

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 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
(Effective 9/7/25)



“What is Discipleship?”

To ask, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?” is to inquire into the heart of the Christian faith. The word “disciple” comes from the Latin *discipulus*, meaning “student” or “learner”. Yet, the biblical vision of discipleship is far more than intellectual learning. It is a call to transformation, a summons to follow, to imitate, and to embody the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Each week we will consider another facet of our identity as modern-day disciples of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke.

In the Gospels, Jesus calls people with a simple yet profound invitation: “Follow me.” Fishermen leave their nets, tax collectors their booths, and many others set aside the ordinary rhythms of their lives to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This call is not limited to a particular time or place; it echoes through the generations, extending even to us. But at the same time that discipleship can be costly. Discipleship involves placing Jesus at the center of one’s life, allowing His words and actions to shape our priorities, choices and values. Discipleship is not an abstract concept but a lived reality, a dynamic process: a continual becoming, day by day, more like Jesus.

A disciple is, at their core, a learner. Jesus’ invitation to follow Him is also an invitation to learn from Him. In the ancient world, a disciple would attach themselves to a rabbi, not only to absorb their teachings but to observe how they lived, responded, and engaged with the world. He draws His disciples into a life of radical love, humility, and service. To be a disciple today is to immerse oneself in the Gospels, to listen attentively to Jesus’ voice, and to let His teachings become the lens through which we see ourselves and our neighbors.

While discipleship involves cost and sacrifice, it is also a path to deep joy and fulfillment. Jesus promises abundant life—life marked by peace, hope, and purpose. To walk with Jesus is to discover the riches of God’s kingdom, to experience the transforming power of love, and to participate in God’s redemptive work in the world.

Discipleship is not reserved for the spiritual elite; it is the invitation to all who would hear and respond to Jesus’ call. It is a journey open to the young and old, the strong and weak, the doubter and the devout.

Join us for our discipleship journey this fall!

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Effective 9/6/25 & 9/7/25:

Saturday at 5:00pm

*(Traditional / Blended - liturgy,
hymns and worship songs)*

Sunday at 10:30am

*(Contemporary - music led by praise teams;
service projected on the screen)*

CHURCH VOTERS' MEETING



Sunday, September 7 After the 10:30am Service

There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 7 following the 10:30am worship service. On the agenda will be the 2025-2026 church / school budget and election of open executive board positions. All confirmed members of Trinity are eligible to vote.

Church Office Closed: 9/9/25-9/22/25

Our church secretary Teresa will be on vacation September 9-22, 2025. During this time, please contact Pastor Nyck directly at (716) 336-1767 with any emergencies or immediate needs. For all other matters, please leave a message on the answering machine and phone calls will be returned on 9/23/25.



Sunday School News

The Sunday School start date is right around the corner and we are so excited to get into the swing of things starting **September 7th**. For this to happen we need people to register your children for Sunday School. All students going into preschool through fifth grade are welcome to join us **Sundays from 9:15 am - 10:15 am**. Parents of these children (and all other adults) are welcome to join the adult bible study across the parking lot in the conference room of the church building.

Registration: To sign your children up for Sunday School, please fill out this google form below:

<https://forms.gle/Y2kU59GhnFgwW1YL7>

Volunteers: If you are interested in being a Sunday School Teacher for the younger grades (Preschool & Kindergarten, and 1st & 2nd grade), please reach out to Nathan Thomack at youthministry@trinitywny.org. If you have any questions, also let Nathan know. Thanks!



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Faith Foundations

10 Essential Christian Truths

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am starting on September 7th

Whether we've been Christians for years, discovered faith in Jesus recently, or are still wondering what it's all about, we share similar questions about why and how to live out our faith. We wonder: What are we made for? What does it look like to know God deeply? Why are we called to reflect his light to those around us—and how do we do that? Join author and pastor David Platt in his ten-session series as he examines foundational truths for becoming mature disciples of Christ.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

1 Corinthians by N.T. Wright

Wednesdays 10:30am-11:45am starting on Sept. 10th

In the first century, Corinth was a lively seaport in Greece, not far from Athens. People and cultures of every sort jostled together, just like so many places in today's world. The young church there was as lively as the place itself, with as many questions and problems – as much joy and excitement – as any growing church today. Paul's pastoral sensitivity and deep insight come together to make this letter one of his crowning achievements, full of good things for us to ponder and enjoy today. Join us as we explore the book of 1 Corinthians using the N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide.

