

# 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

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" *2 Corinthians 5:17*

A new beginning! How many times have we wished for it after a thoughtless comment or a reckless deed? A new beginning is on our minds in the new year especially with how we treat our bodies. Jesus says "love your neighbor as yourself." *Mark 12:31* Is now a good time to love one's self and begin a plan for exercising and eating right?

Can we become "new" in our relationships with others? Will we see God's call for a "do over" helpful? Are we ready to follow the Lord's Prayer and forgive as we have been forgiven?

God has given humankind dominion over the earth, it is essential that we begin again and again in our care for the earth and its creatures. RECYCLE - REDUCE - REUSE

A new beginning is what we can give the lost and struggling in the world. "As you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:40*. Our God loves us unconditionally, forgives us, and accepts us. Our God looks for us to be responsible and create harmony and peace in the world God created.

God bless our new year transformation as we strive to renew, recharge, reinvigorate, and reestablish the things that are important in God's creation, for others in God's world and for ourselves.

ReNEWed and ready I remain,

*Pastor Fred*



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the meeting following worship on **Sunday, January 27**. Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the narthex on Sunday, January 20. A potluck lunch will precede the meeting.

The Church Council looks forward to updating members on TOL ministries in the new year.

## Online Giving—with Tithe.ly

Our online giving provider is now **Tithe.ly** (recommended by the ELCA, which has negotiated a discount on prices so TOL will benefit—saving TOL money). It 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](http://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!

## Sunday School Project Ends January 13!



Members are reminded to return their "piggy banks" on **Sunday, January 13!** Our Sunday School children distributed the banks as part of the ELCA God's Global Barnyard program. Thank you for your support!

## New Year's Coffee Hour

The WWI Women's Group will host a coffee hour on **Sunday, January 13** following worship. All are welcome to join us!



## European Musings with The Schmidtke's

Charlie and Diane will lead us through some of the high-and-low-lights of their European trip to Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and The Netherlands last June. On this tour you'll see their light-hearted, goofy, serendipitous, and humorous moments as well as the beauty of the countries.

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



The **Potluck begins at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy delicious food and then head upstairs to see the **presentation "Culture, People and Food" at 7:00 PM**. (There's a sign-up sheet posted on the main bulletin board.)

If you can't make dinner, come for the show!

## 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.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.”

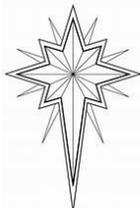
*Matthew 2:1-2*



## Christmas Program—Thank You!

“Follow the Star” was the theme of this year’s Christmas program and I want to personally thank everyone who participated in our special service. Thank you to Allison and Jaclyn for portraying Mary and Joseph, and sweet little Thomas for being our baby Jesus. Thank you to Evelyn, Alicia, Callie, Mia, and Elizabeth for portraying Gabriel and the angels. Thank you to Noah for representing the shepherds. Lots of gratitude is extended to Barb, Allison and Brian for being our readers. Kudos to the voice and bell choir members for all of their efforts, with special thanks to Barb and Juli, Dave, Katie, Pastor Fred and Anne, and the TOL Ensemble for all of the musical offerings. Everyone worked so hard and you are very much appreciated!

Special thanks to Matt for his amazing creativity and work in creating our special Star!



Thanks to Jeff as well as Dave and Rob for all of their expertise with the audio component of our program.

And most of all, I want to thank Debbie and Don for being my “partners” in creating and producing our 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas program. Debbie does an awesome job working with our cast members to make sure all of them had their costumes and followed their cues. Don’s work in organizing all of our music and accompanying the vocalists and instrumentalists as well as directing and participating in the bell and voice choirs is excellent and so much appreciated.

We are blessed to have so many talented and dedicated people in our church family. I’m so proud to be part of such an amazing group of people. Thank you. You’re the best!

*Earlene*

## Christmas Eve Service, Thank you!

The congregation was joined by the TOL Ensemble during the singing of “Silent Night.” Thank you to Barb, Juli and Anne for your beautiful vocal accompaniment at the candlelight service.



## Trinity Tidings

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## January Stewardship “Hearts and Hands—Faith in Action”

“Feeling Grateful this Season?  
Share Smiles  
Spread Warmth  
Volunteer to Help your Neighbors”

[From Hearts and Hands newest flier—posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway.]

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.

Services provided by HNH include:

- Transportation
- Light Housekeeping
- Yard Work
- 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](http://www.hnhcares.org/services) or call 406-8311, Ext 107.

## December Stewardship Extended to January 13!

The collection of new winter hats, gloves, socks for children served by the Ken-Ton Closet is extended until Sunday, January 13! Please continue to place your donations in the marked box in the narthex. Thank you for your support in helping the children to stay warm this winter!

## Thank You for Your Food Pantry Donations!

The shopping cart was overflowing with non-perishable food items! Your donations were delivered to the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in early December. Thank you to everyone for your continued support!

Thank you to Pastor Fred for lending a hand with the delivery of the donations (he just happened to be leaving Good Shepherd at the same time delivery was being made.)



