

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

OCTOBER 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

***“Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,
so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”***

1 Thessalonians 2:4

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October brings us to a month of the changing of the seasons. Typically, a time for harvest in the northern hemisphere. A time to collect what has been sown the previous year, gather it together and give thanks.

This October at Trinity we are engaging a study on Christian stewardship and looking towards a biblical perspective towards the things God has entrusted to us. In doing so, we are going to be going back all the way to God's intentions for humanity and proceeding to examining how our attitude toward possessions must honor God first in all things.

When we use the phrase “entrusted”, we mean precisely that. The possessions we have are not ours to begin with, or ours by right. They are things that have been given to us by God, placed into our care, with the intention and trust that we would look after them and see them well taken care of. We all need reminding, from time to time, that the physical blessings we have received (the roof over our head, the food on our table, the money in our bank accounts, the abilities we have, our time on this earth), are all a gift from God to be used for His purposes.

How do we use what God has entrusted into our care? How do we put them to work for God's kingdom purposes? These are the questions we are going to be studying together and digging deeper into as we gather together for worship throughout October!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig

Important October Changes

Worship Changes

Time Change: Sunday, October 4

Worship on this day will be at **9:30am** (not 10:30am). This one-time change will allow time for the Voters Meeting following the service and for everyone to get home for the Bills game.

Worship Cancelled: Saturday, October 10

Worship will be cancelled for that Saturday to enable Trinity School alumni to attend the reunion.

Voters Meeting

October 4, 2026 at 10:30am

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the September 13 meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for Sunday, October 4 following the 9:30am worship service. On the agenda will be the 2026-2027 church / school budget and election of 3 open executive board positions: secretary and 2 board members. Anyone interested in these positions should contact Dave Anderson, Ryan McKernan, Courtney Jelowski, or Kevin Kot. All confirmed members of Trinity are encouraged to attend and vote at this meeting.

New Member Class

Interested in becoming a member at Trinity Lutheran Church? Or perhaps you are a visitor who would like more information about our church? Come and join us for a three-week introductory class about what we believe and what makes Trinity different from other churches. At the end of the class people will be invited to join our family here at Trinity. Classes will be held on **Sunday, October 11th, 18th, and 25th** after the 10:30am services (roughly 11:45am) and will last for about an hour. Come and learn more about our life together as part of the Trinity family!

Trinity Christian 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.** Come reconnect with classmates, share memories, tour the school, and celebrate God's faithfulness through 175 years of Christian education. There are fliers in the narthex. Please take some to distribute to family and friends. We hope you'll join us for this special evening!



Altar Guild Meeting Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00pm

There will be a meeting for all Altar Guild members on October 2 at 6:00pm in the church narthex. Refreshments will be served. Bring a snack to pass if you'd like.

New members are always welcome!!! Are you interested in joining the Altar Guild or would like to know more information about what we do? If so, please plan to attend this meeting or you can contact Ruth Zawadzki or Gerry Swart.

October is Pastor and Church Worker Appreciation Month!

God bless Pastor Nyck, our youth director, office manager, musicians, Sunday School teachers, and volunteers who carry out the many needed duties necessary to spread the Word of God. Thanks be to God!

September 2026 Executive Board Meeting Summary

The executive board and other leaders met Monday 9/14 and 9/21 to discuss the Trinity budget that is being presented to the congregation shortly. We reviewed some areas such as the increased cost of health insurance, the cost required to educate a child at our school and how we can close the income to expense shortfall that the school is experiencing. We expect that this is going to be a tough year but that we will continue forward with our work in Christian education. Our finance committee is still working out some details and will be sending the budget to the executive committee for review and then distribution to the congregation for their review prior to the voters meeting.



You're invited: Friday, October 2 at 5:30 PM at First Trinity Lutheran Church on Niagara Falls Blvd. The Trinity Christian School Alleluia Choir (gr 5-8) will be leading the Service of Evening Prayer along with the children's choirs from St. John and Holy Ghost Lutheran Schools.

