

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

APRIL 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: www.trinitywestseneca.com
Church Office E-mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am

“Truly Living”

You haven't truly lived until you have _____.

How would you fill in the blank? ... Tried a different food? Visited a particular vacation spot? Experienced some unique activity?

Saint Paul has his own answer to fill in the blank above:

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life (1 Timothy 6:17-19 ESV).

You haven't truly lived until you so look forward to the fullness of eternal life with God that you are willing to part with everything that may distract from that eternal future. Doing so, Paul says, you “take hold of the life that is truly life.”

So much of what occupies the living of our everyday life isn't really life—not the kind of life God wants for each of us. The daily “rat race.” Keeping up with the Joneses. The worries about what we have or don't have. Maintaining our spot on the social ladder (or working our way up to that next rung). How much of our time and energy is spent on these things? Is this the sum total of life and living?

On Easter Sunday, when we sing and shout our “alleluias,” we are praising God for the life that includes the happiness and successes of this life on earth but goes so much farther than the here-and-now. Christ our Savior has opened the doors of eternity to us. This is no short-lived victory. This is not simply a change in status for a period of months, days, or years. This is the total, complete reversal of sin and its effects through Jesus' own cross and empty tomb. All that causes death and destruction in this world are themselves destroyed. Easter makes permanent our experience of all that is good and right and joy-filled.

Paul tells Timothy (and us!) to grab ahold of this life that Jesus wins for us. Grab onto this life with both hands. Let go of those things that can provide only temporary happiness. Deprioritize those things that may satisfy us for today but will do nothing for us tomorrow. Jesus' cross and empty tomb usher us into an experience of richness that knows no limits and no end. It's already yours by faith in Jesus Christ. Own it today with all your heart, soul, mind and strength!

Happy Easter! Happy living—*truly* living!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday Services

April 12 at 5:00pm
April 13 at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Service (w/ Holy Communion)

April 17 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Service

April 18 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Easter Services (w/ Holy Communion)

Saturday, April 19 at 5:00pm
Sunday, April 20 at 8:00am & 10:30am



Easter Egg Hunt Help Needed

Outreach will be hosting the annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13! If you would like to help out with the event by filling eggs, setting up the hay/eggs, passing out snacks on the day of the event, clean up, or anything else, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or let a member of Outreach know (Joan Kopra, Jan Bullock, Chris Kopra, Rachel Eising, Lynnae Kwilas). Thank you!



Trinity Garden Club

For the first 3 weeks of May, on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm-7:00pm, the Grounds & Maintenance committee is looking for volunteers to help clean up the grounds and beds around the church and spread mulch. Bring your own tools, gloves and kneeling pads. We hope to see you on May 6!

Time and Talents Gardeners: Thank you to the volunteers who took care of flowers and shrubs around the church and school last summer. We will need help caring for those areas again this year. If you haven't volunteered and wish to do so, see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281) or sign up on the green sheet in the narthex.



Trinity ... Meet Your Elders

Below is a list of elders and care ministers who will be working with Pastor Nyck to care for the spiritual needs of the congregation. They will be assisting with communion visitation for shut ins, seeking to enrich the lives of those who aren't able to participate in the life of Trinity as they would like. Additionally, they will be contacting members semi-regularly to check in on how things are going, giving special attention to those who are inactive to try and address any ongoing issues. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have a spiritual need or concern and they will address it as best they can, or bring it to Pastor Nyck as the need arises. We all desire to care for you with the love of God and look forward to partnering in ministry.

Head Elder – Don Meissner (716) 479-4862

Dan Rowsell (716) 652 -1314

Bob Eising (716) 308-0428

Mark Ganschow (716) 628-7567

Pete Colson (716) 984 6375

Care Minister- Colleen Kot (716) 445-5922



Easter Morning Breakfast

Trinity's Youth Group will be hosting a breakfast on **Easter, April 20, 2025** **from 7:30am-10:30am** in the school gym. A freewill offering will be taken to support those attending the National Youth Gathering in July. The tentative menu will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!!!

Church Doorbell

The church now has a doorbell that people can use weekdays during church office hours. It is located to the right of the main entrance doors.

LADD News

THANK YOU for your donations and purchases at our store. Funds recently have provided culinary classes for clients of Friends of WNY (classes held Tuesday evenings at our school), travel expenses for a little girl with rare MD in and out-of-state hospitals, and come summer, partial funds for campers with disabilities at Pioneer on the Lake. **Volunteers are needed on Mondays & Saturdays.** See Linda Rowsell if interested.

