TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS AUGUST 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



Summer Worship Times
Saturday Evenings 5:00pm
Sunday Mornings 9:30am



Dear Trinity Family,

As August arrives and a new school year draws near, we find ourselves reflecting on the blessings and opportunities that God continues to provide within our church and school community. This is a time of transition—from the warm, bustling days of summer to the hopeful anticipation of fall programs, new friendships, and spiritual growth.

We are especially grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of our congregation. Your gifts, prayers, and service make it possible for us to nurture the next generation, support our ministries, and extend Christ's love into our neighborhood. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and for adjusting to our new website and new giving platform—your participation ensures that our mission flourishes

In August, our fall planning ramps up as we prepare for fall Bible study groups, Sunday school, confirmation and more. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith or connect with others, there's a place for you at Trinity. Be sure to check our website and Sunday bulletin for details about youth nights, service projects, and special events as they begin resuming this fall.

Finally, as we move forward together, may we continue to lift one another up in prayer, remembering that in Christ, every new season is a gift. If you have questions, ideas, or would like to get involved in a new way, please reach out to the church office—we are here for you.

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we enter into this vibrant season of faith, learning, and community.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School program will begin mid-September (date TBD) at 9:15am. Refer to upcoming weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheets for registration info.

<u>Volunteers Needed</u>: Please contact Nathan Thomack at <u>youthministry@trinitywny.org</u> or (715) 938-6225 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!

Rev. David Belasic Memorial Service Saturday, August 23 at 11:00am At Pioneer on the Lake (9324 Lake Shore Rd, Angola)

All are invited to attend this Celebration of Life, which will be officiated by Rev. Michael Blackwell. Gifts in memory of Pastor Belasic may be made to Pioneer on the Lake or Trinity Lutheran Church.



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.

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.



Men in Ministry 10th Annual "Kathy Herman Memorial" Golf Outing at Turkey Run

Sunday, August 17, 2025 12:00PM - 4:00PM

Payment Requirement: All fees will be collected prior to the outing. Payment is due no later than August 3 and may be given to Nevin Hope, Mike McKernan, 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 whom you are paying for.

Refund Policy: If the outing is cancelled due to weather, golfers will be issued a Gift Certificate from Turkey Run Golf Course for \$45 (\$20 for non-golfers) which may be redeemed in 2025 or 2026 and applied toward green fees/cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant. Golfer cancellation due to illness or unforeseen circumstance will result in a refund of only \$25 (redeemed the same as above). No refund for non-golfers due to pre-paid food preparation.



VBS 2025 - True North August 4-8 9am-12pm



All kids entering PreK-3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade this Fall will be welcome to join us. There are still a few open spots available ... scan the QR code to **register TODAY!**

Donations: Monetary donations to help off-set the cost of VBS are always welcome. Donations can be placed in the offering plate (labeled "VBS Donation") or in the church office mailbox. Thank you for supporting this awesome event!

Worship Readers

Are you willing to occasionally read the Scripture readings during worship services? We have a wonderful group of individuals who currently volunteer to read each week, but there's always room for more. If you would like to be a part of this rotation, please contact the church office (716) 674-9188. Readers are needed for both the Sunday and Saturday services. Volunteers will be asked to read 2-3 passages from the Bible, which will be given to them in advance.

Trinity School News



Make a Joyful Noise

"Make a Joyful Noise" is our theme for this new school year, and what a beautiful invitation it is to start the year with hearts full of praise! Psalm 98:4 declares, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" This verse reminds us that no matter our circumstances, we are called to worship—not just with music, but with lives that echo joy, gratitude, and the goodness of God. Joyful noise isn't about being perfect singers or always being happy; it's about responding to God's love with genuine praise.

As we step into the rhythms of the school year —back to school, ministry launches, and changing schedules—let's choose joy. Let's teach our children, encourage one another, and approach each day with a spirit of praise. Whether we're singing in worship, greeting someone with a smile, or serving quietly behind the scenes, we have countless ways to "make a joyful noise" that honors the Lord and builds up His Church.

At the school we are specifically looking at how we can *serve* others with joy this fall. Our first trimester chapel offerings will go to the Texas District of the LCMS to help with the devastation caused by flooding. We are also encouraging each teacher to look for specific ways her class can serve - whether that be locally or globally - throughout the year.

Enrollment Update

We are thrilled to share that Trinity Christian School's enrollment is growing! As of now, we have 115 students registered in PreK through 8th grade, which represents a 15% increase from last year. Our K-8 enrollment alone has grown by 8%, and we are so grateful to see more families joining the Trinity family. What a blessing it is to welcome new students into our Christ-centered community, where we learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ! Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we celebrate this exciting season of growth.

