

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

Volume 60

December 2020

Number 12

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

From Facebook:

My eight year old in the car today: "Do you want me to throw the confetti in my pocket?"

Me: "No, not in the car! – Why do you have confetti in your pocket?"

Eight year old: "It's my emergency confetti, I carry it everywhere in case there is good news!"

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:10

Even though this Christmas season may be filled with loneliness, anxiety, worry, illness and so much more, an eight year old and a Baby point us to a better tomorrow. A tomorrow where good news is celebrated, and hearts are warmed. A tomorrow where love comes to us as a baby and that baby grows to show us how to share that love.

I am making or buying confetti this season and filling my pockets, so that when I hear of a helpful act, a caring deed, or a loving statement, I can celebrate with my "emergency confetti."

I hope these blessed emergencies come to all of you in the midst of your personal journey this December.

Following and learning from children of God, I remain,

Pastor Fred he/him/his

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

TOL Annual Christmas Program— Wonderful!



Thank you to Don, Earlene, Debbie and Jeff for preparing this year's Christmas Program! On Sunday, November 29 (the First Sunday in Advent), they presented a video presentation of performances taken from past Christmas programs (thank you, Jeff!).

Thank you Don, Earlene and Debbie for narrating this 2020 Annual Christmas Program! We are thankful for their efforts in sharing the Christmas story with us via Zoom and we hope the program brought you peace, joy and love.



Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke

On Zoom Only
Monday, December 7 at 1:00 PM

Due to the new COVID restrictions, as of November 19 our classes will be **only Zoom** sessions. There will be no meetings at church. Our last class for 2020 is on **December 7** and we will discuss Ruth and Naomi. If you need the Zoom numbers for class let me know.

My thinking is that we will continue covering women in the Bible starting again in January. Are there any women you are interested in discussing? Is there any interest in female figures that were contemporaries of biblical times: e.g., Greek or Canaanite goddesses, Cleopatra, etc.? Maybe they would be a program for 2021-2022 and I can schedule them. I do like to plan ahead :).

Stay safe.
Charlie



Dear People of TOL,

NO in-person WORSHIP until further notice!

We are sad to announce that we will be going back to all virtual for the rest of the year 2020. The COVID numbers in our area are too high and growing, and the CDC, state, and county have required us to go back to worshiping on Zoom.

You are invited and welcome to join our Zoom worship at 11:00 AM on Sundays. Each week, you will receive the Zoom link beforehand. We will pray, read lessons, have hymns, hear a meditation/sermon and continue to share news and concerns as a community.

We look forward to having you join us during this season of Advent and Christmas!

On behalf of the Council,
Pastor Fred Kopp

[If you have a computer but have not joined us via Zoom before, please call (or email) the church office and you will be given the Zoom link and invitation.]

Operation Christmas Child



Wow, we did it!! We had another successful Operation Christmas Child. I dropped off 33 boxes!!! Kelly and I want to thank everyone who helped us. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

We are going to continue with our monthly collection of items so we can get a jump start on next year. It really helped to put us over the top. Thank you again!

God Bless.
Debbie

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Show us your will for the ministries at Augustana and Trinity Old Lutheran. Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love.



Prayer Ventures, December 2020

Give thanks for caregivers, staff and nurses in senior communities, nursing homes, rehabilitation hospitals, and memory-care and assisted-living facilities. Ask God to grant them strength, wisdom, skill and a spirit of hope and joy as they go about their difficult and often tiring work.

Pray for patience, caution and concern for our neighbor during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; pray that the Spirit and our siblings in Christ will help us cope with and adjust to the implications of the pandemic for this season in which we are accustomed to gathering in person for meals, celebrations, worship, family gatherings and community events.

Pray that the light, celebration and blessings of community we experience as followers of Christ will continue far beyond the Christmas holidays and permeate our daily lives as we participate in God's life-giving work and witness in the world.

Copyright © 2020 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Dear Members of TOL,

Thank you for the beautiful thank you cards and gifts!

TLC at TOL has been a meaningful experience for us over the years and it has been a pleasure to serve our guests and their caregivers. This special ministry would not have been possible without your support—so we extend our thanks to you as well!

