

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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



“Finding God’s Love in Unexpected Places”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of February, a time often associated with love and relationships, we are reminded of the incredible love that God has for each of us. As I think about God’s love for each of us I am always struck by how often I find God’s love in unexpected places. I hope to inspire you to see God’s presence and love in the most surprising and unexpected moments of your life.

In the Book of Ruth, we find a beautiful narrative of love and loyalty where God’s love shines through unexpected relationships. Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to stay with her mother-in-law Naomi, uttering the famous words, “Where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay.” Through Ruth’s unwavering commitment, we witness God’s love in an unexpected place—a bond between a daughter-in-law and her mother-in-law.

Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-26) is another profound example of finding God’s love in an unexpected place. Despite societal norms and prejudices, Jesus offers her living water and reveals Himself as the Messiah. This story teaches us that God’s love knows no boundaries and can be found in the most surprising interactions.

I am struck also by how God shows us his love in inviting us to prayer. The very fact that the God of the universe cares to hear our thoughts, our words, our worries and concerns, our needs and wants. In all our relationships in life we show our love by the gift of our time and attention. God, who exists above and beyond time, has all the time and attention to give to our every prayer. He loves and cares for us so much for us to be able to come to him in prayer in all of the unexpected moments of our life.

As we reflect on this month’s theme, let us remain open to the surprising ways in which God’s love can appear. Whether through a kind gesture from a stranger, a moment of peace amidst chaos, or a renewed relationship, His love is all around us. May you be blessed and encouraged to find and share God’s love in unexpected places.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

URGENT



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.



Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

The Super Bowl is right around the corner and we are so excited. Hopefully, the Bills will be making an appearance! Trinity's Youth Group is holding a Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser to help those participating in the National Youth Gathering this July in New Orleans. 10" subs (ham or turkey) are \$10 each. Order forms can be found in the narthex. Completed forms, along with payment (cash or checks to Trinity Church), can be turned into one of three places:

- The Church Office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- The School Office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Nathan Thomack's mailbox in the coatroom

Deadline to order is February 5th. Please indicate on the form if you would like pick up your sub(s) on Saturday 2/8 at 6:00pm or Sunday 2/9 at 11:30am.

2024 Giving Statements

Statements have been generated and were placed in members' church mailboxes. Statements for those without mailboxes will be on the table in the narthex until February 16. After that date, please contact the church office for your statement.



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.

Great news! I fundraised enough money for the immediate future to be able to return to Zambia! Thank you, God! And thank you, Trinity, for all of your support - with finances and with prayers. I still have quite a large sum of money left to raise in order to meet my goal for the entire year. These funds will make sure that I am able to purchase certain necessities for living in Zambia, such as solar panels for the house that I will be renting with two of my friends and the installation of a well at that house so that we have a reliable source of water.

If you'd like to help, you can pick up one of my letters or cards from the back table. I am especially looking for monthly donors. **Every amount helps—large or small!** You can also join my email newsletter to stay updated—just write down your email address on the list in the narthex! Please feel free to reach out to me or my parents with any questions about the donation process.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being part of God's work and for helping to show His love to the people of Zambia!

With gratitude,
Hope Willert



Altar Flowers & Candles

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom.

Flowers: Flower donations are needed for **February, March, and April.** They are only \$10 per vase and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! Flowers can also be picked up from the church on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We ask that 2 families sign up for each week.

Altar Candles: \$25 per month. Many months are still open.

Payments should be placed in the Church Office's message center or can be mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to "**Trinity Lutheran Church**" (*memo: Altar Flowers or Altar Candles*).

**Please make sure to include your name and special intentions on the sign-up sheets.*

Trinity School News

National Lutheran Schools Week

We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week the last week of January with over 1,600 other Lutheran schools across the country and around the world. What a blessing our school is! It is amazing to watch the faith of the students grow day by day. Thank you God for Trinity Christian School! Here is a list of our activities for the week:

Every Day!

- All School Devotions in the gym
- By Kids/For Kids Craft and Bake Sale - proceeds go to LCMS Disaster Relief Efforts
- Collection for El Salvador Mission Trip

Monday

- **Theme:** Stripping Away Hindrances
- **Dress:** Dress like an athlete
- **Activity:** Faith family games
- **Snack:** Pretzels

Tuesday

- **Theme:** Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus
- **Dress:** Pajama day
- **Activity:** Movie
- **Snack:** Popcorn

Wednesday - NO SCHOOL

Thursday

- **Theme:** The Joy Set Before Us
- **Dress:** Dress like your favorite animal
- **Activity:** ZooMobile visit
- **Snack:** animal crackers

Friday

- **Theme:** Running the Race with Perseverance
- **Dress:** Spirit Day - purple and white!
- **Activity:** Talent Show - 1pm - family & friends are invited! Children may leave with parents following the show.
- **Snack:** purple and white cupcakes

Sunday

- **10:30 Service at Trinity:** Choir will sing!
- **Family Fun Carnival: 12:00pm-3:00pm**
Free games, prizes, and bounce house! Hot dog lunch and popcorn for purchase. Invite a friend! Tours and free lunch vouchers will be given to families interested in attending Trinity.



Let us **RUN** with endurance
THE RACE that is set before us.
HEBREWS 12:1

Winter Carnival & Open House

February 2nd 12:00pm-3:00pm

Trinity School will be having a Winter Carnival and Open House on February 2nd from 12:00pm-3:00pm. Food and games for everyone! Tours for prospective families. Please save the date and spread the word to anyone interested in a quality Christian education. We would love to see all church members and school families there. If you would like to help with the carnival, please see Sarah Gabel or Katie Willert.