Summer Projects

It's been a busy and productive summer at Trinity Christian School as we prepare for a great new year! Our staff and volunteers have been hard at work with many improvement projects around the building. All of the classroom doors have been refinished and upgraded with new glass window inserts, floors have been waxed to a shine, paint has been touched up, and the library has been reorganized to better serve our students. Windows have been washed, and countless smaller tasks have been completed to freshen and prepare every space. We are so thankful for the hands that helped and excited to welcome students back into a clean, safe, and beautiful learning environment! Thank you so much to all of our volunteers!



Corporate Sponsor Program

Support our mission and make a lasting impact! We invite local business owners to partner with us as corporate sponsors for our upcoming events. Your sponsorship helps provide financial aid scholarships to families in need. More information is available on the table in the church lobby. Thank you for considering this opportunity to invest in our students and community.

West Seneca Community of Churches Chicken BBQ & CROP Walk August 24 @ 12:30pm - 3:30pm

WHERE: Queen of Heaven property/shelter @ Mill and Seneca St.

WHY: To raise funds with our West Seneca neighbors to fight hunger locally and nationally

HOW: • Buy a ticket for Weidner chicken dinner for \$15 - about \$5 of that goes to the CROP WALK

 Make up a team and get sponsors to do a walk on the Queen of Heaven property or on a path of your own choosing. Take a casual walk with others at the dinner and make a donation of any amount. Just make a donation of any size.

To buy dinner tickets, see Nancy Hope at church on Sundays or call at 716-674-8544 or text her at 716-426-



Trinity's 175th Anniversary News

ATTENTION!! We need your help! The 175th Anniversary Committee is planning a Music History Celebration during the November 2 worship service (tentatively). Please tell us your favorite hymn(s). Music voting ballots can be found on the table in the narthex. You can vote more than once for the same or different hymns during the month of July. Feel free to look through one of the hymnals to find oldies we haven't sung in a while. Also, we would like to assemble a choir to perform during the celebration. If you are willing to sing in the choir, please add that to your ballot. Who said Lutherans don't have fun?!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION TRIP VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, August 3, to Friday, August 8, 2025, the following individuals will be headed to Eastern Kentucky to serve the Appalachian community:

Kevin Kot John Clark Nate Barnas Colleen Kot Linda Meissner Katie Barnas Dave Sirgey Alicia Adams Mary Harris Brian Makey Ellie Adams Levi Haas

All prayers and any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. Place any donations in an envelope and mark it "L.I.F.E.- Missions - KY".

Cost: - \$325 Includes room, board, and travel expenses

Any Questions? Contact: Kevin Kot (716) 445-5923 / kkot57@gmail.com Colleen Kot (716) 445-5922 / knckot@verizon.net

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 2025-2026 Church / School Budget and election of an open executive board position. Refer to upcoming weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheets for more information.

LWML Mite Walk

I want to thank you all for your generosity in donating to the 2025 Mite Walk at the LWML Convention. If you go to Home - Lutheran Women's Missionary League and click on Convention Central, you'll be able to scroll down to the Heartland Herald newspaper's Sunday edition to see photos of the walk and some statistics from the convention. There were over 1627 women, men and children participating, and even a dog! \$73,610.04 is the preliminary total on the donations. We wore yellow t-shirts, and there was a stream of yellow as far as you could see over the pedestrian bridge between Nebraska and Iowa. Yes, I made it all the way to Iowa and back to Nebraska in the 96-degree weather! We were grateful for the strong breeze! We heard inspiring bible studies, witnesses of how the LWML has benefitted previous mission organizations, and heard inspiring speakers, not to mention the loving fellowship of sisters from around the country. There were so many us LWMLers walking the sidewalks, we greeted each other with a smile and a "where are you from?"



~ Linda Meissner



What I learned about LCEF:

While I was at the LWML Convention I learned that LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) has Young Investors Steward Accounts for children age 7 and older. They may receive extra dollars toward their account by earning good grades and/or completing 10+ community service hours each year. At age 16, they can explore the freedom of a debit card and online account access (with custodian approval). Plus, high school seniors with a Y.I. Steward Account can apply for LCEF's annual college scholarship each February. Check it out at: www.lcef.org/YI. Adult LCEF investors can direct earned interest to a church or other organization. A Roth IRA can be rolled into a Stewardship Account if you wanted to boost education funds for a special child.

IMPORTANT: Trinity Has Changed Its On-line Giving Provider!

