



## Pastor's Ponderings

### The Kingdom of God is not us vs. them. It is US for THEM. The Reverend Kathy Mowry

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

I feel I need to be reminded again and again to keep the eye on the prize, to focus on what I am called as a disciple to do. It comes down to thinking about the "other." To look at myself, and how I use the gifts that have been given me. To think about if the "other" has enough, instead of what more do I need. I need to identify who is the "other" in order to "do unto them, what I would like done unto me." The "other" is a family member who is coming out as gay; or a neighbor who is not the neatest or friendliest, however, her grandson is not reacting well to Leukemia treatments; or the inner city mom who lost her brother and cousin to gun violence and now is afraid for her children. The "other" is the thousands of people who are human trafficked around the world and the families whose only choice is to move from the home they love in order to get away from abusive governments and violence by trying to find refuge in another country. The "other" is those seeking to die by suicide or children bullied on social media. The "other" is our elderly who are in nursing homes, kept from seeing their loved ones. The "other" is students, parents, and teachers. The "other" is protesters and people impacted by violence, and systemic racism. The "other" are overworked first responders, medical workers, and police serving their communities.

The "other" seems to be a never-ending list. Now it is up to me to identify the "other" I can help through letters, monetary donations, visits, calls, or by volunteering or joining groups that support and care for the "other."

I like to picture a soup kitchen where volunteers are serving the homeless and those volunteers are all ages, all ethnicities, all types of religious or not religious people, community members who identify as LGBTQI, republican, independent, democrat, all socio economic classes and more. You get the picture..... It wouldn't matter who is serving next to me and helping as long as the "least of these," the struggling, hurting, poor, homeless, terminally ill, or the mentally ill, are helped.

It is more difficult to navigate and help the "other" in these COVID-19 times, so I need to spend time imagining how to help and then make an action plan and do it.

Maybe you want to join me?

Peace,  
Pastor Fred he/him/his



### Pastor's Bible Study—Friday Mornings "Ten Key Events from the Bible"

Pastor Fred will lead this Bible Study on Fridays from **10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. We will try to have it both Zoom and in person in **Luther Hall at Augustana Lutheran**. We will be following COVID-19 protocol and wear masks, keep six feet apart, and have no common food. All are invited and welcome!

**Dates: October 2, 9, 30 and November 6, 13, and 20.**

### Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke A Hybrid Approach (at TOL and on Zoom) Mondays at 1:00 PM



There was no consensus regarding our bible class this fall. COVID-19 concerns and worries are real for most of us. Here's the plan.

#### In Person at the Church

We'll meet in the Fireside Lounge where we will be able to distance safely. MASKS are mandatory. There is a sanitizing station available for everyone to use. I will only open one door (the far left door near the elevator). Everyone please bring a bible. I do not want to share church bibles with anyone.

#### On Zoom

We will Zoom at the same time. I'll send out the link for the session the week before each class. Please have a bible available. I hope those who are Zooming will participate in discussions.

Note: I have changed the first November date to the 9<sup>th</sup>. The remaining schedule will be:

Oct. 19	Lot's Wife and Daughters
Oct. 26	Esther and Ruth
Nov. 9	Rachel and Leah
Nov. 23	Deborah and Naomi
Dec. 7	Judith and Susanna

I hope to see all of you either in person or virtually. Please share this with anyone else who might be interested. If you know of someone who is interested or who hasn't received an email, please have them contact me so I can forward the information to them (or you can forward it to them yourself). Yes, we live in a new world...

Peace,  
Charlie

### Items for the Worship Bulletins



All items for the Sunday bulletins should be submitted to the church office by **9:00 AM on Wednesdays**. Thank you!

## 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.

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

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Sing Praises! **Pastor Sohail Akhtar** Sing Praises!

On September 5, 2020, Sohail Akhtar was ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America during a service at Trinity Old Lutheran Church. Bishop John Macholz officiated as people locally and around the world participated on Zoom and in person.



After three years of study at the United Lutheran Seminary, three years of internship at First English Lutheran Church in Lockport, New York and numerous interviews, he is now a called and ordained pastor. St. Peter Lutheran Church in Medina, New York and First English have issued a call.

We congratulate Pastor Sohail, Afreen, and his family on this blessed calling. Praise the Lord! It has been an honor to be part of your journey.

*Pastor Fred*

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### The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much be  
consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

*Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church  
(1181 – October 3, 1226)*

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## Reformation Sunday, October 25



## Trinity Tidings

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### October Mission—Operation Christmas Child

Due to the COVID-19 guidelines, this year's annual Basket Raffle was cancelled. Your donations of needed items (details listed elsewhere in this issue) as well as monetary donations are appreciated. Please use the pew envelopes or mail your monetary donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Operation Christmas Child). Thank you for your support.