Trinity School News

Help Needed at the School

There is a Family Blessings Breakfast on Wednesday, April 9th, in the morning at the school. We invite parents to come have breakfast with their child and come to the classrooms to see projects they have been working on. We need some help serving food for the breakfast and cleaning up afterward. Typically we have parents help with this kind of thing...however, since this is for parents, that is not an option. We are looking for church helpers for this event. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex, or you can speak to Katie Willert or Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org). Thanks so much!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

We are so excited to announce that \$10,000 was raised at the Spaghetti Dinner/Raffle! All of those funds will go towards scholarships to Trinity School. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone that donated items and time to help make this event a success. We also appreciate everyone that attended and ate spaghetti! We gave out over \$18,000 in financial aid this past school year, and \$10,000 is from this event. We thank God that this money will help make a quality Christian education affordable to all families.



Neighborhood Walk

Students from Trinity Christian School recently shared the love of Christ with their community by delivering thoughtful gifts to their neighbors. After all the students joined together in prayer for the surrounding homes, the 5th-8th grade students walked through the neighborhood distributing devotion books and hot chocolate packets. Trinity is grateful for the opportunity to bless others and for the wonderful neighbors who make our community so special!



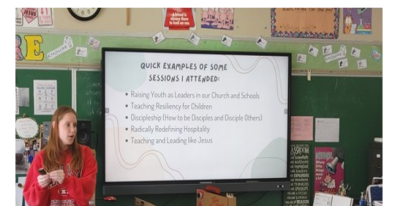
Volleyball

Volleyball is underway at Trinity Christian School. For the first time, we have two volleyball teams. Joy Stoddard and Kimberly Thomack are coaching. Our 6th-8th graders are working hard and having a great time. Go Hawks!



Staff Professional Development Day

Trinity's teachers recently gathered for a productive and uplifting professional development day. Pastor began the day with a meaningful devotion, setting a positive tone. Grace Oberdieck shared insights from the Best Practices conference in Phoenix, offering valuable ideas for ministry and education. Sarah Gabel reviewed the West Seneca District's testing process, which supports our students with additional needs. Katie Willert reviewed with staff the many math manipulatives available in the building, providing helpful strategies for each grade level. Teachers also reviewed standardized test scores and discussed action steps to support student growth. Of course, no staff day would be complete without some bonding time, giving our dedicated teachers a chance to relax and connect with one another. Trinity is truly blessed with a dedicated staff that wants every student to know Jesus and grow in their gifts.





Trinity School's Academic Rolls for 2nd Trimester

Our students did a great job in the 2nd trimester! Congratulations! Keep up the good work!

Grade 3 High Honor Roll: Ivy Bonning, Nora Eising

Grade 3 Honor Roll: Steven Antonucci, Eve Hojnacki, Joshua Barnas, Matthew Canazzi, Austin Smith, Eli Gould, Julian Riordan

Grade 4 High Honor Roll: Peyton Hansen, Maddox Cohoon, Travis Barnas, Vada Mills, Gavin Gabel, Nathan Farrell, Caleb Adams, Charlotte Giambra

Grade 4 Honor Roll: Emma Bertram

Grade 5 High Honor Roll: Natalie Schieber, Lucy Hojnacki, Riley Greig, Raelyn Mathewson

Grade 5 Honor Roll: Anastasia Dougherty, Elijah Holmes, Angelo Muscarella

Grade 5 Merit Roll: Brianna Burgos, Mackenzie Holley, Reece Hite, Kaidyn Ferraraccio

Grade 6 High Honor Roll: Jesse Hojnacki, Sawyer Daley, John Mills, Lydia Schieber, Cody Adams, Hannah Haas, John Cohoon

Grade 6 Honor Roll: Everett Webster, Moriah Chikonde, Aliza Haas

Grade 7 High Honor Roll: Elijah Stoddard, Ethan Webster, Jayce Mathewson

Grade 7 Honor Roll: Ethan Widman

Grade 8 High Honor Roll: Ellie Adams, Hayden Sirgey, Katelyn Barnas

Grade 8 Honor Roll: Levi Haas

Grade 8 Merit Roll: Elizabeth McFarland

Easter Breakfast Support Needed

Greetings to the friends and members of Trinity. Maybe you are unable to attend the Easter Sunday Breakfast put on by Trinity's Youth Program as a fundraiser for their trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. I have the perfect way for you to still support their efforts on this trip. There are many ingredients that go into making the fantastic and fresh breakfast served by our youth. I encourage you to purchase a few of the listed ingredients as your budget permits or make a donation towards the ingredients to the church office. Or, please make the ultimate contribution of prayers for a successful fundraiser from the bounty our Heavenly Father has entrusted us with. The ingredients I am asking for are as follows:

- 12 lemons
- 2 bags of small mandarin oranges
- 3 lbs our seedless grapes
- 2 lbs red seedless grapes
- 10 bananas
- 2 – 3 lbs bag apples
- 5 pints blueberries
- 3 pints raspberries
- 3 pints blackberries
- 3 lbs strawberries
- 10 Bartlett pears
- 8 – 20 oz can pineapple tidbits in juice
- 20 oz maraschino cherries without stems
- 1/2-gallon orange juice

These donations should be brought to the church office by 2:30 pm Thursday, April 17th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The Youth Group is also in need of **10 dozen eggs**, which they will color / decorate on the April 16th Youth & Family Night. Egg donations should be brought to the church office or given to Nathan Thomack by 12noon on Tuesday, April 15th.

~ Nathan Thomack, Youth Director

YOUTH SCOOP

April Youth Nights Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

April 2: Live Action Mafia
 April 9: Trust Walk / Falls
 April 16: Family Night - Easter Egg Dyeing
 April 23: Minute to Win It
 April 30: Painting Buffalos

April H.S. High Point Night

Thurs., April 24: 6:00pm-8:00pm
 Bowling Night

April Youth Fundraiser

Easter Breakfast on April 20 from 7:30am-10:30am. Volunteers needed!

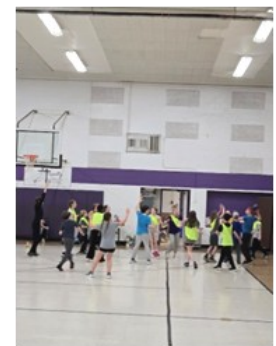
March Skate Night

We had a youth skate night on March 12 at the West Seneca Town Ice Rink. It was awesome to see all the families who showed up! Thank you to the chaperones who did not skate, but still came to be a part of the night.



March Lock-In

Trinity's Youth Ministry Program hosted a Lock-In on March 7th-8th starting at 7:00pm and going until 7:00am. There were nearly 40 youth in total who showed up to this event, most of which were able to stay up all night long. We participated in 12 different games and community building challenges. There was walking tacos for dinner at midnight and cinnamon rolls, scrambled eggs and sausage for breakfast at 6:00am. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, effort, and money to make this event such a successful one!



Jr. & Sr. High Retreat at Pioneer May 16-18, 2025

Join us for an amazing weekend youth retreat May 16-18! This weekend will be filled with meaningful worship, a service project, devotion time, awesome Christian fellowship with new and old friends, and a ton of fun games! It's a weekend your teen will wish will never end! It includes five meals - Friday night pizza party, three meals on Saturday, and a Sunday breakfast. Cost per weekend - \$125 per youth camper and the chaperone cost is pending (no more than \$65). We will need one male chaperone and one female chaperone.

Sign up and payment **deadline is May 1st**. Permission forms and more information will be sent out once you are signed up. Please contact Nathan Thomack at youthministry@trinitywny.org to sign up or if you have any questions.

Upcoming Area Events

West Seneca Community of Churches Lenten Journey “Renewed By Hope”

Join your neighbors on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm this Lenten season for prayer and guest preachers from the West Seneca Community of Churches. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Seneca Street Mission - CDC and the Crop Walk.

April 6 at Queen of Heaven ~ speaker Rev. Claudia Schedas from St. David's Episcopal

CompassCare Walk for Life May 3 @ 9am-12pm

Go to: “compasscarewalk.com” to sign up to walk or to donate.

Baskets & Bites At Ebenezer United Church of Christ (616 Main Street, West Seneca)

Sunday, June 1 @ 11:00am-2:00pm

Join us for an afternoon of “bites” (Cheesey Chick and Great Aussies Bite Food Trucks), a basket raffle (usually over 100!), and music by the Buffalo Silver Band.

Rummage Sale At Ebenezer United Church of Christ (616 Main Street, West Seneca)

**Fri. May 2 & Sat. May 3
8:00am - 3:00pm**

A suggested offering of \$1.00 will be collected as “admission” to the sale. Proceeds to be used to support Ebenezer's youth missions. A baked goods sale will be held on Friday and a hot dog roast on Saturday.

Women In Business Breakfast

The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Women In Business Breakfast on Wednesday, May 7 at 8:00am at Kloc's Grove (1245 Seneca Creek Road, West Seneca). Registration begins at 8am; breakfast at 9am. Tickets are \$25. There will also be a basket auction, raffle, and information tables hosted by women owned/managed businesses/organizations. Proceeds will benefit future programming.