Exciting news: we've moved Trinity's on-line giving from Vanco to Subsplash! On-line giving will be easier than ever and allow the church to save money. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in ministry!

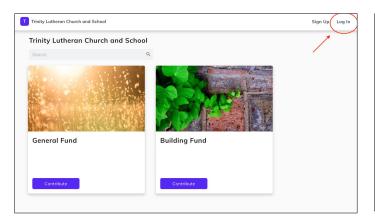
If you have a recurring gift established with Vanco, or currently give online, please sign up for Subsplash Giving and then cancel your account with Vanco. Please complete the 2 simple steps below **by September 1, 2025**:

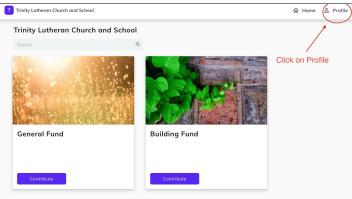
Step 1: Set up your recurring gift on our new online giving provider here: https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/give Create a Donor Profile by selecting Log in or Sign up in the upper right corner. Here are helpful links:

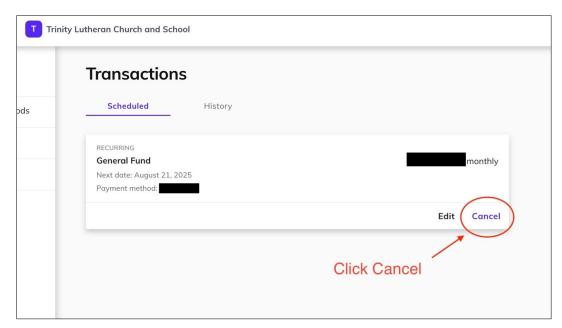
How to Create a Recurring Gift How to Link a Bank Account

How to Link a Credit or Debit Card

Step 2: Turn off your recurring giving in Vanco: https://secure.myvanco.com/YPC5/home







Having problems or need help? Contact our church office and we can help guide you through the process.

We are so thankful for you and your continued participation and support of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Please let us know if you have any questions!



August Youth Family Night Potluck Wednesday, August 20 @ 5:30pm-8:30pm

There will be a Youth Family Night Potluck at Trinity on Wednesday, August 20 from 5:30pm-8:30pm. ALL 5th-12th grade youth and families are strongly encouraged to attending this event. Please bring a dish to share ... a sign-up will be sent out to families soon (we don't want 25 desserts! LOL). There will be an important informational meeting for the adults and lots of fun for the kids!

July Events Recap: On July 9, we all had a great time at the Willert's house eating s'mores and singing songs. The Kot's hosted a pool party on July 16, where fun was had by all. Nathan was exhausted afterward from throwing all the kids in the pool! Thank you Mark & Katie and Kevin & Colleen for opening your homes and spending time with Trinity's youth!

National Youth Gathering

Five students and two chaperones just got back from five days of worship, high excitement, amazing food, and creating lasting memories in New Orleans with 20,000 other high school students from across the country and different parts of the world. It is an amazing sight to see a city overrun by groups with matching tee-shirts. The theme for the week was "Endure" from Hebrews 12:1-3. Join us on August 16th & 17th as we help lead worship and go over what the gathering means to us.





"To provide men opportunities to grow spiritually, to connect relationally, and to use their God-given gifts and abilities in service to Him and to others."

Trinity Men in Ministry

10th Annual Golf Outing







Sunday, August 17th, 2025 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Turkey Run Golf Course 11888 Bixby Hill Road Arcade, NY 14009

<u>PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS</u>: All fees will be collected **prior** to the outing. **Payment is due no later than <u>August 3</u>** and may be given to Nevin Hope, Mike McKernan, 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 whom you are paying for.

<u>Please plan to be at the course sometime between 11:45 AM and 12:00 PM ...</u> <u>earlier if possible, but no later!</u> That will give us enough time to register everyone, get carts, explain the rules, and get golfers out to their respective starting hole by 12:15 - 12:30 PM. For those not golfing, dinner will be served at approximately 2:15 – 2:30 PM. Parking is somewhat limited, so <u>please car-pool if possible!</u>

No alcoholic beverages, other than those provided by Turkey Run, are allowed on the course. Beer and/or soft drinks will be available on the course during the outing beginning at a cost of \$3.00 each.

