

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 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
(Effective 9/7/25)



“Rooted in Christ”

Over a century ago, Joyce Kilmer wrote a poem called “Trees.” It goes, “I think that I shall never see / a poem lovely as a tree / a tree that looks at God all day / and lifts up her leafy arms to pray.” You may have heard it or seen it before, perhaps in the form of a meme attached to a picture of a single tree standing alone against the sky.

But this image of a solitary tree is a bit disingenuous. Trees do not live alone. Although we often think of them as individuals, standing by themselves with roots in the ground and branches in the sky, they need soil, water, air, and sunshine. They also need cooperation and community.

Research reveals that social cooperation is thriving in forests. According to *The Atlantic*, an ecologist named Suzanne Simard has studied underground networks of fungal fibers called mycorrhizae. These fibers fasten tree roots one to another beneath the forest floor. These fibers carry water, carbon, nitrogen and biochemical information between trees. A community is created in the forest by mycorrhizal networks. This fungus assists trees by helping to supply their needs, and the trees help the fungus by providing it with sugar. Trees are not lonely at all, they are bound together, deeply.

Our community of faith is similar to the forest in that good things happen when you go underground. When “you were buried with [Christ] in baptism,” says Paul to the Colossians, “you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead” (2:12). Every bit of spiritual nourishment we receive comes from our connection to God and to Jesus. “God made you alive together with him,” says Paul, “when he forgave us all our trespasses. ... He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them” (2:13-15).

Faith. New Life. Forgiveness. Victory over earthly powers. All of this is supplied to us by Jesus, the One who connects us to God, to him, and to one another. You might call him a “Mycorrhizal Christ.”

When he was writing to the followers of Christ at Colossae, the apostle Paul sounded a great deal like a forest ecologist: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him” (2:6-7). Christians are not to live as isolated individuals, but to be rooted in Christ, nourished by Christ and built up in Christ.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Effective 9/5/26 & 9/6/26:

Saturday at 5:00pm

*(Traditional / Blended - liturgy,
hymns and worship songs)*

Sunday at 10:30am

*(Contemporary - music led by praise teams;
service projected on the screen)*

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School is every Sunday morning from 9:15am - 10:15am from Sept 13th - June 6th. If you are interested in sending your children through Trinity's Sunday School Program, please scan the QR code or use this link to register: <https://subsplash.com/u/-XNMXQR/forms/d/7cc12508-6309-42fc-af89-d9dd8e09ddeb>



Drop-off and pick-up are both at the school doors. This year's Christmas pageant is scheduled on Sunday, December 13th at the 10:30am service. Rehearsal dates and time will be finalized and communicated before November 1st. Please keep an eye on the email you list on the registration form for information. We hope you will invite your friends and family to attend! For Palm Sunday, our Sunday School Students will be singing a song at the 10:30am service on March 21st. And new this year, an Easter Play scheduled for April 4, at the 10:30 am service directed by Stephanie Greig.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: We are looking for 2-3 more teachers as well as some substitute teachers to cover this year's Sunday School curriculum. Lesson plans will be all laid out a week before you need to teach the class, but some help will be needed. Please look over the schedule below and let Nathan Thomack know if there are some dates you could help out with. Thanks!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bMWiGCtIzMQ7hqRNGkJwtKGtXvBKK-70fJncLzgjXw/edit?usp=sharing>



Potluck Picnic September 20, 2026

Trinity would like to invite the families of our congregation and school to a Potluck Picnic directly following the 10:30am service on Sunday, September 20 in the school gymnasium. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. A sign-up board is in the narthex. Please sign-up **by Sunday, September 13** so we know how much food is needed.

CHURCH VOTERS' MEETING



Sunday, September 13, 2026 After the 10:30am Service

There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 13 following the 10:30am worship service. On the agenda will be the 2026-2027 church / school budget and election of 2 open executive board positions: secretary and 1 board member. Anyone interested in either position should contact Dave Anderson, Ryan McKernan, Courtney Jelowski, or Kevin Kot. All confirmed members of Trinity are eligible to vote at this meeting.



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am

Starting on September 13th

Meets in the church conference room. All are invited to attend.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Revelation - Concordia Commentary

Bible Study Series

Wednesdays 10:30am-11:45am

Starting on September 9th

The Revelation Bible Study guides you through Jesus' comforting message for His New Testament Church as it awaits His second coming and endures persecution and suffering. This Bible study is for anyone, beginner to expert who wants to gain a greater appreciation for this closing book of the Bible.

