



Pastor's Ponderings

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:4-7

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians in a manner that showed his love, respect, and friendship for the people of Philippi. It was an intimate yet public letter that encouraged people and exuded how joyful it was to follow Jesus and how Paul rejoiced in knowing them individually and in community. He expressed this optimism and encouragement even as he was in jail when he wrote them.

I can't help but take Paul's comments to heart and think about Trinity Old Lutheran in a similar way and want to encourage all of us to reflect on our connection to Jesus and Jesus' mission for us on earth.

I don't know if you are like me, but I am discouraged by world events. I struggle with some things that I believe need to be addressed, such as the need for citizens to have easy access, or any access, to assault rifles. I pray that a gentleness of spirit might direct our elected leaders to discuss this and create a way forward to keep our children, and people of all races, creeds, and orientations safe. Peace to me includes being able to walk about God's world freely without fear.

If we read a little further, we hear Paul challenging the congregation at Philippi to, in a sense, strive to be reflections of the best things about being human. He encourages them to think about these things... *"whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."* (Philippians 4:8) By contemplating the perfect and the best in humanity we can be helped in discerning paths that lead to actions that are more thoughtful, deliberate, joyful, and focused on serving others in the name of Jesus.

Paul ends his letter as I do for you today... The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Pastor Fred Kopp he/him/his

Thank you, Thank you, Thank You! I was so pleased by the celebration worship and luncheon that TOL and Augustana had for my 30th year as an ordained pastor. The combined worship's attendance and the fun pot-luck luncheon were a testament to our need to serve, grow, rejoice, and be in community. I am so pleased that the giving in honor of my ordination brought in close to \$1,500 dollars given to various needs in the community and the world.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!
Pastor Fred

Pastor Fred's Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, July 10, TOL and Augustana members honored Pastor Fred's 30th anniversary of his ordination with a joint service and picnic lunch. It was a beautiful service presided by Charlie Schmidtke and Lance Scarafia. Then we went downstairs and enjoyed a picnic lunch of hot dogs,



hamburgers, and a buffet of wonderful salads. We had an amazing "full house" with people who wanted to show their love and appreciation for Pastor Fred. In place of a personal gift for Pastor, he asked that donations be given to charitable organizations. Through generous giving from both congregations, we sent monetary gifts to organizations such as Augustana's

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program, Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine, the Family Justice Center, and our Sandwich Ministry.

Many thanks to all who came and everyone who helped. You're all awesome!!!

Earlene

Upcoming Annual Chiavetta's Dinner/Basket Raffle

Plans are being made for a Chiavetta's BBQ Dinner and Basket Raffle on **Sunday, September 11.**

Basket Raffle: As in past years, baskets, gift cards, and other items will be needed to make this year's event a success. If you'd like, we can assemble baskets with the items you donate. Please bring your basket or items/donations to church **on or by Sunday, September 4.**

If you have any questions about the basket raffle, please see Debbie or Kelly.

More details will be in the Sunday bulletins and September *Trinity Tidings!*



Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action

Hearts and Hands (HNN) continues to serve Amherst, Clarence, North Tonawanda, and the Southern Tier and is now welcoming all residents of Erie County and Eastern Niagara County. In-Home Support includes: Food Preparation, Laundry, Coffee and Conversation, Housekeeping, Minor Home Repairs. Caregiver Respite Services include: Canine Caregivers, Coffee and Conversation, Friendly Visiting at Home, Sharing a Meal

For more program details (and how to become a volunteer), please visit the HNN website at www.hnncares.org/services or call 716-406-8311.

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





We welcome you to join us for in-church worship on Sundays at 11:00 AM!

(a Zoom option is also available)

We are strongly encouraging everyone to please wear a mask indoors and keep in "bubbles," maintaining a six foot distance when relating to others.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in support of TOL ministries.

Pastor Fred and the TOL Opening Committee

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, August 2022

Pray for companions and care providers who help people deal with illness, disability or the demands of aging. Ask that they will find the spiritual, physical and emotional strength necessary for their work, and that they will be renewed by rest, sabbath, self-care and the support they receive from others.

