

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

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...

This is sometimes what I hear coming out of our country leaders' mouths, my mouth, and many other mouths. Thoughtless speech that comes from an ungrounded position. Whether we hear it in tweet form, or through gossip about the Hollywood stars or our neighbors, or damaging words of confrontation with a loved one, our tongue can lead to a mess.

In our recent Study of James, we read,

"How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is the fire."

James 3:5

Apathy, Anxiety, Stress, Conflict, Arrogance, Self-Centeredness and many other feelings and actions have overtaken many of us. These may be righteous or unrighteous. They may be caused by the past, or by present people and events, or from predictions of the future. Wherever they begin it is not healthy to stay in these feelings and have them define our being.

I know I have been tainted and frustrated and impacted by outside happenings. So I have begun to ponder and put forth an effort to transform the **"BLAHS"** in my life into **BLESSINGS**. In doing so I pray that my life and the people I impact will be moved to do the same and therefore impact the world. One quote, with a debated origin (maybe Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, or Henry Stanley Haskins—a Wall Street trader with a checkered background), is helping me center myself.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Jesus gives us words to ponder also.

"You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27

If I look in the mirror and listen, I hear back "Work on YOU!" I invite you to join me working on YOU, in order to impact our neighbor, reduce the fires that our tongues set ablaze, and to transform our **"BLAHS" into BLESSINGS**.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

Cemetery Work Day Thank You!



A giant thank you to Jan, Karen, Don, Linda, Stephanie, Josh, Jim and Richard who rolled up their sleeves, slapped on the sun screen and helped spruce up our cemetery on Saturday, July 13. It was a beautiful and peaceful morning to work and our cemetery looks all the better from our efforts!

Matt

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.



BW's BBQ

On a beautifully hot summer day, Saturday, July 20, we hosted a BW's chicken and ribs barbecue outside in the church's front yard. Our guests were invited to drive up in their air-conditioned cars, place their orders, and have their prepared meals delivered to them. Everyone seemed to enjoy this special service and I'm sure they were happy to just not have to cook on such a toasty day!

Special thanks to everyone who helped and especially to Dick and Barb Edwards for coordinating the event!

Earlene



Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ...

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ will be coming on **Sunday, September 8**. We'll need volunteers and desserts!

...and Basket Raffle

Please consider donating a basket, items for a basket, a gift card, or even making a monetary donation. Our basket raffles are only successful because of your generous donations! If you have any questions please see Debbie or Kelly.

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and September *Trinity Tidings*!

Adult Retreat

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
October 4, 5, and 6

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



All information is posted on the main bulletin board—along with a sign-up sheet. It is open to everyone 18 years and older. Please speak to Charlie Schmidtke if you have any questions.

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

For our congregations and leaders, through our shared work, let your word prosper among us and bring life to the communities beyond our doors. Show us your will for the ministries at Augustana and Trinity Old Lutheran, and strengthen our relationships in our communities as we serve our neighbors in love. Amen.

Eric Madsen, Ordained

We pray for God's blessings on The Reverend Eric Madsen who became a pastor in the ELCA on Saturday, June 29. He was ordained at St. John Lutheran Church in Williamsville. Pastor Eric, son of Pastors Tim Madsen and Wendy Buckley, will preside over a congregation in Rochester, NY. We, at TOL, remember Eric as a guest preacher while he was attending United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. There was a related article in the *Amherst Bee* and it is posted on the bulletin board.

Check Your Linen Closets!

The LWR Quilters group is on summer break, but when they resume in the fall, they could use your "tired out" bedsheets. Please consider donating any unused sheets that you may have—they will be turned into beautiful quilts to help those in need at home and abroad.

Please place your donations in the marked box in the narthex. Thank you!

Walk to End Alzheimer's—Saturday, September 14!

You're invited to join Team TOL in this year's walk at Buffalo's Outer Harbor! A sign-up sheet will be available. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and September's *Trinity Tidings*.



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 again on **Monday, October 7, 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.



"I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessings."

Ezekiel 34:26

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August Stewardship

The focus for August will be in support of ELCA Disaster Response—Flooding in the Midwest. The combination of heavy rains, snow melt, and rains from the remnants of Hurricane Barry have caused major flooding in four states. Please use the designated pew envelopes for your donations.

