

# TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

## APRIL 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: [www.trinitywestseneca.com](http://www.trinitywestseneca.com)  
Church Office E-mail: [trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net](mailto:trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net)



### WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 10:30 am



## “Return to Alleluia!”

In Christian worship, the word "Alleluia" is a powerful expression of praise and joy. It comes from the Hebrew "Hallelu-Yah," meaning "Praise the Lord." Throughout much of the church year, "Alleluia" rings out in hymns, prayers, and liturgies, reminding us of God's goodness and the hope we have in Christ.

But during Lent, we intentionally set aside "Alleluia." This season is marked by reflection, repentance, and preparation. By refraining from saying or singing "Alleluia," we acknowledge the solemn journey of Jesus toward the cross and enter into a time of spiritual discipline. The absence of "Alleluia" creates a sense of longing—a yearning for the joy that will return.

Then, on Easter morning, "Alleluia" bursts forth again. Its return is not just a tradition; it is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. The silence of Lent is broken by the triumphant shout: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" This word becomes a symbol of our renewed joy, hope, and victory over sin and death. The return of "Alleluia" reminds us that sorrow and silence are not the end—joy comes in the morning.

As we move from Lent to Easter, let us cherish the journey. Let the absence of "Alleluia" deepen our anticipation, and its return fill us with gratitude and praise. May "Alleluia" echo in our hearts, not just in our worship, as we celebrate the risen Lord.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday Services

March 28 at 5:00pm  
March 29 at 10:30am

### Maundy Thursday Service (w/ Holy Communion)

April 2 at 7:00pm

### Good Friday Service

April 3 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

### Easter Services (w/ Holy Communion)

Saturday, April 4 at 5:00pm  
Sunday, April 5 at 8:00am & 10:30am

## Easter Sunday Brunch Support

There are many ingredients that go into making the fantastic and fresh brunch that will be served by our youth on Easter Sunday. If you would like to help support this effort, I encourage you to purchase a listed ingredient as your budget permits or make a donation towards the brunch ingredients to the Church office. Or, please make the ultimate contribution of prayers for a successful brunch. The remaining ingredients needed are as follows:

5 pints blueberries	3 pints blackberries
3 pints raspberries	3 lbs green seedless grapes

These donations should be brought to the church office by 2:30pm on Thursday, April 2nd. I want to thank you in advance for your generosity.

I have Overnight French Toast and Egg Bake recipes for the Easter Brunch along with 9x13 pans. If you would be interested in helping out, please take a pan and a recipe home with you and assemble them the morning of Saturday, April 4th. No need to bake, just bring it to Trinity's gym that afternoon from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

~ Nathan Thomack



## Easter Egg Hunt Help Needed

Outreach will be hosting the annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29. If you would like to help out with the event by setting up the hay/eggs, passing out snacks on the day of the event, clean up, or anything else, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or let a member of Outreach know (Joan Kopra, Jan Bullock, Chris Kopra, Rachel Eising, Lynnae Kwilas). Thank you!

## DOMESTIC MISSION TRIP

### Life is meant for ministry

**“Each of us will give a personal account to God”**

*Romans 14:12 (NLT)*

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, July 26, to Friday, July 31, 2026

**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](mailto:kkot57@gmail.com)  
Colleen Kot (716-445-5922) / [knckot@verizon.net](mailto:knckot@verizon.net)



## Trinity Garden Club

For the first 3 weeks of May, on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm-7:00pm, the Grounds & Maintenance committee is looking for volunteers to help clean up the grounds and beds around the church and spread mulch. Bring your own tools, gloves and kneeling pads. We hope to see you on May 5!

**Time and Talents Gardeners:** Thank you to the volunteers who took care of flowers and shrubs around the church and school last summer. We will need help caring for those areas again this year. If you can help with this, see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281).

## WSCC Lenten Journey

Thanks to all of you who donated cookies, helped out with the fellowship gathering, and came to worship at the West Seneca Community of Churches Lenten Journey service here at Trinity on March 4. I know the WS Community felt welcomed by you. The service, based on Unity - Being One in Christ, was well-received. About 89 people were in attendance. And, extra thanks to Pastor Ron Habedank for stepping in for Pastor Nyck, due to his illness.

Donations of \$347 were given to support the 2 charities chosen by the Community this year: internationally - The Heifer project, and locally - Plymouth Crossroads. I really appreciate your willingness to host this service and share the spirit of love for one another.

~ Nancy Hope

## Trinity School News

As we move deeper into the school year, we find ourselves at that familiar point where it can be hard to see the forest for the trees. The weather continues to keep us indoors, routines feel long, and our students—much like siblings on a long car ride—are beginning to show signs of restlessness and irritation with each other. The end of the year can feel far away. The calendar remains full, and the days feel increasingly demanding.

In moments like these, it is easy to feel discouraged. The pace is intense. There are lessons to teach, paperwork to do, and the ever-present desire to meet the many needs of our students and families as well. And interruptions at every turn! At times, despite our best efforts, it can feel like we fall short—and simply put, we are tired.

