

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

JUNE 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



WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 10:30 am (thru 6/14/26)
Sunday @ 9:30 am (effective 6/21/26)



“Summer on the Mount”

This summer we are going to take a more in depth look at Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5–7, remains one of Jesus’ most beloved and challenging teachings. Spoken on a hillside to his disciples and the gathered crowds, it opens with the Beatitudes and paints a picture of life in God’s kingdom—one marked not by power or status, but by humility, mercy, righteousness, and peace. Jesus calls ordinary people to become “salt of the earth” and “light of the world,” reminding us that faithful living has the power to bless others and reflect God’s love.

Throughout this sermon, Jesus moves beyond outward religious symbols and speaks directly to the heart. He teaches forgiveness instead of resentment, honesty instead of appearance, generosity instead of selfishness, and trust in God instead of anxious striving. He gives us the Lord’s Prayer, the Golden Rule, and the command to love even our enemies. These words continue to shape Christian discipleship because they invite us not simply to admire Jesus’ teaching, but to practice it in our homes, churches, neighborhoods, and daily relationships.

For our congregation, the Sermon on the Mount is both a comfort and a calling. It reminds us that blessedness is often found in quiet faithfulness, compassionate service, and steadfast hope. As we listen again to Jesus’ words, may we ask the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts so that our lives reflect the grace, truth, and love of Christ. In a world hungry for hope, the church still shines brightest when it lives the message of the mountain.

“And when Jesus had finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”

– Matthew 7:28-29

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck



SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Beginning June 20 & 21

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

Sunday Morning at 9:30am



Congregation Meeting & Potluck

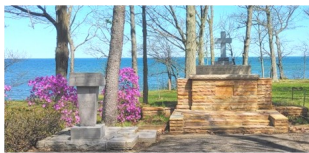
Sunday, June 14, 2026

(Following the 10:30am service)

All Trinity members are encouraged to attend this congregation meeting and potluck ~ bring a food item to share! Refer to upcoming announcement sheets for more details.

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.



Trinity's Sunday Worship & Picnic at Pioneer

Sunday, July 5, 2026 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. This worship will be in place of our own worship service - so **no worship at Trinity's sanctuary that Sunday.**



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 will be placed in the church narthex at the end of June. 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!

2026-27 Budget Requests

It's time to continue planning our future together at Trinity. If your ministry, team board or committee would like a budget for the new fiscal year starting September 1, 2026 OR if you are starting a new ministry, a budget request form needs to be completed and returned to Lisa Laffery (lisalaff@gmail.com) **by June 21st**. Ministry Goal / Cost Sheet forms can be picked up from the table in the narthex or you can contact the church office to request a form.



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!



Trinity School News

School Musical a Great Success!

We praise the Lord for the wonderful presentation of this year's school musical, "It's Cool in the Furnace," telling the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Our K-8th grade students did an excellent job sharing this powerful message through both song and acting. They were a great witness to their faith and used their God-given talents to glorify Him. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Anderson for leading the production and for all of the hard work, time, and dedication she invested to make the program such a success. We also thank everyone who came out to support and encourage our students!



Walkathon at Trinity School

The Trinity School Walk-a-thon was a wonderful success! Students spent the afternoon walking and running laps around the path to raise money for our new outdoor learning space, which will begin construction over the summer. The students gave their very best effort all afternoon long and helped raise over \$2,000 toward the project! Parents and grandparents joined in the fun by walking alongside the students, adding to the festive and encouraging atmosphere. We are so thankful for everyone who supported this event and helped make it such a great day. Way to go, Trinity kids!



Annual Fund Fundraiser is Underway!

Our Annual Fund campaign is now underway, with a goal of raising \$20,000 to support important needs at our school and church ministry. Funds raised will help provide student scholarships, support building improvements such as our new outdoor learning space that will begin construction this summer, and allow us to continue investing wisely for the future. Letters have been mailed, so please be on the lookout for more information in your mailbox. You can also make a donation easily by scanning the QR code included here. Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and faithful support of our ministry and students!



Congratulations To Our Trinity Church Graduates!

HIGH SCHOOL

Nathan Barnas graduated from St. Francis High School and will be attending Roberts Wesleyan University this fall to study business and analytics.

Bransen Gabel graduated from Cattaraugus Little Valley High School and will be attending the State University of NY at Fredonia in the fall to study computer science.

COLLAGE

Abigail Anderson graduated from Wittenberg University Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Spanish. She is currently teaching Spanish at Buffalo Seminary.

Lauren Jaskier graduated from Adelphi University in Long Island with a degree in marketing.

Elle Meunier graduated from Bryant and Stratton with a degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She plans to spend the next few years as a traveling PTA.

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

June 3: **NO** Youth Night
 June 10 & 17: Regular Youth Night
 June 24: Summer Party

May's Family Bowling Event

The Fellowship Team hosted a bowling night May 15th, at Abbott Bowling Alley, from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. We had over 80 people attend this event and it was a ton of fun. Both school and church families were able to make it out that Friday night. A huge thank you to Pauline, Abbott Bowling Alley, and the Fellowship Team for setting up and taking care of this event.

