

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JANUARY 2026

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





Ski Outing

Who wants to go skiing?!!! On **Sunday, January 18**, Trinity's Youth Ministry is sponsoring an outing at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville NY from 3:30pm - 10:00pm. It will cost \$55 per person for the ski lift and rental equipment. If you bring your own equipment, you can save \$10. Food / drinks are not included. This event is open to everyone who would like to ski. Please sign up via the QR code by January 14th!



On that day, we will meet at Trinity and leave no later than 2:00pm and carpool to Holiday Valley. If you are chaperoning (not participating but driving and hanging out in the lodge all day), this event will be free for you.

New LADD Update

LADD is closing and will no longer be accepting donations. If you left items in the LADD bin at church, please remove them and take them to another donation location. Thank you for all your past support.

Cemetery Plot Increase

Effective January 1, 2026, the cost to purchase a plot in Trinity's Cemetery will be increasing.

- Members - \$1,000 per plot with a \$100 discount per plot when purchasing 2 or more at the same time.
- Non-members - \$2,000 per plot (no discount given). Non-members must be a former Trinity member or relative of a Trinity member to purchase plots in Trinity Cemetery.



Cookie Walk Success



There was a great turnout last weekend for our cookie walk on December 6 & 7. \$730 was raised for the Youth Group children! Thank you to everyone who made cookies, bought cookies, and those who helped with the set up and take down for the event. Your support was greatly appreciated!

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 11th.**



2026 ALTAR FLOWERS & CANDLES / OIL

The 2026 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!

2025 Financial Statements

The 2025 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!

School News

BubbleFest Open House

Join us for our Bubble Fest Open House on Sunday, February 1st from 12-3. This is a fun and engaging event for current and prospective families with students in PreK 3 through 8th grade! Families will enjoy a variety of hands-on bubble stations, have the opportunity to meet our teachers, and tour the school. This joyful event highlights our mission to learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ, as we celebrate learning together in a Christ-centered community. Lunch will be available for purchase, and all families are welcome! We are in need of:

- Newspaper for the floors for this event. Please bring to church or school if you have any to donate.
- Church volunteers to run this event. There is a sign up sheet in the back of church. Thanks!!

Christmas Pageant and Program

Our annual Christmas Pageant and Program was a joyful celebration of the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During the school day, our 1st and 2nd grade students beautifully acted out the Christmas story straight from the Bible, reminding us of God's perfect plan fulfilled in Bethlehem. Preschool and Kindergarten students delighted the audience by singing for their classmates and families, spreading smiles and Christmas cheer. In the evening program, students in grades 3–8, along with the Alleluia Choir, lifted their voices and shared their musical talents through song and instruments, filling the room with praise and worship. Each performance pointed us back to the reason we celebrate, echoing the words of Luke 2:11, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."



Basketball Update

The Junior Varsity basketball season is off to a fantastic start, with both the boys' and girls' teams showing tremendous effort and determination on the court. Our athletes have been working hard, improving their skills, and demonstrating great teamwork as they progress through the season. It's been exciting to watch their growth, and we look forward to seeing them continue to shine. Meanwhile, our Kindergarten through 2nd grade Cheer Club has been spreading school spirit in a big way! These young cheerleaders are doing an amazing job leading the crowd, and their enthusiasm and energy are truly contagious. We are proud of all our students for their commitment, sportsmanship, and the positive spirit they bring to our school. Our next home games are January 9th at 4:00 and January 16th at 4:00 and 5:00. Come and cheer on the Hawks!



(Continued on page 4)

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Youth Nights are held on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the school gym. All 5th-12th grade students are welcome! We will not meet on 1/7/26. **Our next meeting will be 1/14/26.**

Youth Director: Nathan Thomack
youthministry@trinitywny.org / (715) 938-6225

Instagram

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



Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser

The Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser is back! From January 18th to February 4th, you will be able to order a sub sandwich from the youth ministry program. Each sub will come with a bag of chips and will be sold for \$15. Pick up will be Sunday, February 8th at 11:30am in the church Narthex. There will be an option to pick up on Saturday, the 7th for those who attend Saturday night service. Scan the QR code to place your order, or fill out a form that can be found in the narthex and place it in Nathan Tomack's church mailbox.



School News

(Continued from page 3)

High State Test Scores

We are proud to announce that our 7th and 8th grade students have achieved outstanding results on the state tests. In Math, Trinity students scored 89% proficient, significantly higher than the state average of 54%. In English Language Arts (ELA), our students again excelled with 89% proficiency, well above the state average of 56%. These remarkable results reflect the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, and staff. Congratulations to all!

State of the School Address

Please join our two principals on **Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 PM** in the school for our **State of the School Address**. They will share important updates on school growth, academics, faith formation, community life, and service initiatives. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about the great things happening at Trinity and what's ahead. **All are welcome!**

Sweet Treats for Trinity Staff

As a fun way to show appreciation for our Trinity teachers, we recently gathered a list of each staff member's favorite sweet treat. We're sharing that list with the congregation so that, if you feel moved to do so, you may surprise a teacher with a small goodie anytime during the year. Your kindness and encouragement mean so much to our hardworking staff, and even a simple treat can brighten their day. Thank you for supporting and loving our Trinity teachers!

Some teacher favs are: Sweet Tart ropes, Justin's PB cups, Reeses cups, anything with caramel, Dove chocolate, Smarties, orange candy, chocolate, Kit Kats, cupcakes, M+Ms, ice cream, dark chocolate, Twix, Butterfinger, donuts

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

“She was
patient, loving,
and accepting.”

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

Happy Birthday

1/3	Susan Tedesco	1/12	Stephanie Greig	1/22	Amelia Kot
1/4	Daniel Rowsell Abigal Blamowski	1/13	Brynn Gabel Martha Royal	1/23	Stephanie McGinnis
1/6	Peter J. Szeider Macsen Courteau	1/14	Jack Iannuzzelli	1/24	Kyle Lelito
1/7	Bob Eising	1/18	Dennis Glinski Jr.	1/26	Patricia Hartman
1/8	Daniel Nickerson Allison Kubiszyn	1/19	David Anderson Lindsay Iannuzzelli Myah Meunier	1/27	Ella Meunier Genevieve Royal
1/10	Joanna Anderson	1/20	Ruth Zawadzki	1/29	Kaleb McGinnis
1/11	Linda Rowsell	1/22	Kim Caldarella	1/31	Paul Thompson Rev. Nyck Greig

Happy Anniversary

1/2 Bill & Bryana Haas

1/5 Bob & Allison Kubiszyn

On-Line Giving Update:

Effective 12/1/25, we will no longer be partnering with Vanco for on-line giving. Everyone wishing to give / tithe on-line will need to sign up for an account on our new Subsplash program. Set up your recurring gift here: <https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/give>.

Remember to cancel your old recurring gift through Vanco **by 11/30** by signing into your account at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YPC5/home>.



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.



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!!!

Thank You**Pancake Breakfast Thank You**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended and supported the pancake breakfast fundraiser for my mission work in Zambia. Because of your generosity, I was able to raise \$2,000 toward the \$35,000 needed to continue my ministry for the coming year. I am truly grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as I serve Christ and the community in Choma, Zambia. Your kindness means more than I can say.

~ Hope Willert

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2026) 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!

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School**Position**

Pastor
School Co-Principals
Youth Director
Church Office Administrator
School Office Administrator

Name

Rev. Nycholas Greig
Sarah Gabel & Katie Willert
Nathan Thomack
Teresa Lynch
Judeen Babcock

Contact Information

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