Certificates will be awarded for the following achievements:

Closest to the Pin - #2 (Women)

Closest to the Pin - #2 (Men)

Closest to the Pin - #5 (Women)

Closest to the Pin - #5 (Men)

Longest Drive in the Fairway - #4 (Women) (Senior 65+ and Non-Senior)

Longest Drive in the Fairway - #4 (Men) (Senior 65+ and Non-Senior)

Lowest Team Score

Highest team Score

REFUND POLICY: If the outing is cancelled due to weather, golfers will be issued a Gift Certificate from Turkey Run Golf Course for \$45 (\$20 for non-golfers) which may be redeemed in 2025 or 2026 and applied toward green fees/cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant. Golfer cancellation due to illness or unforeseen circumstance will result in a refund of only \$25 (redeemed the same as above). No refund for non-golfers due to pre-paid food preparation.

Thanks for your participation.

Dave, Larry, Mike and Nev



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia May 2025 Update



Hello friends and family!

I hope you are all doing well - and happy summer! I know for most of you, especially my friends in the northern part of the states, it is such a relief to be able to walk outside in shorts and a t-shirt and not be freezing cold. Here in Zambia, we are feeling the opposite - cold!! June is the coldest month of the year in Zambia, with temperatures at night reaching the mid-40s and temperatures during the day typically hovering in the mid-60s. I know this might not seem cold to many of you, but for those of us in Zambia who are used to 80s and 90s, this is a struggle! There were even a few days when we were so cold in school that we brought in a bunch of blankets for us bundle up in to keep warm while the kids were working (as you can see in the third picture below).

As I have mentioned before, at our school we work to help students learn skills that they will need in their everyday life, not just academic skills. As you can see in the first picture below, our kids are practicing setting the table. This particular day was exciting because this student tends to struggle with being regulated and concentrating on one task until it is completed, and this day he calmly went and set the whole table all by himself without any prompting. It is so exciting when we get to see students making progress like this!

Then in the second picture below, you can see myself with two other women, Jessa (the taller one) and Josephine (the shorter one). These are the two ladies that I work with in the Lower Primary classroom every day, and I love them so much! Jessa is the lead teacher (as well as one of my house-mates) and Josephine is another teacher's assistant, like me. I just wanted to share a picture of these amazing ladies with you all!







This past month I also had the exciting opportunity to participate in a ministry opportunity that I hadn't had the chance to participate in before, which was working on one of our justice projects. Our justice projects are projects that Poetice works on in the community such as drilling new bore holes (a type of well) and putting up solar lights. I was able to go out into the community and help dig some trenches for water pipes as well as a large whole that will be the base for a water tower. This was SO MUCH FUN because I have such a deep love for being in the community. The people are just the kindest and I also like hanging out and playing with the many kids there - some of my school kids even came by to see me! Doing work like this in the community is so powerful because it is a way for us to put our faith into action - to show the people the love of Christ that we have been telling them about. As we can see in the Gospels, Christ not only cared about the spiritual state of His people, but also for the physical state that they were in, so, in doing work like this in the community, we are ministering in a way that Jesus also ministered.







(Continued on page 9)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 8)

Life Update

Here are a few random life updates for you all:)

- 1. At Poetice we have our large church service every Thursday evening, so on Sunday mornings we have House Church, which is similar to what we would think of in America as small group. This past month we had a nshima night with my house church (this is a typical dish eaten in Zambia) and here is a picture of us! I know I have hardly talked about my house church in my updates, so I thought I would share a picture of us. I love these people!
- 2. Here is a pic of Jess (in the middle), Jessa (on the right), and myself this past month. These are the two girls that I live with and I am so thankful for them!
- 3. I have really been missing American food, so I baked myself an apple pie (with our family's traditional crust recipe) and YUMMMM it tasted like home. :)
- 4. I'm getting a car!!! I received a significant donation which allowed me to be able to afford a car. This is a huge blessing, as it will not only be a benefit to myself but also will allow me to help others. I will be able to help transport people around Choma who do not have vehicles as well as pick up and drop off people from the airport in Livingstone, which is a frequent need at Poetice as we have lots of people coming from the states on missions trips. I am so excited about this and so extremely blessed that God has provided in this way!









Prayer Requests

In September, Poetice is running a program called Missions 8 where we are sending all of our staff out to the eight countries that border Zambia (plus South Africa - so it is technically Missions 9). This is so exciting!!! The staff has been split into teams, each of which will travel to one or two countries and do ministry there. I am on a team with the other teachers in the school and we will be traveling to Botswana and South Africa, which you can see in the map here. We are still ironing out what we will be doing in Botswana, but we know that we will be visiting a few schools in South Africa. This is an amazing opportunity to share God's love and create connections not only in Zambia, but around Africa! I am always so excited when I get to interact with the body of Christ in other nations.



