



Pastor's Ponderings

Stress, anxiety, uncertainty, anger, fear, depression, apathy, sin, evil, suffering and more. The list of words that have been brought up during our pandemic and now in our epidemic are too numerous to put down on paper, but they are all concerning, and it would be helpful to address. How are we looking at God's world differently? How are we treating God's creatures, animals, and humankind differently? Are we allowing ourselves to be reborn into the image of God or are we being influenced by the world. Paul sets out a challenge for all Christians: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." *Romans 12:2*

How are we doing post-"extremely high risk" of getting COVID, post-divisive election, violent protests, millions around the world dying? How are we doing returning to the promises of our Baptism, to the call of Jesus to pray for the worst people, to love the unlovable, to continue to serve despite hardships, and the call to let the Holy Spirit work or do its' job?

We just celebrated Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel for that day, Jesus said to his disciples "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." *John 16:7*

Jesus dying, rising, and ascending does not mean we are left alone. It also does not mean we are to forget his teachings. I believe instead, we are to grab life post-Jesus and live it daily in the Holy Spirit. By living in the Holy Spirit our actions will reflect that which God wants, which Jesus challenges us to. This activity looks like what Paul writes: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; ..." *Galatians 5:22*

What if each day we practiced one of these words? We would have nine days of connection to God. Nine days of impacting the world around us with hope, forgiveness, love. We won't be alone, Jesus said.

Today I love....I challenge you to love with me.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



We will be holding a New Member Class at TOL on **Sunday, June 13**, following worship. We invite all who would like to join!

At this class, we will be sharing information about the ELCA, the Conference, our Church and its ministries, as well as meeting some of the leaders. Please let Pastor Fred or the office know that you would like to attend (836-4868).

We will receive new members at worship on **Sunday, June 20**. We look forward to sharing our mission together!

After many years, the cross garden out in front of our church building is in need of some TLC.



Now that Spring seems like it's here to stay, I'm looking for volunteers to help with repairing the cross framework and planting some flowers, so once again it becomes the lovely garden it once was.

Please contact me if you would like to assist with this.

Thank you!!
Lanny



Galatians Bible Study with Pastor Fred

Beginning **Friday, June 25**, Pastor Fred will lead a study of Galatians—exploring the book and the author Paul who gave us this quote:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." *Galatians 2:20*

This study will be held at Augustana LC on **Fridays** from **10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. It will be hybrid—Zoom and on location. The study dates are: **June 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6**. Everyone is invited to attend one of the classes or all of them!



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!

Ways to Give to TOL

Online: [Tithe.ly](https://www.trinityoldlutheran.com) is available for online giving. You can set up your account through the TOL website at 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.

Through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans: If you're a Thrivent member, please designate your Choice Dollars to TOL—they will send TOL your available Thrivent Choice dollars at no cost to you! If you are interested in becoming a Thrivent member, please contact Nancy in the church office for more information (836-4868).



Volunteers are needed to help with the Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner on Friday, June 18!

If you can help, please contact Earlen!



You are invited to join TOL's Hybrid Worship Services

(in-church or on Zoom)

Sundays at 11:00 AM!

If you would like to join the Zoom worship, please call the church office (836-4868) or email the church at trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net to receive the Zoom link.

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.

New Windows Dedicated!

On Sunday, May 23, Pastor Fred offered the following for the dedication of the eight newly-installed windows.

"Together, let us dedicate our new windows to the glory of God. We are invited to extend a hand of blessing outward as I offer a prayer of dedication. Let us pray. O God, we dedicate these new windows to your glory. We pray that our church building will continue to be a haven of blessing and peace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen."

Adult Retreat, October 1, 2 and 3 Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

Theme: "Love in the Time of COVID: What have we learned about ourselves and others."



This will be a time for us to gather again in fellowship, laughter and prayer. It is open to all who are 18+ years of age and have been vaccinated.

Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke



Coming Up!

Chiavetta's BBQ Chicken Dinner at TOL!

Friday, June 18, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Drive-thru Only!

Dinners: \$12.00
(includes two salads, roll and butter)

COVID guidelines will be followed.

Trinity Tidings

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May Mission Thank You

Thank you for your donations to Lutheran Charities of Western New York (LCWNY). Your continued support of LCWNY will benefit the 14 local organizations that receive grant funding that enables them to carry out their missions and ministries.

Mission for June

This month, the focus will be ELCA Disaster Response. With so many places in the US and countries around the world that are in great need of ELCA's presence and support, it was decided to designate TOL's donations to "where it is most needed."

"Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need."

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Please use the marked envelopes located in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (please indicate on your check that it is designated for ELCA Disaster Response).

For more information on all ELCA programs, please visit the website at www.elca.org.

Local Food Pantries



Your donations will continue to benefit the pantries at Good Shepherd LC in Tonawanda and Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) in Buffalo. Please use the shopping cart or the marked boxes for your items or leave them in the elevator entrance during the week

(Tuesdays – Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon). Suggested items include:

- Canned goods (vegetables, soups, tuna, etc.)
- Jar items (spaghetti sauce, peanut butter)
- Boxes of pantry staples (cereal, pasta)
- Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans stores) can be taken to the church office.

Food Pantry distribution update: Lanny delivered 18 bags of groceries and other items (plus Wegmans' gift cards), to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church food pantry on Monday, May 24. Thanks, Lanny – and thank you to all who generously support the pantries!

Thank You Letters Received!

Family Justice Center in Buffalo



Dear Rev. Kopp and Congregation:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful donation of \$295.00. We rely on gifts like yours to provide domestic violence victims with the support they need to escape safely and permanently. What's more, your support and dedication to the Family Justice Center is inspirational—to staff and clients alike.

