

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

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless."

Philippians 1:9-10

This quote from Paul's letter to the Philippians encourages us to learn, grow, and act in love. It was three years ago, around Christmas when I (and the church), was given different knowledge. At the church Christmas Program, Sohail and Afreen Akhtar were cast as Mary and Joseph for the nativity scene. After the program, Sohail and I were discussing the program and he said, "Fred, I think this might be the first time the church has seen people playing Mary and Joseph, who might have looked like Jesus's parents." Wow, that is right—our Savior came from the Middle East and Southern Asia. Jesus probably had some similar characteristics to Sohail and Afreen. With this new "full insight," is our love flowing more for people who are different from us?

We seek and gain more knowledge at church to challenge and expand our world view. More knowledge to help us determine, as Paul says, "what is best" for us and God's world. If we continue following the birth narrative of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, we have Joseph, Mary and Jesus, fleeing to Egypt because Herod wants to kill him. Within the beginning three years of Jesus's life, he was a refugee and immigrant. This is more knowledge and insight to inform us so that our "love may overflow" as we welcome and treat refugees or immigrants fairly. Remembering our Lord was once running away from a fearful situation too.



We are called as Christians to look beyond human-made boundaries and to see people of the world of different races, ethnicities, and other distinguishing differences as our brothers and sisters.

Advent is the start of the new church year, and in this new year let us pledge to open ourselves to "knowledge and full insight" that would lead us to love and serve God's people to the best of our being.

A blessed Advent to all.
Pastor Fred Kopp

Pastor's Advent Bible Study—Friday Mornings

Advent Bible Study is being held on Friday's, **November 30 through December 21**. We will be discussing Watching, Bearing Fruit, Preparing and Rejoicing as we anticipate Christ's coming into the world. Everyone is welcome to join us at Augustana, on Fridays from **10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**.

Peace,
Pastor Fred

Seasons of Advent and Christmas at TOL

You are invited to stay after the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 2** to help decorate the church with the "Hanging of the Greens."

On **Sunday, December 9** at **11:00 AM**, the annual Christmas Program, "Follow the Star," will be presented. A cupcake reception will follow the program. This musical program is always a highlight of the season!



The Fourth Sunday in Advent will be on **December 23** at **11:00 AM** and the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will follow on **Monday** evening at **7:00 PM**.

Share the Christmas spirit with others—
invite a friend or relative to church!

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 2

Please plan to stay after worship for this important meeting. There will be a vote for new council members along with the 2019 Budget. As we approach the end of the year, please make every effort to fulfill your 2018 financial pledge. Thank you.

Santa Lucia Pageant at Augustana Lutheran

Everyone is invited to attend the annual half-hour pageant on **Sunday, December 9** (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM). Plan to stay for coffee and desserts that follow!



Augustana is located at 3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda.

Give with Tithe.ly—Beginning in December

Our online giving provider has changed from USPAY to **Tithe.ly**. It is recommended by the ELCA, which has negotiated a discount on prices so TOL will benefit—saving TOL money. **Tithe.ly** provides a more user-friendly interface as well as an easy-to-use app for your phone.



You can set up your giving account through the TOL website using the following link, www.trinityoldlutheran.com/online-giving. The prompts are easy to follow, the site is safe, and the response from this new company has been immediate and welcome. We will be working on individualizing our page in order to better serve the giver. For now those who give online, please give through Tithe.ly – Trinity Old Lutheran Church. Thank you!

TOL Communications/Evangelism/Stewardship Team

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

Almighty God, you prosper the work of our hands. We pray for the outreach ministries of these congregations and we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to direct them into a blessed future. Give us the power through your Son to proclaim the Good News boldly, and joyfully fellowship with and serve others. Amen.

Veterans Day Service

Thank you to Charlie Schmidtke and Pastor Fred for leading the Veterans Day Recognition Service at TOL on Sunday, November 11. It was a combined worship service with Augustana Lutheran, and well-attended.

Charlie once again arranged the processional and recessional for the attending veterans, as well as delivering the message. Thank you to Don Grabau and Jeff Ward for providing the music and audio visual portions, and to Nancy for preparing the service bulletin.



Thank you to the WWI Women's Group for hosting the coffee hour that followed—and to all who brought in baked goods.

A portion of the offering collected was donated to Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY. Thank you for your generous support!

Election Day Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods, assisted with plating and pricing and/or sold items the day of the sale. We successfully raised \$325, which will be donated to TOL's Respite Care Program.

Earlene

Augustana "Sociables Group" December Activities

You're Invited!

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 PM

The Sociables will travel to Buffalo State College (1300 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo) for the "**Winter Choral Spectacular.**" Carpooling will be available from the church parking lot at 6:45 PM. Tickets are \$10 and they must be purchased in advance.

Tuesday, December 18

The group will enjoy a holiday lunch at **The Garage Café and Lounge** (1127 Hertel Avenue in Buffalo).

Please call the Augustana church office if you have any questions or need more information about either activity (832-5720).



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December Stewardship

The cold weather has arrived and TOL members are invited to bring in donations of children's new



winter hats, gloves, and everyday socks to benefit Ken-Ton Closet located in Tonawanda (169 Sheridan Parkside Drive). The boys and girls (ages newborn through high school) are served daily through the organization. Please place your donations in the marked container in the narthex.

For more information on Ken-Ton Closet and for a list of other items needed year-round, please visit the website at <https://www.kentoncloset.org/donate>.

Stewardship for November

Thank you for your monetary donations to the *TLC at TOL* Respite Care Program. This outreach ministry is beginning its fifth year of providing a much-needed benefit to our community, and your donations also enable the program to remain free of charge for the caregivers.



Adult Ed. With Charlie Schmidtke Monday Afternoons at 1:00 PM

We will finish Oprah Winfrey's *Belief* video series on **Monday afternoon, December 3.**

In the new year, we will focus on the lost gospels (such as Judas, Mary, Hebrews, etc.). We will meet again on **January 7 and January 21.**

All are welcome to join us in the Fireside Lounge!



Chowder Sale a Success!

Our annual Chicken Chowder Sale was held on Saturday, November 9. It was freezing cold outside, but we still sold out in 30 minutes! Thank you to...all who helped with chowder prep...those who helped during the sale...those who donated ingredients...and to those who braved the cold to support the sale!

We raised just shy of \$900 and proceeds will benefit our Respite Care Ministry. Special thanks to Velma, who guided us through every step!

Matt

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

We enjoyed some glimpses of sunshine as we welcomed nine guests to the program on Wednesday, November 7. With Thanksgiving coming, we had holiday themed build-a-word activities along with a festive holiday wreath as the craft. During the morning, guests also participated in chair yoga and Everyone Wins Bingo.

It was also a special time for us to say "Thank You" to our dedicated Respite Volunteers from TOL, Augustana and Buffalo Church of Christ—and for displaying festive decorations in the Fellowship Hall. To celebrate the occasion, everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch with cake for dessert. Following lunch, we spoke to the group and expressed our sincerest thanks to the volunteers who make the program possible. A special thank you went to the Kitchen Staff for their contributions every month—always making sure everything runs smoothly and that we stay on schedule (even on this special recognition day!).

Afternoon activities began with welcoming Lynn and her dog, Chrome, from the SPCA "Paws for Love" program. It was their first visit and Chrome was wonderful with the guests and volunteers! Lynn gave us Chrome's history—and she told us that he turned eight years old just the day before! We played another round of Build-a-Word with Diane using a Thanksgiving Dinner theme. For music time, Jack and Sue led the group in singing more contemporary music selections. We thank them for sharing their talents with us—and for bringing in copies of song sheets for us!

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss



TLC at TOL Recognition Sunday, November 18

It has become a tradition at TOL to set aside time at one service in November to recognize the Respite Care Program. This year marked the fourth year and it was our first year as Co-coordinators. Guests and their families and all volunteers were invited to join us and we welcomed all who were able to attend.

We prepared a short talk that included some of this year's program highlights, as well as a slide presentation. Thank you to Jeff Ward for assisting us with our slide presentation at the last minute!