With that being said, I am looking to fundraise about \$2,500 to support the costs of my travel, lodging, and food during this time. I am asking for prayer as I am working on raising this money, as well as support from all of you. Please prayerfully consider donating, even just a little bit, to help make this ministry opportunity possible. You can donate by clicking the big blue button below that says "Click here to support Hope." If you feel like you are not in a position where you can give, that is okay! Please just pray that the Lord would provide and that He would work in amazing ways during Missions 8.

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

Blessings,

Hope Willert

hope@poetice.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A PRAYER WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT

From Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope: Prayers for the Times of Our Life by John Gugel

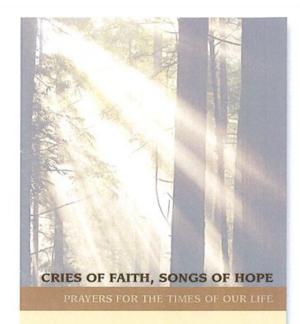
READING

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His steadfast love endures forever! . . .
The Lord is my strength and my might;
He has become my salvation . . .
I shall not die, but I shall live,
And recount the deeds of the Lord . . .
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
That I may enter through them
And give thanks to the Lord.

Psalm 118:1, 14, 17, and 19 (NRSV)

PRAYER

What does the future hold, Lord? What will become of me? Why do I find more questions than answers? Where are you, Lord? Do you care? Send me your Spirit. Give me confidence in your great promises and unwavering hope in your lavish mercy. Let me feel your tender compassion. Be with me, Lord. Lead me into the future where you are. Grant me a living faith and, by the strength of your arm, lighten my load. Cheer my heart, sustain me by your mighty power, and lead me in the paths of your own choosing.



John Gugel

In Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope author and pastor John Gugel offers a collection of prayers that address many different kinds of needs reflecting the Biblical psalms of lament and giving voice to longings and uncertainties deep within the heart. Each prayer is accompanied by a story, reflection, Scripture passage or hymn stanza that speaks to the same needs. These short devotions provide comfort and encouragement to caregivers and care receivers alike during tough times in life.

For more about Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope and other resources for effective caring and relating, visit stephenministries.org/carebooks.



To receive more ideas and resources like this one, subscribe to CareMail at stephenministries.org/subscribe.

			<u> Нарру</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>iday</u>			
8/1	Bitsy Colson	8/10	Carol Cislo	8/18		n Tedesco	8/25	Lauren Jaskier
	Paul Zawadzki Amelia Babcock	8/11 I S I 8/12 I	Renee Stefanik David Winkelses Sue Schueler Harry Babcock Paula Winkelses Bradley McKernan		Lynnae Kwilas Jeffrey Kopra		8/26	Reed Courteau
8/2	Adam Zawadzki				Blakelyn Hall		8/28 8/29 8/30 8/31	Levi Kotowski Mary Ann Moeller Mark Ganschow Taylor Blamowski
8/3	Andrew Kosicki			8/19 8/20	Michael Zarbo Ben Makosy Sara Lipinoga			
0/5	Giovanni Ferrara							
8/6	Nancy Ehlers							
8/7	Beverly Kinton	8/13	Bob Kubiszyn	8/22	_	Boersch		Madeline Krause
	Barbara Monahan Liam McKernan	8/17	Joan Kopra	8/23	Elle	n Makey		
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	8/1 Dan & Line	Dan & Linda Rowsell			8/18 Dan & Stacy Conti			
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	8/5 Jeffrey & S	ertis	8/22		Julie & David Blamowski			
	8/6 Peter & Janet Bullock		ck			•	olas & Stephanie Greig	
	 8/8 David & Heidi Kosicki 8/9 Matthew & Lisa Lafferty 8/15 Carolyn & Kevin Flattery 8/16 Kevin & Colleen Kot 				3/23	Rev. Dennis & Lynn Krueger Lars & Lisa Osberg		
					3/24			
					3/26			
				8	3/28			





A herd of very rare buffaloes has appeared at Trinity! These

buffaloes are stampeding together as part of a special fundraiser to help celebrate special occasions for your friends and family! For a donation of \$35 to Trinity's Youth Program, our buffalo herd will head on over to graze on the front yard of a friend or relative for the day where we hope that they will bring lots of smiles and laughter. The herd can remain longer for \$10 per additional day. Scan the QR code or contact Nathan Thomack (715) 938-6225 to reserve your special day!



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 7th.

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 Nathan Thomack (715) 938-6225 / youthministry@trinitywny.org Youth Director Church Office Administrator Teresa Lynch 674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@yerizon.net School Office Administrator Judeen Babcock 674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org