

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

AUGUST 2026

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

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

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



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday Evenings 5:00pm

Sunday Mornings 9:30am



August – The “Get Ready” Month

For some, the month of August may feel like the calm, quiet before the September storm. September is when school begins again, fall sports and activities resume, church programs start afresh. August can provide a few final weeks to relax, take that end-of-the-summer vacation, and catch your breath before the busy fall schedule returns.

Around our congregation and school, August is anything but slow. There is, of course, preparations being finalized for the September return to classes, preparation for Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes, getting ready for Confirmation classes, just to name a few.

So perhaps it is best to think of August as the “get ready” month. A time to prepare for the programming year ahead, yes, but also a time to be more prepared in our daily lives for the spiritual battles we face every day. We can do so by vacationing and recharging, but even that temporary peace flies away as soon as the burdens of everyday life return. We need to build our everyday on the foundation of God’s Word to get ready with a solid foundation.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” – 1 Peter 3:15



Our Sunday School program will begin September 13 at 9:15am. Scan the QR code to register your child:



Volunteers Needed: Please contact Nathan Thomack at youthministry@trinitywny.org or (715) 938-6225 if you are interested in volunteering. We provide all the materials and curriculum. All that is required is a love for children and sharing Jesus with them!



Trinity's 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 in September. Please contact Ellen Makey (esmky23@yahoo.com or 961-8378) for more information.

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.



We are happy to announce that Kim Meissner has volunteered to take over Trinity's Prayer Chain. If you have someone that you would like to add onto the prayer chain, please contact Kim at k.meissner716@gmail.com with your request. Thank you Kim!

Worship Readers

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.



Wedding "Watch Party"

We are excited to share that Hope Willert and Charles Phiri will be married on August 15th in Choma, Zambia! They would love for their church family to celebrate with them by joining the wedding via livestream. Paper invitations are also available on the narthex table.

Time & Viewing Options:

- Watch live at home beginning at 8:00 a.m. EST, on 8/15.
- Or join the Wedding Watch Party at Trinity Lutheran School at noon on 8/15 to watch the recorded livestream together. RSVP to Dave Sirgey by 8/2 at djsirgey@gmail.com or text at 716-863-7403. Ron and Carolyn Habedank will be there, and food will be provided. Come celebrate with them!
- **Livestream link:** https://www.youtube.com/live/j8g_nF2arAY?feature=shared OR you can just search "Hope Willert" in the youtube search bar, and the wedding livestream link will come right up.

If you would like to send a wedding card to Zambia with Mark and Katie Willert, please have cards turned in before July 26th. Cards may be mailed to 156 Reserve Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224, or placed in their church mailbox in the coat room.

Volunteer Opportunity at Camp J.O.Y.

Camp J.O.Y., held at Our Savior Lutheran Church (26 Brunswick Blvd, Buffalo) is looking for volunteers July 6 - August 14 Monday thru Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm for children grades K-4. Can you read a story? Put together a simple craft? Help with their garden? Or help chaperone any activity already being planned? High school students needing community service hours are also welcome. Contact Barbara Glover (716) 310-7297 / bdg12948@gmail.com if you can help. Camp J.O.Y. is a LWML grant recipient.

Trinity School News

175th Anniversary

175 years!!!! Yay!! Thank you, God! As we celebrate **175 years of Trinity Christian School**, we pause to give thanks to God for His abundant faithfulness. For generations, He has blessed this ministry, using it to nurture children in both knowledge and faith. While classrooms, curriculum, culture, and technology have changed over the years, our mission has remained the same: **to learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ**. That mission is just as important today as it was 175 years ago, and we are grateful for the countless teachers, staff members, families, students, church members, and supporters whom God has used to carry it forward.

As we prepare for another school year, we invite our entire church family to partner with us in one of the most powerful ways possible - **THROUGH PRAYER**. Please pray for our teachers and staff as they faithfully share God's Word each day, for our students as they grow academically and spiritually, and for our families as they seek to raise children who know and love Jesus. We also encourage you to participate in our **School Prayer Calendar**, located in the narthex. By signing up to pray for the school on specific days throughout the year, you become an important part of covering this ministry in prayer. Together, let us ask God to continue guiding and blessing Trinity Christian School for generations to come.

