

# TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

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



### SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday Evenings 5:00 pm

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

## “God Bless Our Native Land”

God bless our native land;  
Firm may she ever stand  
Through storm and night.  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,  
Do Thou our country save  
By Thy great might.

*(Lutheran Service Book 965:1)*

Our native land is much on our mind as we celebrate our nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this July 4<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred and fifty years is a long time in the life of a nation, and such a milestone invites more than fireworks and remembrance. It invites thanksgiving to God, honest reflection before God, and renewed prayer that our country would be guarded, corrected, strengthened, and blessed according to His gracious will.

As Christians, we give thanks for the earthly blessings we have received through this land: freedom to gather around God’s Word, freedom to confess Christ openly, opportunities to serve our neighbors, and the daily gifts of peace, order, work, family, and community. These blessings are not achievements for which we boast as though they came from our own hands. They are gifts from the Lord, who “makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them” (*Job 12:23 NIV*).

At the same time, Christian thanksgiving is never blind triumphalism. We know that every nation, including our own, stands under the judgment and mercy of God. Our history includes courage and sacrifice, but also sins that call for repentance, humility, and a desire to love our neighbors more faithfully. The church’s first loyalty is not to any flag or nation, but to Jesus Christ, whose kingdom is not of this world and whose mercy is for all people.

For that reason, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America is a fitting time for prayer. We pray for our president, governor, judges, legislators, public servants, military members, first responders, teachers, workers, families, and all who bear responsibility for the common good. We pray for justice with mercy, liberty with responsibility, courage with compassion, and truth spoken in love. We pray that God would protect the vulnerable, restrain evil, forgive our sins, and teach us to seek the welfare of the place where He has planted us.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (*Psalms 33:12 NIV*). This blessing is not a slogan to be claimed lightly, but a summons to trust the Lord above every earthly power. Nations rise and fall, leaders come and go, and anniversaries pass into history, but “the counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations” (*Psalms 33:11 ESV*).

In the middle of the patriotic songs, fireworks displays, and Fourth of July cookouts be sure to exercise your religious freedom and pray. Ask God’s blessings upon our native land, its leaders and its citizens. “May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you” (*Psalms 33:22 NIV*).

*(Continued on page 2)*

## “God Bless Our Native Land”

(Continued from page 1)

So shall our prayers arise  
To God above the skies;  
On Him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye,  
To Thee aloud we cry:

God save the state! *Lutheran Service Book 965:2*

God’s Blessings,  
Pastor Nyck Greig



**VBS 2026**  
**Rainforest Falls**  
**July 20-24 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 are still in need of several crew leaders. If you can help out, even for a few days, please let Nathan Thomack know (715) 938-6225 / youthministry@trinitywny.org . Thank you so much!

**Donations:** A poster listing needed food items for VBS is in the church narthex soon. Please sign up to donate and item if possible. 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!



**Saturday Evening at 5:00pm**

**Sunday Morning at 9:30am**

### **NO Worship at Trinity on Saturday, July 4**

Due to the holiday, and the special church service at Pioneer on the Lake on July 5, Trinity will not be holding a worship service on Saturday, July 4. We hope that everyone can join us at Pioneer that Sunday.



### **Worship & Picnic at Pioneer Sunday, July 5 at 11:00am**

Join your Trinity family for worship on July 5 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.

**\*\* There is no worship service at Trinity that day.\*\***

### **Volunteers Needed**

Nancy Hope is looking for 4 or 5 volunteers to assemble chicken BBQ meals for take outs at the WSCC Crop Walk/Chicken BBQ on Saturday, September 19 from 11:00am till sell out (mid afternoon). Assembly will be inside St. David's Episcopal church building ... no bees to worry about this year! Please contact Nancy Hope (nandr.hope@verizon.net) or 716-674-8544 for more information or to volunteer.

### **Meet Trinity’s 2026 Domestic Mission Trip Volunteers**

From Sunday, July 26, to Friday, July 31, 2026, the following individuals will be in Eastern Kentucky to serve the Appalachian community:

Kevin Kot, Colleen Kot, Nathan Thomack, Dave Sirgey, John Clark, Linda Meissner, Luke Adams, Ellie Adams, Megan Diehl, Audrey Diehl, Nate Barnas and Katie Barnas

Please keep our mission team in your prayers as we travel to and from Kentucky and while serving the families there.