And yet, in His perfect timing, God provides encouragement.

This past week, we were reminded in several meaningful ways of the impact of our work. We received an email from a former student, now a high school junior, sharing how well prepared he felt because of his time at Trinity, and how that foundation continues to serve him today. A parent of a Trinity graduate, now in college, shared how her child still recalls and explains the deeper truths of creation science learned here. We watched our younger students delight in a visit from a St. Patrick's Day leprechaun, while our older students smiled as they remembered those same joyful experiences. We received a heartfelt thank you from a neighbor touched by the kindness shown during our recent neighborhood walk. And perhaps most meaningfully, we continue to see former students returning—now as parents—seeking the same Christ-centered education for their own children.

These moments are not coincidences — they are reminders from God. Gentle nudges that say, “Keep going. This work matters.”

At Trinity Christian School, our mission is **to learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ** as we partner with families to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures the whole child—academically, spiritually, and socially. On days when the details feel overwhelming, it is important to step back and remember the eternal significance of that mission.

A quote shared recently captured this beautifully: “What a blessing to be exhausted in obedience to a calling God gave you.” What a powerful perspective. Even in our weariness, there is purpose. Even in the daily challenges, there is eternal value.

We are reminded of the words in Galatians 6:9: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” May we take heart in that promise. God is at work—in ways we can see and in many we cannot. And what a privilege it is to be part of that work each and every day.



~ Katie Willert

### Spaghetti Dinner Update!

The recent **Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle** was a wonderful success! Thanks to the generosity and support of our church and community, we raised **\$10,500 for scholarships to Trinity Christian School**. These funds will help ensure that a Christ-centered education remains accessible to families who desire it for their children. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who **donated basket items, volunteered their time, helped organize the event, attended the dinner, and made donations**. Your generosity and willingness to serve made this event possible. We truly cannot say thank you enough for the **unwavering support our church continues to show Trinity Christian School and its mission to help students learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ**. Your partnership makes a lasting difference in the lives of our students and families.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE....

# Easter Egg Hunt

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
146 Reserve R. West Seneca, NY 14224

**When:** Sunday March 29th 2026

**Time:** Starts promptly at 12pm  
(lasts until all eggs are found)

**Ages:** Walking - 10 years old

**Dress for the weather as this is an outdoor event.**

**Bring your own bag or basket to collect eggs**

Sign up here



Trinity's Youth Ministry is hosting an  
**Easter Sunday  
Breakfast**

**And You're Invited!!**

**Sunday, April 5th**

**8:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Free will donations**

**All are welcomed**

**Our Easter Services are  
at 8:30 am and 10:30 am**

**Serving**

**Overnight French Toast**

**Sausage**

**Egg Bake Casserole**

**Fruit Cups**

**Drinks**

**All proceeds go to help off  
set the costs of future trips.**

**Hope to see you there!**

**It'll be delicious!**

# YOUTH SCOOP

## March Lock-In

Trinity's Youth Ministry Program hosted a Lock-In on March 13-14 starting at 7:00pm and going until 7:00am. There were 38 youth in total who showed up to this event, ALL of which were able to stay up all night long! We played a variety of games and community building challenges. There was pizza for dinner at midnight and a cereal buffet for breakfast at 6:00am. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, effort, and money to make this event such a successful one!



## **LIFE AND MINISTRY IN TODAY'S TRANS (LGBTQ+++) WORLD**

### **(A Discussion Seminar)**

**April 25 at 9:00am - 12:00pm**  
**Here At Trinity Lutheran Church, West Seneca**

- IN THE BEGINNING God said, "It's not good for man to be alone. I'll make a helpmate fit for him." (Gen. 1-3) So God created humans in a rich world of relationships.
- TODAY the snake says, You will love playing god and doing your own thing. So we take the forbidden fruit and find ourselves in a *trans*formed world full of autonomous selves lost in loneliness, anger and death. "In the day you eat of it you will die."

Come and join in a discussion about living the Christian faith in today's world led by two pastors and a retired US Navy JAG lawyer. Not a lecture but a discussion guided by scripture, Lutheran Confessions, and live case material and stories that touch almost all people and congregations.

#### Outline:

##### Introduction:

Your Belief Defines You

Compassion: — Jesus: Mentor/ Life Model

##### Apostles' Creed

Article I Image of God vs. playing god alone

Article II Big vision of sinner and bigger Vision of Jesus, Redeemer

Article III Spirit alive in Community of Thinking People alive and all wet in Living Water

#### Leaders:

Rev. Rako Zech, pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clarence, NY, educator, leader, husband, father

Mr. Timothy McGuan, attorney, retired USN CDR-JAG (judge advocate general corps.), husband, father

Rev. David Wurster, PhD, parish pastor-retired, pastoral counselor, professor - adjunct- seminary and university, practical theologian, husband, father

All are welcome to attend!

## **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 by May 10 if you are interested in purchasing a plaque (674-9188).