Thanks to you - the members of Trinity - that continue to support the essential ministry of the school.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." —Psalm 127:1

Volunteers & Aftercare Position Needed

We are looking for volunteers to assist in our primary classrooms. If you are willing to commit to one morning or one afternoon per week, we would love to have your help supporting our students and teachers!

We are also seeking an **Aftercare Provider** for **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15–5:30 PM**. This is a **paid position**.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about the aftercare position, please contact Sarah Gabel (principal@trinitywny.org).



Trinity Christian (Lutheran) School Alumni Reunion

Saturday, October 10, 2026 4:00pm-7:00pm

As part of Trinity Christian School's 175th Anniversary Celebration, we invite all Trinity graduates, friends, and family to join us for our TCS Alumni Reunion on Saturday, October 10, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

4:00pm-5:00pm	Social Hour
5:00pm	Dinner served
5:30pm	What's new at Trinity presentation
6:00pm-7:00pm	Dessert served; browse displays and yearbooks

Come reconnect with classmates, share memories, tour the school, and celebrate God's faithfulness through 175 years of Christian education. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Informational fliers are in the narthex. Please take some to distribute to family and friends who attended Trinity over the years. We hope you'll join us for this special evening!

YOUTH SCOOP

August Youth Nights

August 12 ~ 6pm-8:30pm: Movie Night

August 26 ~ 6pm-8pm: Pizza Night

Thank you to all the youth who helped out with Trinity's VBS in July! It was awesome to see so many of our church and school youth come out to help make the event such a success.

RaiseRight Gift Cards

The Youth Ministry Program is partnering with the school to raise money through RaiseRight (formally known as Scrip). The school sends out an order form during Christmas and Easter for you to preorder the Gift Cards. This is the same idea except the Youth Program has already purchased these cards and have them on hand. All you need to do is think about where are you going shopping this week. Once you know where you are going, you can get gift cards for those stores from Nathan in his office. A list of available gift cards can be found on the QR-Code. This list will be updated every week. If you shop at a store that is not on this list, please let Nathan know and he can add it to the next order. Purchasing cards can happen after a church service or throughout the week while the office is open.



Get "Buffaloed"!



The herd of very rare buffaloes are be back 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!

LWML Picnic

August 4 3:00pm-6:00pm

The LWML Buffalo and Niagara Zone Picnic will be on August 4 at Como Park, from 3-6PM, at site # 3 (3rd from the right as you enter from Bowen Rd). The service event will be to assemble water purification kits obtained through Thrivent. Bring mite money, stamps and a POTLUCK dish to pass (no electric at the site), **and your table service and personal water bottle**. RSVP to Linda Meissner.



West Seneca Community of Churches CROP Walk & Chicken BBQ

September 19

Chicken dinners will only be take-out or drive-thru for \$16.00 at St. David's Episcopal Church. The walk will go through the neighborhoods behind the Southgate Plaza; Vigilant Fire Policy will be on site for the walkers' safety.

Volunteers are needed from Trinity to prepare take-out meals. Meals will be assembled inside of the St. David's Episcopal Church building ... no bees! Other congregations will supply "runners" to deliver to patrons' cars. Contact Nancy Hope if you can volunteer to help (716) 674-8544 or (716) 426-9342.

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 7th.

Cemetery News

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

- **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.
- 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.

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.



*Trinity Lutheran Church
10th Annual Golf Outing
The "Kathy Herman Memorial Tournament"*

Men and Women golfers welcome!

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

\$55.00 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. (\$25.00 fee for non-golfers)*
- *72 golfers maximum, sign-up as soon as possible but no later than August 2nd, 2026. Sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.*
- *All proceeds (over and above expenses) will be donated to the Trinity Lutheran Church Music Committee in memory of Kathy Herman to be used at their discretion.*

BUFFET

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

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



Trinity Lutheran Church 10th Annual Golf Outing The "Kathy Herman Memorial Tournament"



Sunday, August 23rd, 2026
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM



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

Payment Requirement

This year all fees will be collected prior to the outing.

