

Trinity Tidings

The Mission of Trinity Old Lutheran Church is
Proclamation, Fellowship and Service
in the name of Jesus.



The Reverend Frederick W. Kopp
Pastor

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Trinity Old Lutheran Church is a member of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor's Ponderings

Facebook is a source for me, more than a communication device. I "Like" a bunch of things, share rarely, and save some neat pics and quotes. The above is a quote from a woman who promotes sustainable living. (I googled her.) But that is not the reason I choose to save this quote.

The quote interprets for me the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. It embodies love of the Creator, and opens the door for a bond (maybe Holy Spirit) that would lead people to care.

God's love is not about keeping people out because they do this or that, or they think this or that, or because they are different than us. God's love and the courage we can get from it is a welcoming and inviting type of Love. It is a love that notices who is not included, who is not powerful, and who is not seen.

God's love leads us not to "politically" correct statements about people and circumstances, but to loving, kind, and respectful statements of the "other."

God's love is beautifully expressed in a statement from Mathew 25:40, "I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In God's love I remain trying to draw on my "wilder bond."

Pastor Fred He/him/his

New! Bible Study on the Book of James

Pastor Fred will be leading a Bible Study on the Book of James during the month of June at **Augustana Lutheran** (3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda). **Each Friday in June from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM** they will be looking at the Wisdom found in James. Everyone is welcome!



Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11



May we raise children
Who love the unloved
things – the dandelion, the
worms & spiderlings.
Children who sense
the rose needs the thorn

& run into rainswept days
the same way they
turn towards the sun...

And when they're grown &
someone has to speak for those
who have no voice

may they draw upon that
wilder bond, those days of
tending tender things

and be the ones

Nicolette Sowder



Adult Retreat October 4, 5, and 6



Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke, TOL

What's Next: Here and Now / There and Then

*So what does the next ten years bring?
What happens when we die?*

We'll take the time and find the space to explore what's next in our lives. The Retreat is open to all who are 18 and older. Complete details are posted on the bulletin board—along with a sign-up sheet!

Please think about attending—talk to those who have gone in the past!

(See Kelly's article in this issue!)

Bowl of TLC, from TOL!



Soup is easy to make and easy to share. Visiting a homebound member? Why not take them a quart or two of chicken soup? Do you know someone who could use cheering up? Treat them to a bowl of homemade soup, courtesy of TOL.

Last month was the start of TOL's soup ministry and our freezer (adjacent to the Fellowship Hall kitchen) is already filling up with delicious soup to share with others.

If you would like to take a quart of frozen soup, please follow the instructions on the freezer door. If you'd like to help this ministry, please see Velma or Matt.

June Coffee Hour



You are invited to stop by the Fireside Lounge following worship on **Sunday, June 9!** The WWI Women's Group is hosting a coffee hour. Come and enjoy delicious baked goods, coffee and fellowship.

 **Happy
Father's Day**

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

Almighty God, bring us into a community guided by your love. Inspire in us a spirit of hospitality and kindness, and teach us to bear one another's burdens with compassion. Show us your will for the ministries at Augustana and TOL, and strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love. Amen.



Thank You!

Pastor Fred recently received a thank you letter from The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Connor, Sr., Pastor, Parkway Presbyterian Church, Panama City, FL.

Dear Fred and Our Sisters and Brothers of Trinity Old Lutheran,

Grace and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of our Church Family at Parkway, I wanted to thank you for your kind and generous donation of the beautiful hand-crafted quilts that you made and sent to us in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Many people are still living in tents and many are homeless with their children. Your gift has helped them to feel warmth and love and a bit of security during this time. While we work to rebuild our facilities, we are able to carry out ministry to those still suffering.

Thanks to donors like yourself and all of our volunteers, we are making wonderful strides toward completion of our renovations and continuing our outreach ministry to those who are still suffering.

Again, thank you so much for your support of our ministry at Parkway!

In the hope and peace of our Risen Lord, I am,
Pastor Ric

TLC at TOL...TOL's free Respite Care Program continues every first Wednesday of the month from **10:30 AM to 2:30 PM** for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or any form of dementia. Guests are partnered with a volunteer (trained by the Alzheimer's Association) and they participate in various activities in a secure environment. A morning snack and nutritious lunch are provided. For more information on registering for the program, please contact Jan or Paulette at 836-4868.



TOL's Caregivers Support Group...The group will meet on **Monday, June 3, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** in the Fireside Lounge. It's an informal setting and the conversation is caregiver driven—or one may wish to just listen. Ideas, tips, and shared experiences can prove helpful to caregivers. For more information, please contact Jan at 836-4868.



Flag Day, June 14!