The students are blessed to participate in a vocal workshop earlier that day led by Dr. and Mrs. Eatherton from St. Louis, Missouri. They have about 50 years of combined experience in directing children's choirs in Lutheran churches and schools. The workshop is titled: Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer and is funded by the Lilly Foundation. We have already started learning some of the challenging music including pieces from Handel, Telemann, and Busarow (who was my choir director at Wittenberg University.)

~ Noel Anderson
Alleluia Choir Director /
Music Teacher

RaiseRight Gift Cards



The Youth Ministry Program raising money through RaiseRight (formally known as Scrip). Select gift cards have already purchased and we have them on hand. 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. See Nathan Thomack after a church service or throughout the week while the office is open to purchase cards.

Trinity School News

Trinity Christian School - Off to a Great Start!

What a wonderful way to kick off another school year at Trinity! On Sunday, September 20, our school families and church family gathered for a special celebration of the new school year - our 175th school year. We shared a Blessing of the Backpacks, our school children filled the church with their beautiful singing, and our third graders received their very own Bibles, a special reminder that God's Word will guide and encourage them as they learn and grow. After the service, we enjoyed a delicious potluck together with our church family. We are grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and support of our Trinity community as we begin another year of **learning, growing, and serving in the name of Jesus Christ!**



Trinity Christian School - A Mission Field!

The question gets raised from time to time at Trinity, "Is the school really worth it?" Is the school worth the cost - the financial cost - that Trinity church puts into it?

I just wish everyone could come spend a few days here at the school! There are some amazing things happening. As I write this, school has been in session for a little over two weeks, and here are just a few of the ways God is working:

- There was a girl in the office getting a bandaid. She saw our stable sitting on the shelf, waiting for Christmas. She asked, "Why do you have a bird house in the office?" The staff member with her proceeded to tell her that wasn't a bird house, and ask her what it was. She clearly had no idea and was very surprised to hear how it was related to Christmas, and she had never heard how it related to Jesus.
- A first grader recently got baptized. Was she baptized here at Trinity? No - she was baptized in her home church. But where did she hear about baptism? Here at Trinity!
- From Noel Anderson - It's a joy and privilege to teach music in a Lutheran school! One of the first days of school I was walking in the hallway and heard a young boy's voice singing in the bathroom. "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation" - a hymn we learned last year in music class and chapel. It makes me so happy to know that these songs are being planted in our students' hearts and minds. I pray the music we learn helps to keep them rooted in faith and the knowledge that they are beloved children of God.
- From Christine Deahn - The third and fourth graders are collecting baby items for the Harvest House baby shower. Every year, Harvest House collects baby items such as diapers, wipes, new or gently used clothing, bottles, pacifiers and more. What a great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

These are just a few of the things that have happened in these first few weeks. Trinity Christian School is serving the mission field of the children of Western New York EVERY DAY. Please don't ever doubt that. God is at work - and it is so exciting to witness, and a privilege to be a part of. I can't wait to be in Heaven and see how many people come up to me and say, "I heard about Jesus at Trinity Christian School!"

- Katie Willert, Co-Principal

YOUTH SCOOP

Youth Nights

The next several weeks are going to be interesting due to soccer. We will not have our regular Wednesday Youth Nights on September 20, October 7 and October 14. Here is the upcoming schedule (all times are 6:00pm-8:00pm):

Sunday, September 27

Sunday, October 4

Sunday, October 11

Wednesday, October 21 (Pumpkin Carving)

Wednesday, October 28

Family Night Pumpkin Carving

October 21st 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

EVERYONE is invited to come carve some pumpkins. There is a \$5.00 fee per pumpkin; payment is due the day of the event. Scan the QR code to **register by Oct. 20** so we know how many are needed. Carving sets will be provided. Bring a dessert or snack to share. We will be starting "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" around 7:00pm.