Pray for the leadership, wisdom and well-being of our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, as we and our siblings in Christ try to unify this church in a world of ever-evolving complexity, conflict and division.

Give thanks for the gifts, leadership, service and generosity of the laity of our church, who respond to God's call to serve our communities of faith, our society and our world.

Give thanks for the chance to enjoy the awe and beauty of God's creation in wilderness areas and city, state and national parks. Pray that, working together, we will make these treasures more accessible to people of all ages, abilities and economic circumstances.

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Hope and Healing: A Christian Cancer Support Group **4th Tuesday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 PM** **Augustana Lutheran Church and on Zoom**

I invite you, your family and friends for hope and healing to those who are in a cancer journey now. I invite those of you who have beat cancer for your help to give hope and healing to others.

hope

Please call me at 716-694-2451 or email me at lsokoley@hotmail.com that you will be attending. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Linda Sokoley

Trinity Tidings

Published monthly by
Trinity Old Lutheran Church
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July Mission: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your donations in support of the general upkeep at Holy Rest Cemetery. Also, a group of volunteers were to participate in a cemetery workday on Saturday, July 30. An update will appear in the September *Trinity Tidings*.

August Mission: Family Promise of WNY

This month's mission will be to support Family Promise of WNY (FPWNY). The organization has been serving homeless families in Buffalo for over 25 years and is located on Hickory Street. It functions as an emergency shelter that also enables families to stay together while in their care.

The website contains information on FPWNY history, the shelter and its mission, ways to help and how to volunteer.

FPWNY Vision:

"We seek to build a community that wraps homeless children and their families in hope."

[from: FPWNY website at www.fpwny.org]

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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 Family Promise of WNY). Thank you for your support.

Support for Local Food Pantries

Your donations in support of the Community of Good Neighbors Mobile Food Pantry in Buffalo and Good Shepherd Lutheran Pantry in Tonawanda are greatly appreciated. Suggested items needed are listed below.



Please place your donations in the narthex shopping cart or leave them in the elevator entrance during the week (Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon).

- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, soup, tuna and chicken
- Pasta, Mac-and-Cheese
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Spaghetti and pasta sauces
- Cereal and other breakfast items (oatmeal, grits)
- Instant potatoes
- Paper products, feminine hygiene products

Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans) (mail to church office)

Upcoming Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke 1:00 PM in the TOL Fireside Room and on Zoom



Beginning **Monday, September 12**, we will be looking at who the "Real Jesus" may be. We'll review some biblical passages but, for the most part, we'll look at sources and writings that are not included in the bible. For example, what the Coptic and Armenian churches teach about their beliefs in Jesus' childhood and life. We'll also delve into his childhood and young adult life from a variety of sources. For example, who was in his family (nuclear and extended) and what happened when he was 12? What do the other gospels and letters not included in the bible tell us about who He was?

2022

- Sept. 12: The Bible's two different Nativity stories
- Sept. 26: The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood (I)
- Oct. 10: The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood (II)
- Oct. 24: The Gnostic stories of Jesus' childhood
- Nov. 7: Was it the Temple or Mount of Olives?
- Nov. 21: Jesus' young adulthood: Nazareth or India?
- Dec. 5: Jesus' family and his Jewish roots

"Table Talk" Returns in September!

Please join us for this bi-weekly discussion group beginning **Wednesday, September 14!** Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. A discussion will follow each episode. We begin at 6:30 PM and go until 8:00 PM.

There will also be a Zoom option. Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for the Zoom link. This class is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

This month's suggested donations are markers, coloring pads, and notepads. With all the sales for school supplies this month, we are also going to add crayons, pens and pencils. Even though all these items can be bought at the Dollar Store, many go on sale for less than a dollar at retail stores (Target and Walmart).

Each and every one of your donations helps so much as we put our boxes together. Without your extra donations during the year we would not be able to assemble as many as we do. We can't help but imagine the smiles on the faces of the children who receive our boxes each year. Thank you so much for helping us with this very important outreach project!!!

