



Pastor's Ponderings

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves." Philippians 2:3

Respect and Love are very close together and we are commanded by Jesus to do both. So as we enter February, the month that contains Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, I am brought to ponder what is love, what is respect, and how to humbly live with God and God's people.

I am not immune to the desire to have it my way, or to think another's way is wrong. I struggle with being outward looking and acting in my thoughts, words, and deeds. I wonder, am I in my actions helping others to be better, hopeful, welcomed, or loved? Do the leaders, the people I look up to, and the community of which I am a part, have that selfless attitude? This month I ask myself, am I acting respectful to others through all that is God's, myself and my possessions? If it is not of God, I am commanded to shed it, to begin again and again, as I move to a more sacrificial life.

I have enjoyed the Marvel Comics movies. I especially liked the Black Panther movie. Black Panther was played by the late, Chadwick Boseman. One of his quotes is "The only difference between a hero and the villain is that the villain chooses to use that power in a way that is selfish and hurts other people."

It is not easy being a hero or even just a decent human being, yet we pray weekly in our confession and ask God to forgive those actions we know of and do not know of that harm the other, and we pray for forgiveness and to begin again in our relationship to God.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that Jesus is our "All in All," and with Christ we are more than something—we are special. I pray that our month is used to bring love and respect into our relationships with family, friends and each other, and that love and respect is a driving force in our faith relationship with Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

Pastor's Bible Study—Friday Mornings 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (Zoom Only)

Pastor Fred's group will meet in February to continue discussing of the "Book of Acts." If you would like a Zoom invitation, please contact Pastor Fred or the church office.



Update on Hybrid In-Church and Zoom Worship

We are hoping to open in late February for Hybrid Worship in which we will worship in the church and on Zoom. When we are able to return to in-church worship, we will still need to follow guidelines: wear a mask, social distance and clean/sanitize all areas used. A letter will be going out at the beginning of February to give you more information

Pastor Fred

Ash Wednesday, February 17
Zoom Worship at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM



**Adult Ed. Classes with
Charlie Schmidtko
(Zoom Only), Mondays at
1:00 PM**

We will finish Jezebel and Asherah on February 8, then turn to the New Testament. I've identified clusters of women for three classes: as his disciples, those at Easter and those at Pentecost. In some instances we'll be talking about unidentified women and in other cases we can give them names with some background. I've left the last class open because we inevitably do not complete a topic on each day. If we cover everyone by then, I'll surprise you.

Charlie

Classes will continue via Zoom and it is unknown when we will be able to return to live attendance and stop zooming.

February 8:	Mary and Elizabeth
February 22:	Mary and Martha
March 8:	Women Disciples
March 22:	Women on Easter Morning
April 12:	Women at Pentecost
April 26:	Lydia and Priscilla
May 10:	TBD

"Souper Bowl" Sunday, February 7



TOL's annual food collection returns on Super Bowl Sunday! Your donations toward this drive are most welcome and appreciated! Here are the ways you can help:

- **Non-perishable items** can be placed in the boxes and bin located in the elevator entrance during office hours: Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
- **Gift Card donations from Tops and Wegmans stores** can be mailed to the church office.
- **Monetary donations** should be mailed to the church office (indicate that it is for Souper Bowl Sunday).
- **Donate online** through Tithe.ly (TOL website at trinityoldlutheran.com)

Thank you for your "souper support"!

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 7 (TBD: via Hybrid In-church and Zoom)

Following worship, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting (also find more details in the Sunday bulletins and March *Trinity Tidings*.)

Reminder: the deadline for annual report articles is Sunday, February 14!

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.



ELCA Prayer Ventures, February 2021

Black History Month Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors who stand together with

us as partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church in its commitment to socioeconomic equity and racial justice and reconciliation.

Pray for our new U.S. president, vice president and members of Congress, that they will find strength, support and unity for their difficult work of serving a diverse nation. Ask the Spirit to help us guide, shape and embolden our culture and nation so that we practice justice, care for our neighbors in need, strive for truth and support our global neighbors.