- **\$55.00 per golfer ... \$25.00 for non-golfers**
- **Payment will be due no later than August 9th, 2026.**
- **Payment may be given to either Nevin Hope, Mike McKernan, Dave Sirgey, or Teresa Lynch, Office Administrator.**
 - ***If paying in cash, please place your money along with a list of the names of those for whom you are paying in an envelope designated for "Trinity Lutheran Church Golf Outing".***
 - ***If paying by check, please make the check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Place the check along with a list of the names of those for whom you are paying in an envelope designated for "Trinity Lutheran Church Golf Outing".***
- **Remember ... Payment is due no later than August 9th, 2026.**

Refund Policy

If the entire outing is cancelled due to weather, and no money has been paid to the course prior to the outing, participants will be reimbursed in full for whatever fees they prepaid. If, however, the course has received payment for the outing prior to its cancellation, participants will be issued a Gift Certificate from Turkey Run Golf Course in the amount of \$55.00 (\$25.00 for non-golfers) which may be redeemed in 2026 or 2027 and applied toward green fees/cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant.

If a Golfer is unable to participate due to illness or some other unforeseen circumstance, he or she will be issued a Gift Certificate from Turkey Run Golf Course in the amount of 30.00* which may be redeemed in 2026 or 2027 and applied toward green fees/cart rental and/or food and beverages in the restaurant.

* (Once the number of people to be served is determined, we are responsible to pay for the food being prepared unless the outing is cancelled in its entirety)

Rainforst VBS . . . What a Great Week!

THANK YOU so much to everyone who helped to make our Rainforest VBS a great success! Numerous adults and teens dedicated their time and energy to make this event possible. Each of them played a crucial role in creating a positive and enriching experience for all of the kids. We had an awesome week with about 80 children attending each day! A special thank you goes out to Nathan Thomack, Pastor Nyck, Stephanie Greig, and our Outreach Committee for organizing this year's wonderful program!





Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia May & June 2026 Update



Hello friends and family!

So much has been happening with school lately - both exciting and funny things - so I thought I would put some pictures together to try and give you all a little glimpse into school these past few months.

Ministry Update

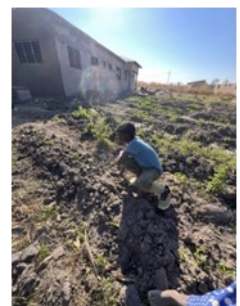
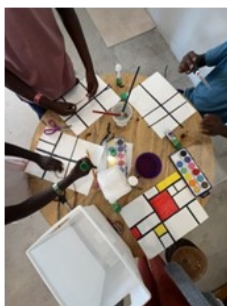
Picture 1: At our school we are really trying to help our students to grow into godly young men and women, and one of the ways in which we do this is through cultivating a culture of prayer in the classroom. Whenever it is one of our students' birthdays, we gather around them and share what we love about that student; then the student sits in the middle of the circle and we all lay our hands on them and pray over them and this next year of their life. Each time we do this, I am reminded of how blessed I am to be these students' teacher and to be able to help to cultivate these kids' love of Christ and one another.

Picture 2: Something that I like about Montessori education, which is the style of education that our school practices, is that all teachers get to be involved in helping the students learn each subject. This means that I get to help teach art, as well as do the art projects right alongside my students, which I LOVE. This is a picture of the project that we were doing when we were teaching the students about primary colors and doing a painting in the style of the artist Piet Mondrian. So fun!!

Picture 3: At our school we provide free lunch for each of our students every day; along with this, we tell each of our students that they need to finish their veggies before they are able to go to recess (much to their chagrin). Students have developed many strategies in order to accomplish this, some of which are trying to secretly throw their veggies on the floor (which never works, because we can see the veggies on the ground and then just get them more veggies to eat anyways), plugging their noses while eating the veggies, saving their veggies for last and then proceeding to sit there and stare at them, as well as covering their eyes while taking a bite of vegetables, which is the method that our student Phaides has chosen in the picture below. This is always a *very* entertaining part of lunch on behalf of the teachers.

Picture 4: Every year around this time, there are a certain kind of caterpillars that hatch in trees all around the area, including the trees around our school playground. This wouldn't be much of an issue except for the fact that when a person touches one of these caterpillars, they break out in a very itchy rash. So, here is a picture of Charles rescuing the students from the scary caterpillars by spraying them with bug killer - as you can see, all of the students were amazed by the whole process and were cheering very loudly for their beloved Uncle Charles.