### Prayer Ventures for October 2020

*Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church (1181-1226).* Pray that we will greet each day with a sense of awe, gratitude and respect for creation, for the organisms and creatures that inhabit the earth and for humanity in all its diversity and complexity — the handiwork of God.

Persist in praying for all affected by Hurricane Laura, by wildfires in the western United States and by flooding and severe weather. Pray that we will generously assist relief and reconstruction efforts and support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Ask forgiveness for our involvement — consciously or unconsciously — in perpetuating the racism, laws and structures that benefit the majority through inequality and oppression. Pray for the Spirit to stir our humility, wisdom and persistence as we reflect on our lives and society and strive for racial justice, reform, reconciliation and unity as children of God.

Pray that we will actively engage with our communities and neighbors, developing the resilience and hope needed to absorb, endure and recover from the spiritual, medical, social and economic impacts of natural and human-caused disasters.

Remember in prayer those who have lost jobs or are furloughed from work, that they will have the resources and support to meet their daily needs as they seek employment. Pray that our congregations will be welcoming, supportive and ready to help, concerned for their dignity and their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

Ask God to help us provide comfort, support and hope to our neighbors who feel helpless and overwhelmed amid the pandemic, natural disasters, economic struggles and social unrest.

Pray for students, teachers, school staff and parents as they continue to adapt to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on school environments and distanced learning.

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### TOL Indoor and Zoom Worship

Many thanks to Pastor Fred, Stephanie, Sue and Nancy for their work on the details for the return of indoor worship. Please contact them if you have questions or suggestions about worship now that we are congregating indoors and via Zoom.

### Alzheimer's Walk, 2020

This has sure been a year of unusual events, but you have no choice but to go with the flow. This year's Alzheimer's Walk was kind of a quiet event for us. On Saturday, September 12, Diane, Kelly, Debbie, Allison, Weston and I walked around the church neighborhood and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day--and each other's company. Pastor and Anne walked around their neighborhood, too. We didn't have the excitement and camaraderie of the hundreds of people who usually gather for this event, but we had fun knowing we were walking for a good cause! ~ ~ Earlene

### Annual Chiavetta's Barbecue

On Sunday, September 13, we hosted the barbecue on a drive-through basis only. The weather didn't cooperate as well as we would have liked, but we had excellent volunteers who did a great job in pulling this event together. Thanks so much to everyone who helped in any way. A special thanks to the Edwards family--Scott, Dick, and Barb. Scott was our "CEO" this year and did a super job! Thank you, thank you! ~ ~ Earlene

### Thank You Received (Family Justice Center)

We received a letter from Mary Travers Murphy, Chief Executive Officer at Family Justice Center, which was TOL's mission focus in May.

To Rev. Kopp and the congregation of Trinity Old Lutheran Church:

It is always so inspiring when we receive a gift from a generous donor that allows us to help yet another family escape the abuse and find safety. Every dollar helps, and your thoughtful donation of \$270.00 will go a long way toward providing domestic violence victims with the support they need to escape safely and permanently.

Supporting the Family Justice Center is particularly vital now. For the past few months, we have worked from our own homes to maintain social distancing, and helped domestic violence victims trapped with their abusers due to shelter in place orders. Now, as the state opens back up, we expect a new wave of clients at our doors. Your generous gift not only provides us with the resources we need to make these adjustments, but it also sends a message to victims of domestic violence and their children that even in a pandemic, they are not alone, their community supports them, and there is help.

On behalf of the victims we serve, thank you again for joining us in our efforts to stop the violence and giving the most basic gift you can give another person: the gift of safety.

Sincerely,  
Mary Travers Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer

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**On-going Collection of Can Tabs**...Your aluminum tabs are being donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo. Please continue your donations 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](http://www.rmhcwny.org)

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### Operation Christmas Child

Between now and November, we ask you to please look at the following list of items that we are collecting. Please pick up an item or two starting with the items in the month of April. We will let everyone know when we are able to assemble shoeboxes at TOL and when you can bring in your donations.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

*Kelly and Debbie*

- April: small toys for boys and girls (foam ball, slinky, jump rope, small cars, trucks, etc.)
- May: sunglasses, stickers, jewelry
- June: stuffed toys 10" or smaller, small musical instruments, small dolls
- July: pens, pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, pencil cases
- Aug.: markers, coloring pads, notebooks
- Sept.: coloring books, crayons, watercolor paint sets
- Oct.: games, puzzles

### Giving to TOL



**Online:** Tithely is available.

You can set up your account through the TOL website at [www.trinityoldlutheran.com](http://www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or download an easy-to-use app to your phone. The site is user-friendly and safe to use.

**Giving by mail:** Please send your checks to the church and to the attention of the Financial Secretary.

Thank you for your continued giving.

### September Mission

Thank you for your donations to ELCA Disaster Response. Your donations will support the survivors of the "U.S. Wildfires" through handling their most immediate needs including food and other necessities. Emotional and spiritual care will also be made available for anyone needing help. For more details, please visit [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster).