

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

Paul writes, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2

The CROSS of Jesus Christ is not the means to better things, more opportunities, money, wealth, power, and other human pursuits. Instead, the CROSS of Jesus leads us into the arms of GOD. Into LOVE for who we are and the mistakes we make. LOVE that welcomed Zacchaeus the tax collector who cheated and defrauded many. LOVE that didn't look at their sores and scars when the lepers were healed. LOVE that continues to extend from the CROSS to all.



I know the kind of love that wants to give things to people and get things from people. I am a parent, a husband, and a son. I know that earning love is how many of us are taught. IF you love me THEN I will love you. IF you love God, THEN you will be blessed. Our God is not an "if-then" God. Our GOD is a Because-THEREFORE GOD. God LOVES me therefore I LOVE others.

I always say that GOD's LOVE cannot be understood by humankind. GOD's LOVE is so vast as the galaxy and so infinite as a quark seems. This LOVE came to earth so that we, God's creations might know it, embrace it, and share it... Welcoming not condemning others... Forgiving and Forgiving and Forgiving... LOOKING at the internal not the external for the ETERNAL.

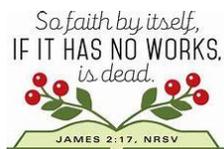
We do nothing to receive this LOVE; we do so much in response to this LOVE. Reviewing how we treat the earth, others, and all of God's creation. There is so much to be done, and we begin with the CROSS, not for our gain, but for LOVE's purpose.

NEW LIFE BEGINS again and again at the CROSS.

JOIN me again and again as we become a new creation to serve and share GOD's LOVE.



Peace,
Pastor Fred



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. The subjects to be covered are

Faith and Action, Sustaining Care for the World, and Healthy Habits that sustain Christian hope.

Everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY MISSIONS of Niagara County

During LENT, Augustana, Saint Martin, Trinity Old Lutheran, Abiding Savior, and Good Shepherd met for HOLY CONVERSATION and dinner. We discussed how we encounter God in the ministries of the church. The ministries toward the frail and elderly, the mentally ill, the hungry, the refugee and immigrant, and how hospitality leads us to share.

This focus on God's presence among us also helped us raise almost \$1,000 and a truck full of donations for Community Missions of Niagara County. Well done Good and Faithful Servants.

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.



May Coffee Hour

You are invited to stop by the Fireside Lounge following worship on **Sunday, May 5!** The WWI Women's Group is hosting a coffee hour. Come and enjoy delicious baked goods, coffee and fellowship.



Sunday School

We have an update on our ELCA Piggy Project. Our final total that will be sent to the ELCA is \$798.28!! A big thank you again to everyone who helped us provide 26 piglets to needy families.

Our last class for the year will be on **May 19**. We would love to have you join us!

God Bless,
Debbie

Adult Retreat October 4, 5, and 6



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.*

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
Open to all who are 18+
Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke,
Trinity Old Lutheran

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 Nancy's article in this issue!)

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.

A Prayer Partner is available after worship every week to pray with anyone in need of prayers.

The Prayer Chain is available to anyone having a prayer request. Please contact Carol Diana at 634-5282 with your requests.

Mid-week Lenten Soup Dinner at Augustana

On Wednesday, April 10, we gathered for a delicious soup dinner and "a time of holy conversation and devotion." Encountering God in the World—Refugees and Immigrants was the theme. It is a connection to the Augustana Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program.

Pastor Fred opened with prayer and readings from Romans, Matthew and Leviticus.

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.
I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

Pastor also provided the informative fact sheet "Immigration 101: Buffalo and the Refugee Population" (from the website: theodysseyonline.com). The program concluded with the singing of "Change My Heart, O God."

April Stewardship

Thank you for your donations in support of the Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program at Augustana Lutheran. The program was recognized on Sunday, April 28, and included joint worship with TOL, a potluck brunch and a Basket Raffle.

May Stewardship

The 2019 Lutheran Charities of Western New York (LCWNY) financial appeal begins this month. A brochure highlighting the 16 local agencies supported by LCWNY will be available in the church office and in the narthex. Donation envelopes will be available in the church pews and in the church office. LCWNY has also provided donation envelopes that can be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the church office.

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program has received yearly grant funding since 2017, which helps to keep the program free of charge to community caregivers.