A coffee hour followed worship, and we thank everyone who helped in any way—and to those who brought in goodies for everyone to enjoy!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for the continued support of TLC at TOL. Additional donations from TOL Chowder Sale and Bake Sale proceeds makes it possible for us to continue to purchase needed supplies, food and essentials—as well as enabling the program to remain free of charge for caregivers.

We look forward to serving our guests and caregivers in the new year. Your continued prayers and your words of encouragement are also deeply appreciated.

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss

New Sunday School Project: Now through January 13!



Our Sunday School children have distributed "piggy banks" to our members as part of the ELCA God's Global Barnyard program. The goal is to save loose change from now until **Sunday, January 13—filling each bank with \$30 in coins**, which can purchase one piglet for a family in need. More information can be found in the Sunday School article in this issue.

If you didn't get a piggy bank, there are still a few located in the narthex—please take one!!

Thank You Received from Good Shepherd's Food Pantry

Thank you very much to everyone who helped with the special Thanksgiving food drive. The Good Shepherd food pantry provides enough food for 50-60 Thanksgiving dinners—and Augustana and TOL together donated 20 sets of side dishes for those dinners. Wally sends his gratitude on behalf of the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

[Thank you to Donna from Augustana for delivering TOL's donations to Good Shepherd!]

TOL's Coffee Bar, Open Every Sunday!

On these cold Sunday mornings, please stop by for a cup of hot chocolate or coffee before worship!



A good supply of K-Cups is on hand, but if you see them on sale, we can always use more. The idea is to keep a well-stocked... always available... self-serve coffee bar for everyone to use and enjoy!

TOL's Caregivers Support Group...The group will meet on **Monday, December 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.



Christmas at TOL

Christmas Program, "Follow the Star"

Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship

Sunday, December 23 at 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

Isaac Watt's Greatest Hits

Isaac wrote his first poem when, as a little boy, he saw a mouse climb up a rope. He laughed out loud when the family was praying, but his father forgave him because his poem said, "A mouse for want of better stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers." He had his first song published when he was eighteen. He went on composing all his life, producing hundreds of songs in praise to God. There is beautiful poetry in many of his hymns.

"My body, broken for your sin, receive and eat as living food." He took the cup and blessed the wine: "Share this new testament, my blood."

"Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame, from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun."

"When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride."

"Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen."

These are a few of his "greatest hits." *The Lutheran Book of Worship* includes twelve Isaac Watts' hymns, and *The Singing Church* has seven more. They speak as clearly to us as when he wrote them between the years 1692 and 1748. Yes, over 300 years ago! But every Christmas, we love to sing:



"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King. Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing."

Loren Keller

[from: *Trinity Tidings, February 2005*
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Hearts and Hands = Neighbors Helping Neighbors

This organization offers many services to the elderly and physically challenged adults in Erie and Niagara Counties—beyond just providing transportation for individuals. Important local health and services information links are also offered on the website at www.hnhcares.org.

The organization depends on monetary donations to support its services, but there is also a great need for volunteers. The website details all areas of service and what potential volunteers need to know and how to apply. For more information, you can also contact Tracy Reed at 406-8311, Ext. 107.

TOL is a part of the "Hearts and Hands" community of volunteers!

Cold Days of January!

Advent and Christmas are packed with anticipation and hustle and bustle, gatherings of family and friends, worship and praise, and hopefully, much joy.



Once the new year begins and cold days loom ahead, you may feel the winter blahs setting in. January can feel like a very long month.

Why not join the TOL crowd for a Potluck and a travel Power Point presentation on Friday, January 18 at 5:30 PM?

Charlie and Diane will lead us through some of the high-and-low-lights of their recent trip to Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and The Netherlands. Unlike the October presentation of "Saints and Sinners," which had a serious look at their travels, this time you'll see their light-hearted, goofy, serendipitous, and humorous moments as well as the beauty of the countries.

The Potluck begins at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy delicious food and then head upstairs to see the Power Point of "Culture, People and Food" at 7:00 PM. If you can't make dinner, come for the show!



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 1 st , 2 nd , and 4 th Wednesdays, 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).