CROP Walk

August 24 @ 12:15pm

Mark your calendar and save the date! This year's walk in West Seneca will take place on a path on Queen of Heaven Church's property.

West Seneca Food Pantry

The West Seneca Food Pantry is in need of jarred pasta/spaghetti sauce, pastas of varied shapes, and grains (rice, oatmeal, cereals). Please do not donate the huge size boxes - they cannot break the amounts into smaller packages. A regular/family size for one meal at a time is preferred. Please place your donations in the red wagon at the door as you enter the building. Monetary donations (checks made out to "West Seneca Food Pantry") can be placed in the offering plate or in the church office mail slot.

~ Sincere thanks from the WS Food Pantry

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 by May 4 if you are interested in purchasing a plaque (674-9188).



National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 20-26, 2025. A sincere “Thank You” to all the people who volunteer their time and talents at our church and school! You are truly appreciated!!!

Pastor David Belasic Update

In March, Pastor Belasic's family made the decision to move him to an assisted living facility in California to be closer to them. They have asked that we not share his new address yet to give him time to adjust to his new surroundings. But, if anyone would like to send him a card, you can mail it to him at his daughter Mary Hackett's address and she will take it to him. Her address is: 2155 Humboldt Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

**Does the joy of Easter seem far away?
Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!**

Carrying a Butterfly

By Ashley Clark / From: "All God's Creatures"

***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you."***

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

A neat thing about living along the Gulf Coast is that every September, I get to see swarms of Gulf fritillaries. We have their host plant, the passion vine, growing along our fence line. As the whimsical purple flower open toward the sun, the butterflies seem to come from north, south, east and west. Then they lay eggs, and a new generation of butterflies is born. I love watching the orange caterpillars, with their menacing black spikes, and the beautiful butterflies they become.

Last week, a cold front came through and brought with it some heavy winds. My son and I were playing outside during a break in the rain, and as we were running, I noticed an old butterfly with worn wings climbing up a tall blade of grass amid the storm. I reached out with care, and it climbed onto my finger. Naturally, I thought about keeping it forever, but instead, I used my other hand to block the wind from its wings while I searched for a better spot in the yard for the butterfly. I settled on a thick bush full of flowers, where it could get nectar and burrow between the leaves as needed between gusts of wind.

The butterfly immediately unrolled its wings and began to drink from the flower, as I stood in awe that for the second time in two weeks, a butterfly had crawled into my hand. I thought about how a similar principle holds true with the people around me. **Sometimes, when the winds of life pick up, others who are struggling may be more apt to accept encouragement or help. I hope and pray that I'm able to see them and take the opportunity to block the wind for a little while. May I always remember the difference I can make in other' lives.**

***Walk of Faith: Did someone who is hurting come to mind as you read these paragraphs?
How can you encourage that person amid struggle, depression, or loss?***

**If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry
by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Don Meissner: 479-4862,
Kevin Kot: 445-5923, Colleen Kot: 445-5922.**



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE....

Easter Egg Hunt

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Rd. West Seneca NY 14224

When: Sunday April 13th 2025

Time: Starts promptly at 12 pm
(lasts until all eggs are found)

Ages: Walking – 10 years old

Dress for the weather as
this is an outdoor event

Bring your own bag or
basket to collect eggs



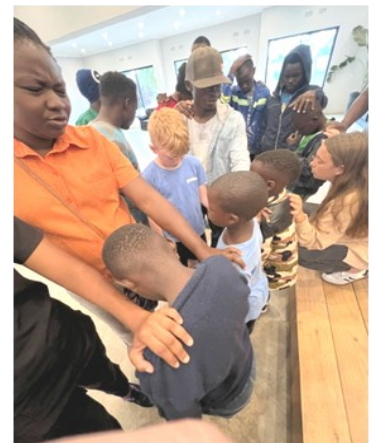
poëtice
update



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

Hello, everyone!

February was a busy month with school, but I feel like I have finally settled into a routine. One of my favorite things this month was watching my kids fall in love with Jesus. Every Wednesday Poetice runs a prayer set, which is a time of prayer and worship, and we always bring the students. It is always so interesting to watch my kids in this environment, as many of them are just beginning to learn what worship is and how they can connect with Jesus through worship and prayer. So, it isn't unusual to see many of the students standing there, seemingly uninterested or not connecting with the prayer set. However, I have begun to see my kids connect with God a little bit at a time as we have prayer and worship every Wednesday. I have seen one boy kneel in worship, another pray over the microphone, and others raise their hands to God. This is truly the greatest privilege and the biggest reason why I am here - to help these kids grow to know God and how much He loves them.



