



Pastor's Ponderings

The Art of Giving

We give of ourselves when we give:

Gifts of the Heart: love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness

Gifts of the Mind: ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions, projects, poetry

Gifts of the Spirit: power, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith

The Gift of Words: encouragement, inspiration, guidance

Emerson said it well:

"Rings and Jewels are not gifts but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself."

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians:

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

As we remember our Lord who died and gave himself for us as our example of giving, may we be empowered to be generous, selfless, and joyful givers.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

PS. The art of giving was taken from a card I received from Candace, RIP.



Galatians Bible Study with Pastor Fred

Pastor Fred continues his 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 is held at Augustana LC on **Fridays** from **10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. It is hybrid—on location and on Zoom.

Upcoming study dates are: **July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6**. Everyone is invited to attend one of the classes or all of them!

Holy Rest Cemetery—Work Day!

Saturday, July 24 from 9:00 AM to Noon

You're invited to join us as we gather to "spruce up" the cemetery! Please bring your own gardening tools, trimmers, battery-powered weed whackers—and don't forget your hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and drinking water.

We'll meet at the cemetery, which is located at the corner of Pine Ridge Road and East Delevan Avenue in Cheektowaga.

For more information, please contact Matt.

Hope to see you there!

TOL Stewardship Team



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!

Chiavetta's Wrap-up and Thank You!

On Friday, June 18, we hosted a "drive-through" Chiavetta's dinner and it was a huge success! The weather cooperated, we had lots of wonderful volunteers, the people who came were kind, generous and patient, and the food was yummy! Plus, to top it all off, we made a good profit! What more could we ask for?

Thank you to everyone who came to support us and to each of our amazing volunteers! Special thanks to Scott Edwards for being our "fearless leader" and to Barb and Dick Edwards for their never-ending support. Thank you, thank you to our volunteers!

Sandra
Elizabeth and Evelyn
Sharon
Nancy
Nancy
Frank
Cheryl
Jeff
Diane
Pastor



Earlene

"Christ in Our Home" Devotionals

Booklets for July through September are now available in the narthex. Please take a copy!

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office (836-4868).

**Combined Worship at Augustana LC
Sunday, July 4 at 9:30 AM**

**One service only (in-church and on Zoom)
Augustana Lutheran Church
3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5720**

Updated In-church Worship Guidelines, June 2021

While we await new COVID-19 guidance from the Synod, we will be following the procedures listed below. Further updates will be provided in future issues.

- Vaccinated people can be in the building without a mask.
- Unvaccinated people should continue to wear a mask while in the building.
- Anyone who is more comfortable wearing a mask, please continue to do so.



**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.

**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. Please use the sign-up sheet that is posted on the main bulletin board! If you worship with us on Zoom, please call or email the church office and we can add your name to the list.

Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke

On Sunday, June 20, we joyfully received new members into the family of Christ at Trinity Old Lutheran Church. We were blessed to welcome John and Gail, Dawn, Sharon, Susan, Karen and Frank and Nancy. “Together with them, we renew our commitment to the call of Jesus Christ.”



Trinity Tidings

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June Mission—Thank You!

Your donations to ELCA Disaster Response will be designated for where it is needed most. There are currently many places in the United States and in countries around the world that will benefit from the ELCA's presence and assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

July Mission: Holy Rest Cemetery

The cemetery is partially owned by TOL and is located on Pine Ridge Road in Cheektowaga. While it does need some TLC, funds are also needed to support it. Your donations will help assist with where it's needed most—general upkeep. TOL members serving on the cemetery board are Matt Grabau, Jim Gordon and Lanny Repman. Matt is happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact him.

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 Holy Rest Cemetery).

Reminder: If you have a few hours on **Saturday, July 24** (from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon), you're invited to join us for a work day at Holy Rest. For more details, please see the item on the front page of this issue.



TOL Book Sale!

We're happy to announce that our Book Sale has been relocated for easier accessibility. The Book Sale is now in the Resource Library (upstairs, Room 103), near the main bulletin board. We have a variety of books and puzzles for every age group— all at very reasonable prices.

Thank you to Sue and Sonny, Earlene, and Diane for your help with the big move!

Please come and browse after worship services or anytime you visit TOL!

Nancy

Adult Ed. Classes and Table Talk

TOL Adult Ed. classes will resume in the Fall on Mondays at 1:00 PM and Table Talk will be held in the evening so that those working during the day will have the opportunity to attend. Watch for more details over the summer!

Thank You Letters Received!

From: Hearts and Hands

Dear Rev. Frederick,

Thank you for your congregation's generous support of Hearts and Hand's Faith in Action Campaign. The gift your community provided promotes neighbors helping neighbors ensuring older adults have access to affordable and reliable transportation and their caregivers have respite. Because of your congregation's leadership, we can impact the lives of our care recipients and our volunteers by facilitating meaningful connections that reduces social isolation, provides transportation, and respite services for over 1,200 older adults across Erie and Niagara rural communities.

Our neighbor helping neighbor program facilitates powerful bonds that truly changes lives thanks to your investment! Alek tells us:

"From my very first experience receiving transportation with Hearts & Hands through the present, I have met many wonderful, kind, and amusing volunteers. We found that we shared similar life experiences, discussing them and joking about some. I await each arrival from the group at Hearts & Hands with great anticipation."

Your congregation's philanthropy brings critical resources to support the most vulnerable of older adults who are struggling to remain independent within their own home. We THANK YOU for joining us in our mission to empower and enrich the lives of over 1,200 residents in Erie and Niagara communities. Thank you for partnering with Hearts and Hands as part of your mission work.

