TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS JULY 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 5:00 pm
Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past few weeks with the conflict going on in the Middle East, I've been watching the news a little bit more than usual and one of the things I've been noticing is a piece of bad theology. I wanted to highlight and see if we can't hear what the Bible has to say about it. I'm only seeking to address the theology not the politics of it all. There are many political reasons for and against the conflict in the Middle East and whatever your opinion may be is your opinion. I'm only seeking to address the false theology surrounding this issue.

"God will bless those who bless Israel and God will curse those who curse Israel." One of the great errors in the evangelical Christian community is the unwavering commitment to the nation of Israel. It is not the support itself that is inherently problematic, but the supposed theological obligation to do so. Where does this idea come from?

It stems from God's blessing of Abraham in Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." It sounds like it would be a straightforward issue. But the problem here is that this promise is given to Abraham and his descendants, not the modern nation state of Israel. This may raise some concern, because who else would be Abraham's descendants? Yes, ethnic Jews are the physical descendants of Abraham, but there is more to consider here.

God does not place the ultimate importance on physical lineage. His covenant people are spiritual, not merely physical. This is why both Jews and Gentiles were and still are a part of the Covenant (see Romans 11 for more details). Likewise, Romans 9:6 tells us, "For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel." If that is the case, what makes someone a descendant of Abraham and an heir of the promise? We find out in Galatians 3:7, "Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."

In fact, this unified covenant people, regardless of ethnicity, were in God's mind when he gave the promise to Abraham. The Gospel was preached when God told Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed, something made available not just to Jews, but to all, and made possible only through faith in Christ. (Galatians 3:8) This is because Christ is the true son of Abraham (Galatians 3:16). Therefore, those who are in Christ can rightfully be called sons of Abraham. When the promise was given to Abraham, it was fulfilled in Christ and inherited by all who are united to him in faith.

So what about a nation state? Just because a specific nation bears the name "Israel" does not mean it is truly Israel. Remember, "not all who descend from Israel belong to Israel" (Romans 9:6). So to answer the question of blessing and cursing, here is the conclusion: No, the modern nation of Israel cannot lay claim to the promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, because the promise was fulfilled in Christ. If anyone can claim to be a "son" of Abraham, it is those who are in Christ, who is the true son of Abraham. The people of God have always been those who believe. The Christian church is not a new entity separate from ancient Israel, but rather Israel fulfilled in Christ. One people united by faith and separated by unbelief. The people of God are not defined by ethnicity, but by faith in Christ. This means it is dishonest to the promise of Abraham and its fulfillment to claim that the physical descendants are entitled to a promise that no longer applies to them. It is a theological disaster when we believe lives are worth risking in order to uphold bad exegesis (bad interpretation of scripture). Believe what you want about the wars in the Middle East but let us not make arguments from bad theology.

God's Blessings, Pastor Nyck Greig





Trinity's Sunday Worship & Picnic at Pioneer Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 11:00am

Join your Trinity family for worship on June 29 at 11:00am out at Pioneer on the Lake (9324 Lake Shore Rd, Angola). After worship enjoy our church pot-luck picnic ~ hot dogs will be provided but please bring a dish / dessert to share and your own beverages. This worship will be in place of our own worship service - so no worship at Trinity's sanctuary that Sunday.

The Rite of Confirmation

On Sunday, June 8 at the 10:30am worship service, we observed the Rite of Confirmation. Trinity had four students complete our Confirmation program; three of them shared their personal Professions of Faith at this service and pledged commitment to God's Holy Word and the Lutheran Doctrine. God bless and keep them!

Katelyn Barnas Levi Haas Aubrey Conti Amanda Kern

Altar Flowers

Flower donations are needed for July and August. A sign-up chart is on the bulletin board in the church coatroom. Flowers are \$10 per arrangement and you get to take them home after the Sunday service (or pick them up on Mondays from 8am-3pm)! We ask that 2 families sign up for each week. Place payment (cash or checks payable to: "Trinity Lutheran Church") in the Church Office mailbox. Thank you!

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



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. Scan the QR code to register.

<u>Volunteers Needed</u>: We need many volunteers to make this event a success. Please refer to the poster in the narthex for a variety of different volunteer opportunities (along with their descriptions). You can also speak with Joan Kopra (thekoprafamily@gmail.com) or Pastor Nyck (pastornyck@gmail.com) if you would like to help out in any way! Thank you so much!

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!