Youth Summer Party 2026 June 24, 2026 5:00pm-8:00pm

We are hosting a summer party for all current 5th-12th grade students from 5:00pm - 8:00pm on June 24th. The main event is a Slip and Slide Kickball Tournament with some side team challenges. Teams will be divided upon arrival and then compete together in different challenges along the way. There will be hotdogs and hamburgers, chips, and drinks available throughout the evening. The sign-up deadline is June 19th at 11:00 am. When you use the link below, you will notice the registration cost is \$5. This does not apply to you. We are partnering with several other churches who are joining us for this event. Since I was going to have this party with or without them, it would have been free for you guys anyways.

<https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/forms/d/dc5a48ad-cdef-4dd8-821b-39eb26c1b792>

Volunteers Needed: I will need at least one adult for every 10 students. I am planning some mini games for this event and I will need some help leading those games. I will have the rules and the stations fully set up and ready to go upon arrival. These games will help students work together and gain points to go towards their overall score with the top three teams getting some sort of take-home prize. Even if you are unavailable for the event itself, I will need help shopping and stuff like that. Please let me know how you are willing to help out.



MITE Walk Fundraiser

Trinity member Linda Meissner will be walking to raise funds for Mites at the LWML Convention in Lancaster, PA on June 13th. The funds will be applied to the new grants for the next 2 years voted on at the convention. These include Proposals for summer camp at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Campus Ministry at Penn State, a mission outreach camp in Canandaigua, among other worthy causes. Please sign the donation form on the table in the church narthex and give what you can in the envelope (checks can be made out to LWML EASTERN DISTRICT). That's what mites are: donations for the good of others from what you have. Giving thanks to the Lord for your help.

LWML Summer Picnic

The picnic will be held the first week of August. More details to come.

LWML Eastern District Retreat September 18-20, 2026

Join Lutheran ladies and friends in bible studies with a guest speaker, Deaconess Raquel Rojas, devotions and great fellowship as you recharge at Pioneer on the Lake. The theme for the retreat is "My Trust is in the Lord". First time campers may apply for full camperships for the full cost of the retreat. Applications must be in to Pres. Dee Gryzb, 56 Hanover St. Lancaster, NY. by August 1, 2026. More information and applications, and registration forms can be found on the table in the narthex. Registration deadline is August 21. We could organize a group from our church. Text or call 716-277-7166 to contact Linda Meissner for more information.



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

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

Cemetery News

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

- Flowers and plants should be placed in rugged, sturdy containers which can be placed on either side of the monuments. They should not be planted directly in the ground. **NO** glass containers are allowed in the cemetery.
- In-ground plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) are subject to Cemetery Board approval. Approval must be given prior to anything being planted.
- **ANY** burials or spreading of ashes in Trinity's Cemetery are prohibited without pre-approval from the Cemetery Board. Both state and cemetery regulations need to be adhered to.



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

WEST SENECA HAPPENINGS

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 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.

“This is a unique opportunity for area residents to become better acquainted with businesses and organizations right here in their community,” said Joe Kirchmyer, executive director of the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce. “In addition to offering information, each business or organization will also have a special giveaway, discount or promotion. We hope to see a huge turnout in support of these community assets. The addition of the indoor yard sale and Red Cross activities during the event should help ensure a strong crowd and provide a ‘something-for-everyone’ atmosphere!”

VBS at Winchester Community Church

“Illumination Station”

June 22-26 6:30pm-8:00pm

Open to children grades K - 6

Outdoor Farmer's Market

Thursday evenings at 4pm-7pm on the grassy hill by the W.S. Police Station. There is a collection of fantastic vendors with entertainment and fun for the whole family. It's dog friendly (on leash)!



Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia April 2026 Update



Ministry

Hi, everybody!

This month was term break, so we spent a lot of time prepping and organizing for the next term, which started on May 4th. So the biggest ministry updates that I have for this month are from youth house, not school.

We took 45 of our youth camping for our yearly youth retreat, and man, was it amazing! We camped at a local farm for two nights. And this was *real* camping - tents, cooking over the fire (which you can imagine was a feat as we had over 50 people there when you include the leaders), and no running water (which you can imagine what that means when it comes to using the bathroom... LOL). As you can probably imagine, it was such a bonding experience for all of us. We had so much fun singing songs around the camp fire, cooking giant pots of food over the fire, swimming in the creek, and playing games. We also had teaching sessions, small group discussions, and worship. I was amazed at the questions, thoughts, and perspectives that many of the youth have - it is so encouraging to see the young people of this country with such a passion and curiosity for their faith. This was most certainly an experience that I will never forget!



Life Update

This month Charles and I traveled 13 hours away to the Eastern Province of Zambia where Charles grew up so that I could meet his family for the first time. It was so amazing! His family are the kindest people. When we arrived, his mom came rushing out of the house, enveloped me in a big hug, and pulled me inside saying, "Welcome home, my daughter! Please come inside, you are home!" Immediately, I knew that becoming a part of this family was going to be such a blessing from the Lord.