## **West Seneca Food Pantry**

The West Seneca Food Pantry collected over a ton of food during the holidays, but their shelves are almost bare again. There are over 400 clients who come to the pantry ... 250-300 per month. They are especially always in need of tomato based food (diced tomatoes, paste, sauce). Please consider donating some jars ... and other non-perishable foods ... by placing them in the red wagon in our church's entryway or deliver them directly to the pantry at St. David's Church behind the DMV at South Gate Plaza.



## **Altar Flowers**

There are many open spots for altar flower donations in the upcoming months. Flowers are \$10 per arrangement and you get to take them home after the Sunday service! Flowers can also be picked up from the church on Mondays from 8am-3pm. We ask that 2 families sign up for each week. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the church coatroom or you can contact the church office at 674-9188. Please make sure to include your name and special intentions on the sign-up sheet. Payment (cash or checks made payable to "*Trinity Lutheran Church*" / *memo: Altar Flowers*) should be placed in the Church Office message center. Thank you for helping to beautify our church!



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

**Does the joy of Easter seem far away?  
Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!**

**Carrying a Butterfly**

*By Ashley Clark / From: "All God's Creatures"*

***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,  
just as in Christ God forgave you."***

*Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)*

A neat thing about living along the Gulf Coast is that every September, I get to see swarms of Gulf fritillaries. We have their host plant, the passion vine, growing along our fence line. As the whimsical purple flower open toward the sun, the butterflies seem to come from north, south, east and west. Then they lay eggs, and a new generation of butterflies is born. I love watching the orange caterpillars, with their menacing black spikes, and the beautiful butterflies they become.

Last week, a cold front came through and brought with it some heavy winds. My son and I were playing outside during a break in the rain, and as we were running, I noticed an old butterfly with worn wings climbing up a tall blade of grass amid the storm. I reached out with care, and it climbed onto my finger. Naturally, I thought about keeping it forever, but instead, I used my other hand to block the wind from its wings while I searched for a better spot in the yard for the butterfly. I settled on a thick bush full of flowers, where it could get nectar and burrow between the leaves as needed between gusts of wind.

The butterfly immediately unrolled its wings and began to drink from the flower, as I stood in awe that for the second time in two weeks, a butterfly had crawled into my hand. I thought about how a similar principle holds true with the people around me. **Sometimes, when the winds of life pick up, others who are struggling may be more apt to accept encouragement or help. I hope and pray that I'm able to see them and take the opportunity to block the wind for a little while. May I always remember the difference I can make in other' lives.**

***Walk of Faith: Did someone who is hurting come to mind as you read these paragraphs?  
How can you encourage that person amid struggle, depression, or loss?***

**If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry  
by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Don Meissner: 479-4862,  
Kevin Kot: 445-5923, Colleen Kot: 445-5922.**



*Happy Birthday*

4/1 Sarah Makosy	4/13 Don Rieman	4/24 Jennifer Canazzi
4/5 Mary Havens	Colleen Kot	4/25 Bryana Haas
4/7 Carol McMenamin	4/14 Tracy Meissner	Kennedii McKernan
Kris Zawadzki	4/17 Robbin Blajszczak	4/26 Jean Newton
4/9 Robert Cislo	4/18 Marcia Nickerson	4/27 Kathy Stephen
Stacy Conti	4/19 Heidi Cosandier	4/28 Justin Cornell
4/10 Betty-Jo Smith	Bethany Lafferty	4/29 Anne Gurney
4/11 Brody Zawadzki	Austin Smith	Sandra Lelito
4/12 Linda Hope	4/20 Marcia Fenn	4/30 Natalie Ecker
John Emilianowicz	4/21 Scot Zawadzki	

*Happy Anniversary*

4/3 Sheri & Christopher Courteau	4/20 Gerald & Linda Meissner
4/5 Duane & Sarah Gabel	James & Ryan Rowsell
4/12 Charles & Nancy Stevens	4/23 Robert & Anna Eising
4/15 Steve & Robin Makosy	4/24 Trevor & Courtney Jelowski
4/17 Lindsay & Jordan Iannuzzelli	

**Trinity Cemetery News . . .**

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.

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery.

- 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 discounts given). Non-members must be relatives of a Trinity member in order to purchase plots.

**National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19-25, 2026.** A sincere "Thank You" to all the people who volunteer their time and talents at our church and school! You are truly appreciated!!!

**Pioneer on the Lake  
Summer 2026 Highlights**

- July 5-11: Family Camp (hosted by Pastor Nyck Greig & Mark Willert)
- July 6-10: 9am-12pm VBS
- July 19: Pioneerfest

**Car Cruise-In Season:** Every Friday, May 1 thru Oct. 2, from 4pm-8pm (weather permitting). Enjoy classic cars, the sunset, and God's beautiful creation. Food is available at Joy's Country Store. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy!

**Pioneer Cabins are now available to rent on Air Bnb!** Need a time of quiet reflection? Want to bring the family and do your own thing? Host a family get-together? Call their office to check for availability.

Camp Office: (716) 383-6157

**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