

August Beacon

IT'S SUMMERTIME

Hello Congregation! We hope everyone enjoys the month of August to its fullest. Soak in the sun, harvest those plants, hit up the Erie County Fair and keep up your prayers.

Things aren't that slow around here...make note of the Worship in the Park at Gasport on August 2nd, the rescheduled Synod listening session on August 3rd, and the Lutheran Night at the Bisons on August 21st. New info on the start of Sunday School is here, and council will still be meeting on August 4th. Before you know it, it'll be labor day and we'll be buying everything pumpkin spice, so enjoy every beautiful minute.

Be well and God Bless.



Office Hours:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

Summer office hours updates:

Things change slightly in the summer. If you need to stop in the office, here are the changes:

August 11th and 13th – office opening late at 1:30pm

August 14-30th – Pastor is away

Please Hold in Prayer

- *To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office.*
- *You can call or email in a prayer at any time. Now you can also go on the website and email in a prayer through there.*
716-542-9828, trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com
- *Prayers submitted after Tuesday at noon will be announced verbally in church and added in print the following week. Names are kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless instructed otherwise.*
- *If you would like your prayer concern to be shared by phone with everyone, please contact Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.*

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Archie Ausberger

Sandy Kreher

Amy and Daisy Richter

We give thanks for Tony Kaminski's successful surgery and Sandy Bruning's successful knee replacement!

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Nancy Peters

Mary

Lester Francis

June Dombrowski

James Walters

We pray for safe travel for the Morgans and the Kittels to North Carolina and South Carolina, respectively.

***Funeral for Nancy Peters** (Harold Finger's sister) will be on Friday, July 24th at 5:00 here at Trinity. Calling hours will be before the service at Ross Funeral Home from 1-4pm.*

***Memorial for James Walters** (Diane Hurne's son) is going to be on Saturday July 25th at 10 am.*



Choir is off for the summer!

Sunday Worship at 9:30 every week

Bible Study: See list below

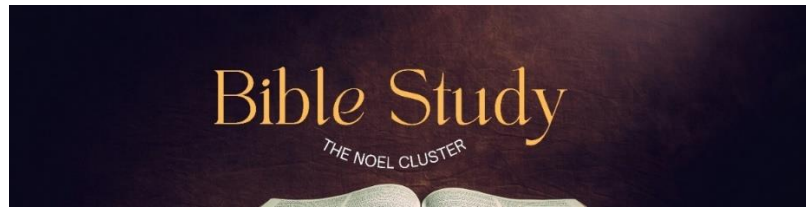
Sunday School is off until September 13

10:45am-11:45 – grades pre-K-8th

NO Sunday School on September 20th (Full schedule and registration forms will be available soon by print and on the website – you must fill one out, please!)



Updated date: August 4th at 7:00pm



Bible Study Upcoming dates and locations:
(10 am on Thursdays)

7/30 – St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098
8/6 – Here at Trinity!
8/13 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103
8/20 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001
8/27 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067
9/3 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098



4th of July Parade

Trinity took the **2nd place award** for non-profit organizations in the 4th of July parade!

Worship in the Park

A big special thanks to Donna for all she does for our outdoor worship with the white elephant and potluck! We appreciate Grill Masters Christine Johnson and Bill Kittel making the hot dogs, Ronda Lauridsen for bringing all the games, and David Hofmeier and Pastor Rick for trucking all the music stuff over! And of course, all of you - for bringing your dishes to share, helping to set up and to break down after. We'll see you again at Gasport's worship on August 2nd.



August 2nd is our next Worship in the Park at **Veteran's Park in Gasport at 10:30am** – only one shelter in the park, you can't miss it.

The address is: **7992 State St.** in Gasport.

No worship here at Trinity that day.

Bring a dish to pass and a comfy chair if you like. The sign up sheet is out in the narthex now

Sunday School News

We will be welcoming back our Sunday School students on September 13th! This year, we continue to have the classes separated by age group: pre-K-3rd grade, 4-5th grade, and 6th & up (which is also now part of our confirmation program! More info below.) Classes go from 10:45-11:45am.

There is NO Sunday school on September 20th. Schedules and registration forms will be available soon.

Confirmation at Trinity

We're excited to offer a Confirmation program for our youth starting in September! Confirmation is a process in which junior-high youth in grades 7 and up learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian in our world. They will then take responsibility for their faith when they are confirmed after completing a two-year program of classes, interactions, service, relationship-building, and more.

For interested families, there will be an information meeting **after worship on Sunday, August 9th**. We'll run through the expectations that come with our Confirmation program, share what we're excited about, and answer any questions. There will be a registration form coming soon, stay tuned!

Synod Coming to Trinity (1st Meeting)

Monday August 3rd at 6:30pm

Rev. Imani Olear will be visiting Trinity on **Monday evening, August 3rd at 6:30 pm** for a listening session with us around what's called the CaSTLE Project, an opportunity being offered to rural congregations to help strengthen their ministry in their setting. Please consider coming to share your thoughts. More on this listening session:

What is the CaSTLE Project and What Can We Expect? **About the CaSTLE Project**

CaSTLE stands for **Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology**. It is a grant-funded initiative through Wartburg Theological Seminary and the ELCA that is helping synods across the country learn from rural and small-town congregations. The project begins with a simple belief: rural congregations are not problems to be solved. They are communities with gifts, wisdom, and experiences that have much to teach the wider church.

Through listening sessions, coaching, leadership development, and shared learning, the CaSTLE Project seeks to identify what helps rural congregations thrive and what resources, partnerships, and support may be needed for the future.