Ladies Bible Study

The Monday Evening Ladies Bible Study group will meet on **Monday, Sept. 15 at 7:00pm** in the church narthex. All women are welcome to attend this monthly study! Topic TBD.

Reminder: we will deliver our twin bedding items to Sleep in Heavenly Peace in early October.



Potluck Picnic September 21, 2025

Picnic Trinity would like to invite the families of our congregation and school to a Potluck Picnic directly following the 10:30am service on Sunday, September 21. Hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages and desserts will be provided. Bring a dish to pass if you wish. A sign-up board is in the narthex. Please sign-up by **Sunday, September 14** so we know how much food is needed.

Trinity School News

Summer Volunteer Thank You

A big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard this summer to help get Trinity School ready for the new year! From cleaning and organizing to painting, refinishing, and countless other projects, your time and effort have made such a difference. We are truly grateful for your servant hearts and the love you have poured into making our school a welcoming and beautiful place for our students.

Book Fair and Bake Sale



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Trinity School Book Fair and Bake Sale, kicking off on **Sunday, September 21 after the 10:30am service!** This fun event is a great way to support our school while picking up some new books and enjoying delicious homemade treats. We are asking for donations of baked goods to help make the bake sale a success—



just bring them to church on the morning of the 21st. In addition, baked goods and books will also be available for purchase during school hours the week of September 22–26. All funds raised will go directly toward school supplies and programs that benefit our students. Thank you for your support!

Nationally Acclaimed Storyteller at Trinity School

We are excited to welcome Denise Chapman-Acosta to Trinity on **Wednesday, September 17 at 9:20am** to lead our school chapel! Denise is a nationally acclaimed storyteller who weaves together story, dance, music, and drumming to bring God's Word to life in a powerful and engaging way. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and church family to experience the joy of the Gospel through creative expression. Please join us for chapel on this special day!

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a heart for service? Then we need you! The school is in need of volunteers in the kitchen for the 2025-2026 school year to help with lunches. This is a great way to connect with the Trinity students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katie Willert and Sarah Gabel at principal@trinitywny.org.

Prayer Partner Program

Our school family is growing, and with it comes the wonderful opportunity to surround our students with even more prayer support! We are looking for church members to serve as prayer partners for our students. Prayer partners commit to keeping a student in prayer and periodically writing them short notes of encouragement. This simple ministry is a powerful way to connect our church and school communities. If you are interested in being a prayer partner, please contact Chris Harris (charris@trinitywny.org).



Trinity's Fall Campfire & Dinner September 12th starting at 6:00 pm

Here's a chance to hang with your family as well as get to know some others from Trinity church and school! It will be an awesome way to start off the new school year. We are supplying the hot dogs, and you can bring whatever else you and your family would like to have (beverages, fireside snacks, etc). Don't forget the lawn chairs or blanket to sit on. We'll also enjoy a family-friendly devotion with a couple songs around the campfire.



Thank you to everyone for their prayers, time, talents and treasures in helping make this year's True North VBS a success. We had a great week with 60-70 children attending each day. The children learned that they can trust Jesus in all circumstances. The last day we surprised the children with a planetarium in the gym. The person that gave the presentation was great with the children and the kids really loved it.

~ Trinity Outreach



Check out Trinity Church's new website! It's the same address (www.trinitywestseneca.com), but the look has changed. Thank you Pastor Nyck and Nathan Thomack for all of your hard work on the new site!

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 September and October. 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.

Do you have photos or programs from past choir, bell choir or concerts here at Trinity? If you'd be willing to share these, put them in Noel McKernan's mailbox at church; please put a note on them with your name so they can be returned to you after the November event.

Interesting fact: Our present organ was dedicated on June 19, 1955. It is a Schlicker pipe organ and cost \$8,850. Some of the pipes from the old pipe organ were used to save money.

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are available in our cemetery. The cost is:

- Members - \$700 per plot with a \$100 discount per plot when purchasing 2 or more at the same time
- Non-members - \$1,400 per plot (no discounts given). Non-members must be relatives of a Trinity member to purchase plots in Trinity Cemetery

Church Greeters

We are looking for 1 or 2 more people to be a greeter once per month at our Sunday worship services starting this fall. Greeters would need to be at church 15 minutes before the service begins, welcome people as they enter the church from the narthex, give them a bulletin, direct new people / visitors to visit our Welcome Center, and then stand by the narthex glass doors after church to thank people for coming and wish them well. If you could share your time/talents in this way, please contact Teresa in the church office (716) 674-9188 or see Don Meissner.



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 on September 11. Please contact Ellen Makey (961-8378 or esmky23@yahoo.com) for more information.

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 8th.



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.

Shut-In Members

If you know of 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 (716-674-9188) to find out more information.



Thank you so much for all of my birthday cards! That was such a nice surprise. It means so much to me to know that my Trinity family is praying for me. See you all in November!

Love,
Hope Willert



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia July 2025 Update



Hello, friends and family!

Greetings from Poetice in Choma, Zambia!

Surprise! Katie Willert (Hope's mom) is writing her newsletter this month. :) Mark and I are over a week into our two-week visit here in Zambia, so I asked Hope to let me share what's happening at Poetice and in her life—from our perspective.

My Top Fifteen Thoughts:

1. God is at work here!

The people are hungry for and receptive to the Gospel. The staff at Poetice are meeting spiritual, physical, and emotional needs in the community.

2. We worked with the school students for several days.

I led some STEM projects, and Mark played guitar and sang with them. It was a wonderful experience. The students were excited to share what they've been learning and to try new things. The school uses a Montessori approach, which was fascinating to observe. Jesus' love shines through everything—daily prayer, songs, memory verses, and a great deal of patience! The kids thrive on physical affection, so there's lots of snuggling and hugging throughout the day.

(Fun note: My mom knitted hats for each student, and they were thrilled! We saw them proudly wearing their hats for days afterward.)



3. Worship here is incredible.

Zambians love to sing and dance! There are no chairs in the worship space because they need room for movement. It was a joy to join them for daily "Prayer Set" and weekly "Worship Night" on Thursdays—both open to the community. The school children join in for Prayer Set, and it's beautiful to see them worship. It reminded us of Chapel at Trinity. Many return for Worship Night, and the first thing they do is run to find their teachers for a hug.

4. Prayer is central at Poetice.

Prayer happens in many forms: group prayer, partner prayer, individual prayer, laying on of hands, silent prayer, and everyone praying aloud at once. It's moving to be part of a community so deeply connected to Jesus through constant prayer.

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Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

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5. Hope's House Church is thriving.

She meets weekly with a group of 6–7 people. It's similar to a small group—they read Scripture, discuss, sing, pray, and share a meal. We were there on her birthday, and they spoke words of life over her, laid hands on her, and prayed. It was so special to be part of that.

6. We feel immense peace as parents.

God has clearly placed Hope in a community that loves her like family. They watch out for her, encourage her, and keep her grounded in the Word. Whether at the grocery store or walking through town, people know her and call out greetings. It's clear she's making an impact.

7. Poetice meets practical needs.

Hope just started "Term Break." The school calendar here is different—they have breaks in August, December, and April, but no long summer like in the U.S. During school, Poetice provides nutritious snacks and lunches, but many school families still need that during Break, so teachers buy and deliver food to families in need. It's beautiful ministry.

8. They also meet water needs.

Poetice drills and improves wells in the community. Hope has shared before about the drought, but I'm happy to report that things seem to be improving. We're seeing green gardens and functioning water sources. Community outreach is one of Hope's favorite aspects of her work.

9. Mark participated in Prison Ministry.

He joined a team from Poetice visiting the local prison to share the Gospel. Hope occasionally goes too. What a powerful way to bring hope to the overlooked.

10. They do regular evangelism.

Groups from Poetice go out into the community weekly to share Jesus. Mark loved being part of that!

11. Youth are everywhere!

Poetice's Youth House program, which Hope helps lead, hosts games, worship, and Bible lessons. It's one of her favorite ministries. The "Rec Park" is also open most days for older youth to play sports, and it always ends with a Gospel message. Mark even shared the message at one session—and also ministered to the younger kids watching from outside the fence.

12. The school is growing!

(Did I mention there are a lot of youth?) Like Trinity, the current school is short on space. Poetice plans to build a PreK–12th grade school to serve up to 500 students. Please pray for this expansion. I had a wonderful time praying and sharing stories with the school principal.

13. The staff work so hard!

We're staying with Hope and her two American missionary roommates. They're rarely home—between teaching, worship team, youth ministry, and more. Everyone at Poetice serves with such love and dedication. It's inspiring.

14. We met Hope's boyfriend, Charles.

He's the Technology Coordinator at Poetice, and a truly wonderful young man. The school principal summed it up best: "Charles is so kind, polite, and a true gentleman. He clearly loves Jesus—and Hope, in that order. The kids adore him. He works hard and does whatever is asked. We all love him." After spending time with him, we agree 100%. Watching them together was a definite highlight of the trip.

15. Hope's car is a blessing!

It allows her to get to work, yes, but she also uses it for ministry: taking teachers to buy baby supplies, delivering food, transporting prison ministry teams, and more. That car has been packed full of God's love in action.



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YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Weekly Youth Nights will **resume on Sept. 3** and will meet every **Wednesday from 6:00pm-8:00pm** in the school gym. All 5th-12th grade students are welcome!

High Point Nights

High Point is a group specifically for high school students that meets on **select Thursdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm** in the church's youth group room. Upcoming dates are **Sept. 4 and Sept. 18**.

Youth Announcements

Scan the QR code to stay up-to-date on all youth events and news!



Youth Director

Nathan Thomack

youthministry@trinitywny.org / (715) 938-6225

Get “Buffaloed”!



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!



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 6)

And on a lighter note...

If you're thinking of visiting Zambia in August—do it! The weather has been gorgeous: 50s in the morning and evening, 70s in the afternoon, clear blue skies, and no humidity. We don't want to go home!

I could write so much more! Thank you for supporting Hope. Your investment is making a real difference. She is doing amazing work for the Lord. Lives are being touched every single day.

How Can You Pray for Hope?

- ♦ Gratitude for the loving and supportive community she has in Choma and at Poetice
- ♦ Safety and fruitful outreach for the Missions 8 teams leaving August 29 (Hope will travel to South Africa and Botswana)
- ♦ Energy and healing: Hope has long struggled with fatigue and a possible sleep disorder. Despite years of testing, there are still no answers. She's scheduling more appointments when home in December. Please pray for breakthrough and strength.
- ♦ Growth and provision for the expanding school
- ♦ That more and more lives in Choma are touched by the power of the Gospel every day

Thank you for letting me share my heart. All of us Willerts are deeply grateful for the love and support you show to Hope!

In Him,
Katie Willert

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 **ASAP**:

Step 1: Set up your recurring gift on our new online giving provider here: <https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/give>

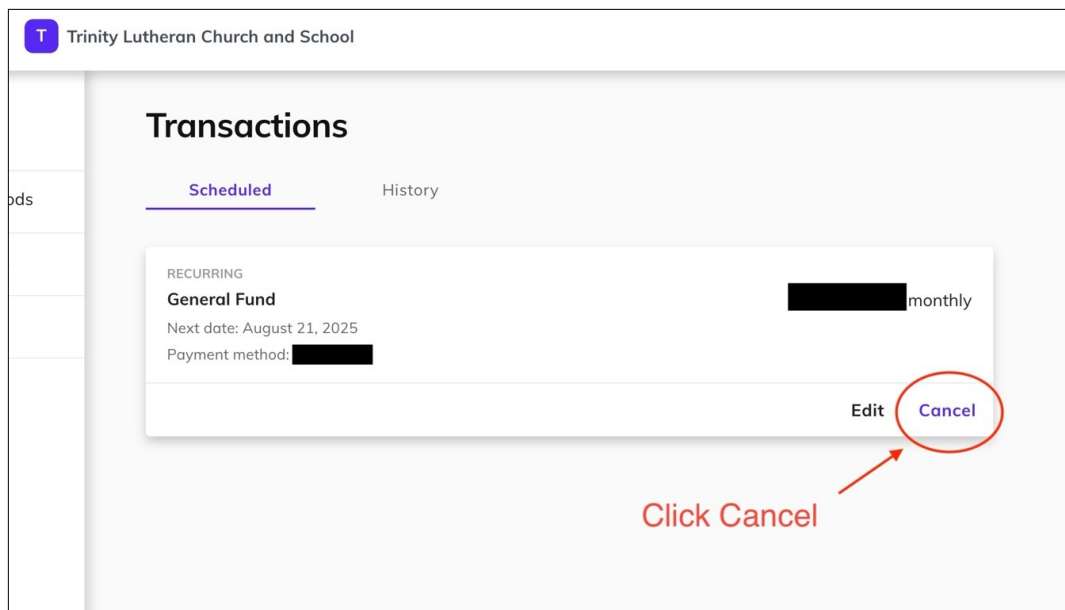
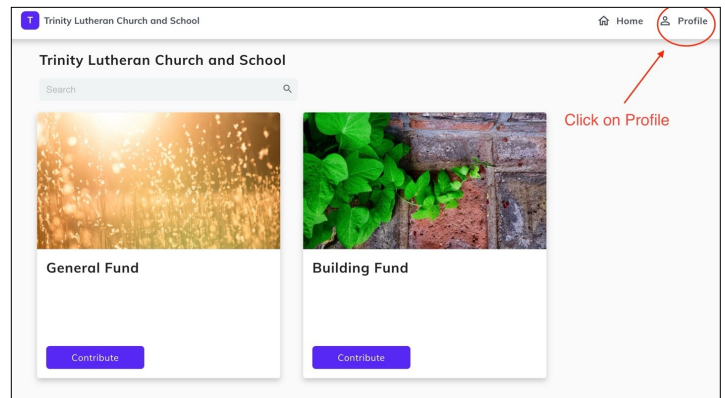
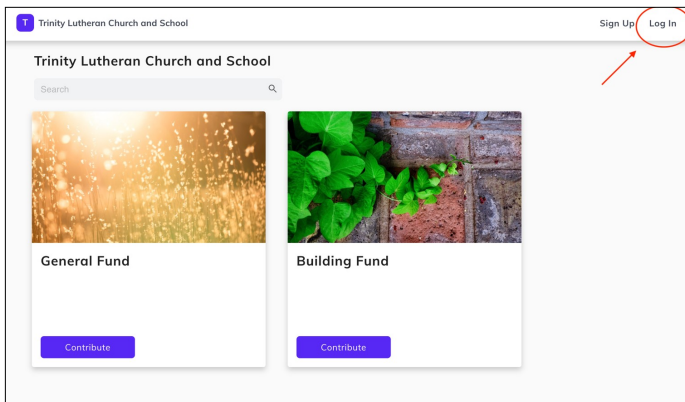
Create a Donor Profile by selecting Log in or Sign up in the upper right corner. Here are helpful links:

[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!

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

Happy Birthday

9/2	Jessica Ecker Benjamin Besch	9/10	Ron Hope	9/23	Lori Napieralski
9/3	Maxine Loos	9/11	Megan Diehl	9/24	Megan Manzo
9/4	Amy Lipinoga	9/12	Michael McKernan	9/26	Robert Brown
9/5	Mark Willert Faith Flattery	9/13	Sarah Gabel	9/27	Alan Kerner Rachel Antes
9/7	Travis Ecker Jennifer Sherer Brielle McKernan	9/15	Robert Stefanik Steven Ringle	9/28	Neil Schueler
9/8	Roger McClellan Jack English	9/16	Lisa Lopez Katie Wackowski	9/29	Jeremy Heckman
9/9	Kim McLaughlin	9/20	Wesley Pletscher Mark Zawadzki	9/30	Chuck Stevens Nora Eising Marcus Wrobel Caleb Eising
		9/21	Deborah Kerner		
		9/22	Ava Bozek		

Happy Anniversary

9/5	Jeremy & Shannon Heckman	9/17	Mark & Michele Ganschow Gregory & Megan Diehl PJ & Kim Colson
9/8	Neil & Sue Schueler		
9/10	Linda & Leslie Wrobel Timothy & Justine Monahan	9/20	Alan & Deborah Kerner Christopher & Kim McLaughlin
9/11	Joanne & Craig Jaskier	9/26	John & Karen McCoy
9/14	Paul & Kristen Zawadzki	9/28	Roger & Laurel McClellan
9/15	Steven & Maria Wrobel		

Members' Email Addresses

Does Trinity have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving Trinity's weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) with your email address or you can write your name and email on a piece of paper and place it in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom.



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



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