

TRINITY CHURCH TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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



“Groundhog Day”

On February 2nd sits a rather unique holiday, Groundhog Day. In the 140-year recorded history of this unique tradition, Punxsutawney Phil has missed seeing his shadow only about twenty times. Looking outside my window at all of the snow outside, just a few days away I doubt that he'll predict an early spring.

Back in 1993, there was a movie starring Bill Murray called “Groundhog Day.” It’s a comedy about a weatherman reliving the same day repeatedly. He wakes up in the same bed, listening to the same song, with tomorrow being no different than today.

Maybe you feel caught in an endless loop. The apostle Paul sure did. He admits, “I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing” (Rom. 7:18-19 ESV). Can you sympathize, watching yourself stumble into the same old sinful behaviors, repeating the same old destructive mistakes? You try to change (like Paul) but somehow manage to do the same things over and over and over again? This easily leads to despair: “Wretched man that I am!” (Rom. 7:24a ESV).

But God intervenes, interrupting this hopeless cycle—for Paul, for me, for you. “Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom. 7:24b-25 ESV). Jesus saves us from ourselves and makes us new. “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17 NRSV).

Will there be an early spring this year? Six more weeks of winter? I don’t know. What we do know is “the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22-23 ESV).

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Nyck Greig



Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

The Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser is back! **From January 18th to February 4th**, you will be able to order a sub sandwich from the youth ministry program. Each sub will come with a bag of chips and will be sold for \$15. Pick up will be Sunday, February 8th at 11:30 am in the church Narthex. There will be an option to pick up on Saturday, February 7th for those who attend Saturday night service.



Ash Wednesday Services

February 18, 2026
11:00am & 7:00pm

2025 Giving Statements

Statements have been generated and were placed in members' church mailboxes. Statements for those without mailboxes will be on the table in the narthex until February 15. After that date, please contact the church office for your statement.



All are welcome to attend the Women's Bible Study group on **Monday, February 9 at 7:00 PM** to hear Katie Willert's story of her trip to Zambia to see for herself where her daughter Hope is living and working as a missionary. There will be light refreshments at this casual gathering. Please feel free to come and bring a friend. It should be an enjoyable evening.

LADD ... Closed

As of January 30, the LADD store is officially closed. Thank you for your past support and donations and a special Thank You to our 20 dedicated volunteers!



2026 Altar Flowers & Candles

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church coatroom.

Flowers: Flower donations are needed for **February, March, and April**. They are only \$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.

Altar Candles: \$25 per month. Many months are still open.

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 or Altar Candles*).

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

Cemetery Plot Increase

Effective January 1, 2026, the cost to purchase a plot in Trinity's Cemetery will be increasing.

- 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 discount given). Non-members must be a former Trinity member or relative of a Trinity member to purchase plots in Trinity Cemetery.

Vacation Bible School

We are considering trying something new for this year's VBS and would like to gauge people's interest. Please scan this QR Code if you have participated in previous VBS activities and fill out the short form. This will be anonymous so please give us constructive and honest feedback. Thank you!



MITES

Ladies and gentlemen, **LWML is still collecting mite money** for unfulfilled grants for this biennium ending in May. These grants are for helping charitable organizations mostly in the Eastern District. Please put mite money or checks in Gerald & Linda Meissner's message center. Checks can be made out to Buffalo Zone LWML. If you need a new mite box, they are in the above message center as well.

Trinity School News

Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle Coming in March

Join us for a fun and delicious afternoon at our Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle on **Friday, March 21st!** This much-anticipated event is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a school community while enjoying a yummy spaghetti dinner and trying your luck at winning one (or more!) of the many exciting raffle baskets. Tickets will be available mid-February, so please be on the lookout for more information coming soon. Best of all, all money raised from this event goes directly toward school scholarships, helping ensure that every family has access to a quality Christian education. Mark your calendars and plan to come hungry—it's sure to be a great night filled with good food, great company, and generosity!



Board of Christian Education Members

The Board of Christian Education plays a vital role in supporting the mission of Trinity Christian School, *"To learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ."* This dedicated group provides faithful leadership by writing and approving school policies, advising on the future direction of the school, and helping plan thoughtfully for continued growth. The Board also supports and evaluates school administration and oversees the budget and financial health of the school, ensuring responsible stewardship and accountability. We are deeply grateful for the time, prayer, and commitment of our Board members—Ellen Makey, Renee Widman, Nick Gatto, Stephanie Greig, Kylene Holmes, Brad McKernan, and Steve Makosy—whose faithful service and dedication make a lasting impact on our school community. As Scripture reminds us, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters"* (Colossians 3:23). Thank you for your faithful service to our school and students.

Trinity Christian School: State of the School 2025–2026

Trinity Christian School continues to be a place where students learn, grow, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1851, Trinity has been nurturing young minds for more than 170 years, and the 2025–2026 school year reflects exciting growth and momentum. Enrollment has reached 115 students, including 88 in grades K–8 and 27 in PreK—representing a 15% increase this year and nearly 40% growth since 2022. With 13 dedicated teachers and small class sizes, students receive individualized attention that supports strong academic outcomes, with proficiency rates well above New York State averages in both ELA and math.