If you would like to help support our team financially, it would be greatly appreciated. Place any donations in an envelope and mark it “L.I.F.E.- Missions - KY”.

**COST:** Trinity pays the registration fee for all youth; **adults are \$325** per person which includes room, board, and travel expenses. Any questions? Please contact:

Kevin Kot (716-445-5923), [kkot57@gmail.com](mailto:kkot57@gmail.com)  
Colleen Kot (716-445-5922), [knknot@verizon.net](mailto:knknot@verizon.net)

## Trinity School News

### Trinity Wins Award

We are pleased to announce that Trinity Christian School has been recognized with the 2025–26 Parent Choice Award from ParentPulse, a national organization serving more than 300 private and independent schools. This award is given to schools that achieve an exceptional level of parent satisfaction and loyalty, and Trinity Christian School earned a prestigious “world-class” rating during the 2025–26 school year. We thank God for His blessings on our school and are grateful for the trust, support, and partnership of our families as we work together to provide a Christ-centered education for our students.

### Congratulations Trinity Grads!

Congratulations to our graduating Kindergarteners and 8th graders! We are so proud of you and look forward to seeing what God has in store for you!

**Kindergarten Grads:** Carter Barlow, Brookly Baumgart, Silas Bonning, Delaney Colson, Madison Dennee, Jack Finucane, Parker Hibbard, Joy Hojnacki, Timothy Nies, Victoria Nowicki, Summer Reiman, Christopher Ruth, Kade Silvashy, Graysyn Stevens, Donnie Stobnicki, Inara Sudyn

**8th Grade Grads:** Lena Jauch, Jayce Mathewson, Luke O’Connor, Elijah Stoddard, Ethan Webster, Ethan Widman



### Thank You Trinity Staff

A big thank you to the teachers, staff, and volunteers of Trinity Christian School for their faithful hard work, dedication, and love shown throughout this school year. Their commitment to serving our students and families has made a lasting impact both academically and spiritually. God’s blessings, and rest up this summer!



## Summer Clean Out?

If you are doing a summer clean out and happen to have any of these items, I would gladly utilize them for our Trinity PreK-8 P.E. program: Beanbags, Frisbees, Little Tikes type basketball net, and any type of balls.

Thank You!

Noel Anderson



## 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. Ron and Carolyn Habedank will be there, and food will be provided. Come celebrate with them! *\*\*\*Livestream viewing platform information will be available at a later date\*\*\**

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.

## West Seneca News

### Crop Walk & Chicken BBQ September 12, 2026

Chicken take out only for \$16.00. The walk will go through the neighborhoods behind the Southgate Plaza – Vigilant Fire Police will be on site for safety of walkers. Drive through take out will be at St. David’s Episcopal.

**Volunteers are needed from Trinity** to prepare take out meals. Please let Nancy Hope know if you can help out (nandrhope@verizon.net or call at 716-674-8544 and leave a message if she’s not home).

Thank you to Trinity’s Outreach Group, who are donating 100 large water bottles for the walkers.

### Farmer’s Market

The West Seneca Farmer’s Market is held every Thursday evening from 4pm-7pm on the grassy hill at Union Road & Main Street, next to West Seneca Town Hall. Stop by and check it out!

### Food Pantry

The WS Chamber of Commerce is holding a food drive during the whole month of July. You may drop items off at the WS Community Center.

### School Backpack Giveaway

WS Schools will be sponsoring a backpack distribution giveaway – school supplies, boy and girl hygiene products, shoes/sneakers, etc (new, unused) - on **August 12** at Ebenezer United Church of Christ. Any WS students are welcome to receive a free filled backpack. If you’re interested in donating supplies, you may want to check out the website for “Goodness Project Buffalo” for low prices on needed items. You can donate a filled box for \$40. The “store” is at Clinton and Bailey.



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.***

## YOUTH SCOOP

### Summer Youth Events

There will not be regular weekly Youth Nights during the summer. Here is a list of the scheduled events:

**July 1:** 6pm-8pm Youth Night

**July 15:** 4pm-7pm Pool Party at the Kot's House  
(dinner provided at 5pm)

**August 12:** 6:30pm Family Movie Night

**August 26:** 6pm-8pm Youth Pizza Night

Youth Director: Nathan Thomack  
[youthministry@trinitywny.org](mailto:youthministry@trinitywny.org) / (715) 938-6225



### Get "Buffaloed"!



The herd of very rare buffaloes are 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!