Picture 5: A few weeks ago I went to visit three of our students at their house in Mwapona, which is the community that is located right next to Poetice that many of our students and staff live in. Joshua, one of my eight year old primary students, told me very excitedly that I needed to come and see his maize plants. He pulled me over, and him and his five year old sister showed me how they water and weed their maize plants and take care of them every day. It was the most adorable thing ever, and just reminded me of how capable and smart these kids are. I can't wait to see what God is going to do in their lives.

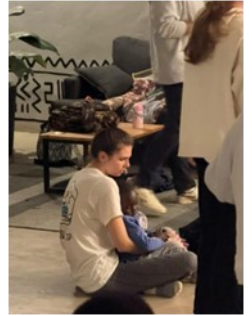


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Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

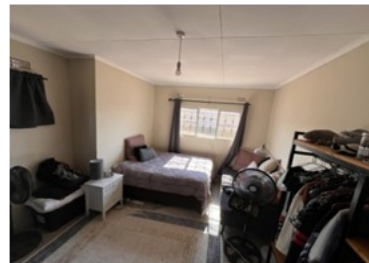
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Picture 6: Several of our students come to the worship night that we have at Poetice every Thursday. It is always a joy to see them dancing to the songs and praising God. However, as you might imagine, some of our little ones get pretty tired as the evening goes on, especially once it is time for the message. This is a picture of one of our little four year old preschoolers, Chileleko (or Chile for short), who came over and sat on my lap and promptly fell asleep (so deeply that he was snoring, might I add). This also was the cutest thing ever and brought my heart so much joy. It makes me so happy to know that we have developed such close relationships with the students that they feel so comfortable and safe that they would even fall asleep on our laps. In addition, this moment really touched my heart because, as I was sitting there looking at this sweet little boy in my arms, I was just overwhelmed with love for him and for each one of my students. I thought about how I love each of them so dearly that I would literally die for any one of them. And as I thought these things and looked into Chile's face, I couldn't help but think of how much more God loves me. I am in awe of the fact that God could love me so much more than I love these kids and so much more than I could even imagine. This was a very special moment between me and the Lord as He reminded me deep in my soul how much I am loved by Him.

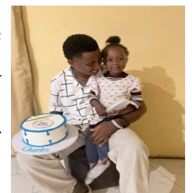


Life Update... Along With Some Other Fun Things :)

As many of you know, I have been on quite a journey in regards to housing. This year in March I moved to a house that I thought would be my house for at least the next year, and then one month into living there the landlord increased the rent to a price that was not sustainable long-term for me. So, at the beginning of this month I moved in with two of my friends who have so graciously welcomed me into their home while Charles and I are scrambling to find another house for me to move into before our wedding. As of right now, Charles has been working very hard to find another house for us, but nothing has been working out. There are some places that are available, but they are either too expensive or do not have enough security (specifically a wall and an electric fence). Please be praying for Charles and I, as we get married in just over a month and need a house to be able to move into. I have full confidence that the Lord is going to move and provide, but please be praying that the Lord would give Charles and I peace and wisdom during this time. (This image is Charles, on the right, and two of my amazing friends, George and Ceaser, who helped me to move all of my things. The second image is my current room at my friends' house. I am *so* thankful for them welcoming me and helping me during this time!!)



On another note, in May, Charles had his birthday, and in the evening we went over to his family's house for a birthday dinner. His parents bought a birthday cake for him, which was so sweet - and it was a drum, because he loves drumming for worship, which was so perfect! This picture is him with his cake and his little sister, Zoe. (Zoe gets very sad any time it is anyone's birthday but her own, because other people are getting presents but not her... so it took a lot to get her to smile in this picture lol. This girl is FUNNY.)



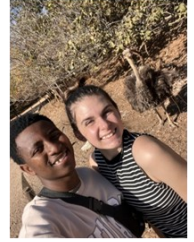
This picture is so random but I just had to put it in here. Last month I came to base and just found two basins full of chickens. I was very confused at first, until I realized that they were sitting right outside of the kitchen, so they were probably going to be cooked for dinner that night. Sure enough, the ladies from the kitchen spent the next several hours butchering the chickens and preparing them to be cooked. I was hesitantly amazed by the whole process, as preparing chicken for myself usually just requires getting it out of the freezer to thaw in the morning but, I was not surprised - this is how they do things here in Zambia! Nothing says "fresh" like a piece of chicken that was just clucking four hours earlier!