God's blessings to you,
Jan and Paulette

Trinity Tidings

Published monthly by
Trinity Old Lutheran Church
3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226
Church email: trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net
Karen Mulartrick and Jan Sherman, Co-Editors



November Mission

Thank you for your donations to Veterans One-stop Center of WNY in Buffalo! Your support enables the organization to serve local veterans and their families as they transition to civilian life, as well as assisting them with benefits, legal employment financial counseling, education, housing programs and readjustment counseling. Please visit the website at www.vocwny.org for more details on the services provided.

December Mission

This month's mission will support Channel 5 Cable televised worship that is presented by Parkside Lutheran Church in Buffalo. For those unable to attend TOL Zoom worship, this one-half hour service provides a meaningful connection to Lutheran worship. It can be found at 10:00 AM on MeTV cable Channel 5. During the months of the pandemic, a number of our members have given us positive feedback about this new worship format. Your support will help defray costs of preparation and production. Please make your donations through Tithely (found on the TOL website at trinityoldlutheran.com) or by mailing your checks to the church office (made payable to Trinity Old Lutheran and with "Channel 5 Worship" entered on the memo line).

Thank You for Your Responses to Two Special Requests from Local Food Pantries during November

Pastor Miranda's Request

A big "thank you" to everyone who answered the call for food pantry items in support of Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) in Buffalo! Your generous donations will help serve an increasing number of people and families seeking help at CGN.

Good Shepherd Lutheran's Thanksgiving Dinner Request

Thank you to all who generously donated specific items that completed the Thanksgiving dinners provided by Good Shepherd! The pantry serves over 50 families each month.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Ventures, December 2020 (for Humankind)

† The Spirit is at work in times of anticipation and yearning, reminding us of God's promises and activity, helping us stay calm and patient, and redirecting our attention from ourselves to our neighbors in need — nearby and around the world.

† As we are immersed in the joy, festivities and busyness of Advent and Christmas, pause to pray for our global neighbors who have suffered through devastating natural disasters and need our support, generosity and assistance. Pray particularly for the many nations that have experienced drought and for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Greece, Typhoon Goni hitting the Philippines and multiple hurricanes impacting Mexico, the Caribbean region and the United States.

† This has been, and continues to be, a very difficult year of coping with and recovering from natural disasters across our country and around the world. Pray that the presence and hope of God will be evident where there is despair, grief and uncertainty over how to begin rebuilding and healing. Pray that neighbors, communities and nations will work together to provide assistance, resources and relief workers where the needs are most critical.

† Ask for God's forgiveness and take to heart God's word of love, peace, healing and guidance that restores our faith and spirit as children of God.

† Remember in prayer the approximately 26 million refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers around the world and at our borders, awaiting entry into safe, welcoming countries and communities so that they can rebuild their lives without threats of conflict, persecution, violence or economic crisis. Pray for their safety, that their spiritual, physical and emotional needs will be met, that they will find caring advocates, and that their faith and hope will be strengthened and sustained by siblings in Christ and our faith communities.

Copyright © 2020 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Hearts & Hands"—Continues Assisting the Community during COVID-19

The organization is operating with limited and restricted services as the pandemic continues. No in-home services are currently available.



However, by following COVID-19 health and wellness guidelines, volunteers currently assist with the following services:

- Transportation to everywhere it's needed.
- Non-contact grocery deliveries.
- "Friendly phone calls."

Areas now being served are: Amherst, Kenmore, Tonawanda, Clarence, Alden, and the Southtowns.

More volunteers are also needed and training is available via Zoom or by phone. For more program details and information (and how to become a volunteer), please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311.

TOL is a part of this community of volunteers—Neighbor Helping Neighbor Volunteer Program!

On-going Collection of Can Tabs

Your aluminum tabs are being donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo. Please continue collect the can tabs in support of this organization!

"You can make a difference by saving the aluminum pull tabs from your beverage cans. Pop tabs are recycled and the money purchases household items for the Ronald McDonald House and Family Lounge."

From: www.rmhcwny.org

Copyright © 2020 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western New York