Ladies Bible Study

Our Ladies Bible Study will begin on **Monday, September 14 at 7:00pm** in the church narthex and will meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month. All post-high school ladies are welcome. We hope to see you there!

We've Moved!

Neil & Sue Schueler have permanently moved to Florida. The wanted to share their new address with the congregation:

1422 Keys Gate Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940

Trinity School News

Rooted!

As we begin a new school year at Trinity Christian School, we are excited to introduce our theme for the year: "Rooted," based on Colossians 2:6-7. These verses remind us that our faith is not simply something we learn about, it is something in which we are to grow deeply rooted. As we learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that our students will develop strong roots in God's Word and in their relationship with Christ. Just as a tree with deep roots can withstand storms and continue to grow, we want our students to be firmly rooted in Jesus so that their faith will continue to grow throughout their lives.

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV): *"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."*

We are also excited to welcome Jack Kaczmarowski to the Trinity family as our new first-grade teacher! We are thankful that God has brought Jack to our school and look forward to the gifts and enthusiasm he will bring to our students and our ministry. Please join us in welcoming him and praying for him as he begins this new journey with us. As a school family, may we continue to live out our mission to learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ, trusting God to establish deep roots of faith in each child entrusted to our care.

~ Katie Willert, Co-Principal

Trinity Christian School Alumni Reunion

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!



Thank You from Hope and Charles Phiri

Hope and Charles would like to sincerely thank everyone for the cards, gifts, prayers, and kind wishes surrounding their wedding. They are especially grateful to everyone who attended the Wedding Watch Party at Trinity! They received the pictures and video greetings afterward and had such a wonderful time looking through everything and seeing all of the familiar faces celebrating with them from afar. Charles especially hopes to make it to the States soon so that he can meet everyone personally and thank you for your love and support. They are both so grateful to be part of the Trinity family!



Trinity's Fall Campfire & Dinner September 11th starting at 6:00 pm

The Youth Program is hosting a campfire at Trinity this year on Friday, September 11th. It will start at 6:00pm and go until everyone leaves. Hot dogs will be provided. There will be a family devotion sometime around 7:00pm. Please bring s'more supplies and beverages for your family to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

Are you willing to occasionally read the Scripture readings during worship services? We have a wonderful group of individuals who currently volunteer to read each week, but there's always room for more. If you would like to be a part of this rotation, please contact the church office (716) 674-9188. Readers are needed for both the Sunday and Saturday services. Volunteers will be asked to read 2-3 passages from the Bible, which will be given to them in advance.

Cemetery News . . .

Burial plots are available in our cemetery. The 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 Trinity Cemetery

New Highmark Stadium Tour

Calling all Bills fans! Mike McKernan will guide a tour of the new Highmark Stadium on Sunday, October 11 from 1:45pm-3:15pm. The tour route is scooter / wheelchair accessible ~ you must bring your own. The cost is \$51.64 per person (under age 2 free). Submit payments to Mike McKernan: cash / checks made out to him / Venmo (see Mike for info) by Sunday, September 27. You can still sign-up in the narthex. Contact Mike with any questions (716) 432-8542.



West Seneca Community of Churches CROP Walk & Chicken BBQ September 19

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

Volunteers are needed: 1 or 2 volunteers are still needed from Trinity to prepare take-out meals. Meals will be assembled inside of the St. David's Episcopal Church building ... no bees! Other congregations will supply "runners" to deliver to patrons' cars. Contact Nancy Hope if you can volunteer to help (716) 674-8544 or (716) 426-9342.



Handbell Choir

Can you ring a bell (or would like to learn)? Trinity's Handbell Choir rings about once per month, October through June, at various services. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning on September 10. Please contact Ellen Makey (961-8378 or esmky23@yahoo.com) for more information.

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.

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) by Sept. 8 if you are interested in purchasing a plaque.

August 2026 Executive Board Meeting Summary

The Executive Board met on August 18 to review several important items as we prepare for the new church and school year. The School Board reported encouraging enrollment growth, with 92 students in K-8 and 34 students in Pre-K. Jack Kaczmarowski was hired as our new 1st grade teacher. The Board also approved school fundraisers for the coming year. Ellen Makey will be stepping down as School Board Chairperson and will begin teaching part-time at the school.