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May Stewardship

Thank you for your donations in support of Lutheran Charities of Western New York (LCWNY). We welcomed Thomas Madden (Executive Director, LCWNY) to worship on Sunday, May 19. He updated the congregation on the mission of the organization, as well as delivering the message. There are new brochures available in the narthex that describe the 14 groups supported by LCWNY. One hundred percent of your donations go directly to the programs!

June Stewardship—ELCA World Hunger

The following was written by Mikka McCracken, Director, ELCA World Hunger, Planning and Engagement. It is taken from the ELCA publication, "LifeLines," Spring 2019.

"God creates diversely and abundantly, yet almost one in nine of our global neighbors lives with hunger, and disasters continue to affect the safety and security of communities near and far. In today's culture, where the accumulation of money or goods can be mistaken for success, God invites us to pause and reflect on what abundant life truly looks like."

Your donations will enable the ELCA to respond to "root causes of hunger and poverty in the United States and more than 60 countries around the world." Please use the pew envelopes for your donations.

Our Community Partners Meeting at TOL

Gamblers Anon.	Sun., 7:00 PM
Gam-Anon,	Sun., 7:00 PM
Overeaters Anon.	Mon., 10:00 AM
Co-Dependents	Tues., 7:30 PM
Eta Sigma	Meets on 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Thurs., Gentle Yoga, 9:30 to 10:45 AM Thurs., Beginner Yoga, 5:45 to 7:00 PM
Love Life Self Help Group	Meets on the 1 st Wednesday of the month 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)

Note: If you are interested in any of the different Yoga classes offered at TOL, please contact Leanne (864-1194).



The HEART of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.

Martin Luther

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, May 2019

We welcomed eight guests to the program on a partly sunny day (with summertime temperatures at program's end).

It was a day that required a number of schedule changes—but all activities moved right along. Guests and volunteers participated in word games and trivia with Diane and in filling pretty containers with colorful May flowers at craft time. We enjoyed Bingo with our “guest caller,” Charlie (thank you, Charlie!). Thank you to the kitchen staff for preparing bigger BBQ burgers for lunch followed by ice cream cups for dessert—delicious! Lunch was followed by a lively round of Rainbow Ball Toss and chair yoga with Leanne. Sing-along with Susie Q, Happy Days was brought back for music time, by request. We didn't quite make it through all of the songs—we'll try again another time!



Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss



TLC at TOL is our “first Wednesday of the month” program that is fun and rewarding! If you would like to know more about it—or to volunteer—we'd love to speak with you! Please contact us through the church office (836-4868).

Volunteers Needed! “Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action”

TOL is a part of this community of volunteers—Neighbor Helping Neighbor Volunteer Program! Volunteers choose assignments that fit into their schedules and they may help once a month or as much as they wish.

HNH now serves Amherst, Kenmore and Tonawanda. Services include: transportation, light housekeeping, yard work and caregiver respite.

For more program details and information, please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311.



Coming this Fall—Adult Ed. With Charlie Schmidtke (Mondays at 1:00 PM)

Most people don't know that there were over 16 gospels and at least 6 other writings that were not included in the Bible but were familiar to Jesus' followers in the first and second centuries.

Next year for our Adult Ed. classes we'll continue examining these works, their background and what they may mean for us today. You're invited to join us!

Sept. 23 and 30:	The Gospel According to Thomas
Oct. 7 and 28:	The Gospel According to Mary
Nov. 4 and 18:	The Book of Q
Dec. 2:	The Gospel of Truth



Thank You!

A letter of thanks was received from the ELCA acknowledging TOL's donation from the recent Sunday School project that raised funds to purchase piglets as part of the Good Gifts program.

Dear Trinity Old Lutheran Church,

What a gift you've given! Thank you for your recent gift of \$798.28 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you are equipping God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your support of the vital ministries that we do together—and for your very good gift.

In God's abundant grace,

Christina Jackson-Skelton

Executive Director, Mission Advancement

Christian Symbolism in Movies?

Okay, you movie fans: In what American movies do the following examples of Christian symbolism appear?

1. The hymn “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” is sung during a dying mother's visit to her son in prison.
2. A kind of “miracle” is performed, disproving the idea that no one can eat fifty eggs in one hour.
3. The main character assumes a “crucifix” position after several times in which he has suffered.
4. A “communion” takes place in which all the people eat small portions of one man's food so that he will not be punished for not being able to finish it.
5. The main character sings about a plastic “Jesus” on the dashboard and a “Virgin Mary” assuring him that he won't go to hell.
6. A person who has never prayed goes into an empty church, calls out “Hey, old man, you home tonight? What do I do now? I'm down on my knees asking.”
7. The last scene is a crossroads photographed from above so that it resembles a “Cross.”

Loren Keller

[Answers appear elsewhere in this issue.]