During our time there I got to know his family more - his mother, father, two younger sisters, and younger brother. It was especially exciting to meet his younger sister, Astrida, who is just a year younger than me and is literally a female version of Charles, so I can already tell that we are going to be best friends. It was also so special to meet his mother, who literally raised Charles to be who he is today. I can see how she instilled love for the Lord, kindness, and laughter in him as she raised him, and I am so blessed to be able to call this woman "Mom" now. I cannot wait until our wedding in August when I get to see all of them again.

(Continued on page 7)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 6)

It was surreal to be walking around the town where Charles lived, played with friends, and went to school in when he was little! Between getting to see where he grew up and finally getting to meet his family, this trip helped me to learn even more about Charles. I am so thankful that the Lord gave us the opportunity and the means to be able to take this trip.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Charles and I as we are trying to figure out how to get him a visa to be able to travel back to the states with me this winter, as most visas to the United States for Zambians are still suspended. We think that we may have found a visa to apply for that isn't fully suspended, so pray that the Lord continues to make a way in that area.
- Please pray for me as we have started Term 2 of school, and I am still really struggling with exhaustion. For any of you that don't know, I have a condition called sleep apnea, which we have tried many methods and taken many tests to help me to be able to function normally even with sleep apnea, but nothing has worked fully. I still find myself having at least three cups of caffeine every day while still struggling to keep my eyes open a lot of the time. This has been going on for years, and to be quite honest, it is really wearing on me. I want so badly to give my all to the work that the Lord has me doing here and to the people that He has me interacting with, but so often I feel like what I am doing is just not good enough, no matter how hard I try, because I am just so exhausted. I know I mention this in almost every newsletter, so I hope it is not annoying, but it really is one of the things that I am struggling with the most in life right now. Thank you so much for those of you who have been lifting this up in prayer - it means so much.
- I have to move again... If you remember, I just moved into a new house at the beginning of March and I was so excited about it - it is so nice! However, the landlord drastically increased the price of rent from what he had originally stated, so I can't afford to live here long term. Someone else will be moving into this house in the middle of July, so I have two months to find another place to live, which is not easy, as safe and secure housing is not prevalent here (as a foreigner, I am more likely to be robbed, so I need to make sure that the security wherever I live is legit). Please pray that God will provide a house for me (and ultimately for Charles as well, as he will be moving in with me once we are married in August).

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!

P.S. I'm so sorry this month's update is rather short - Charles and I are deep into wedding planning, so it was either send a short update, or don't send one at all... I hope you understand!

P.P.S. Charles and I are working on figuring out how to live-stream our wedding, so once we figure that out, I will send the link in an email so any of you who want to watch can. It will be August 15th at 8:00 AM EST. I wish I could invite each one of you, but seeing as that we live on opposite sides of the world from one another, this will have to do. Love you all!

Blessings,

Hope Willert

hope@poetice.org

Happy Birthday

6/1	Peter Bullock Kasey Lelito	6/7	Brynn Zawadzki	6/16	Mark Blajszczak	6/25	Marilyn Lein Gregory Ringle
6/2	Karen Hollowood Trevor Jelowski	6/8	Mary Colwell Peter Szeider Jeff Gertis	6/17	Bruce Heckman	6/26	Kyle McCoy Camden Stefanik
6/3	Denise Meissner		Cadence Jelowski	6/20	Kristen Zawadzki Nathan Thomack	6/27	Don Meissner
6/4	Martha Birrer	6/9	Shannon Heckman		Travis Barnas	6/29	Lisa Osberg Hartley Smith
6/5	Norine Ecker Jered Cornell	6/11	Madelyn Monahan	6/22	Larry Thompson Lenore Ecker	6/30	Jennifer Evans
6/6	Henry Jelowski Claire Haas	6/12	Audrey Diehl	6/23	Jeffrey Wackowski Adeline Royal		
		6/13	Abigail Lelito				
		6/14	Linda Daum				

Happy Anniversary

6/3	Brad & Theresa McKernan	6/17	Ron & Nancy Hope
6/12	Paula & David Winkelses Ingrid & Alan Hamann	6/20	Frank & Sandra Lelito
6/15	Rev. Ron & Carolyn Habedank	6/29	Mark & Katie Willert



Gardening Help Needed

We are still looking for volunteers to help care for the flowers and shrubs around the church and school during the summer months. If this is something you can assist with, please see or call Linda Meissner (716-648-1281). Thank you!



Altar Flowers

There are many open spots for altar flower donations for the upcoming months. Flowers are \$10 per vase 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. Payments should be placed in the Church Office’s message center or can be mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to **“Trinity Lutheran Church” (memo: Altar Flowers)**.

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

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

674-9188 / (716) 336-1767 / pastornyck@gmail.com
674-5353 / principal@trinitywny.org
(715) 938-6225 / youthministry@trinitywny.org
674-9188 / trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net
674-5353 / jbabcock@trinitywny.org