Much of the meeting focused on reviewing the proposed 2026-27 budget. The current draft projects a deficit of more than \$100,000, driven largely by significant increases in health insurance costs and lower-than-projected envelope giving during the past year. The Board is reviewing the budget carefully, looking for possible corrections and opportunities to increase both church and school income. October will be designated as Stewardship Month, culminating in a Commitment Sunday.

Nathan Thomack reported that Vacation Bible School was a great success with 90 children participating, and a new six-year Sunday School curriculum cycle will begin this year. Pastor Nyck continues his shut-in visits and reported two upcoming baptisms. Regular worship times will resume September 6, and our Back-to-School Celebration will be held September 20 with the Blessing of the Backpacks, Bible distribution, and a picnic.

The Board is also working to address and clarify issues identified in Nathan's call documents. In addition, there will be two upcoming openings on the Executive Board, including Secretary. Lisa Lafferty will be stepping down from the Financial Committee.

The next Voters' Meeting will be on September 13th, with the proposed budget distributed one week beforehand. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for September 21 at 7:00 p.m.



Youth Family Night Potluck September 16 from 5:00pm-8:00pm

It's been on the calendar all summer, and it's finally time to dive into the details! All incoming 5th-12th grade students should bring their families to Trinity on September 16 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. There's a lot of important information to cover—and some things I will need to collect from you—so rather than sending out a really, REALLY long email, let's get together, enjoy some food, play a few games, and talk through everything in person. I'll be available throughout the evening to answer any questions you may have.

Topics we will be covering:

- ◆ The Year-Long Permission Form
- ◆ An explanation and update on IYAs
- ◆ Youth Task Forces
- ◆ The Youth Calendar
- ◆ A financial report from last year and a look ahead at this year

These are all important parts of our youth program, and as a parent and partner in this ministry, you have a voice and a say in how we move forward. I want this to be an opportunity for everyone to ask questions, share ideas, and help shape the year ahead.

Schedule:

5:00 pm Set-up all of the dishes brought

5:15 pm Welcome and Dinner

6:00 pm Students play games, adults get to have a super important and informational meeting with Nathan

7:15 pm Large Group Game (everyone can participate)

8:00 pm Clean up and go home

Register here so I know how many chairs to set up: <https://forms.gle/xLjGvAERZgiyCtkc9>

~ Nathan Thomack, Youth Director

youthministry@trinitywny.org / (715) 938-6225

Youth Nights

Regular weekly Youth Nights will **resume on Sept. 23** and will meet every **Wednesday from 6:00pm-8:00pm** in the school gym. All 5th-12th grade students are welcome!

Get “Buffaloed”!



A herd of very rare buffaloes has appeared 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!



Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

Happy Birthday

9/2	Benjamin Besch	9/10	Ron Hope	9/24	Megan Manzo
9/3	Maxine Loos	9/11	Megan Diehl	9/26	Robert Brown
9/4	Amy Lipinoga	9/12	Michael McKernan	9/28	Neil Schueler
9/5	Mark Willert		Conor McGinnis	9/29	Jeremy Heckman
	Faith Flattery	9/13	Sarah Gabel	9/30	Chuck Stevens
9/7	Travis Ecker	9/15	Steven Ringle		Nora Eising
	Jennifer Sherer	9/16	Lisa Lopez		Marcus Wrobel
	Brielle McKernan		Katie Wackowski		Caleb Eising
9/8	Roger McClellan	9/20	Wesley Pletscher		
	Jack English		Mark Zawadzki		
9/9	Kim McLaughlin	9/23	Lori Napieralski		

Happy Anniversary

9/5	Jeremy & Shannon Heckman	9/17	Mark & Michele Ganschow
9/8	Neil & Sue Schueler		Gregory & Megan Diehl
			PJ & Kim Colson
9/10	Linda & Leslie Wrobel	9/20	Christopher & Kim McLaughlin
9/11	Joanne & Craig Jaskier	9/26	John & Karen McCoy
9/14	Paul & Kristen Zawadzki	9/28	Roger & Laurel McClellan

Church Greeters

We are looking for 1 or 2 more people to be a greeter once per month at our Sunday worship services starting this fall. Greeters would need to be at church 15 minutes before the service begins, welcome people as they enter the church from the narthex, give them a bulletin, direct new people / visitors to visit our Welcome Center, and then stand by the narthex glass doors after church to thank people for coming and wish them well. If you could share your time/talents in this way, please contact Teresa in the church office (716) 674-9188 or see Don Meissner.

Men's AWAKE Group

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. **The next meeting will be on 8/26.**



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

Ministers: The People of Trinity Church & School

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