[from: *Trinity Tidings*, June 2005]

Online Giving to TOL



Tithe.ly is available for online giving. You can set up your account through the TOL website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or download an easy-to-use app to your phone. The site is user-friendly and safe to use.



The Show Must Go On!

Coming soon to a theatre near you: “The Nancy, Lanny, Diane and Charlie Show”!!

Recently, a casting call went out through the church email for extras to appear in a short film being shot at TOL. It was written and directed by students from Buffalo State who major in Film Arts.

“Come at 4 pm dressed in clothes appropriate for a funeral reception (i.e., business casual). It should only take an hour or so...” Being the musical theatre buff that I am and having the afternoon free, I quickly decided this was for me!! Charlie was interested too.

When the time came to leave, he decided to not push his already busy day, so off I drove alone to church. I wasn't gone three minutes when I received a text from my guy, sounding loudly on the car's smart screen: “If you find out they need an old man, text me and I'll come over.” What?? Was he kidding?? When I arrived, I texted him to come if he was interested. What changed his mind? Later he said he has no explanation for the urgency that came over him to “be there.” We expect it had something to do with our daughter and her love of theatre.

The response to the casting call was underwhelming, to say the least. Only Nancy, Lanny, Charlie and I showed up. This didn't seem to faze our director and his assistant. They rolled with it and cast us as two couples that were friends standing at a reception after a funeral. Charlie and I were the parents of Michael, who had died by suicide. Our good friends were the parents of Alex who came to console our other son, Joseph, who was mourning the loss of his brother.

It was interesting to watch the crew of three (a female friend appeared), stage the church's Fireside Lounge with chair arrangement and lighting. Listening to them chat made me smile—so earnest, yet so laid back, in a student kind of way. The two “actors” were late because they went to the wrong church. (Now it was going on 5:30.) The camera battery was almost dead; someone's cell phone had only a 3% charge. Charlie smiled as he remembered his college teaching days. There was a lot of “hurry up and wait” going on. It's interesting to imagine how this must magnify itself in a larger TV or movie production.

We were filmed about five different times, looking sad in our grief, being consoled by our friends with hugs and kindness. Perfect type-casting. The actors ran their lines numerous times with close up and distance shots, and we were filmed twice more being consoled by Michael's awkward friend.

Add to the experience our own personal talent agent: Lanny! He was wonderful in his ability to engage the students, and genuinely interested in their work and technique. From this connection we received compliments on our acting skills (if they only knew) and asked if we'd like to be called as extras for future films! Although I don't really expect this to happen, it was flattering. Also we were invited to the screening of the film in May.

By 6:30 they called “a wrap” and we all headed to our evening destinations...work, dorms, home, and for me, an evening of Rummikub with friends.

I'm known for telling bereaved parents at our grief support group to be “open to the gifts the universe bestows...you never know when you'll experience your child.” I'd like to believe that this day we received a hug from Heidi.

Diane Schmidtke

Answers: If you are looking for the answers to Loren Keller's “Christian Symbolism in Movies” article, all seven examples are in the same movie! They are from *Cool Hand Luke*, in which Paul Newman plays the title character.

A Day with the Schmidtke's

Recently we spent a day in Buffalo to view the cherry trees behind the Buffalo History Museum, which bloom for only a short time. Carpe diem!



After arriving, as we walked from the parking lot around the building to the trees and the lake, we saw a friend from church. “Hi!” “Are you here to watch us dance?” she asked. Elaine belongs to a Parkinson's dance therapy group. Although she doesn't have the disease, she accompanies her daughter, Sue, and they both love the teacher and the group. Elaine and I had previously chatted about this group because we have mutual friends who belong.

As it turned out, the dance session was being filmed for an International Parkinson's gathering in Japan next year. They would be performing their “crane dance” in the midst of the cherry blossoms. How apropos!

So we took our photos: of the lovely, delicate pink flowers; of the statue of Abraham Lincoln on the steps of the Historical building as seen through the blooms; of reflections of trees in Hoyt Lake; of ducks swimming in reflections of these trees; and then of the crane dancers as they swayed and bowed to the sounds of a lone violin. Beautiful on all accounts.

With tears in my eyes, I watched the amazing scene before me—people in various stages of a relentless neurological enemy as they displayed their interpretation of “seize the day.” There was delight on their faces as they moved as cranes and truly felt the music and the moment. Their joy was a gift to us.

Although we didn't stay for the actual video-taping (these things take lots of time!), we did get a glimpse into another world of how people live and cope and find meaning in their lives.

To complete our romp with nature, we headed to the Niagara River to view the migration of huge ice chunks as they headed for the Falls. Beauty of a different kind. This, too, is a “timed thing.” If you don't grab the chance right now, it won't come around for another year.

As I reflect on this day, I am grateful for sweet moments and community and God's awesome design.

Diane Schmidtke