Family Night Potluck Update

Thank you to those who were able to make the Youth Family Potluck on September 16. I have some handouts for those who did not make it. Please see me at Youth Night if you missed the meeting so that you have all of the important information. Please take one minute to fill out this survey so that I know how you want to help with this year's Youth Ministry: <https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/forms/d/2c959d61-1ab9-4262-83c3-6731239b75fb>

~ Nathan Thomack, Youth Director

Fall Campfire

There's something special about gathering around a fire, sharing a meal, and catching up with one another and the Fall Campfire on September 11 was the perfect way to kick off the school year! It was great to see so many families come out, slow down for a bit, and enjoy some good food and even better company. Nights like this are a great reminder of what makes our church and school community so special.

A big thank-you to our Fellowship Team for all the work that went into setting up and cleaning up, and a special thank-you to the Jelowski family for gifting us our new fire ring. We're looking forward to putting it to good use for many more gatherings to come!



Trunk-or-Treat: October 25, 2026 at 6:00pm

Join us for our annual Trunk-or-Treat in the Trinity parking lot! We're transforming our parking lot into a walking path of fun, creative, and family-friendly car trunks. Dress up in your favorite costumes and collect treats from trunk to trunk. All are welcome! We'll share in a family devotion and there will be a food and hot chocolate for sale to benefit Trinity youth events.

We need your help to make it a memorable night! Decorate your car trunk and get ready to hand out candy in a fun, safe, and family-friendly environment. You will need to bring 3-5 bags of candy/treats and a clean decoration theme (nothing gory or inappropriate). Anyone wishing to support this event, even if they are not attending, can do so by donating bags of candy. Candy can be dropped off during normal office hours or before/after church services. Scan the above QR code to reserve your trunk's spot and reach out to Nathan Thomack with any questions at youthministry@trinitywny.org / (715) 938-6225.





Could you use a place to connect with other men — to talk about real everyday challenges and listen and relate to others? Check out AWAKE, our men's small group ministry dedicated to building real community and applying biblical truth. Not shying away from tough topics, but focusing instead on honest conversations about faith, family, and daily life. Our weekly gatherings dig into Scripture to find practical wisdom and strength. Together, we encourage and support one another to grow into the leaders, husbands, and fathers God called us to be. Wherever you are in your faith, just come as you are. Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at Mark Willert's (716-601-8570) house next door.



70th Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers

The 70th Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers will be at First Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 13th at 5pm (pre-service carol sing at 4:30pm). Invite your family and friends!

All are welcome to sing in the Vesper Choir. Rehearsals will be held on Mondays 7:00pm – 9:00pm beginning October 5th & Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm beginning October 8th.

Contact David Werth dwerth@FirstTrinity.com / (716) 731-7183 with any questions.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Outreach will once again be collecting gift filled shoeboxes to support Operation Christmas Child. There are posters in the narthex outlining items that are suggested for the boxes. Please note that SOAP and TOOTH-PASTE are not acceptable items. The shoeboxes will be collected until **Sunday, November 8th**. More of the pre-printed cardboard boxes have been ordered; please watch for them in the narthex.

Please make sure to attach your BOY /GIRL tag securely to the top of your shoebox. *** If you are paying online via the website or QR code, please make a notation on your tag that it is paid. If you are paying with a check or cash, please attach it in an envelope to the top of your box or inside of your box.*** Thank you for your support of this mission!

LWML Mites Needed

Mites are supposed to be loose change, but nowadays with debit/credit cards and Venmo, Zelle and other digital means of payment, loose change is a rarity. The LWML grants for charitable causes continue to need funding. Please consider giving to the LWML mite fund. Checks can be written to Buffalo Zone LWML (note for mites) or give change. Put either in Linda (Gerald) Meissner's message center. Do you have a mite box? You can take one from Linda's message center. Thank you to loyal donors and you future loyal donors.

LWML Buffalo Fall Event: Saturday, October 24, 2026

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8900 Sheridan Drive, Clarence, NY**

SCHEDULE:

- 9:00am Registration (\$5.00) followed by refreshments
- 9:15am Quick meeting ... old and new business
- 9:30am Voting, followed by installation of our new officer by Pastor Browne
- 10:00am Move to sanctuary for presentation: "How Can We Support Our Future Church Workers?" by Concordia Seminary President Dr. Thomas Egger
- 11:30am Litany/blessing of ingathering, prayers of thanksgiving and concerns by Pastor Brown; LWML ladies' luncheon
- 12:30pm Homeward bound!

Please **RSVP by October 14** to Sharon McGuan (salmcg23@gmail.com). Please note allergy concerns if applicable.

Ingathering for Concordia Seminary: For those new to our events, ingathering is an opportunity to share your blessings with others. Each host chooses a location for these blessings to be given. Holy Cross Women in Mission selected Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. They have requested monetary donations to purchase clerical shirts for the first-year pastoral students as they serve their field work congregations. (Checks may be made out to Concordia Seminary, who will purchase and distribute the shirts).



STEPHEN MINISTRY

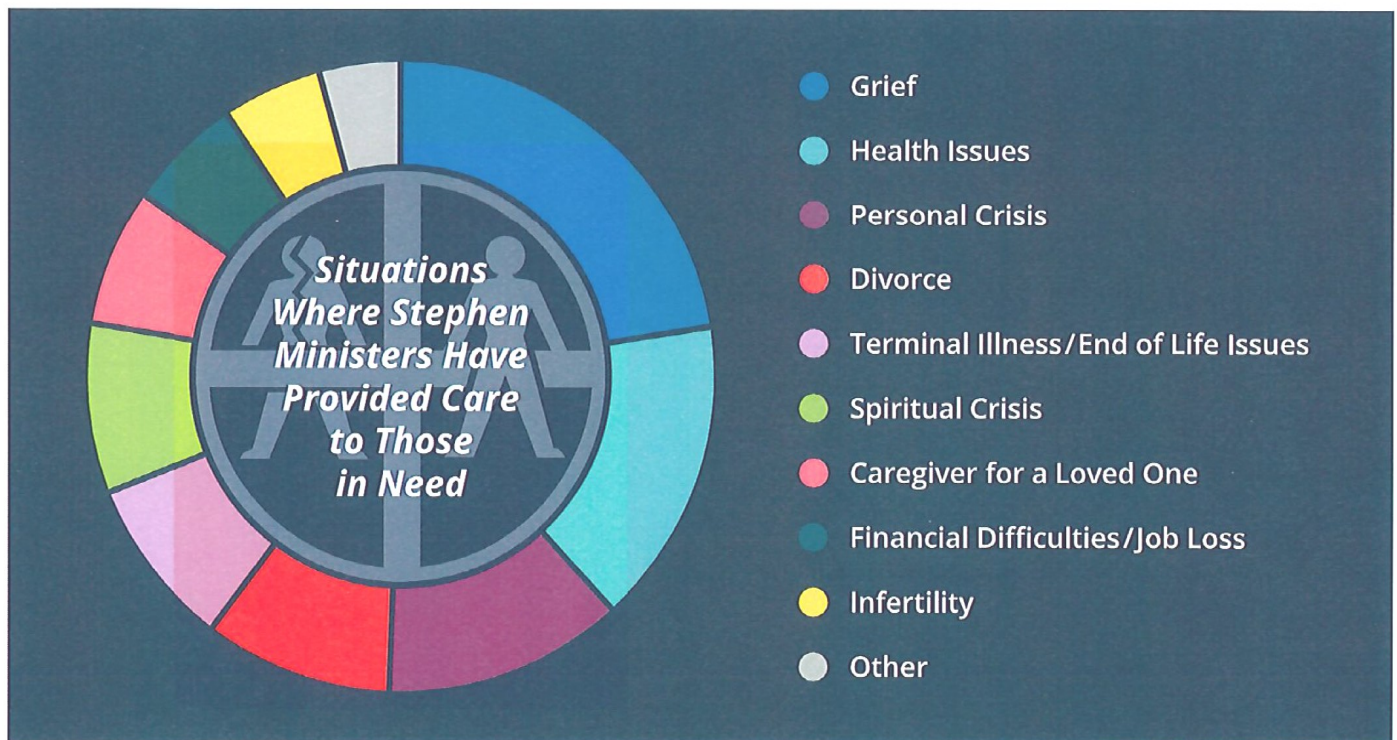
Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

*Although my needs changed as I went from wife to caregiver to widow, my Stephen Minister's love and support remained a constant. She was **there at every stage of my journey**, helping me through some of the most difficult moments of my life—so I could begin to heal.*

Susan ●

*When things seemed like too much to handle, **my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm.** With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.*

James ●



*My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and **most importantly, he refused to give up on me.** I'll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.*

Ralph ●

*When I was with my Stephen Minister, **I felt Jesus was with me.** I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.*

Ashley ●

(Continued on page 8)

STEPHEN MINISTRY (Continued)

After the death of my mom, **I needed someone who would listen**—even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.

Molly ●

My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. **He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do** but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.

Brian ●

I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—**she'll just be there without trying to fix me** or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.

Nancy ●

My Stephen Minister's weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. **She was a steady reminder of God's presence**, helping me know I was never alone.

Heather ●

When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.

Andrew ●

My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and **gives me a safe, confidential relationship** where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.

Celeste ●

I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was **a tangible expression of God's love**. It changed my life.

Julia ●

Stephen Ministry showed me the face of Christ. **God brought me exactly what I needed** through the care of my Stephen Minister, and that demonstrated to me how God cares for each and every one of us.

Frank ●

- **Stephen Ministry** is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.
- Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.
- Visit stephenministries.org to learn more about Stephen Ministry and see stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

Happy Birthday

10/1	Bob Bogumil Rachel Eising	10/13	Frank Lelito Gabriella Tripi	10/27	Sheila Swart Robin Makosy James Rowsell Joanne Jaskier Duane Gabel
10/2	Rachel Jaskier	10/14	Nancy Hope David Sirgey Sheri Foerster	10/28	Mary Ann Warner Karl Schultz
10/4	Nakiya Harris	10/15	Bennett Jelowski	10/29	Kevin R. Kot Ana Royal
10/5	Eric McGinnis	10/16	Nicole Krause	10/30	Lacey Harris
10/7	Greg Diehl	10/21	Beth McKernan	10/31	Steven Antonucci
10/8	Emily Lelito Jonas Herdlein	10/23	Rebecca Hall		
10/9	Emma Monahan	10/24	Evan Bozek		
10/11	Paulette Darcy	10/25	Karen O'Brien		
10/12	Jennifer Szeider Kaitlyn Schwab	10/26	Emily Gabel		

Happy Anniversary

10/1	Mary & Joel Havens Bonnie & Mark Schwab	10/15	Carl & Carolyn Lehsten
10/4	Peter & Laural Szeider	10/19	Harry & Judeen Babcock
10/7	Eve & James LoVullo	10/24	Gary & Lenore Ecker Stephen & Carol Hope
10/9	Michael & Noell McKernan	10/26	Robert & Tracy Meissner



Shut-In Members

If you know of 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 (716) 674-9188 to find out more information.

Men's "Bible & Brews" Bible Study **Tuesdays at 8:00pm-9:30pm** **At Leo's Pizzeria** **(Southwestern Blvd. & Angle Rd., Orchard Park)**

All men are invited to this fellowship and study. We are currently diving in to the book of Titus. Please text Andrew Eising (716) 308-0770 if you would like join.



Do you have someone that you would like to add onto Trinity's prayer chain? If so, please contact Kim Meissner at k.meissner716@gmail.com with your request.

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

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