"Your gifts will help address the unmet needs of those affected by the flooding, and together we stand ready to provide assistance recovery efforts. **Gifts designated for "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted.**" [From the ELCA website at <https://community.elca.org/usfloodingrelief>.]

Adult Classes Led by Charlie Schmidtke

Sex.

"Now that I have your attention..."—C.S.

In the Fall, Charlie Schmidtke will be leading a discussion about human sexuality. Years ago the Synod trained leaders in using an ELCA study guide for congregational programs. Charlie was one of the trainees who has already used the program. The guide is biblically and culturally based. It has six sections, which provide readings, discussion questions, some commentary and Bible verses. The topics are ageless and far reaching. Please join us at TOL on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30 PM. The dates are September 18 and 25 and October 2, 9, 16, and 23. Come to any or all of the sessions. Bring a friend or spouse!



Adult Ed.—Resumes in September!

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

This fall we'll continue examining these works, their backgrounds and what they may mean for us today.

Join us on Monday's at 1:00 PM!

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

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, July 3

Summer arrived—sunshine and warmth for our program! We welcomed eight guests and we celebrated Independence Day with patriotic-themed activities. For everyone's comfort, all activities were held in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.



Following the morning snack, Diane led the group with a Haiku poem, patriotic word games and trivia. Everyone participated in gentle chair yoga with Leanne before moving to the craft tables. Guests had time to make two patriotic crafts before lunch.

Everyone enjoyed delicious pizza for lunch and ice cream and cookies for dessert!

Charlie joined us for patriotic-themed Everybody Wins Bingo following lunch. Anne arrived with her dog Carma—we always enjoy their afternoon visits. They are veterans of the program, having visited many times. Anne let us know that Carma is a beagle rescue from Kentucky and that she's five years old—almost six! Carma also visits with travelers at the Buffalo Airport. They stayed for music time that featured patriotic songs—and Carma joined in singing the last song!

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss



Luke: The Universal Gospel

Luke was a gentile, probably the only New Testament writer who was not a Jew. He apparently was a doctor by profession, and the possessor of a wide sympathy. Luke saw men as they were, and seems to have loved them all. Luke's great book was written to Theophilus, who was a Roman official. His gospel is the only one to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan. The only leper who thanked Jesus for cleansing him was a Samaritan. Luke saw in Jesus the sacrifice for the whole world. The barriers are broken down: Jesus is for Jew and gentile, saint and sinner.

It seems clear that Luke wrote mainly for gentiles. Theophilus and Luke himself were both gentiles. Luke very seldom quotes the Old Testament. His Greek is notably good. His work is the product of careful research. He wishes to be as accurate as possible. Luke's gospel shows Jesus at prayer at all the great moments of his life. To Luke the unclosed door of prayer is one of the most precious in all the world. In Luke the phrase "praising God" occurs much more often than in the rest of the New Testament.

Luke is especially interested in the poor. Only his gospel tells the parable of the Rich Man and the Poor Man. His heart goes out to everyone for whom life is an unequal struggle. In some ways, it is the gospel of the underdog. Luke shows Jesus as the friend of outcasts and sinners. Where else would we find the story of the prodigal son and the loving father? There is a legend that Luke was a skilled painter. There is even a painting of Mary in a Spanish cathedral to this day which is said to be by him. William Barclay once said, "There is a radiance in Luke's gospel which is a lovely thing, as if the sheen of heaven had touched the things of earth."

Loren Keller

[From: *Trinity Tidings*, February 2011]



Thank You from Hearts & Hands

A letter was recently received from Kathleen Oczeck, Executive Director (excerpts follow).

Dear Reverend Kopp,

We received your congregation's donation of \$225.00 and wish to acknowledge and thank you for this generous contribution.

Your continued support enables us to promote our program, recruit and train volunteers, and most importantly, provide care receivers with individualized assessment and much needed services like transportation, friendly visits and respite, or help with household chores—at no charge to the care receiver.

Again, we thank you for your continued support in serving your congregation members and members of your community.

Best regards,
Kathleen Oczeck
Executive Director



TOL is part of the Hearts & Hands community of volunteers (serving Amherst, Kenmore and Tonawanda). If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please visit the website at www.hnhcares.org!

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).