Sunday service, or pick them up on Monday from 8am-3pm.

Trinity School News

New Staff at Trinity Christian School

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lindsay Schieber for her dedicated service to Trinity. Lindsay has been a valuable member of our community, and while we are sad to see her go, we are excited for her as she moves on to accomplish new goals. Thank you, Lindsay, for all your contributions and the positive impact you've had on our students and staff.

We are blessed to announce and welcome two new members to our teaching team. Ms. Koryn Kocsardy will be joining us as our new 1st grade teacher, bringing her passion and expertise to our young learners. Mrs. Grace Oberdieck will be stepping into the role of our new 2nd grade teacher, ready to inspire and guide our students through another exciting year of growth and learning. Grace was just married this summer, and her husband, Daniel, is the new DCE intern at St. John's in Orchard Park.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Kocsardy and Mrs. Oberdieck to the Trinity family by considering a donation of non perishable food or toiletry items (ex pasta, paper towels, etc) or a nice note/gift card to a local establishment. Please bring your donations to the church narthex by August 18th..Thank you for your generosity and for helping us extend a heartfelt welcome to our new teachers!

School Work Day: August 3, 2024

We need your help! Please join us on **August 3rd from 8:30am-12:00pm** for a school work day to prepare 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 parents during the event. Thank you!! Contact Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org) with any questions.



Trinity School Meat Raffle

Our annual meat raffle will be on **September 14th at 5:00pm / first spin at 6:00pm**. Tickets are \$10 presale and \$15 at the door - individual tickets or tables of 8. You can call the school office to order or scan the QR code below. Please type your name and # of tickets in the comment box. Tickets include 2 drinks and a door prize entry. 21 and over only. Proceeds go to Trinity School's financial aid and program costs.

We will also need volunteers for this event! If you are able to volunteer, please contact Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org)



Corporate Sponsorship

One important way that we support our ministry is through our corporate sponsorship program. Please share the letter in your mailbox or on the narthex table with a business that you patronize and ask them to sponsor Trinity. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a heart for service? Then we need you! The school is in need of volunteers in the kitchen and classrooms. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katie Willert and Sarah Gabel at: principal@trinitywny.org.



August Youth Nights

Webster's House: The pool party at the Webster's house has been rescheduled for **Sunday, August 11 from 6:30pm-8:00pm**. Join us for swimming, games, snacks, a cool little student lead devotion about s'mores (that we'll be eating!), and a super time in Christian fellowship. Please note shoes are required to be worn for the games. So... bring your modest one piece swimsuit (or a t-shirt worn over), a towel, and a **SNACK TO SHARE!** If your student doesn't like to swim, that's OK; they can still come to enjoy the evening. Thank you Webster Family for hosting this fun group!

Kot's House: Mr. & Mrs. Kot, who live across the soccer field from the school, have also graciously invited us to their house on **Wednesday, August 21 from 5:00pm-8:00pm** for swimming, food, games, a devotion time and awesome Christian fellowship.

Bisons Baseball Ticket Fundraiser: The Youth Group will be selling tickets for the **August 11th 1:05pm** Buffalo Bisons vs. Rochester Red Wings baseball game. Tickets are \$20 each and will support the youth traveling to New Orleans in 2025 for the National Youth Gathering. Tickets can be purchased from Luke Anderson, Levi Haas, Kate Barnas and Mary Harris, or in the nathex after services. Thank you for helping us meet our fundraising goals!

Car Wash & Hot Dog Lunch : The Youth Group will be holding an end of summer car wash and hot dog lunch fundraiser on **Sunday, September 8 following the 10:30am worship service**.

Trinity's 175th Anniversary Events

Potluck Picnic

September 22, 2024

After the Sunday 10:30am service

SAVE THE DATE! The 175th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church is this year! We are beginning the celebration with a Potluck Picnic after the September 22, 10:30am service. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided; please bring a dish / dessert to share. All church and school families are invited to attend.

Please Send Photos

If you were a student of Trinity School, or if you or a family member was or is in the military service, *please send a photo of them from "then" and "now"* to Kherman@aol.com or Janb21956@icloud.com. The 175th Committee is hoping to put together a display to celebrate those members.

Buffalo Zone LWML Picnic

Wednesday, August 14 3pm-6pm
Evangola State Park - Shelter #0001A
(10191 Lake Shore Rd., Irving, NY)

Fee: \$7.00 / Seniors FREE

Bring a dish to pass, your own table setting and a comfy chair. The board will provide desserts! For more info or to carpool, contact Linda Meissner (716) 648-1281 / lam.ambit@yahoo.com . **RSVP for the picnic by 8/7/24** to Sharon McGuan (salmcg23@gmail.com).

Ingathering: Our goal is to help support area Lutheran School children by purchasing backpacks for at least 2 children at each school. Please consider bringing school supplies to help us fill these backpacks.



Shut-In Members

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

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

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 will be accepted until September 8th.

Message From Hope Willert in Zambia

Hello Trinity family!

I hope you are all doing well - I miss you all! I thought I would send along a little update of how things are going for me over here in Zambia, as I have now been here for almost two whole months (crazy!).

The first three weeks of my time here were focused on helping out with the Intensive Program, which was the 6-week long trip that brought me here last year. It was so much fun to be able to help out with the same program that helped me to fall in love with this place last year.

Since the end of the Intensive, my primary focus has been helping out in the school. Poetice is working on growing their school every year, and at the moment they have a preschool, which is ages 3 to 6, and a lower primary class, which is ages 6 to 9. I was in the lower primary class for the first two weeks and just finished two weeks in the preschool. This has been an interesting experience for me, as I am used to teaching middle- and high-schoolers, not little people. While I have definitely struggled some with keeping my patience with children this age, I have loved getting to know the kids and seeing them grow. I look forward to seeing them every day and hearing their cries of "Teacher Hope!" as they see me for the first time each morning. It has been a real blessing to be able to lavish Jesus' love on these little humans every day.

Another ministry that I have been a part of is Youth House, which is similar to what we would think of as youth group. Every Wednesday kids from the community come to Poetice for Youth House. We begin with a time of fellowship where we play sports and chat with the kids. This is followed by a time of teaching and then small group time. I was blessed to be able to lead the teaching a few weeks ago, which was on the Shield of Faith (we are currently going through each part of the armor of God). I have really loved getting to know many of these kids and developing meaningful relationships with them - this has been my favorite ministry by far!

There are several other ministries that I have been involved with a bit and will most likely dive deeper into in the future, such as coffee house, prison ministry, and sports ministry. Additionally, during the next three weeks we will be hosting two large group trips here at Poetice, so I will be heavily involved with making sure those run smoothly!

A few prayer requests:

- **For energy.** I am struggling with being very tired and not having the energy to put my all into the different ministries I am a part of.
- **For motivation.** As I said, teaching little people isn't what I am used to, so I would appreciate prayers for patience and love as I pour into these kids' lives.

Thank you all **SO MUCH** for your prayers and support! I am literally so blessed to be living this life and serving God daily and I would not be able to do it without you all.

With love from Zambia,

Hope Willert



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

8/1	Bitsy Colson Paul Zawadzki Amelia Babcock	8/10	Carol Cislo Renee Stefanik	8/18	Michele Ganschow Alan Tedesco Lynnae Kwilas	8/23	Ellen Makey 8/25 Lauren Jaskier
8/2	Adam Zawadzki	8/11	David Winkelses Sue Schueler Harry Babcock		Jeffrey Kopra Blakelyn Hall	8/26	Reed Courteau
8/3	Andrew Kosicki Giovanni Ferrara	8/12	Paula Winkelses Bradley McKernan Audrey Diehl	8/19	Paul Veros Michael Zarbo Ben Makosy	8/28	Levi Kotowski
8/6	Nancy Ehlers					8/29	Mary Ann Moeller Jayden Ecker
8/7	Beverly Kinton Barbara Monahan Liam McKernan	8/13	Bob Kubiszyn	8/20	Sara Lipinoga	8/30	Mark Ganschow
		8/17	Joan Kopra	8/22	Ron Boersch	8/31	Taylor Blamowski Madeline Krause

Happy Anniversary

8/1	Dan & Linda Rowsell	8/18	Christopher & Ashley Kopra
8/3	Mark & Robbin Blajszczak	8/22	Julie & David Blamowski Rev. Nycholas & Stephanie Greig
8/5	Jeffrey & Sandra Gertis	8/23	Travis & Michelle Ecker
8/6	Peter & Janet Bullock	8/24	Rev. Dennis & Lynn Krueger
8/8	David & Heidi Kosicki	8/26	Lars & Lisa Osberg
8/9	Matthew & Lisa Lafferty	8/27	Mark & Corine Rodgers
8/15	Carolyn & Kevin Flattery	8/28	Don & Kim Meissner
8/16	Kevin & Colleen Kot		
8/18	Dan & Stacy Conti		



Holy Baptisms

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

- Amelia Ruth Kot**, daughter of Kevin & Melissa Kot, on 7/7/24.
- Genevieve Boisjolie Royal**, daughter of Nathaniel & Ana Royal, on 7/14/24.
- Jackson John Bozek**, son of Evan & Melissa Bozek, on 7/21/24.
- Katie Jean Whalen**, daughter of William & Kellie Whalen, on 7/28/24.

We welcome these new little brothers and sisters into God’s Family here at Trinity!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Trinity member Nathan Barnas for achieving Second Honors at St. Francis High School for the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. Keep up the good work Nathan!

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

Name

Contact Information

Pastor	Rev. Nycholas Greig	674-9188 / (716) 336-1767 / pastornyck@gmail.com
School Co-Principals	Sarah Gabel / Katie Willert	674-5353 / principal@trinitywny.org
Youth & Family Coordinator	Mark Willert	608-8907 / mwillert@trinitywny.org
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org