Spiritual growth remains at the heart of everything we do at Trinity. Faith is intentionally woven into daily learning through weekly chapel, daily devotionals, prayer partners, and a faith-integrated curriculum. Students are encouraged to live out their faith through service, supporting local, national, and global charities such as Lutheran Disaster Response, Family Promise, Operation Christmas Child, and mission partners in Zambia, Haiti, and Cambodia. Through these experiences, students learn the importance of loving and serving others as Christ calls us to do.

As Trinity continues to grow, the school is actively adapting to meet the needs of students and families. Recent improvements include added student services space, renovated classrooms, expanded bussing options, and planning for future facility expansion and outdoor education spaces. Vibrant student life opportunities—such as clubs, athletics, music, and special events—help create a joyful and engaging school community. As Scripture reminds us, *"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"* (Galatians 6:9). We are grateful for God's continued blessings and look forward to what lies ahead for Trinity Christian School.



YOUTH SCOOP

February Youth Nights

Wednesday 2/4 & 2/11

6:00pm –8:00pm

* **NO Youth Night on 2/18 & 2/25 ***

YouthQuake 2026

Although the Youth Quake was cut short due to weather, we had a great time. We listened to Gabe Kasper talk about how we can truly be anchored in Christ instead of all the distractions of the world. We packed over 8,000 meals for the Orphan Grain train. There was worship, games, dancing, singing, and so much more packed into the 16 hours we spent in PA. Thank you Youth Quake for an amazing weekend!



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



Trinity members Mary Ann & Robert Moeller entered eternal peace with the Lord on January 16, 2026 and January 26, 2026. Please keep their family in your prayers.



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 (674-9188) to find out more information.

TRINITY YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS

All Night Youth Group Lock-in

MARCH 13TH - 14TH

7:00 PM - 7:00 AM

STARTING IN THE GYM

COST \$10*

ANY QUESTIONS?

EMAIL NATHAN THOMACK

YOUTHMINISTRY

@TRINITYWNY.ORG

FOR ANYONE

5TH - 12TH GRADE

FOOD, GAMES,

& NO SLEEP

ARE PROVIDED

***SIGN UP STARTS FEBRUARY 15TH**

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

2025 End of Year Update



Hello, friends and family!

Apologies for being MIA for several months! The past few months have been so good but so full, so it has been hard to make time for everything. But here we are - on the last day of 2025! Wow - how time flies. I'm going to try my best to give an overview of the highlights of the past several months.

Poetice Road Trip

At the beginning of November, many of the Poetice staff members flew back to the states and met up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where we started our almost two-week-long fundraising tour. We traveled from there to Des Moines, Iowa, Chicago, Illinois, Indiana Wesleyan University, West Michigan, and finally to Buffalo, New York (my home town). Our goal of this tour was to visit many of our friends and supporters across the United States and to raise funds for many of the projects and goals that we are hoping to accomplish next year at Poetice.

As a member of the school team, I was helping to raise money for the cluster of school buildings that we are planning to build this year and move into by 2027. (Currently we have two classrooms at Poetice, both of which are in rooms on our base that we turned into classrooms. The school's hope for this tour was to raise enough money to be able to start building three small, classroom-sized buildings to move into after our 2026 school year, which would allow us to also add on an additional grade for 9-12 year-olds.) This tour was such a great opportunity to visit with and say thank you to many of our supporters, as well as to share about what the Lord is doing through Poetice.



Fundraising

After the road trip, which ended in the middle of November, I jumped right into personal fundraising. I traveled around Western New York and Pennsylvania, visiting and speaking at a total of five churches, two schools, and one small group. I also ran a pancake breakfast fundraiser as well as met with many people over coffee or a meal. It has brought me so much joy to be able to travel around and visit with so many people who I love and don't get to see often. The Lord has really reminded me in this season of the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) that He has given me to surround and support me. If you are one of those people that I was able to see, whether for a few minutes or for days, I want to say thank you for making the time. I can not explain how encouraging it was to be lifted up, prayed for, and so sincerely loved at each place that I visited.

(Continued on page 7)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 6)

Photo descriptions from left to right: 1. Myself and my family members who came to help with my pancake breakfast. It would not have been possible without them! 2. Me speaking at Saint Luke Lutheran school, a school that my mom taught at when we lived in Cabot, Pennsylvania. These kids were so fun and engaged! 3. My grandparents' small group. Most of these people have known me for as long as I can remember, so they are more like family than fellow church-members. I had decided that, to go along with my presentation, I would make them nshima, the staple food in Zambia. As it was my first time making it all by myself, and the mealie meal that I used was a bit different than what we use in Zambia, it was not exactly the same as what the Zambians make, but I thought it was close! It was so fun to have them all try it and to see them eat with their hands! 4. Myself and my parents when we visited friends in PA. This is Cathy and Doug, a couple who has known me for my entire life and who we have continued to stay in touch with even after moving to Buffalo. They welcomed us into their home where we chatted, laughed, and shared a meal. These two are a big part of my great cloud of witnesses! 5. Myself and my parents with my godparents and their daughter. Heidi and Ric, my godparents, welcomed us into their home for the several days that we were visiting our people in Cabot, PA. They are another family that has known me for my entire life and has continued to provide endless support throughout my entire life. Our time was full of valuable conversations, joy, and delicious food (Heidi is an amazing cook!).