Kelly and Debbie



Did you know...we have a Yoga studio here at TOL? On Friday, August 26, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, stop by and meet Leanne Oldenbrook, a licensed Yoga instructor, who operates Oasis Yoga and Wellness Studio and has several weekly classes



here. Light refreshments will be served, and Leanne will give you a tour of the studio. Please use the Larch Road entrance. If you have any questions, please call Leanne at 716-864-1194 or email her at crescmnyoga@yahoo.com.

Adult Retreat September 30, October 1 and 2

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke



Theme: "Creation and Creativity"

We will gather again in fellowship, laughter and prayer. The retreat is open to all who are 18+ years of age. Complete information is posted on the main bulletin board, as well as the sign-up sheet. If you worship with us on Zoom, please call or email the church office and we can add your name to the list. If you have any questions, please contact the church office (716-836-4868) or Charlie.

Ways to Give to TOL

Online: [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) is available. For instructions, please visit the church website at www.trinityoldlutheran.com or download the Tithe.ly app to your smartphone. Please call the church office if you have any questions (716-836-4868).



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

Books and Puzzles for Sale...This summer, take time to relax with a good book or challenge yourself with a puzzle! Please stop by the Resource Library (the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board) where there is a wide variety of books, puzzles, and magazines for everyone.



ELCA Prayer Ventures, August 2022

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
There are over 476 million Indigenous people living in 90 countries around the world. They have unique

languages, traditions, cultures, knowledge systems, worldviews and systems for governing themselves. Pray that we will value them as children of God; respect their rights, freedoms, dignity and lands; and ensure their right to participate fully in political and economic activities. With repentant hearts, ask God's forgiveness for our harmful and unjust actions and policies throughout history, for taking what was not ours, and for forcing our own language, culture, religious beliefs, worldview and authority upon Indigenous peoples. Pray that we will work to rectify injustices and inequities, develop new relationships of trust and respect, and do the work necessary for reconciliation and healing.

International Youth Day Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and perspectives of youth around the world, and remember in prayer young people who live in areas of war and conflict, suffer poverty and hunger, long for educational opportunities, provide care for their siblings and parents, and live in hope for a better future.

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Wishing everyone a continued safe and happy summer!

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke

Study Notes: Judaism

Part III: Is Judaism a religion, an ethnicity, a country, a social category or a part of Zionism? Is Jerusalem its center?

Traditional Jewish culture and thinking sees itself as a Nation of Israel because politics, religion and morality blend for them. In order to understand today, we need to have some understanding of the history since Jesus' time and the relationship between the Palestinians and the Jews.

From about 350 BC until about 150 AD the canonical collection of Hebrew Scriptures became finalized (called the Tanakh): it includes the Torah, books of the Prophets, and other Writings. Basically, it became Christianity's Old Testament (OT). Roman Catholic and Protestant bibles include different books from the OT. Catholics include the Book of Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, First and Second Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Baruch. Protestants do not include them in the OT and also have edited out parts of Ruth, Esther and Daniel. There are also Apocrypha books (Protestants consider some of the Catholic inclusions in the OT to be in this category). There are also books both consider Apocryphal. There are also other writings not included in either the Hebrew Canon or Christian Canon—EG. Gnostic gospels, Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi texts.

The Temple was the focal point of Jerusalem and Judaism in Jesus' time. Jesus died/rose circa 28-31 AD. Christianity was considered a Jewish movement in Israel and surrounding countries. The Jews and Roman authorities began to clash more and more. By 66 AD the Romans were fed up, raided the temple and took all the gold. The Jews rebelled in 70 AD and were crushed by the Romans, who then destroyed the temple. In 73 AD the Zealots and some Essenes had a last stand at Masada. The Diaspora (the scattering) begins at this time. The Romans also destroyed the "Jewish" Christian church in Jerusalem. Bishops, thereafter, had to be non-Jews and Christianity became separate from Judaism. In 130 AD the emperor built a temple to Venus at Golgotha and put down another rebellion two years later. This defeat finishes the Diaspora of Jews from the "Promised Land." The Hebrew language became dead; but was revived in the 19th century (a 1700 year gap). The nation of Israel and the Palestinians living there were controlled by the Romans. Israel (Abraham) and Jordan (Lot) were basically considered the Promised Land by the Jews. After Masada and the final rebellion of Jews and eventual Diaspora, the land of Palestine becomes predominantly Christian and begins to prosper under Roman control.