LADD Update

Thank you for all donations to our store. Sales have been very good. We have been able to donate 4 sets of heavy duty adjustable basketball hoops to Pioneer on the Lake. This will help to make the game available to handicapped campers.





Dick & Helen Schultz Memorial Service

There will be a graveside memorial service at Trinity's Cemetery for Dick & Helen Schultz on Saturday, June 28 at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend.

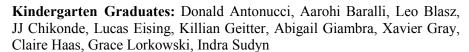
Trinity School News

Parent Choice Award for Trinity Christian School

We are excited to share that Trinity Christian School has received a Parent Choice Award from ParentPulse, a national platform that helps schools gather feedback and strengthen communication with families. ParentPulse surveys Trinity parents regularly throughout the year to measure satisfaction in key areas like academics, communication, safety, and spiritual development. Thanks to the honest feedback and partnership of our Trinity families, our parent satisfaction score was among the highest in the country! We are incredibly honored by this recognition and deeply thankful for the ongoing trust and support of our school community. We look forward to continuing to use this feedback to improve in all areas.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We are thrilled to share that Trinity Christian School recently celebrated its 173rd graduation, a special milestone in our school's legacy of Christ-centered education. This year, we proudly graduated five 8th graders and eleven kindergartners, each one stepping forward with confidence, faith, and hope for the future. As we send them off to new adventures, we hold fast to the promise of *Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."* We invite our church family to continue praying for these graduates as they grow in faith and follow God's plan for their lives. Thank you for your unwavering support of Trinity Christian School!



8th Grade Graduates: Elliana Adams, Katelyn Barnas, Levi Haas, Elizabeth McFarland, Hayden Sirgey

And State.

8th Grade Awards:

- West Seneca Police Benevolent Association Award: Elizabeth McFarland
- NYS Triple C Award Office of the Attorney General Levi Haas
- President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement Kate Barns, Elizabeth McFarland
- President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence Ellie Adams, Hayden Sirgey
- State Comptroller's Award *Kate Barnas*
- Christian Athlete Award Kate Barns, Levi Haas
- Christian Citizenship Award Ellie Adams

School Picnic at Pioneer on the Lake

Trinity Christian School recently held its annual school picnic at Pioneer on the Lake in Angola, and it was a beautiful day filled with joy, fellowship, and fun! Many families joined us as students enjoyed games, water balloons, tie-dyeing shirts, beach walks, and a classic hot dog lunch. The day ended with a meaningful devotion from Pastor Nyck, who encouraged us to "Endure" as it says in **Hebrews 12:1**, reminding us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Mark Willert led a time of praise in the peaceful Chapel of the Woods, lifting our voices in worship to our faithful and good God. It was a truly special way to close out the school year together in His presence.









Trinity Church Graduating Class of 2025!!!

A shout out to Trinity's graduating seniors heading into the next chapter of life. May God continue to guard and keep you! "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- **Joanna Anderson** graduated from Buffalo Seminary where she was recognized with a Vocal Music Award and membership into the Cum Laude Society. She will be attending Robert Wesleyan College in the fall to pursue music education.
- **Taylor Blamowski** graduated from West Seneca East and will be attending the University of Buffalo in the fall for nursing.
- **Faith Flattery** graduated from West Seneca West and will be attending the University of Buffalo in the fall to pursue communications and theater.
- **Emma Hope** graduated from Orchard Park High School and will be attending Purdue University in the fall to pursue animal sciences in hopes of becoming a veterinarian.
- Rachel Jaskier graduated from Depew High School and will be attending SUNY Morrisville in the fall.
- **Rebekah Lafferty** graduated 12th in her class from West Seneca West. She was a writer for the high school newspaper and Ambassador for the Just Buffalo Writing Center. Rebekah will be attending R.I.T. in the fall to study statistics and creative writing.
- **Myah Meunier** graduated from Orchard Park High School and will be attending Binghamton University in the fall to major in English.
- **Emma Tripi** graduated from West Seneca West, where she was a member of the track team. She will be attending SUNY Brockport in the fall to major in psychology.

Birthday Cards for Hope Willert

Mark and Katie Willert are traveling to Zambia to visit Hope and volunteer with Poetice in August. Hope's birthday is July 30th, and they would love to take her birthday cards from the members of her Trinity family. Just put any cards in the Willert mailbox in the coatroom before the end of July. She will love it!