SO BLESSED to have these people (and *so many* more who aren't pictured) in my life!!!



Fun, Food, and Fellowship

It has been so wonderful to come home and be back with my family and friends. Living on the other side of the world has helped me to see even more how valuable time with my people is. I was able to spend time with some of my close friends from college, where we shared life updates and shared our accomplishments and celebrations from this year. What a blessing to have friends who are there for me through the thick and thin (see image #1 below). Time with family has been absolutely incredible. Between holiday meals with extended family (see image #2), special one-on-one time with mom and dad (see images #3 and 6), or extra love from my grandparents (see images #4 and 5), I have been soaking in every second. Immeasurably blessed to have these people in my corner.



(Continued on page 8)

Hope Willert's Mission Work in Zambia

(Continued from page 7)

During my time in the states I have had to make sure that I was able to experience all of the American things that I really miss when I am over in Zambia - the biggest of which is American food. From burgers, to Christmas cookies, to super sweet coffee, I made sure to have everything I missed at least once. My grandparents even gave me a shoebox full of cherry pie cherries for Christmas so that I can bring it back to Zambia with me and make cherry pie there!



Life Update

I am flying back to Zambia on January 4th, so I am working hard to finish up my state-side fundraising, spending as much time as possible with my people in these last few days, and, as always, trying to figure out how in the world to fit everything into three suitcases. I am so excited to go back - to see my kiddos, be back with Charles, return to the Zambian culture, and just to be back with my friends and family there. That being said, I am also in my feels about leaving my American home - leaving my parents, my sister, my friends, my grandparents, and even silly things like American food. But while it is never easy to leave, I am reminded of how much of a blessing it is to be able to have two homes, and people that so dearly love me in each of these places.

When I return I will jump back into my role as a teacher's assistant, helping to prepare and make sure that we have everything set for school to start back up on January 12th. Hard to believe that I am already starting my second year on staff at Poetice!

Prayer Requests

- That the Lord would protect all of the Poetice staff as they are returning to Zambia in the first week of January. That travels would go smoothly and that He would keep everyone safe.
- That God would be present and working in each of the teachers as we prepare for this new year, and that He would help the start of Term 1 to go well.
- I am still really struggling with being extremely exhausted every day. For those of you that might not know, I have sleep apnea. To treat this, I use a BiPAP every night when I sleep, but that only helps a little bit. While I have been home I have been trying out a new medication that helps to give me energy during the day. This does help, but only a little bit. Even with my BiPAP and this medication, I still really struggle with exhaustion every day, and it drastically affects my quality of life. I am nervous for the upcoming school year, as I really struggled last year with making it through the school day (and this year we are adding another hour onto the day) and trying to be the best teacher that I can be. Please pray that the Lord would sustain me and give me energy to be able to live my life to the fullest, whether that is by providing some medical solution, healing me, or something else. And pray that, whatever happens, I would stay close to the Lord and continue to serve Him the best that I can.

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! I still have a ways to go in regards to fundraising for this upcoming year, so if you would like to donate you can click on the link below. I am especially in need of monthly givers, but any amount is so appreciated. Happy New Year, everyone!

Blessings,

Hope Willert
hope@poetice.org

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.



Happy Birthday

2/1	Lynn Krueger	2/12	Loren Pletscher	2/19	Janet Bullock
2/5	Luke Anderson		Tonia Besch		Lisa Lafferty
2/6	Laurel Szeider	2/13	Robert Moeller	2/23	Amelia Iannuzzelli
2/7	Sue Brehm		Landon Heckman	2/24	Gary Ecker
2/9	Kathie Schindler	2/14	River Rowsell	2/27	Gerry Swart
	Zachary Powers		Morgan Ringle		
2/10	Steve Meden	2/15	Gregory Kopra		
	Kris Heckman	2/17	Nathan McClellan		
	Chris Kwilas	2/18	Carolyn Flattery		
2/11	Heidi Kosicki		Lucas Eising		

Happy Anniversary

2/7	Nevin & Linda Hope	2/25	Bruce & Kristen Heckman
2/14	Michele & Edward Baun	2/26	George & Linda Hodge

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer (Jan-March 2026) devotion booklets are still available. They can be picked up in the church narthex. Please take one to use for your 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!

Emergency Contacts

If a family member is **hospitalized** or there is an **emergency need**, please inform Pastor Nyck (716-336-1767), the church office, or one of the Deacons.



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.

Member Contact Info

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number or email address? Does Trinity even have your email address? Not sure? If you haven't been receiving our weekly informational emails, we probably don't have it or you have changed it and we need the new one. If this pertains to you, please contact the church office (674-9188) or you can leave your new information in the Church Office mailbox in the coatroom. Thank you!

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