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Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 9)

This last picture is also super random, but so fun. I have been quite stressed out lately, between work and wedding planning and trying to find a house, so Charles stole me for a day and took me to a walking safari/zoo that is in Monze, which is about an hour and a half away from Choma, where we live. It was so cool!! There were lions, crocodiles, zebras, antelope, emu, tortoises, and, of course, a few ostriches, such as this lovely one that we had the privilege of taking a selfie with. Not many people can say that they have taken a selfie with an ostrich, but now I can! In all seriousness, it was so incredibly sweet of Charles to do this - to notice how stressed I was and to take me on a fun date to take my mind off of things for a little while and just have fun. Man, I love this guy.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Charles and I as we make final preparations for our wedding next month. Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom, strength, and supernatural peace and joy in this crazy, but beautiful, season.
- My parents are flying over here at the end of July, and my sister as well as a few others will be flying over around the second week of August, so please pray that everyone will have smooth and safe travels as they come over to visit and celebrate our wedding.
- As I explained above, please pray for our housing situation and that the Lord would move in miraculous, amazing ways through the provision of a house.

Wedding Invitation

YOU ARE ALL INVITED! I wish so dearly that I could have each one of you at my wedding here in Zambia, but since that is not possible, I want to do the next best thing, which is to invite you to join in the celebration virtually. To those of you in the Buffalo area, this invitation is for you. My church family is so kindly hosting a watch part for the wedding (see details below). For those of you not in the Buffalo area, don't worry! I will be sharing the livestream link before August 15th so that, if you would like, you are able to watch the wedding from wherever you are. Please know that I love all of you dearly and hope to be able to celebrate with many of you in person when I return to the states in December.

Your presence - whether in person or via livestream - is the greatest gift! For those who have expressed a desire to give, monetary gifts may be sent via Venmo (@Hope-Willert) or by mail to Katie Willert, 156 Reserve Rd. West Seneca, NY 14224. Katie and Mark will take cards along with them to the wedding. They leave for Zambia on July 27th.



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

Happy Birthday

8/1	Bitsy Colson	8/10	Renee Stefanik	8/18	Alan Tedesco	8/25	Lauren Jaskier
	Paul Zawadzki	8/11	David Winkelses		Lynnae Kwilas	8/28	Levi Kotowski
	Amelia Babcock		Sue Schueler		Jeffrey Kopra	8/30	Mark Ganschow
8/2	Adam Zawadzki		Harry Babcock		Blakelyn Hall	8/31	Taylor Blamowski
8/3	Andrew Kosicki	8/12	Paula Winkelses	8/19	Michael Zarbo		Madeline Krause
	Giovanni Ferrara		Bradley McKernan		Ben Makosy		
8/6	Nancy Ehlers	8/13	Bob Kubiszyn	8/20	Sara Lipinoga		
8/7	Beverly Kinton	8/17	Joan Kopra	8/22	Ron Boersch		
	Barbara Monahan		James Foerster	8/23	Ellen Makey		
	Liam McKernan						

Happy Anniversary

8/1	Dan & Linda Rowsell	8/18	Dan & Stacy Conti
	James & Sheri Foerster		Christopher & Ashley Kopra
8/3	Mark & Robbin Blajszczak	8/22	Julie & David Blamowski
8/5	Jeffrey & Sandra Gertis		Rev. Nycholas & Stephanie Greig
8/6	Peter & Janet Bullock	8/23	Travis & Michelle Ecker
8/8	David & Heidi Kosicki	8/24	Rev. Dennis & Lynn Krueger
8/9	Matthew & Lisa Lafferty	8/26	Lars & Lisa Osberg
8/15	Carolyn & Kevin Flattery	8/28	Don & Kim Meissner
8/16	Kevin & Colleen Kot		

Stephen Ministry

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Don Meissner (479-4862), Kevin Kot (445-5923) or Colleen Kot (445-5922)

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

Position

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

Name

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

Contact Information

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674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org