In 641 AD Muslims take control of Jerusalem and the "Promised Land." Muslims accept the Torah as holy books and the Jewish population begins returning and thriving in the area. The Jews in Medina prayed with Mohammad but refused to pray to Mecca when Mohammad began that practice. This disagreement began to cause some tension. Eventually the Jews either moved away or were killed in battles. The Christian Crusades were against Muslims, but Jews were also killed, sometimes slaughtered by the Christians. Eventually, in the 13th century, Muslims regain control of the land from the Christians. Jerusalem becomes a pilgrimage site for Christians, Muslims and Jews. For Christians it was the site of the cross, the last supper and Jesus' resurrection. For Muslims it is the holy site where Mohammad ascended to heaven and met the prophets: Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. It is also the site of Abraham's sacrificing of Ishmael. For Jews it is the site of

Abraham sacrificing Isaac, two temples, and the capital for a united nation under David.

By the 16th century, the Ottomans controlled Israel and did so until 1918. The Palestinians were a major population group in Israel/Jordan from the time of the Diaspora. They became Muslim in the 7th century and have remained in Palestine until today. Palestine of 1918 included 500,000 Muslim Arabs, 100,000 Christian Arabs, and 60,000 Jews who had emigrated from Europe. In the 19th century, international Zionism emerged:

- Revived ancient Hebrew culture and language.
- Created an identity for Jews who were being persecuted in Europe and Russia.
- The 1897 World Zionist Congress called for a Jewish home in Palestine with Jerusalem the capital.
- 1917, the Balfour Declaration promising support for Zionism from Britain.

In 1918 Britain invaded and the Palestinians joined in fighting against Ottoman control (Turks vs. Arab cultures), expecting the British to declare an independent state of Palestine (which never happened). In 1922 the United Nations gave control of Palestine to Britain: Israel and Jordan split into two areas in 1923. Also, France was given control of Syria. In 1928, Jordan became an independent country, but Israel did not. Jewish immigration continued and conflicts between the Arabs and the Jews became frequent.

By WWII the Jewish population of Palestine reaches 30%. Arabs have a civil war among themselves when thousands are killed and Arabs become fragmented and their military ability is weakened. At this time the Holocaust became international. Jews are scattered and murdered throughout the world, which had a significant impact on the number of Jews worldwide. In 1947 the United Nations took control away from Britain and voted to split Palestine into an Arab and Jewish State. In 1948 Palestinian Jews declare their independence with Israel as its state. Arab armies attacked and in 1949 Israel won the war. Palestine ceases to exist. Now the state of Israel and the nation of Jordan are independent nations. Palestinian Arab Muslims become refugees in neighboring countries and in Israel itself. Jews redistribute the land. Some Arabs remain, some are Christian, most are Muslim. There were other conflicts. In the 1960s Arabs began to unite under the leadership of Nasser of Egypt and Hussein of Jordan. The tensions led to the Six-Day war in 1967. Israel had a decisive win and took the Golan Heights from Syria and the Gaza Strip and West Bank from the Palestinians. Moshe Dayan outwitted and out flanked all the Arab armies. In 1964 the PLO is formed and became the primary Palestinian force against Israel. Today, Palestinians are split between Gaza and the West Bank each having a different form of governance. They are still seeking a Palestinian state.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, August 2022

Pray that we will look to God's wisdom as we ponder the world, our purpose in life and how we might live with one another in global community.



Ask God for forgiveness when, intentionally or not, we have discouraged total inclusion and involvement of all people in the church or society. Pray for an open mind and a willingness to listen to the stories and needs of those who are excluded or feel unwelcome; ask the Spirit to unite us in changing our practices, traditions, facilities and institutions to remove all barriers and deterrents to full inclusion and participation.

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