Grace and Peace,
Aaron Carlson
Executive Director

Thank You Letter Received from Family Promise of WNY (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) (excerpts)

Dear Members of Trinity Old Lutheran Church,

Thank you for choosing to support Family Promise of WNY by sponsoring a \$25.00 business card advertisement in our 25th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet. Your support will ensure that we are able to fully celebrate with our community the impact we have made in serving homeless families in Western New York over the past 25 years.

We are so effective at what we do because of our small-scale model. Serving only six families at a time allows us to:

- Offer tailored care management to the family in front of us. We know that no two families are the same. Being small enables us to get creative about our interventions and to wrap our families in a lot of personalized support as they work to find their way back home.
- Minimize the trauma of being in a shelter for our children, who make up over 70% of our guests.
- Maximize community support. Community members help us achieve our mission each and every day by sharing their time, treasure and talent with us – it makes such a difference!

We cannot do what we do without you – thanks again!

Luanne Firestone
Executive Director

[The anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, July 24. Visit the website at www.fpwny.org.]

Floral Cross Garden—Thank You!

We worked on the cross garden on Saturday, June 12, and when we realized the existing wood was beyond repair, we decided to replace it with a simpler border and return it to the lovely garden it once was.



Thank you so much to John (great idea about how to do this), Dick, and Matt. The weather cooperated too, and we got it done in one morning.

Lanny

[A colorful variety of flowers was chosen to fill the cross. Stop and take a look—located by the church office sign at the Larch Road entrance!]

Reupholstered Kneelers—Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, the newly-covered kneelers are now in place, and soon we will have the chairs on the altar covered in the same material.

Thank you to Rob and Dick for all your help transporting the kneelers back and forth to the upholsterer—and to our anonymous donor for funding the re-covering costs for the chairs!

Lanny

Upstate New York Synod News

The 34th Synod Assembly of Upstate New York Synod, ELCA was held on June 3-5. The theme for 2020-2021 was: Grace for the Sake of the World—"You are chosen... called into God's light." 1 Peter 2:9

On June 5, The Reverend Lee Miller II was elected to serve a five-year position as Bishop of the Synod beginning September 1, 2021.

Please keep Pastor Miller, out-going Bishop John Macholz, the Synod Staff and the Synod Council in prayer during this time of transition.

Local Food Pantries

Thank you for your continued support of the pantries at Good Shepherd LC in Tonawanda and Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) in Buffalo. Please use the shopping cart in the narthex or leave your items in the marked boxes at 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.



Happy Independence Day!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Prayer Ventures: July 2021

Give thanks that God is attentive to our prayers, hearing our cries for help, comfort and renewal and our expressions of joy, mourning, praise and thanksgiving.

Give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded.

Ask God for mercy and forgiveness when weakness and imperfection tangle our daily life; give thanks that God's enduring mercy and grace renew our faith, no matter what is happening in our lives.

Ask the Spirit to grant us wisdom and insight as we help children and youth recover and learn from the pandemic and its social isolation. Pray that they will experience healing and wholeness through interacting with peers and adults; enjoying play, school and community activities; and returning to their faith communities to rejoin their siblings in Christ.

Ask God to nourish and strengthen the church's relationships with global companions during this time of transition, as we assess how best to work together while continuing to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

Ask the Spirit to help us greet our neighbors with hospitality, empathy, concern and hope as we maneuver the uncertainty of reopening public places and holding events where people once again gather in person.

Pray for the Building Resilient Communities team, a collaboration of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, and for our work together across all expressions of our church as we accompany communities from disaster through recovery, ensuring that we and our neighbors can thrive today and tomorrow.

The work of a shepherd is unfamiliar to most of us, but we all know how it feels to be guided and assisted through dark and difficult times, to have our spirit restored when we are weary and to be reassured that we are not alone in life. Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever-present, loving and good shepherd and for equipping our communities of faith and siblings in Christ to shepherd one another and our neighbors.

Ask God to strengthen our commitment and guide our efforts to end hunger in our nation and throughout the world. We ask for the faith to believe that there will be enough food and resources for all if we let God's justice and generosity influence our own, listen closely to our neighbors in need, deal with the root causes of hunger and poverty, and work together to create sustainable solutions.

Who in your community, congregation or family concerns you right now? Pray for their needs and well-being, and ask the Spirit to guide you in responding to, caring for and accompanying them.

Pray that with Christ in our hearts and the Spirit in our midst, we will grow in our understanding of God's boundless love and broaden our vision of what we can accomplish as we do God's work in the world.

Give thanks for volunteers, congregational leaders and professionals who serve older adults in a variety of circumstances and settings; care for their spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs; encourage their gifts and involvement in congregations; and help them stay connected with life-giving relationships and communities.

Give thanks and praise to God for being kind, just, understanding of our complexities, responsive to our prayers and needs, and trustworthy in word and deed.

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"Hearts & Hands"—Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Hearts & Hands (H&H) continues to serve residents in Erie and Niagara counties. Volunteers provide assistance with: Transportation; In-Home Services and Caregiver Support.

Volunteers are needed! H&H provides quick and ongoing training. You may select assignments that fit into your schedule, as well as receive mileage reimbursement and supplemental insurance coverage.

For more program information (and how to become a volunteer), please visit the H&H website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311.



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



Love. Grow. Serve.

"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



Wishing everyone a
safe and happy summer!