Note: Tom Madden, Executive Director of LCWNY, will be at TOL on **Sunday, May 19**, to talk about the organization.

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TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, April 3, 2019



We welcomed eight guests and a new partnering volunteer on a bright, sunny day! The themes for the day were spring and Easter.

Diane presented new word games and she engaged us in Haiku poetry.

Following chair yoga with Leanne, the guests and volunteers put together a cute baby chick in a basket craft. Bingo was "Faith" themed. Thank you to the donor of the Easter and bunny figurines and stuffed animals that became the Bingo prizes and table decorations. Everyone enjoyed delicious egg salad sandwiches and fruited Jell-O—and festive, homemade bunny cupcakes for dessert.

Afternoon activities started with a round of ball-toss before Tom and his dog Buddy arrived. Buddy, a Shiba Inu, is now seven years old, and he enjoys wintertime and riding along with Tom on snowplowing jobs.

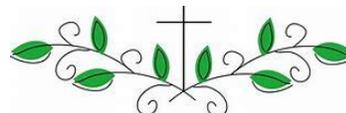
We ended afternoon activities with very lively, spirited music time. Everyone enjoyed the familiar songs from Sing Along with Susie Q—Happy Days. We closed with "Happy Birthday, Thomas!"



We're in need of additional male volunteers, and we'd love it if you could help us once-a-month (first Wednesday). This is a rewarding and fun volunteer opportunity!

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11



"Life becomes harder for us when we live for others; but it also becomes richer and happier."

Albert Schweitzer

Reflections on the Adult Retreat



The Adult Retreat is months away at this point, but sadly, we all know how quickly the summer can fly by! So it's not too soon to start planning for an autumn weekend getaway (or even just a day, if you prefer) on the

shores of beautiful Lake Chautauqua, with friends, fun, fellowship, and beautiful fall foliage—all at a reasonable cost!

Each of us has a different comfort level as far as sharing thoughts, beliefs, and experiences, but it doesn't matter here. At the retreat, we're all made to feel at ease and comfortable.

This will be my fourth year going to the retreat, and I leave there each time feeling spiritually refreshed and full of good memories and looking forward to next year's retreat. Please think about joining us in October!

Nancy

"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.

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



Along with the need for volunteers, monetary donations are also greatly needed in order to continue providing free services. Please place your donations in the pew envelopes.

For more program details and information, please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311, Ext 107.

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...The group will meet on **Monday, June 3 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** in the Fireside Lounge. We meet in an informal setting and the conversation is caregiver-driven. All caregivers are welcome! For more information, please contact Jan at 836-4868.



**Memorial Day, May 30
Observed, May 27**

Miracles: "The Gift of This Power"

Have you ever heard someone ask, "Why aren't there miracles anymore? There were so many mentioned in the Bible. Why not now?" The answer is that there are



miracles now, but we quickly learn to take them for granted. The mere fact that a huge heavy airplane can

get off the ground at all, let alone fly a thousand miles, is certainly a miracle. But we shrug our shoulders and say, "scientific progress." The passage below is from a book written by Antoine de Saint-Exupery when flying was still new, and planes still used propellers. The word "miracle" is never used; neither is the word "God." But, as I read it, the presence of God is very much there, supplying the power, bringing about the maturity, creating and giving the miracle gifts:

"Air and water, and not machinery, are the concern of the hydroplane pilot about to take off. The motors are running free and the plane is already ploughing the surface of the sea. Under the dizzying whirl of the scythe-like propellers, clusters of silvery water bloom and drown the flotation gear. The element smacks the sides of the hull with a sound like a gong, and the pilot can sense this tumult in the quivering of his body. He feels the ship charging itself with power as from second to second it picks up speed. He feels the development in these fifteen tons of matter, of a maturity that is about to make flight possible. He closes his hands over the controls, and little by little in his bare palms he receives the gift of this power. The metal organs of the controls, progressively as this gift is made to him, become the messengers of the power in his hands. And when his power is ripe, then, in a gentler gesture than the culling of a flower, the pilot severs the ship from the water and establishes it in the air."

Do you, as I do, feel God's presence everywhere in that passage, making the miracle of flight possible?

Loren Keller

[Thanks to Mrs. Edith Farrell for her help in translating from French to English.]

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