



Pastor's Ponderings



Come Holy Spirit, Come!

As we enter Summer and the Pentecost Season, I am mindful of how our lives have changed and how the landscape of the church is changing. In many ways we have more to think about and more personal actions and responsibilities to be aware of. Some of our work environments seemingly

will never be the same. We will have more stress and worry about the "what ifs" in life. At church, the occasional statement from me of, "remember it's flu season," may be replaced by social distancing, masks, and a new way to share the sacrament. Wow.

Change is difficult and yet it is inevitable. In the last three months, I have observed an increase in selflessness. People are wearing masks, being socially distant, avoiding crowds, making difficult choices about life and liberty for the vulnerable and our fellow humans to be safe. For a moment in the world, like in the early church, there seemed to be more "other" focus than "me" focus. However, as one of our friends from seminary used to say ... "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold..." (a William Butler Yeats' quote).

Yes things will keep changing, yet as they change let's center ourselves on Jesus. Let us stay motivated and strengthened by Jesus' commandment:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

The Commandment to love is a call to action, prayer, sharing the word, knowing the truth.

Since this is the beginning of Pentecost, Love comes to us through the Holy Spirit as it instills in us its fruit.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

Pastor's Videos—Available Online Every Week!

Pastor creates a new brief video, with messages and prayers. They are posted on Instagram, Facebook and the TOL website!

Giving to TOL

Online: Tithe.ly is available. 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.

Thank you for your continued giving.

From Pastor Fred's Letter: Sunday, April 26

Not everything is cancelled:

Sun is **Not Cancelled**, Spring is **Not Cancelled**,

Relationships are **Not Cancelled**,

Devotion is **Not Cancelled**,

Music is **Not Cancelled**, Imagination is **Not Cancelled**,

Kindness is **Not Cancelled**,

Conversations are **Not Cancelled**,

Hope is **Not Cancelled**.

Dear Folks,

I saved the above statement on my phone to remind me to change my perspective. The Apostle Paul shared a statement to the Romans about hope to change their perspective, "but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-4)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred Kopp

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.

May Mission Family Justice Center (FJC)

Thank you to everyone who responded to the May mission with your donations.

Incidents of domestic abuse and violence have increased as families deal with the effects of quarantine, shelter-in-place restrictions and social distancing during COVID-19 pandemic. All of which lead to greater difficulties for victims to reach out for help. Currently, FJC stays connected to victims as well as assisting victims through online video communications as well as phone calls. The Family Justice Center operates locations in Buffalo, in North and South Buffalo and on Grand Island. More information about the organization can be found on www.fjcsafe.org.



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

June Mission Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

During the month of June, our focus will be the ELCA Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service (LIRS). The following was taken from the ELCA website at <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services>.

"We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

The work of the ELCA through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance, developing new and innovative service programs and partnerships, and much more."

Please mail your donations to the church (indicate LIRS on your checks) or donate online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Thank you for your support.

Trinity Tidings

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For Humankind: Prayer Ventures for June 2020 (excerpts)

Remember in prayer people who depend on seasonal employment for their livelihoods or who live with the uncertainty and anxiety of unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that the Spirit will make us creative and tireless in supporting and caring for others, especially our neighbors in greatest need—locally and globally.

Ask God to comfort those grieving the loss of loved ones from COVID-19, and pray that we will not forget them amid our new concerns and routines as communities and states open up again.

Lutheran Services in America is a network of Lutheran social ministry organizations that connects over 300 health and human services providers throughout the country. Pray that we will engage with and support their work in serving the diverse needs of our nation's most vulnerable people, from infants to elders.

Living as children of God and followers of Christ is not always easy or well received by others. Pray that we will find comfort and courage in knowing that God abides with us, knows our every struggle and joy, and surrounds us with love and peace that are impossible to break or obstruct.

Pray for our global companions, their ministries and the people they serve in this time of sickness and death, economic upheaval, social uncertainty and slow recovery.

Pray that every person we encounter in daily life will glimpse the Spirit dwelling within us—an infectious spirit of kindness, justice, humility and love.

Give thanks for doctors, researchers and scientists throughout the world who have committed their lives to treating, preventing and eliminating diseases and to sharing their discoveries with the world for the health and well-being of all people.

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From Pastor Fred's Letter: Sunday, April 17

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.

Dear Folks!

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad
in it!

I pray for you and your families and I am glad we are the
church. It is a month since we canceled services and went on-
line with Zoom services and we have been sending programs
home for those who are not on-line. For many of us, we are
itching to get back to "normal." Also, stress and isolation may
lead us to be anxious, frustrated and less patient. The Prayer
of St. Francis can help in these unprecedented times and
guide us to direct those energies in a way that would benefit
ourselves and those we come in social distance with.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor, and bring you peace.

AMEN.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred Kopp

From Pastor Fred's Letter: Sunday, May 3

*"And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance, and
endurance produces character, and character produces
hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's
love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy
Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:3-5*

Dear Folks,

Our lives have greatly changed the last couple of months. For
some it has been easier to handle than others. Others have
had suffering, grief, fear, anxiety, depression, disappointment,
loss of income, isolation, loneliness and the list goes on.
Whatever way you are impacted by this unprecedented time,
Paul's words to the Romans are words to us. Suffering leads
to endurance, which leads to character and hope. Thank you
for the strong character you are displaying to keep our most
vulnerable safe and to keep our hospital workers not
overwhelmed. There is hope that our resolve and ingenuity will
be able to minimize the future risk of this virus and bring our
world back to order and more kindness. Until then keep each
other in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred

For Creation: Prayer Ventures for June 2020 (excerpts)

This month has the most daylight of the year in the Northern
Hemisphere and the least daylight of the year
in the Southern Hemisphere. Give thanks that
the gift of sunlight sustains all life on Earth
and that the light of God's love and truth,
shining through Jesus, gives us the gift of new
life, purpose and direction as children of God.



In this season of storms and flooding, pray
that our neighbors and communities will be safe and that we
will stand ready to respond when disasters strike and leave our
neighbors vulnerable, grieving and wondering where to begin
rebuilding their lives. Give thanks for the work we do together
through Lutheran Disaster Response bringing God's hope,
healing and renewal to people whose lives have been
disrupted by disaster.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the
moon and the stars that you have established; what are human
beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for
them?" With humility and joy, give thanks and praise to God!

Take time to reflect on nature, humankind, the earth and the
heavens above—everything God has made—and pray that we
will stand in awe and thanksgiving to God, proclaiming God's
creation to be very good.

Thank God for opportunities to enjoy nature, whether in a
wilderness area, urban park, community garden or forest
preserve. Give thanks for how nature and fresh air renew us
and lift our spirits, and pray that our neighbors with mobility
challenges can get outdoors to experience and enjoy the
blessings of creation.

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**Flag Day
June 14!**



**Happy
Father's
Day!
June 21**