### 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.



### 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.



### Altar Flowers

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

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



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

*Men and Women golfers welcome!*

*Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Men's Night**

Every Wednesday 6:15-7:45  
pm this summer @Trinity

For men in small groups who want to  
**draw closer** to God, **support** each other and  
**connect** through His Word.  
Contact Mark Willert 716-601-8570  
as location can vary.

Lives are changing as AWAKE men catch the vision and impact in the characteristics cultivated here. Addiction, the strengthening of marriage, and deep life questions are courageously being brought to the surface.

The AWAKE Mission Statement reflects something bigger than one person. As men in this group, we will create a space to be:

- A**ware and seeking God's presence with direction
- W**illing to be open and transparent- honoring each other by digging deep
- A**uthentic in building an environment of relationship
- K**eeping in the world, and courageously not of it
- E**quipping and strengthening each other to a life galvanized by our faith.

In that, we realize that our vulnerability and brokenness is where Jesus can step in and begin reshaping us. As we humbly dig deep leaning into Him, we become the clay in His hands.

AWAKE is shaped by 1st Thessalonians 5 where it says, "Let us then never fall into the sleep that stupefies the rest of the world: let us keep AWAKE, with our wits about us. Night is the time for sleep and the time when men get drunk, but we men of the daylight should be alert, with faith and love as our breastplate and the hope of our salvation as our helmet. For God did not choose us to condemn us, but that we might secure his salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. He died for us, so that whether we are "AWAKE" or "asleep" we share his life. So go on cheering and strengthening each other with thoughts like these, as I have no doubt you have been doing."

Watching these men connect through surrender, laughter, and shared experiences has been so special. It speaks to the kind of humility being cultivated here- rooted in presence, shaped by obedience, and expressed through love in conviction.

## West Seneca Chamber to Host Unique 3-in-1 Event in July!

**Saturday, July 25, 2026 10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Vendor Showcase:** The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce will offer its third annual Vendor Showcase in the West Seneca Community Center & Library, located at 1300 Union Road. Free and open to the public, this trade show-type event will feature approximately 30 vendors highlighting local businesses and organizations. All vendors will be featured in the building's atrium and small gym. Vendor tables for the showcase are currently available at a cost of just \$20 per table. Event sponsorships are also available. For more information on becoming a vendor or sponsor, please email: [director@westseneca.org](mailto:director@westseneca.org) or call the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce at (716) 674-4900, ext. 1.

**Indoor Yard Sale:** Additionally, the Chamber will host an indoor yard sale in the gym during the event, with proceeds to benefit the Chamber and the 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's.

**Blood Drive:** And ... at the same time, the American Red Cross will host an on-site blood drive.

## LWML News

*(Updates provided by Linda Meissner)*

### **Mite Walk**

Thanks to all who gave to the Mite Walk! \$402 was raised from your donations to add to those of other walkers. This money will be used to fund eight mission grants over the course of 2026-2028. Among them is the grant for Camp Joy, a summer camp at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Buffalo. The total amount of the goal is \$33,980.63 to be applied to fund the grants as the mite money is sent in. (\$3,980.63 was carried over from 2024-26!). ~ Linda Meissner

### **LWML Picnic**

**Save the date:** August 4, 2026 for the LWML Buffalo and Niagara Zone Picnic at Como Park, from 3-6PM, at site # 3 (3rd from the right as you enter from Bowen Road). The service event will be to assemble water purification kits obtained through Thrivent. Bring mite money, cancelled stamps and a POTLUCK dish to pass (no electric at the site), **and your table service and personal water bottle.** RSVP to Linda Meissner.

### **LWML 2026 Convention Report**

The 2026 LWML Convention took place in Lancaster, PA on June 12-14. On Friday evening, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Pres. Dee Grzyb opened the convention followed by a communion service led by the pastoral counselors and Eastern District President, Rev. John Pingel. Following opening ceremonies, including a banner parade, the Mission Grants Committee provided a presentation of the proposed mission grants for 2026-28.

Saturday morning, June 13<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Emberger led a Bible study on The Living and Abiding Word from I Peter 1:22-25, which inspired great discussion. Sharla Fritz gave the keynote address emphasizing the Word of the Lord meets us in our loneliness (Hagar), our failures (Rahab), our pain (suffering), and meets us where we are. Afterwards the Young Women Representatives to the 2025 National Convention provided a view of their experiences as YWRs and introduced the YWRs for this convention. Next, the Mission Goal for the 2026-28 was adopted and balloting for the mission grants and officers took place. Bylaw amendments were approved. In the afternoon a representative from National presented her report to the district and Pres. Dee presented hers from the Eastern District. Mission Moments were presented by groups which had received grants during the biennium, followed by a break for Interest Sessions and the Mite Walk. The evening activities included a banquet and entertainment.

Sunday morning Bible study was followed by a Sending Service at the chapel behind the hotel.

Before each session began, the attendees were led in singing to praise the Lord. During the convention 3 offerings were taken and an ingathering and servant event took place.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial E.D. Convention in June 2028 will be hosted by the Buffalo Zone. The next national convention will be in Oklahoma City, July 8-11, 2027. "Transformed in Christ" will be the theme based on Romans 12:2.

### **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty**

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) is a religious liberty organization in Washington D.C. that serves as a voice for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partners in the public square. The LCRL provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage, and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions with lawmakers, media, and the public to uphold the rights and responsibilities of Christians in society. The LCRL also connects and equips missional leaders across the country through its Champions for Liberty Network. The Center provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions in Washington, D.C., to establish partnerships and resources in our nation's Capital for the sake of our churches, schools, universities, and seminaries. The website is [LCRLFreedom.org](http://LCRLFreedom.org).

One key issue the Center is promoting is the provision for educational freedom in the 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill. It created the nation's first federally supported, donation-funded school-choice program by allowing taxpayers to give up to \$1700 to state-approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) in exchange for federal tax credits. But states must first opt in for residents to receive tax credits and scholarships, and SGO regulations are not yet finalized, and overly complex rules could delay or hinder their formation. SGOs could give more freedom for parents in determining where to send their children for education or to home school. The website is [LCRLFreedom.org](http://LCRLFreedom.org).

***Happy Birthday***

7/1	John Kern	7/17	Samantha Canazzi	7/24	Thea Schultz
7/5	Ed Schindler	7/18	Judy Schmidt	7/25	Lyla Graham
7/7	Madison Jaskier	7/19	Barbara Halvorsen Nolan Heckman	7/26	Judy Jaeckle
7/10	Don Loos Leslie Tripi Zachary LoVullo	7/20	Annette Neth Jessica Nickerson	7/27	Rev. Dennis Krueger
7/12	Eleanor English	7/21	James Manzo	7/28	Diane Roncone
7/14	Bryce Zawadzki	7/22	Janine Wackowski	7/29	Marie Thompson Natalie Monahan
7/16	Kim Meissner	7/23	Joanie Metzler Andrew Eising	7/30	Hope Willert
				7/31	Jenna Wackowski

***Happy Anniversary***

7/1	Christopher & Erin Kotowski	7/12	Ryan & Beth McKernan
7/3	Larry & Marie Thompson Chris & Lynnae Kwilas	7/17	Justin & Betty Jo Smith
7/5	Dave & Noel Anderson	7/19	Leslie & Tim Tripi
7/8	Ed & Kathie Schindler Andrew & Rachel Eising	7/22	Nathan & Kimberly Thomack
		7/29	Don & Maxine Loos

**Prayer Chain Help Needed**

Judy Schmidt, who has been our Prayer Chain contact person, needs to take a leave of absence from this position. If anyone could temporarily take over this duty, please let the church office know (716) 674-9188.

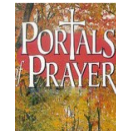
**Shut-In Members**

If you know if a member of Trinity who should be on our **shut-in member list**, please let Pastor Nyck and the church office know. We want to care for all!

Shut-ins can receive our weekly Life at Trinity announcement sheet and monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter by mail or email. Contact the church office (674-9188) to find out more information.

**Pew Attendance Books**

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



**Portals of Prayer**

July - Sept 2026 devotion booklets are now available. They can be found on the long table and Welcome Center in the church narthex. Please take one and use it for home devotions!

**The Red Food Pantry Wagon**

We continue to collect food to be donated to the West Seneca Food Pantry and the pantry at Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden. Non-perishable items can be placed in the red wagon in the church entry. Thank you!

**Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Information</u></b>
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