

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

MAY 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

“Teaching Kids to Pray”

(adapted from an article of the same name by Jennifer Barnett)

Have you ever thought about how you learned to pray? Was it sweet bedtime rhymes, a mealtime blessing, or hearing an adult praying out loud?

Perhaps you or your children learned a couple of short, sweet prayers at church. Maybe you have even taught them to your grandkids. One familiar one went like this... “God is great, God is good, Let us thank Him for our food, By his hands we all are fed, Thank you God for our daily bread.”

Those words are precious coming from a three-year old’s mouth, but when an almost seven-year old was still saying them the exact same way, I couldn’t help but wonder: Have we missed the mark? Were we truly teaching children how to pray and talk to God, or just how to recite poems?

I do not want children to just go through the motions. I wanted them to experience real conversations and genuine communion with God. There is value in teaching our kids, even toddlers, to move beyond cute, memorized prayer poems and learn to pray original prayers – teaching them to have a conversation with God.

So how do we help our children to pray more authentically?

Start with simple thanksgiving in their own words. Invite them to name things they are thankful for. One day it might be mac and cheese; the next might be a favorite toy, or a friend at school. This is okay! If it is something they are thankful for and they thought of it, then it’s a real conversation, not just recitation.

Help them to pray Scripture. There is tremendous value in memorizing Scripture and hiding God’s Word in our hearts. But Jesus also warned against “heaping up empty phrases” (Matthew 6:7) Memorization and meditation are good; mindless repetition is not. We want children to learn to talk to God and keep their hearts close to Him, not to run through prayer time without truly paying attention. When we teach kids to pray Scripture – turning verses into their own words – God’s Word begins to shape their thoughts, requests, and their view of who He is.

Explain what verses mean as you pray them together. Kids ask the best questions when we actually pray with them instead of just reciting something. For example, 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 says, “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing...*” How can someone pray without ceasing? Explain that it does not mean to pray all day and all night. Instead, it means staying in an ongoing conversation with God. We can whisper short prayers before a test, or when scared of the dark, or when something good happens—then we are turning our thoughts to Him often.

Teach them to look at verses in context and learn together as a family. If you feel like you don’t know the right answers, that is ok, learn together. Invest in a good study Bible or commentary to help you understand. Read a children’s Bible with your kids – you might be surprised by how much it helps you as a growing believer. What matters most is that families keep growing together.

Show them that real prayer changes our desires. As we grow and mature in our faith and as we continue walking with Jesus, our desires begin to line up with God’s will. He knows our deepest thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. We can teach children to talk honestly with God about our lives, our fears, worries, joys, and successes—and trust Him with the outcome.

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“Teaching Kids to Pray”

(Continued from page 1)

Here’s a model to help called the “Five Finger Prayer”. Each finger represents a different group of people.



God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



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).



Trinity’s 2026 VBS “Rainforest Falls”



July 20-24, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm

All children age 3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade are invited to join us for this FREE week of fun! Scan the above QR code to register starting May 1.

Volunteers Needed: We need many volunteers to make this event a success. Please let Nathan Thomack know if you can help out in any way (youthministry@trinitywny.org). Thank you so much!



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. 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!

Men’s AWAKE weekly gathering is Wednesdays at 6:15pm in Trinity’s School. In small groups we’re using God’s word as a springboard and base ~ supporting, encouraging and praying for each other as we lean to God and do life.

On May 20th we’ll break and head to downtown Buffalo to feed the hungry and homeless. We’ll meet at Trinity at 6:40pm. Men AND women are invited! Contact me if interested.

~ Mark Willert (716) 601-8570

Trinity School News

Family Blessings Ice Cream Social

On April 22, Trinity was blessed to host our Family Blessings Ice Cream Social for parents of our K–8 students. Families joined us for a special chapel service led by Kathy Fretthold, followed by time to enjoy ice cream sundaes together. Parents also had the opportunity to visit classrooms and view special projects that students had worked hard on throughout the year. It was a joy to welcome families into the building and share in this meaningful afternoon—truly a wonderful time was had by all, and we loved having our parents at Trinity!



Upcoming School Musical: “It’s Cool in the Furnace”

**Friday, May 8th
1:00pm & 7:00pm**

Our K–8th grade students are excited to present this year’s musical, *It’s Cool in the Furnace*. This fun and faith-filled production tells the powerful biblical story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, reminding us of God’s faithfulness even in the midst of trials. Through music, drama, and heartfelt performances, our students have been working hard to bring this story to life. Admission is a free will offering, and all are welcome to attend. We hope you will join us for this uplifting and entertaining event!

Volleyball News

Our Trinity volleyball season has been a great success, with two teams made up of 20 enthusiastic students in grades 6–8. Throughout the season, players have grown in their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while having a lot of fun along the way. We are especially thankful for the dedication of our coaches—Nathan Thomack, Nicole Barlow, and Kylene Holmes—who have invested so much time and energy into our athletes. As we look ahead to the upcoming playoffs, we’re excited to cheer on our Hawks! Congratulations as well to our All-Star players: Cody Adams, Lena Jauch, Ethan Webster, Everett Webster, Sawyer Daley, and Hannah Haas. Go Hawks!



Master Forester Speaks at Trinity

Trinity was blessed to welcome visiting Master Forester Craig Myers, owner of Tails and Trails Farm in Cuba, NY, who shared his knowledge and passion with our middle school students. Craig spoke about what it means to faithfully steward God’s creation, weaving together science and faith in a meaningful way. Students learned about the differences between new and old growth forests, bird-friendly maple syrup production, growing shiitake mushrooms, and how an environmentally friendly on-site sawmill operates. Throughout his presentation, Craig’s deep respect for the land and appreciation for God’s amazing creation were evident, leaving students with a greater understanding of their role in caring for the world God has entrusted to us.



YOUTH SCOOP

**May
Youth Nights
Wednesdays
6:30pm-8:00pm
May 6, 13, 20 & 27**



Get “Buffaloed”!



The herd of very rare buffaloes will be back at Trinity on May 3! 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!

Easter Breakfast Success

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Easter Breakfast. There was an awesome turn out for the breakfast, and we are so thankful for everyone who donated items, helped make food, serve food, and attended. \$426 was collected for the upcoming youth events. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Easter Egg Hunt Success!

Thank you to everyone that helped make this year's annual community Easter Egg Hunt a success. We had a beautiful day and **over 150 kids** participated in the event. The community seems to really look forward to it each year.

~ Trinity's Outreach



LWML News

The mission of the Easter District Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

A BIG THANK YOU from The Eastern District LWML! All 8 grants were funded for the biennium ending March 31, 2026. God bless your generosity and the missions funded by it.

Did You Know ... We are part of the LCMS Eastern District (headquarters in Buffalo, NY). There are 8 zones in this district which covers New York from Utica west to the Pennsylvania border; all of Pennsylvania, except for York County and two congregations in Accident Maryland, south of Pittsburgh.

A good reference is our LWML Eastern District website ~ <http://east-dist-lwml.org/>

Eastern District Brochure ~ http://east-dist-lwml.org/LWMLLED_Brochure_2022.pdf

You can also find us on Facebook ~ <http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=eastern%20district%20lwml>

Eastern District LWML Fall Retreat September 18-20, 2026 At Pioneer on the Lake

The theme is "My trust is in the Lord". There is registration for commuters as well as those staying in the cottages. Forms can be found on the information table in the narthex. Consider a refreshing weekend with sisters in Christ.

LWML 41st Biennial Convention June 12-14, 2026 Double Tree Resort by Hilton - Lancaster 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602

Convention registration fee is \$50 if received by April 24 (\$60 additional late fee if received after April 24). Lodging is an additional cost. Registration / information forms are on the table in the church narthex.

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

Pioneer on the Lake Summer 2026 Highlights

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

For a full listing of upcoming events, visit their website: pioneeronthelake.com

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

Upcoming West Seneca Events

One-Minute Networking Event May 11, 2026 9:00am-10:00am

The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce will hold its next One-Minute Networking Event on Monday, May 11 from 9am-10am, at United Church Manor, 50 North Ave., West Seneca.

At this casual, comfortable and productive meeting, participants have approximately one minute to introduce themselves and give a brief update on their business or organization. In addition to having a one-minute spotlight, attendees have extra time to network with other business and organizational leaders following the meeting. Participants are invited to bring business cards and/or promotional items to share with guests.

Doors will open at 8:45am and light refreshments will be provided. This free event is open to both Chamber members and nonmembers, and reservations are required. For more information or to RSVP for the May 11 networking event, please call the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce at (716) 674-4900, ext. 1, or email director@westseneca.org.

West Seneca Food Pantry

The West Seneca Food Pantry continues to serve over 400 clients ... and the need is only increasing. Please consider donating any type of non-perishable food. Items can be placed in the red wagon in our church’s entryway or deliver them directly to the pastry at St. David’s Church behind the DMV at South Gate Plaza.

Farmer’s Market

West Seneca will once again be hosting an outdoor farmer’s market on the grassy hill by the police station on Thursday evenings at 4pm-7pm from May 21 thru September 10. There is a collection of fantastic vendors with entertainment and fun for the whole family. It’s dog friendly (on leash)!



Vigilant Fire Company Chicken & Rib BBQ Dinner

Saturday, May 16
12pm till Sold Out
At West Middle School
(395 Center Road, W.S.)

\$16 - chicken dinner

\$18 - rib dinner

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

“She was patient, loving, and accepting.”

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.



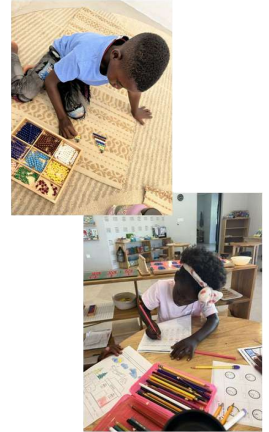
Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia February & March Update



Hello, friends and family! These past few months have been so full and the Lord has been doing some amazing things, so I am super excited to share with you all.

School Update

We have only one week of school left, which is so crazy! It feels like the school year just started, while it also feels like it has been going on forever. The students have been busy working hard and "growing their brains", as we like to call it. It is so cool to have been in the Poëtice school for almost two years, because now I am actually getting to see the ways in which our students are really growing. There are a few of our students especially that it can sometimes feel like pulling teeth getting them to learn, and at the end of the day, it is easy to wonder if I am actually making any difference in the lives of these children; but teaching these kids for a couple of years has been so rewarding because I can see where the students were when I began here and how far they have come since then. Some of our students who knew hardly any of their sounds are now reading whole sentences and saying that they like reading! The Lord has really been reminding me in these past few months how He is working through me and I am actually making a difference in the lives of these kids, even on days when it might feel impossible.



We did something super unique and exciting this term, which is have a parent training for the parents of our students. We shared ways that they can intentionally care for and spend time with their children, partner with us in their children's education, and how they can better understand the ways that their kids are behaving. Methods for effective parenting is not something that is commonly spoken about in Zambia, so this was a huge deal. In our school we not only want to be impacting the lives of the children that we are teaching, but also their families, and ultimately the whole community. This was a huge step in that direction, and many parents walked away from the training feeling empowered and inspired to connect with and support their children in new ways.

We also had a field day with the students, which was an absolute BLAST (I never knew that watching three-year-olds play soccer was something that I needed in my life), as well as got a class pet! One of our students found a baby tortoise and brought it in. Unfortunately, as we have done some research, we have discovered that we are just not equipped enough to care for this tortoise long term, so we are going to be releasing him next week. However, it has been an absolute blast having this little guy in the classroom for a few weeks.



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Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

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Life Update

One of the biggest life updates is that I moved to my new house! This is so exciting and has been SO nice. Our first house served us well, but it had so many issues. In this house, everything works, and it is so nice. The Lord has really blessed me with this house, and I think that it will be a great first house for Charles and I to live in once we are married.

Some other fun things are that two of the staff at Poetice got married, Charles and I took his little sister out for pizza (where she proceeded to eat only the toppings off of her pizza because she is two years old), Charles, Jessa, and I went on an adventure to a friend's farm here in Choma, I helped out in the kitchen for a youth event, and I am loving my quiet time with Jesus.



Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for Charles and I as we are wedding planning. While it is super exciting, it is stressful to fit it in in the midst of our busy days.
- Please pray for me as we wrap up Term 1 and that this next month of term break would be productive and also restful.
- Charles and I are also traveling 15 hours to the Eastern Province of Zambia so I can meet his family, so pray that that goes well and that the Lord protects us on our travels.
- Pray for the Lord to give me supernatural energy and strength!

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

5/1 Julie Blamowski	5/16 Chris McLaughlin	5/23 Ingrid Hamann
5/2 Amanda Kern	Rebekah Lafferty	5/24 Carson Wackowski
5/6 Vince Canazzi	5/17 David Kosicki	5/25 Rev. Ron Habedank
Rachel (Colson) Graham	Renaë Makey	5/26 Christopher Kopra
Grace Willert	Jackson Ecker	Sarah McLaughlin
5/10 James Conti	5/18 Linda Meissner	5/27 Carl Lehsten
5/12 Ethan Kopra	5/19 Joshua Ecker	5/28 Michael Canazzi
5/14 Laurel McClellan	Nathan Ecker	5/30 Michael Krause
Madison McGinnis	Matthew Lafferty	Neil Halvorsen
5/15 Katie Willert	5/21 David Brown	
5/16 Peggy Wypior	5/22 Stephen Hope	

Happy Anniversary

5/1 Peter & Bisty Colson	5/11 Gerry & William Swart	5/23 James & Lisa Manzo
5/9 Marcia & Daniel Nickerson	5/14 Dave & Jane Sirgey	5/28 Roger & Denise Meissner
5/10 Robert & Joan Kopra	5/16 Robert & Paulette Bogumil	

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 for this period will be accepted until May 10th.



Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are still available in our cemetery. Cost is:

- 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 to purchase plots in our 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.



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

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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