MEET TRINITY'S 2025 DOMESTIC 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



Thank you to everyone who gave a pledge towards the Mite Walk The walk is June 28th

~ Linda Meissner

West Seneca News

Crop Walk & Chicken BBQ August 24 at 12:30pm

Join us on August 24 for the CROP Walk and Weidner's Chicken BBQ on Queen of Heaven Church's property to raise funds to fight hunger. There will be a sit down or take out meal, a safe walking path, and games for kids. Come join your West Seneca neighbors and friends for this awesome fundraiser!

The West Seneca Community of Churches is working together with each church sending 5-6 volunteers to make the event a success. If / when you decide to volunteer, contact Nancy Hope at nandrhope@verizon.net or call at 716-674-8544 and leave a message if she's not home. Share the date with family and friends, get some sponsors for your walk - then come!

Farmer's Market

The West Seneca Farmer's Market runs May 16 thru September 4 on Thursday evenings from 4pm-7pm on the grassy hill at Union Road & Main Street, next to West Seneca Town Hall. Approximately 45 vendors are featured. Stop by and check it out!



July Youth Events

There will not be regular weekly Youth Nights during the summer. Here are the scheduled July events:

July 9: 6pm-8pm Youth Night at the Willert's House

July 16: 4pm-7pm Pool Party at the Kot's House (dinner provided at 5pm)

High Point Nights

High Point is a group specifically for high school students. No meetings will be held during the summer; maybe students can consider signing up to volunteer at VBS!

NYG Envelope Fundraiser

The NYG Envelope Fundraiser was a huge success! We were asking for 125 envelopes to be filled in hopes of raising \$1,625. Those hopes were blown away as we were able to raise \$3,385! Because of your generosity, the entire trip has been paid for. On behalf of the National Youth Gathering participants, thank you very much!

Thank You!!!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in ANY fundraiser over the past 18 months to help raise money for the National Youth Gathering! It is such a blessing to not have to worry about the finance part of any trip, but especially one as big as NYG. We are less than a month away from going on this trip, and now we ask for your prayers for safe travel, a successful trip, and the lives of each student attending is spiritually fed to the fullest.









A herd of very rare buffaloes has appeared at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Seneca. These buffaloes are stampeding together as part of a special fundraiser to help celebrate special occasions for your friends and family! All proceeds go to help the Youth Ministry Program at Trinity!

How does it work?

For a donation of \$35 to Trinity's Youth Ministry Program, our Buffalo herd will head on over to graze on the front yard of a friend or relative where we hope that they will bring lots of smiles and laughter. After visiting for a day or two, they will migrate on to a new location or go back to



Trinity for a little rest and relaxation. Scan this QR-code to sign up! If you have any questions, feel free to call the Youth Director, Nathan Thomack, (715) 938-6225 **Runs from June 1st - November 1st**

Hoping not to get buffaloed? Or have you been buffaloed to many times? There is insurance available for \$50 and it will cover you for the entire summer. Call Nathan for more information on that.

Share your Buffalo pictures on social media with #twnybuffalo We'd love to see them!











Trinity Men in Ministry

10th Annual Golf Outing The "Kathy Herman Memorial Tournament"



Women and Men golfers welcome! Sunday, August 17th, 2025 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

\$45.00 per golfer ...

includes Greens Fee, Riding Cart, & Food (on-course beverages – \$3.00 each)

 Non-golfers welcome to join us for food and beverages (cash bar) at the course at approximately 2:30 PM. (\$20.00 fee for non-golfers) BUFFET

Pulled Pork, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Brownies, Cookies, Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks (Beer, Wine, Liquor - Cash Bar)

 72 golfers maximum, sign-up as soon as possible but no later than July 27th, 2025. Sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

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



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia May 2025 Update



Ministry

Hi, everybody!

This month we jumped back into school. For those who don't know, the school here at Poetice is a Montessori school. This is a style of education that is driven primarily by student motivation and interests. (If you have more questions about what Montessori is, feel free to ask!) Myself and the other teachers here have been receiving training on Montessori schooling and so this term we made some changes to make our school more Montessori - more student-driven rather than teacher-driven. For example, one of our students is especially interested in plants and animals; so we have been taking him on walks around the Poetice base to look more closely at plants and insects that we can find, and then doing more research about these things back in the classroom (you can see him in the third picture below). This is a very different style of teaching from what I am used to and from what I learned in college, but it has been very interesting seeing how the kids react to education that is centered on their own interests.







In addition to school, there have been a few other things that I have been involved in over the past month. One of these things was painting a mural, which was so much fun! A few of the staff helped to paint two murals on the walls in the worship center which say "Jesu uli mubotu" (which means "Jesus you are beautiful" in Tonga, one of the local languages) and "Come & behold Him". I love doing artistic things, so this was so much fun for me. I loved being able to worship God through art, which is a different way from how I usually get to worship God.

In May the Intensive Training began, which is the six week missions training program that brought me to Zambia in the first place two years ago. I was able to sit in on all of the teachings for a week while a guest speaker taught about drawing near to God. Most of my role here at Poetice involves me pouring out into others, so it was nice to have a week in which I was being poured into.







(Continued on page 8)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 7)



Life Update

My biggest life update right now is the fact that I have a boyfriend! His name is Charles and we have been dating for almost five months now. We met during my Intensive Training two years ago, started talking more and becoming friends last year during my Extensive Training, and then started dating when I returned to Zambia in January this year. I am so thankful for him and how we have been getting to know each other more and more as well as encouraging each other to grow closer to the Lord. Now that we have been dating for a while I figured it was about time I shared with you all!

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for me as I am still very exhausted and finding it hard to get through work days because of this level of exhaustion. I am really learning what it means to rely on God as my source of strength rather than myself!
- Please pray that God would continue to fill me up so that I am able to pour out His love to my students and the youth in the community.

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



Cemetery News

With summer upon us, it is important to be reminded of some of the Rules & Regulations of Trinity's Cemetery:

- <u>ANY</u> 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.
- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. <u>NO</u> glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given <u>prior</u> to anything being planted.

Pew Attendance Books

When attending church services, please remember to sign the red attendance book located in the pew holders. Visitors are encouraged to also provide an address and/or email. Thank you!



Portals of Prayer

AVER July - Sept 2025 devotion booklets are now available. They can be found on the tables and Welcome Center in the church narthex.

Please take one and use it for home devotions! Give one to a friend who may be in need too!

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!

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

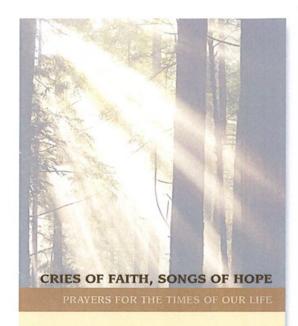
READING

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**.



We are thrilled to invite you to an amazing day at Pioneer on the Lake as we celebrate 80 years of Christian ministry! Enjoy lake breezes, sunshine, hot dogs/hamburgers, ice cream, bounce houses, face painting, tractor train rides, worship music, and so much more.

Come, join us for a great FREE day on the lake and be refreshed at Pioneer!

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY:



The Good News Band @ 1PM



Five14 Band @ 2PM



The Brothers McClurg @ 3:30PM



Randy Stonehill @ 4:45PM



Steven Curtis Chapman @ 6PM

Come celebrate 80 years of Camp Pioneer at this FREE event!

716-383-6157

9324 Lake Shore Road Angola, NY 14006 PIONEER
ON THE LAKE
CHRISTIAN CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Contact the Pioneer office for further information and/or to reserve your spot.

PIONEERONTHELAKE.COM

		<u>3</u>	<u> Kappy Birthday</u>	Ł	
7/1	John Kern	7/18	Judy Schmidt	7/24	Thea Schultz
7/5	Ed Schindler	7/19	Barbara Halvorsen Nolan Heckman	7/26	Judy Jaeckle
7/7	Madison Jaskier			7/27	Rev. Dennis Krueger
7/10	Leslie Tripi	7/20	Annette Neth Jessica Nickerson	7/28	Diane Roncone
7/12	Zachary LoVullo Eleanor English	7/21	James Manzo	7/29	Marie Thompson Natalie Monahan
7/14	Bryce Zawadzki	7/22	Janine Wackowski	7/30	Hope Willert
7/16	Kim Meissner	7/23	Joanie Metzler	7/31	Jenna Wackowski
7/17	Samantha Canazzi		Andrew Eising		
		$\underline{\mathcal{H}}$	appy Anniversa	<u>ry</u>	
7/1	Christopher & Erin Kotowski		7/8	Andrew & Rachel Eising	
7/3 Larry & Marie Thompson		pson	7/12	Ryan & Beth McKernan	
	Chris & Lynnae Kwilas		7/17	Justin & Betty Jo Smith	
7/5 Fred & Thea Schultz Dave & Noel Anderson		7/19	Leslie & Tim Tripi		
7/8	Ed & Kathie Schindler		7/22	Nathan & Kimberly Thomack	



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?!

Shut-In Members

If you know if 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.



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.

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 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