About Rev. Imani Olear

Rev. Imani Olear serves as the Director for Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for the Upstate New York Synod. Her work includes congregational vitality, mission development, leadership development, justice ministries, and supporting congregations as they navigate change and opportunities for growth. Rev. Olear is leading the Upstate New York Synod's participation in the CaSTLE Project and has been traveling throughout the synod to listen to congregations, learn from their experiences, and identify common themes emerging across rural and small-town ministry settings.

What to Expect During the Listening Session

The listening session is simply a conversation. We are not coming to evaluate, assess, or judge the congregation. We are coming to listen. During our time together, we will discuss:

- What you love most about your congregation
- Where you see God at work
- The strengths of your community and congregation
- Challenges facing your church and community
- Leadership and lay ministry opportunities
- Hopes and concerns for the future
- Partnerships and collaborations in your community
- Resources, training, or support that might be helpful

What This Is Not

This is not:

- A congregational assessment
- A financial review
- A strategic planning session
- A conversation about closing churches
- A meeting with right or wrong answers

Why Your Voice Matters

The experiences of your congregation matters. The stories, wisdom, challenges, and hopes you share will help shape future conversations, resources, and support for rural and small-town congregations across the Upstate New York Synod and beyond. We are grateful for your willingness to participate and look forward to learning from you.

July 26 – Pulpit Exchange

Join us for worship as Pastors Serena and Rick exchange pulpits!

Pies in the Park

July 31st is the annual **Pies in the Park**. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex now.

Pies should be to church no later than 5pm. Those who are volunteering should meet at the stand in Russell Park no later than 6pm. Please use disposable pie plates. There are some available down in the foyer by the door.

Lutheran Night at the Bisons

This year's Lutheran night at the Bisons will be Friday August 21st at 6:35. Printable tickets are at the end of this beacon and printed copies are in the narthex.

****There is a list in the narthex – if you are interested in going together as a group, please put down your name and phone number so you can coordinate with others that also want to go.**

September 20th: Congregational Listening Session Sunday Sept. 20th following Worship

What is Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead? Who is Trinity? Why is Trinity?

These questions come up from time to time as we evaluate ourselves as a congregation. From within that framework and understanding, we can better identify the people, the mission and the direction of the congregation of Trinity.

We have done this in the past. Through our period of intentional internship, to the congregational merger with St John's, to our development of our ministry site profile for the purpose of calling and retaining pastoral leadership. We have asked ourselves these questions, as a council and as a congregation. The means to do this have varied. Focused collaborative stakeholder groups, to council committees, to surveys and now, a conversation.

Over the past few months, Trinity has been engaged in a shared ministry with Zion Lutheran Church of Gasport. Pastor Rick, through the direction of Synod and the understanding with council and Trinity, has been sharing pastoral leadership and care part time with Zion. The intent was to assist Zion in completing their ministry site profile and to organize to find new pastoral leadership. It was made into a formal agreement, along with a term, that has since expired. The question that Synod, Zion and Trinity now face is, what's next?

After discussion at council, it was decided to hold a listening session later this year. The listening session will be held on *September 20th following worship*. Deacon Rachel Sosebee will be joining us for this session to field any questions she can help with as well.

The purpose of the session is to ask and engage our congregation to review the past, the current and the future needs of our congregation's pastoral leadership. What does it look like? What do we need? This is the basis for the conversation. It will be open to the entire congregation as the council seeks your input for consideration. This is not a congregational meeting, so no actions are planned to be made. But with the conversation, the council will have a better understanding of Trinity to make decisions on next steps and direction.

Council encourages you to watch for additional information and to mark your calendars to participate. Additional details for this session will be made available as the session is planned, including participants and agenda for discussion.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Rick or myself. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and hopefully, your participation.

Yours in Christ,
Erik Polkowski
Conversation Facilitator, Council VP 2026

Food Pantry

The food pantry is low on cereal and canned fruit if you're looking to donate this month!

First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am
First Tuesday of the month: Food Pantry distribution @ 8:30-10:30am

Upcoming schedule:
August 3 setup – August 4th distribution
August 31 setup – September 1st distribution

The Little Free Pantry is open for anyone in need and is supported by donations of items from

the community.

WI-FI: Go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password:
BeABeacon

Birthdays

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

3rd- Amanda Morgante
7th – Anna Conschafter
10th- Isabelle and Sophia Jones
11th - Elizabeth and William Rizzo
22nd- Gordy Dorr
Luke Conschafter
23rd- Jacalyn Morgante
26th- Linda Lawrie
29th- Flo Goeseke
30th- Sharon Francis

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

16th - Pastor Rick & Pastor Serena's anniversary
22nd - Pastor Rick's Ordination
5th - Norm & Sharon Waff



★★★★

**BUFFALO
BISONS**

★★★★

**LEHIGH
VALLEY
IRONPIGS**

@ SAHLEN FIELD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST

6:35 PM Game Time

How to Get Your Tickets...

Buy **ONLINE** at www.WNYLutheranCharities.org

or

Buy with **PayPal** – Use the QR Code

Note the # of Individual Tickets and/or Tickets w/ Concessions
& Any Seating Preferences (group, who with)

or Mail in a Check with the Form Below.

**** Tickets Must be Purchased Together to be Seated Together ****



Lutheran Charities Bisons Night RSVP: DUE IN the OFFICE by 10 AM, August 18th

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of individual tickets _____ x \$15 ea. = _____

of tickets WITH discounted concessions _____ x \$25 ea. = _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Form with Payment to: Lutheran Charities, 6540 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221

COST:

Individual Tickets: \$15

Tickets WITH Discounted Concessions: \$25
(includes 1 hot dog & small soda)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, August 18th!

Tickets will NOT be mailed.

Pick them up on game day from Jessica,
the Office Administrator,
after 5 PM to the right of the Swan Street entrance
to the ballpark
near the tree grove @ Washington Street.