Ask the Spirit to teach us humility and to remind us that God made us to care for one another, love one another, be generous with what we have and participate in God's good, reconciling work in the world.

Pray for families, caregivers and friends who cannot be physically present with hospitalized loved ones. Pray that we will support and comfort them through their time of separation and worry and reassure them of God's very real presence and love.

Give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID-19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. Pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul.

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Invite a Friend Sunday!

February 14, 2021

You are encouraged to invite a friend to Zoom worship on Sunday, February 14 at 11:00 AM!

Please call the church office (836-4868) or email the church office at trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net to receive the link—and then share it with a friend!

We look forward to having you join us!



Trinity Tidings

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February Mission: Hearts & Hands (H&H)



TOL is part of this community of volunteers and H&H will be the focus of this month's mission. Please mail your donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Hearts and Hands), or donate online through Tithely (www.trinityoldlutheran.com).

"Built upon an interfaith coalition, trained volunteers of Hearts and Hands—Faith in Action connect frail or vulnerable individuals in underserved communities with needed services:

- To uphold their dignity
- To improve their quality of life
- To enhance their ability to live in their home of choice
- To assist their primary caregivers"

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January Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated to ELCA World Hunger! From the ELCA website at www.elca.org:

"Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty."

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Thank You from The Reverend Jeremiah P. Smith

Dear Members of Trinity Old Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your donations for our services on METV. We are truly thankful for your support of our mission to gather all, serve all and care for all. "You all are a blessing!"

Peace,
Reverend Jeremiah P. Smith
Pastor of Parkside Lutheran Church



Thank You

Valentine's Day

Charlie Schmidtke's New Book! (Part 2)



"My I's: Isms, Ignorance, Interrelationships and Insights."

The phrase "An unexamined life is not worth living" is a truism that became a guide for Charlie Schmidtke's journey of self-reflection. His book is a unique mashup of memoir combined with philosophical reflections on life, cast within the topics of race, religion, gender, generations, and grief.

In an exploration that spans decades, he tells of encounters with Jim Crow, journeys through religious transformation, shifts from a male dominant lifestyle to a more balanced view of gender roles, wanders through generations, confronts profound tragedies, deaths, and grief, and encounters those who have blessed his life in ordinary as well as extraordinary ways. He looks specifically at the isms he himself has confronted, along with the social context that has pervaded his experiences. This highly personal narrative reflects how his attitude, language, and behavior have changed and become more inclusive, tolerant, and accepting. His stories range from light-hearted to serious and from amusing to introspective.

From Palmetto Publishing Group, the book is available through Barnes and Noble or Amazon. Hardbound, Paperback, or E-book copies are now available online only.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Thank you to Pastor Fred, Charlie and Jeff for presenting the Zoom-only service.



Pastor and Charlie read the lessons, which were followed by Christmas carols and photos of beautiful churches nestled in winter settings, Christmas-themed artwork, as well as a photo of the lighted angel that annually greets TOL Christmas Eve worshippers. The singing of "Go Tell it on the Mountain" was accompanied by a collection of photos from past TOL Christmas programs and services—thank you to Jim and all who shared these wonderful photos!

Local Food Pantry Collections Continue

Your donations of food to benefit the pantries at Good Shepherd LC in Tonawanda and Community of Good Neighbors in Buffalo will be collected throughout the year.

The shopping cart and marked boxes will be available for your donations. For now, please leave donations in the elevator entrance during the week (Tuesdays – Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon). Thank you for your continued support.



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



Operation Christmas Child... Please continue to collect items between now and November—suggested items are listed below. Just a reminder—items need to fit into a shoe box. Thank you so much!!

Debbie

- Jan.: toothbrushes, dental floss, washcloths
- Feb.: hats, mittens, scarves, socks
- Mar.: combs, brushes, hair items
- Apr.: 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

Online Giving to TOL



Tithe.ly 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.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Presidents' Day
February 15**