On February 19th we had our first Youth House meeting of the year, which was an absolute blast! I am part of a small group that helps to run Youth House as well as one of the many group leaders. We celebrated our first day back by fellowshiping and playing some games. Some of these games I know and have played before, such as dodge ball, and others were new to me, such as a game where you have to ride on a partner's back while throwing a ball around and trying not to drop it. It was such a blast and it was SO good to be back with these youth from the community. I am excited to see what God has in store for Youth House this year.



(Continued on page 10)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 9)

Life Update

We are moving into our house *next weekend!* This is so exciting as well as stressful. I have attached a picture of our house for you all to see - it is a beautiful house surrounded by several fruit trees (guava, mango, pomegranate, and lime). So cool! Living on base has been good, but I am excited to have a place to really call "home" here in Zambia.

Like I said, it is also stressful; I never thought my first time "adulting" would be in Africa, but here we are. I am learning all about solar panels (which we have purchased and installed on our house - yay!!! Thank you all for donating so that we are able to have this reliable source of electricity), how to buy quality appliances in Choma, and the fact that houses don't come with things like curtains, pots and pans, or rugs already in them - you actually have to buy all of these things yourself! All jokes aside, this is a very exciting step into really building my life here in Choma.



Prayer Requests

I have been quite stressed this past month as I have been very busy with school and somewhat overwhelmed, still, with figuring out how to teach 6-9 year olds and have the patience for this. At the beginning of my time here this year, I had intended to spend time with God every day after school. However, as often happens, I often was "too busy" to do this. I had a very convicting realization the other day in regards to all of this - I came to Zambia because I wanted to follow what God was calling me to do and I wanted to share His love with the people here. The main reason I came here was for God - and yet, I was pushing my time with Him aside so that I was able to get all of these things done that I was "doing for Him." Wow. I realized how wrong this was, and how this might be a large reason why I was struggling so much this month - I was busy doing all of these things *for God*, but not being *with Him*. So, this month I decided that that will change. While I really hate waking up early, I am going to wake up a little bit earlier so that I can prioritize spending time with the Lord before anything else in my day. Please pray that I would be vigilant in keeping this commitment to spending more time with God and that it would bring me more peace and patience in the classroom.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! None of this would be possible without each of you. Feel free to email me if you have any questions, comments, or just want to chat.

Blessings,

Hope Willert

hope@poetice.org

Happy Birthday

4/1 Sarah Makosy	4/14 Tracy Meissner	4/24 Jennifer Canazzi
4/5 Mary Havens	4/17 Robbin Blajszczak	4/25 Lori Strong Bryana Haas Kennedii McKernan
4/7 Carol McMenamin Kris Zawadzki	4/18 Marcia Nickerson Tim Monahan	4/26 Jean Newton
4/9 Robert Cislo Stacy Conti	4/19 Heidi Cosandier Melissa Bozek Bethany Lafferty Austin Smith	4/27 Kathy Stephen
4/10 Betty-Jo Smith	4/20 Marcia Fenn	4/28 Justin Cornell Corbin Stefanik
4/11 Brody Zawadzki	4/21 Scot Zawadzki	4/29 Anne Gurney Sandra Lelito Kelcy Strong
4/12 Linda Hope		
4/13 Don Rieman Colleen Kot		

Happy Anniversary

4/3 Sheri & Christopher Courteau	4/20 Gerald & Linda Meissner James & Ryan Rowsell
4/5 Duane & Sarah Gabel	4/23 Robert & Anna Eising
4/12 Charles & Nancy Stevens	4/24 Trevor & Courtney Jelowski
4/15 Steve & Robin Makosy	
4/17 Lindsay & Jordan Iannuzzelli	

Trinity Cemetery News . . .

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.

Burial plots are still available in our 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 in order to purchase plots.

Do you have someone that you would like to add onto Trinity's prayer chain? If so, please contact Judy Schmidt at judyschmidt349@roadrunner.com / (716) 926-9054 with your request.

**Pioneer on the Lake
Summer Camps 2025**

Gather the family – the immediate family, the extended family, and any extras – and head to Pioneer! Here you will enjoy a relaxing vacation with no responsibilities like cooking and cleaning! Just think, you can all be together, and no one is burdened with household chores!

- June 13-19: Servant Event Camp
- June 29 - July 5: Family Camp (hosted by Pastor Nyck Greig & Mark Willert)
- July 20-25: Family Camp
- July 21-25: Stronger Together Agape Camp
- July 27- Aug 3: Music Week

Registrations are now being received. Phone or register on-line now on Pioneer's website to ensure you get the accommodation of your choice.

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