NASA Visitor!

Margaret Deahn visited the 3rd and 4th grades at Trinity Christian School to talk about her work with the Perseverance rover on Mars. She is currently a PhD student at Purdue University studying Planetary Geology, and an affiliate worker at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory where she helps with rover operations. The students were thrilled to meet her and learn more about the Perseverance!



YOUTH SCOOP

February Youth Nights

Every Wednesday 6:30pm –8:00pm

2/5: Snu'nu'nu'nurf Ball
 2/12: Valentines Day Party
 2/19: Watch Tower
 2/26: Steal the Bacon

High Point (High School) Nights

Every Other Thursday 6:00pm –8:00pm

2/6: Taboo
 2/20: Herd Mentality

Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Volunteers

Nathan will need help buying supplies and making the subs ordered. The link below will let him know if you are able to help out. (This is mainly for the NYG people, but he will gladly accept all help!)

<https://forms.gle/t1xTX4EhzLu11KHF7>



Anything and Everything Youth Related

Any information for Trinity's youth ministry will be on this page.



Youth Permission Forms

I have created a permission form for all recurring events the Trinity Youth Program is hosting. If you could print off this paper and bring it to Youth Night, that would be awesome. Otherwise, I have printed off several copies and have them ready for you anytime you stop into church. I know the school has one, but not everyone who comes to Youth Nights goes to Trinity school and this way, I have easy access to the important information on the church side.



SAVE THE DATE!

March 7-8: 7:00pm-7:00am Youth Lock-In

See page 5 for more info!

Adult Volunteers

If you are interested in being an adult chaperone for some of the youth nights, just send Nathan Thomack an email sometime: youthministry@trinitywny.org

LWML February Event

February 8, 2025

9:00am - 12:00pm

This event will be held at **Pilgrim Church**, 44 Chapel Road in Kenmore. Registration fee is \$5.00. Light breakfast items and beverages prior to the meeting will be provided by the LWML Mission Board. **RSVP to Sharon McGuan by 2/1/25:** salmcg23@gmail.com / (716) 803-3767.

Speakers: Carol Obot will speak regarding Camp Joy. Susan Knowles will speak about possibilities of VBS at Pioneer on the Lake.

Hands On Project: We will be making pens with Jesus bead and other beads on top. The pens will be a great witness project which can be left wherever we go.

Ingathering: Suggested gift cards for Pioneer on the Lake and Camp Joy. Amazon, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, JoAnn's, Tops, Wegmans, Aldi, Walmart, Target, etc. will all be very usable and appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 3 for our Spring Event

TRINITY YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS:
ALL NIGHT
YOUTH GROUP
LOCK-IN

7:00 PM - 7:00 AM
MARCH 7TH - 8TH, 2025
STARTING IN THE GYMNASIUM
COST: \$10*

For anyone in 5th - 12th grade
Food, games, and no sleep are provided.
All we need is you!

Any questions? Email Nathan Thomack at
youthministry@trinitywny.org



Sign up before March 5th through this QR code!

Signing-up after February 28th will result in an additional \$10 fee



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

If somebody volunteers, the job is his or hers. Never say no to a volunteer.

7

Members appreciate guidance in finding ministries that match their gifts.

It is difficult to find volunteers. Pastors and lay leaders resort to arm-twisting and guilt trips in order to motivate members to serve.

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.

In order to recruit enough lay persons to do church work, the work must be easy and little must be expected of them.

9

Lay persons who answer God's call to serve will aim high and give it their all.

Lay people tend to view church work as unpleasant tasks that must be done, but that are frequently found to be unsatisfying.

10

Lay people who answer God's call to serve experience great satisfaction and spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth.

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.

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.

Pastors who equip lay people to do caring ministry are just trying to avoid doing caring ministry themselves.

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.

Lay persons see themselves as second-class citizens in the church; they believe their caring will always be inadequate and second rate.

13

Gifted lay people, when trained and organized, can team with pastors as partners in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.

Congregation members who are facing a difficult time often tough it out alone because asking for help is a sign of weakness.

14

Congregation members bear one another's burdens and willingly give and receive care—which is just as God intended the church to be.

Quality ministries revolve around an extremely dynamic leader. When the leader leaves, the ministry dies.

15

Effective training of lay leaders allows ministry to continue and even thrive through leadership transitions.

There is scant biblical evidence for lay persons being involved in the church's ministry.

16

The Bible casts a vision in which all believers employ their gifts in significant ministry for God's kingdom.



Happy Birthday

2/1	Lynn Krueger	2/11	Heidi Kosicki	2/19	Janet Bullock
2/2	Eric Osberg	2/12	Loren Pletscher		Lisa Lafferty
2/5	Luke Anderson		Tonia Besch	2/23	Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/6	Laurel Szeider	2/13	Robert Moeller	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/7	Sue Brehm		Landon Heckman	2/25	Olivia Wilkening
2/8	Jackson Bozek	2/14	River Rowsell	2/27	Gerry Swart
			Morgan Ringle		
2/9	Kathie Schindler	2/15	Gregory Kopra		
	Zachary Powers	2/17	Nathan McClellan		
2/10	Steve Meden	2/18	Carolyn Flattery		
	Kris Heckman		Lucas Eising		
	Chris Kwilas				

Happy Anniversary

2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman
2/14	Michele & Edward Baun	2/26	George & Linda Hodge

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2025) devotion booklets are still available. They can be picked up in the church narthex. Please take one to use for your home devotions!

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!

Emergency Contacts

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



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.

Member Contact Info

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number or email address? Does Trinity even have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving our weekly informational emails, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) or you can leave your new information in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!

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