

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 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

A Year of Blessings and Gratitude: Reflecting on 2024

As we step into the new year, we pause to look back with grateful hearts on the many blessings and milestones of 2024. It has been a year of growth, service, and deepening faith within our church family. Whether you've been with us for many years or have recently joined us, we want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've experienced together and offer thanks to God for His faithfulness in the past year.

A Year of Faithful Service

2024 was marked by an outpouring of love and service in our community. We saw the hands and feet of Christ at work through our various ministry programs, from our ongoing collections for LADD and our local food pantry, to our church's mission trip to Appalachia where hearts were touched and lives were transformed and to our reaching out small group seeking to spark faith conversations in everyday life. The commitment of so many of you to support these efforts—through your time, your prayers, and your donations—has been a powerful testament to the spirit of unity within our church family.

Gratitude for the Journey

2024 was a year of both triumphs and challenges, and through it all, we've learned to trust in God's perfect timing. We celebrated baptisms, welcomed new members into our church, and hired a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Nathan Thomack, to provide new leadership and energy to our ministries to families. There were also moments of sorrow, as we said goodbye to beloved members of our congregation. Yet, in every season, we have experienced God's presence, His comfort, and His unwavering love.

As we reflect on the year, we recognize the faithful leadership and volunteer efforts of all those who have worked behind the scenes to keep the ministry moving forward. From the smallest tasks to the largest initiatives, every effort has been an essential part of God's work in our community.

A Look Ahead

While we give thanks for all God has done in 2024, we also look ahead to the promise of 2025. With renewed hope, we are excited to continue the journey of faith, exploring new opportunities for outreach, growth, and service. This year, we will strive to deepen our relationships with one another, strengthen our worship experiences, and expand our impact in the local community and beyond.

We invite you to join us in prayer as we ask God to guide us in the year ahead. Together, we can build on the foundation of last year and move forward in faith, knowing that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion (Philippians 1:6).

Thank You!

As we enter into this new year, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support, prayers, and dedication. Your contributions—whether big or small—make a lasting difference in the life of this church and the community we serve. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones in 2025.

God's blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

Urgent Immediate Need: Head of Property and Grounds

After several years of service, Linda Meissner is stepping down as Head of Property and Grounds. We thank her for her service! We need someone to take over this important ministry position. Please contact Brian Makey at (716) 923-3880 if you have any questions and are able and willing to take this position.



Nathan Thomack's Installation

Thank you to everyone who came, welcoming and supporting me as I was installed as Trinity's Director of Youth and Family Ministry. My wife and I are very thankful to see everyone at the potluck and are looking forward to becoming part of Trinity's Family and getting to know you all better.

~ Nathan

Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone who came to the Pancake Breakfast on December 8! It was great to see you, and I appreciate all of your support. You're my "home base" and being here and having you all come together with me in my ministry means the world to me.

~ Hope Willert

LWML February Event February 8, 2025

SAVE THE DATE! This event will be held at Pilgrim Church, 44 Chapel Road in Kenmore. Watch upcoming weekly *Life at Trinity* announcement sheets for more information.

Taste of Trinity

Taste of Trinity will be held on **Sunday, 1/12/25** following the 10:30am worship service. Get your recipes ready! More info to come in upcoming weekly announcement sheets.



2025 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2025 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 all of the angels were taken and returned. Thank you! They are always very appreciative and thank us for thinking of them during the Christmas season!

2024 Financial Statements

The 2024 member financial statements will be generated mid-January. Check your church mailbox or the table in the narthex for your statement.



Recycle Greeting Cards

Please save and donate your cards. Cut off just the front cover (no personal notes on the backside). Hallmark, Disney, and American Greetings cards **cannot** be recycled. Place in cards Linda Rowsell's message center box in the coat room. Religious Christmas cards are used to make booklets for shut-ins. All others are sent to St. Jude 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!

YOUTH SCOOP YOUTH SCOOP



Anything and Everything Youth Related

I am working on keeping this page up to date week to week. If you need any information for Trinity's youth ministry, it will be on this page. I am hoping this QR code will make it easy to spread the word on what is happening here at Trinity!

Contact Information

We are working on updating contact information for both the church and school. Please click the link below to help with this process, and if you know of someone who is interested in joining the youth group, please share it with them. Thank you! <https://forms.gle/itpFWPQvu517og7S7>



Instagram

Follow us on Instagram @trinitywestseneca for updates and reminders on what is happening here at Trinity as it happens!



Youth Christmas Break

There will be no youth nights on December 18, 25, and January 1, but will start back up in the new year. Starting January 8, there will be a youth night every Wednesday for the rest of the school year. Summer may change from every week, but will be decided later.

High Point

Starting in January, I will be hosting events twice a month for high school students on Thursday starting at 6:00pm and will go until 8:00pm. There will be some type of game, bible study, fellowship and fun at each event. All high school students are welcome to join us. Our first night in January, I am bringing my Wii and can set up Mario Kart, Wii Sports, or Just Dance (depending on who shows up). Would love to have any and all high school students show up. We will be meeting in the Trinity's Narthex, and move down to the youth area in the basement where the TV is. High school students are still welcomed to come to the youth night events and play more of the high energy games, but this will be a more laid back, in depth, community building, instead of the intense running games.

High Point Nights: January 9th & January 23rd

White Elephant Christmas Party

There was a White Elephant Christmas Party for 5th - 12th grade students on December 11, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. There were a total of 27 youth participants who came to this event and we had a blast. There was food available and music being played. We started the night by reading the account of Jesus's birth in Luke 2, followed by the opening of presents and eating food. The night ended with a joyous celebration that school was cancelled.



Parent's Night Out Fundraiser

We raised \$225 for this event! We enjoyed macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and chili, played some games in the gym, and watched the movie "The Santa Clause." Thank you to all those who sent your child to this event and for supporting the youth going to the National Youth Gathering!



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 Genevieve Royal
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 5th.**

Cookie Walk Thank You!!!

Thank you to all those who baked for and purchased cookies at our Cookie Walk on December 21 & 22. \$625 was raised to support upcoming youth group events!!! Your support was greatly appreciated!



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.

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.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2025) 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 Director	Nathan Thomack	(715) 938-6225 / youthministry@trinitywny.org
Church Office Administrator	Teresa Lynch	674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
School Office Administrator	Judeen Babcock	674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org