This last year has not been easy. In fact, 2020 was the busiest year in the FJC's history. The COVID-19 pandemic posed new challenges for victims, who sought our services while trapped at home with their abusers. It posed new challenges for us, as well, forcing us to quickly learn how to provide remote services. But thanks to donors like you, we met these challenges. And thanks to your support, we will meet the challenges of 2021 with equal grace, always letting domestic violence victims know that they are not alone, their community supports them, and there is help.

On behalf of our clients and all the staff at the Family Justice Center, thank you so much for all you've done to help our clients stop cycles of violence and pursue new lives. We're proud to have you as a member of our community.

Sincerely,
Mary Travers Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



Dear Trinity Old Lutheran Church,

On behalf of all the people we serve, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the year of 2020. Your support is so important and is truly making a difference in the lives of those we serve during these most critical times.

For over 80 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has offered welcome and hope to more than half a million refugees. Since 1939, LIRS has transformed lives, with the support of people like you, to welcome the most vulnerable to the United States—from sea to shining sea. Together we have supported, equipped, and empowered these new Americans, while advocating for policy that protects all of God's children.

Your ongoing support assists us in the mission of the long welcome. Thank you for all the ways you continue to do God's work with your hands.

In God's peace,
Andrew G. Steele
Vice President for Development and Outreach



The HEART of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.

Martin Luther

Holy Rest Cemetery Work Day

Have you ever been to our cemetery? If you haven't, perhaps you'd like to come by on **Saturday, July 24** for a morning of yard work to help with trimming around monuments, weeding, and picking up fallen debris.



We are investing greatly in TOL's current and future ministries, but we should also pay respect to our congregation's history. A great way to do that is to help maintain the final resting places of many past TOL members and pastors. The cemetery is very old, very large, and needs a lot of TLC. Many of the markers are flush to the ground with grass covering over them. Weeds are growing in between monuments where the lawnmower cannot access.

If you would like to help, we'll start at 9:00 AM and work until 12 Noon. Due to COVID-times, please bring your own trimmers, battery-powered weed-whackers, gardening trowels, hats, sunscreen, and drinking water to keep cool and refreshed. We'll meet at the cemetery, which is located at the corner of Pine Ridge Road and East Delavan Avenue in Cheektowaga.

For more information, please contact Matt.

Hope to see you there!
TOL Stewardship Team

"Hearts & Hands"—Community Assistance during COVID-19

The organization currently operates with limited and restricted services, however, 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!



Flag Day

Monday, June 14



Sunday, June 20



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Ventures, June 2021

Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to being an inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities it brings. Pray that we will always be learning and reforming, discerning how to do God's work in a diverse world, and inviting and equipping one another for this essential work.

Pray for seasonal workers who depend on summer income for their livelihood, that they will find safe, fulfilling employment that pays a fair wage. Pray that we will express our gratitude and respect for their work and service.

Pray for nations experiencing repeated waves of COVID-19 infection and communities impacted and struggling, and pray that their health care workers, medical facilities and efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible will slow the pandemic.

Pray that we will be patient and attentive to how God answers our prayers and speaks to us, especially in ways we do not seek or expect.

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Give thanks and praise to God for reminding us that we are made new each day through God's mercy and grace.

Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to create and share new expressions of our faith and theology through art, music and writing that speak to all generations and the diverse contexts of people in our communities.

Give thanks all day long to God for God's unwavering love and the joy and hope it stirs within us, which overflows to the people around us.

Pray that God's power, presence and love will ease our fears and uncertainties, calm the storms in our lives and strengthen our faith so that we will be bold and tireless disciples who do God's work in the world, share the gospel and serve our neighbor.

Remember in prayer fathers who strive to be loving, caring, wise and influential parents, including fathers who are new parents or single parents, who are deployed in the military or incarcerated, or who experience separation from family while traveling for their work.

Give thanks and praise for God's great works and attention to our prayers, both when we are alone and when we gather as a community of faith.

Pray for the 300-plus health and human service organizations of the Lutheran Services in America alliance, which serve 6 million people every year across our country in response to God's call to love our neighbors of all ages, needs and circumstances.

We acknowledge that it is not always easy to follow Christ, bear the gospel or do God's work in the world. Give thanks that together, as siblings in Christ, we can turn to one another with our burdens and receive support and encouragement.

Pause today and take in the wonders of God's creation. Give thanks for the joy, wonder and awesome complexity of nature and the universe, and ask God to help us be mindful, responsible and respectful stewards of creation.



Pray that we will serve our neighbors and invite others to believe and to join our communities of faith without bias, judgment, hesitation, obstruction or condition.

Pray for God's strength, comfort and vision when we are weary or overwhelmed or cannot see beyond times of despair; ask the Spirit to fill us with faith, hope and empathy so that we can support, care for and encourage our neighbors who are struggling.

Guided by the generous, compassionate and kind actions of Jesus, ask the Spirit to fill us with eagerness to work together and share our abundance with our neighbors so that all will have the resources, food and opportunities needed to thrive and be well.

Ask God to help us reflect on our nation, its history, its institutions and this church with honesty, humility, repentance and gratitude, united in our vision and determined to be more just, equitable, inclusive and responsive to our neighbors in need.

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On-going Collection of Can Tabs

Your aluminum tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo. Please continue to collect them 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

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Operation Christmas Child

Suggested items for the shoeboxes are listed below. Please leave your donations in the marked container located under the window shelf in the narthex.

- May: sunglasses, stickers, jewelry
- June: stuffed toys 10" or smaller, musical instruments or small dolls
- July: pens, pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, pencil cases
- Aug.: markers, coloring pads, notebooks
- Sept.: coloring books, crayons, watercolor
- Oct.: paints, games, puzzles