

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JUNE 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, New York 14224
Church: (716) 674-9188, School: (716) 674-5353

Rev. Nycholas Greig, Pastor, 674-9188 / C: (716) 336-1767
Mrs. Sarah Gabel / Mrs. Katie Willert, School Co-Principals, 674-5353

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



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 10:30 am (thru 6/15/25)
Sunday @ 9:30 am (effective 6/22/25)



“Born Again to a Living Hope”

This is the theme for the 101st Convention of the Eastern District happening this month. It is based on the verse from 1 Peter 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”. Every three years we gather with the other 120 congregations of the district to proclaim this truth as the body of Christ!

District President John Pingel has some words to share with us about our time and ministry together as a District: “We live in a time of unprecedented change and challenges. Nevertheless, we are filled with invincible hope. This hope is given expression in our Convention theme: “Born Again to a Living Hope”, based on I Peter 1:3. The world changes, ever more rapidly, in ways we could never have imagined--and yet God’s word remains true and powerful. Through Baptism, people are being brought into the kingdom of God’s Son. As the Lord’s Supper is celebrated, God’s people receive Christ’s very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and are preserved in the one true faith. Through the Means of Grace, we are strengthened and equipped for service in Jesus’ Name. Friends in Christ, do not succumb to the prevailing despair and cynicism of this age. “Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!” We have a living and invincible hope, says Peter, through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Hope has to do with the future. Because Christ lives we as individuals have a future. Our churches have a future. This does not mean that things will remain exactly as they have been. We are challenged to find new and creative ways of reaching out and doing ministry. But we do so with joy in our hearts, for “Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.” There is joy in the task.”

He's right, there is joy in the task of figuring out the plans God has for us in the future. For us at Trinity God has called us to the remarkable work of ministering to our community right here in West Seneca. For 175 years (longer than the district has been around!) we have sought to share the living hope that we have with our friends and neighbors and it is always good to receive a reminder of that and join with others in proclaiming his glory.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Beginning June 21 & 22

Saturday Evening at 5:00pm
(NO outdoor services this summer)

Sunday Morning at 9:30am



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 ~ 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.**

175th Anniversary Committee 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 June. 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?!

Our next meeting is **Friday, June 20 at 2:00pm**. All are invited to join us ... bring your ideas for upcoming events!

Happy 90th Pastor David Belasic's 90th Birthday is on June 2. We'd like to make his day extra special by asking people to send him a card at:

2630 Canterbury Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405



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.



Volunteers Needed: 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!

2025-26 Budget Requests

It's time to continue planning our future together at Trinity. If your ministry, team board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting September 1, 2025 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Lisa Laffery (lisalaff@gmail.com) **by June 22nd**. Ministry Goal / Cost Sheet forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex or you can contact the church office to request a form.



Save the Date!

Sunday, August 17th, 2025
10th Annual Golf Outing at Turkey Run

More info to come in upcoming weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheets and the July Trinity Tidings newsletter.

Trinity School News

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

As the school year comes to a close, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the church members who generously gave their time and talents to support Trinity Christian School. Whether you helped in the classroom, chaperoned a field trip, assisted with events, or prayed faithfully for our students and staff, your presence made a meaningful impact. Your partnership has been a beautiful reflection of Christ's love, and we are truly grateful for the way you've poured into the lives of our students this year.



End of Year Field Trips

There are so many field trips coming up in the next few weeks. Here is what is going on at the school:

- 5th and 6th grade are doing a walking tour of architecture downtown and Canalside
- 7th and 8th are headed to Albright Knox and a downtown tour, and then to Washington DC for their class trip
- 2nd-4th are going to the Naval Park at Canalside
- K and 1st are going to UPlay
- PreK just visited Kelkenberg Farm to see the new baby animals!

Please keep the teachers and students in your prayers as they venture out to learn in the community!



School Musical - "Annie Kids!"

What a fantastic job our students did in their production of *Annie Kids* on Friday, May 2! Both the 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM performances were filled with energy, heart, and incredible talent. We are so proud of the hard work our students put in alongside Mrs. Anderson to bring this beloved musical to life. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our performers—you helped make it a truly unforgettable day!

Annual Fund Update

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Trinity community, we accomplished the



\$10,000 Matching Challenge—raising a total of **\$20,000 in just one week!** This donation was made in honor of Wayne Meissner, a proud alum of the Class of 1960 who deeply loved Trinity Christian School. His legacy continues to inspire us, and we are so grateful for the outpouring of support that made this possible.

LCES Grants Awarded to the School

We are thrilled to share that Trinity Christian School has been awarded two generous grants from the Lutheran Church Extension Society (LCES)! The first grant of \$3,000 will go toward our scholarship fund, helping ensure that every family has the opportunity to afford a quality, Christ-centered education. The second grant, totaling \$5,400, will provide vital support for our full-time teachers to attend the Lutheran Educator's Association Convocation in St. Louis this October—a valuable time of professional growth, encouragement, and connection with fellow Lutheran educators. We are deeply grateful to LCES for their continued partnership and investment in the mission of Trinity Christian School. Sarah Gabel will be attending the LCES dinner in June to accept the grant and report on last year's grant.

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

May 28 - Rapid Fire Questions

June 4 - Battle Tanks

June 11 - Slip & Slide Kick Ball

June 18 & 25 - **NO YOUTH NIGHT**

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!

Camp Pioneer Youth Retreat

The Pioneer Spring Retreat 2025 was so much fun! We played several games, group building activities, spent some time serving camp, listened to fantastic devotions by different leaders, spent lots of time singing praises to God, had amazing weather in His creation, had a sunset campfire, and had our hearts drawn closer to Him. 60 youth and 15 adults were present (11 youth and 4 adults from Trinity). Thanks to Stephanie Greig, Nathan Thomack, Ryan McKernan and Kim Thomack for helping to lead the weekend and chaperoning. Save **October 3-5** for the Fall Retreat!





BUFFALO FUN-RAISER

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 graze on over to 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? There is insurance available for \$50 and it will cover you for the entire summer. Call Nathan for more information about that.

Keep your eyes open to see where this Buffalo Herd will appear next!





DOMESTIC MISSION TRIP

**Participate in a mission trip
right here in the States**

Trinity has partnered with Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) to serve the people of Appalachia.

When: Sunday, August 3, to Friday, August 8, 2025

Where: Eastern Kentucky

Age: Anyone 14 years of age or older

Service: Making homes safe, warm, dry and accessible/
home repairs/yard work

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

YOUTH – Ages 14 to 21 – **NO** Registration Fee

Any Questions? Please contact:

Kevin Kot: (716) 445-5923 / kkot57@gmail.com

Colleen Kot: (716) 445-5922 / knkot@verizon.net

Cemetery News

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

- 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. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.
- **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.

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.



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.

VBS at Pioneer

“Epic Australian Adventure”

July 7-11 9:00am-12:00pm

All kids entering PreK-3 (potty trained) thru 6th grade this Fall will be welcome to join us for non-stop adventures with music, games, beach activities, crafts, snacks, Bible stories, and more! Call Pioneer's office at (716) 383-6157 to register or volunteer!

Lakeside Car Cruise-In

Every Friday April 25 - October 3

4:00pm - 8:00pm

This event is held every Friday (weather permitting). All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Park in the Herr Road parking lot and enjoy classic cars on their lakeside property! The Country Store will be open for hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, and more. Bring a lawn chair and stay for the sunset!

STEPHEN MINISTRY DEVOTION

Ministry from Afar



When we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again.

1 Thessalonians 2:17–18a

Stephen Ministry is, by nature, in-person care. When your care receiver is hurting, there is no substitute for being fully present with him or her—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Likewise, many other parts of a congregation’s ministry, such as coming together to worship, are also typically done in person.

During this time of social distancing, though, being physically present with others isn’t possible. To preserve the safety of those they serve, churches everywhere—and the Stephen Ministry at these churches—are having to make some challenging adjustments, ministering from afar much more than usual.

The Example of Paul

The Apostle Paul often needed to minister over a distance as well, which he did through his many letters to scattered groups of Christians. Through these letters, we can gain insight into how Paul related to believers when he couldn’t actually be with them.

Most scholars believe that Paul’s earliest surviving letter is the one we know as 1 Thessalonians. This letter demonstrates some important principles to keep in mind in this challenging time.

First, Paul’s ministry was built on in-person relationships. Because of his prior, face-to-face ministry, Paul could tell the Thessalonians, “We

Ministry From Afar

(Continued from page 7)

loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well” (2:8a). These relationships were built on Christ-centered love and compassion. That same foundation helps us keep our relationships strong when, for a time, we can’t meet face to face.

Second, we learn from 1 Thessalonians that ministering from afar was not Paul’s first choice. He says, “When we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again” (2:17–18a). We can take comfort in knowing that Paul, too, found it challenging to be apart from those he cared for. But when it became necessary to minister over distance, he did so wholeheartedly, using the tools he had to address this growing church’s needs. For us, although caring from afar may not be ideal, we can accomplish real ministry using the tools available to us.

Third, while Paul’s letters met real needs, he always looked forward to meeting his fellow believers again. He wrote 1 Thessalonians, in part, to comfort the church following the deaths of some in the faith community (4:13–14). Even as he offered that care, though, he expressed his eagerness for the day he could support them in person: “Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith” (3:10). We, too, can look ahead to the time we will meet our care receivers in person once more.

In Anticipation of Coming Together Again

If Paul were here today, we can only imagine how he might make use of the devices and apps we have now, just as he made extensive use of letters in his own time. Of course, these tools wouldn’t be a replacement for his in-person ministry, but they could still serve as a powerful means of ministry between visits—or at times when visits just weren’t an option.

(Continued on page 9)

Ministry From Afar

(Continued from page 8)

Likewise, we can be grateful for the technologies we have today that enable us to stay connected with our care receivers when we are not able to be physically present with them. And we can seek to use those tools in the best ways possible, anticipating the time when we can resume our in-person care.

Here's a prayer we can all join in saying during this time.

Prayer

Lord God, the Scriptures say that when we call, you answer. You are always there for us, hearing and responding to every thought and every need. Thank you for the privilege and power of providing in-person care, as well as for ways to stay connected when we can't be physically present. Guide us during this unique time, helping us exercise wisdom and discernment in using the communication tools available today. Amen.

Upcoming Area Events

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!

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.

Strawberry Social & Picnic Meal

**At St. Paul's Lutheran Church
(360 Main Street, Elma)**

Wed., June 18 @ 4:00pm-7:00pm

Everyone is invited to a strawberry social and picnic meal to help raise funds to re-build their church. Hotdogs, baked beans, german and american potato salad, pop, and strawberry shortcake will be served. There will also be a bake sale. Dine-in and take-out will be available.



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia April Update



Ministry

Hi, everybody!

I hope you are all doing well. This month has been a bit of a different month, as we have been on term break for most of it. We have been working hard at preparing for the next term, which begins on May 12th and goes until the beginning of August. I have been working on creating activities and units for the students, such as a money unit, as you can see in the first picture, as well as Tonga (one of the local language) activities, as some of our students only have a limited knowledge of the language. And just for fun, I included a few extra pictures from the last few days of school at the beginning of the month. :)



This month we have had a lot going on with Youth House, and it has been an absolute blast. We had a two-day youth retreat with 39 youth. On the first day the youth came bright and early and we began by playing some games, and then had several teachings throughout the day. The theme of the retreat was identity, so each speaker focused on how they have their identity in Christ and how the youth can live into their identity in Christ, as well.

The next day we took all of the kids to Victoria Falls in Livingstone, which was AMAZING! For most of them it was their first time seeing the falls, even though they live only a few hours away from it. It was so beautiful to witness the kids seeing and experiencing the falls for the first time. The joy on their faces was unforgettable. We walked along the path by the falls singing worship songs in their local language and it was the most surreal experience. How absolutely incredible an experience to be able to bring these beautiful, special youth to one of God's incredible creations and sing His praises while the falls thunders around us and we are showered with mist! It was definitely an experience that I will never forget. I wish I could convey these moments to you in a better way, but these pictures will have to do.



(Continued on page 11)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 10)

Life Update

In April we had Rally Week, which is a week where the staff at Poetice joins together to be poured into and to grow closer together. We had sessions where we learned, times of worship, and games and competitions. It was great to be able to take a break from our every-day work and focus on growing together and listening to what God has to say to us as a team.



I have been working on continuing to be disciplined and consistent when it comes to spending time with God. As I said in my February update, I wanted to be waking up early to spend time with God every morning, and I would like you all to know that I am doing much better with this! Every morning that I have work I make sure to set my alarm earlier than I need to so that I am able to have my quiet time. While I really struggle with waking up early, it has been so worth it and I have loved having time with my Father every day before I get into the craziness of life.

I am also still working on noticing all of the little blessings and beautiful moments that God has placed throughout each day, as I talked about in last month's update. I am loving this practice, as it really helps me to stay more present with God throughout each moment.

This month what I have been pondering and what I feel like God as been teaching me is that He created me beautifully and uniquely, so I should live into that. I tend to struggle with comparing myself to others and feeling the need to change who I am to adapt to the people that I am around. But this month there have been several instances and moments that have reminded me that God did not create me to be a copy of anyone else, He created me to be Hope. He made me uniquely so that I could live into who He made me to be, not so that I could try to change myself. He especially spoke this to me at the youth retreat when we were talking about identity, and God reminded me that I am His design. So, I am thinking and praying about this a lot as well as trying to really live into who God has made me to be.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for myself and the other teachers as we begin Term 2 - that God would give us renewed energy and motivation and also that He would be with the students as they return to learn and to be poured into more.
- 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.

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

Blessings,

Hope Willert

hope@poetice.org



Sunday
July 20
2025

4th Annual Pioneer Fest

We are thrilled to invite you to an amazing day at Pioneer on the Lake, with 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!



Morning Church Service



Food, Beverages, and Ice Cream



Live Worship Music



Fun for all ages

Bring your family and friends for 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

Happy Birthday

6/1	Peter Bullock Kasey Lelito	6/7	Brynn Zawadzki	6/16	Mark Blajszczak	6/24	Shana Caldarella
6/2	Rev. David Belasic Karen Hollowood Trevor Jelowski	6/8	Mary Colwell Peter Szeider Jeff Gertis Cadence Jelowski	6/17	Fred Schultz Bruce Heckman	6/25	Marilyn Lein Gregory Ringle
6/3	Denise Meissner	6/9	Shannon Heckman	6/18	Dallas Smith	6/26	Kyle McCoy Camden Stefanik
6/4	Martha Birrer	6/11	Madelyn Monahan	6/20	Kristen Zawadzki Nathan Thomack Travis Barnas	6/27	Don Meissner
6/5	Norine Ecker Jered Cornell	6/12	Audrey Diehl	6/22	Larry Thompson Lenore Ecker	6/29	Lisa Osberg Hartley Smith
6/6	Henry Jelowski Claire Haas	6/13	Abigail Lelito	6/23	Jeffrey Wackowski Adeline Royal	6/30	Jennifer Evans

Happy Anniversary

6/3	Brad & Theresa McKernan	6/20	Frank & Sandra Lelito
6/12	Paula & David Winkelses Ingrid & Alan Hamann	6/23	Dennis & Tricia Glinski
6/15	Rev. Ron & Carolyn Habedank	6/26	Don & Beverly Weiss
6/17	Ron & Nancy Hope	6/29	Mark & Katie Willert



Trinity’s Garden Club!

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time on Tuesday evenings in May to help clean up and beautify the church and school flower beds and property. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Help Needed: We are still looking for volunteers to help care for the flowers and shrubs around the church and school during the summer months. If this is something you can assist with, please see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281) or sign up on the green sheet in the narthex.

LADD UPDATE

LADD is in need of toys, so please think of us when cleaning out your toy boxes! **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.

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.

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