## Thoughts on Peace

Every Sunday morning, after the Creed and prayers, we tell each other “Peace be with you,” and most of us feel a warmth and a goodness. For me, it has often been a kind of

highlight to the whole week. What we’re wishing each other is an inner peace that we know can come only from God. Once in a while my mind starts ticking off questions, though: What about the people who aren’t in church with us? Can our wish, our prayer, reach out to them? Is there any possibility that the inner peace we feel can be made large enough and strong enough to take in large segments of the world? Do most people ever even use the word “peace”? If they do, isn’t it just as an opposite to the all-powerful word “war”?

I remember reading Thomas Merton’s comments on war and peace. He said that fear was at the root of all war, and that you could not end wars by trusting men who keep proving that they can’t be trusted. No, Merton said, teach people to love and trust God; then they will be able to love the men they can’t trust, and will dare to make peace with them, not trusting in them, but in God. I know that to most people this seems naïve and no solution, but have you heard anyone proposing a better one?

Our main problem may be that people do not want real peace. Some of them would like a peace in which they could exploit other people without fear of retaliation or interference. To others peace means the freedom to rob one another without interruption. To still others, it means the leisure to devour the goods of the earth without being compelled to interrupt their pleasures to feed those who their greed is starving. Merton said that to practically everybody peace simply means the absence of physical violence that might cast a shadow over lives devoted to the satisfaction of their animal appetites for comfort and pleasure.

In the meantime let’s continue to share the prayer “Peace be with you,” and to share the warmth and inner peace that it has been bringing on us, on the way to that perfect peace that passes all understanding.

*Loren Keller*

*[From: Trinity Tidings, February 2009]  
Used with permission.*

## Caregivers Support Group

A group of six met on Monday, December 3. We welcomed one new caregiver who had completed the Powerful Tools for Caregivers course earlier in the year. We enjoyed Christmas goodies, coffee, and conversation. Everyone had an opportunity to talk about their caregiving experiences, concerns and the upcoming holiday season.

We continue to help caregivers find information that can help them on their journeys—and by exchanging our real-world caregiving experiences. The group is there to let others know they are not alone. We are there to listen in a relaxed, non-judgmental setting.



All caregivers are invited to join us on Monday, February 4. Bring a friend or relative!

## Respite Care Program, December 5, 2018

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the December program. We thank Barb for her donations of beautiful handmade Christmas trees and to the anonymous donor for the beautiful poinsettia plants for the Respite Families. The trees and plants were placed in the dining and activity areas—adding a festive touch to our surroundings!

Activities had a Christmas theme—and the group enjoyed a brisk round of snowball toss before lunch!

Many thanks to the Kitchen Staff for preparing the delicious hot turkey dinner for everyone to enjoy (with dressing, green beans and homemade applesauce!)—and Christmas cakes and cookies for dessert. Thank you to Diane for leading us in a Christmas grace before the meal.

Following lunch, everyone moved to the Fireside Lounge for afternoon activities. We greeted Tom and his dog “Buddy” during pet therapy time. It was their first time at Respite and everyone enjoyed hearing about soon-to-be seven year old Buddy (a Shiba Inu). They are part of the SPCA-sponsored “Paws of Love” program. Buddy is well-socialized—he goes to work with Tom every day! We look forward to having them join us again!



We were happy to have Jack and Sue lead us in song and guitar accompaniment during music time. With their Santa hats on, they lead us in traditional Christmas songs and carols, as well as other selections. We thank them for once again providing printed lyrics for the group to use. There was a little time remaining before the end of the program and Diane suggested we sing a couple of patriotic songs in recognition of the funeral of the late President George H.W. Bush and for remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day on December 7. We sang God Bless America and America, the Beautiful—a fitting way to close the program.

*Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss  
Co-coordinators*

## New Year’s Opportunity—Respite Care Program

We received word at the end of November that the volunteers from Buffalo Church of Christ would no longer be participating in the program after December. They have been an important part of the TLC at TOL Respite Care Program for three years and they will be greatly missed. We wish them well in their future volunteering endeavors.

Therefore, there are openings for additional volunteers—especially those who can partner with guests. The four-hour program is held on the first Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in becoming part of TLC at TOL or need more information, please contact us at 836-4868 (church office). We are happy to answer any questions you may have!

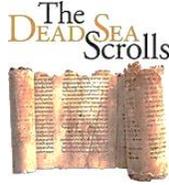
Offering this free program is a special way for TOL to continue reaching out to and supporting the caregivers in our community.



*Jan and Paulette  
TLC at TOL Co-coordinators*

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

We finished the Oprah Winfrey *Belief* video series in December.



We will beginning a whole new series starting on **January 7**. Our topics are going to range from the Dead Sea Scrolls, to the Apocrypha, and on to the Lost Gospels and letters. We'll take a look at what was written around Christ's time but which has not been part of our traditional religious education. Many of the writings were condemned in 384 and ordered to be burned by the pope.

Hope you can join us in the Fireside Lounge on Monday afternoons at 1:00 PM!

**Upcoming Dates: January 7 and 28; February 4, March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, and May 6**



**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 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 4 <sup>th</sup> 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).



**TOL's Coffee Bar, Open Every Sunday!**

Running ahead of schedule on cold Sunday mornings—enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or coffee in the narthex before worship!



**Portals of Prayer** for January through March are now available in the narthex. Please take a copy for yourself—and take an extra for a loved one or friend!!

**Recycling Continues!**

Please continue to place your cans and bottles in the marked container in the narthex. You may also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in the Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). Thank you!



“I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy.”

*Rabindranath Tagore*