

Trinity Tidings

The Mission of Trinity Old Lutheran Church is
Proclamation, Fellowship and Service
in the name of Jesus.



The Reverend Frederick W. Kopp
Pastor

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March 2019

Number 3

Trinity Old Lutheran Church is a member of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor's Ponderings

UNITY IN CHRIST!

"I... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing with one another** in love, making every effort to maintain the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3

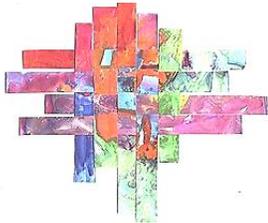
Paul writes of the importance of unity and working together as the body of Christ. He believes we are called to be church together in community. In 1st Corinthians, Paul describes the church as a human body where all parts, from the ears to the toes, are important and work together to make church happen and bring about God's kingdom.

Recently in the Buffalo News, columnist David Brooks shared his opinion about the notion of working together. Being a relational country instead of an individual country. He called those who seek to be in relationship with other people "Weavers." He believes that our country is suffering from social isolation and fragmentation, which is exhibited by "our lack of healthy connection to each other, our inability to see the full dignity of each other, and the resulting culture of fear, distrust, tribalism, and strife."

David has found in his travels around the United States that each community has "Weavers." "Weavers share an ethos that puts relationship over self. 'We' precedes 'me.'" He meets "Weavers" who "live for others and are more joyful as a result."

David is essentially saying that we are called into community to "bear one another's burdens." What this takes is risk, effort, and commitment towards the other. Committing to: the single parents who are working two jobs to provide for their families and need childcare or a listening ear... the drug addict who needs people to listen and support every time they go back to being sober or rehab, as long as it takes... the person of color or of a different nationality or religion who we work with or live near who needs a friend or respect or defense against those who would malign them.

We as the body of Christ need to lead this movement instead of avoiding it. David challenges the readers of his column to be a "Weaver" instead of a "ripper" of the fabric of our nation.



One of my favorite—and most challenging—statements of Jesus comes from Matthew in which Jesus tells a parable of "the Son of Man who comes in his glory" and divides the people into sheep and goats. The goats are those who are "rippers" and the sheep are the "Weavers." The Son of Man will say to the sheep... "as you

did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." The family of the Son of Man are... the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, and imprisoned.

A Lenten discipline might be for us to encourage each other to weave and not to rip, to bring together and not divide, to do what Jesus would do! WWJD – WEAVE.

Empowered and trying to Weave and be a sheep,
I remain, *Pastor Fred.*

Online Giving to TOL

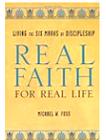
Tithe.ly is available for online giving. You can set up your account through the TOL website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or download an easy-to-use app to your phone. The site is user-friendly and safe to use.



Friday Pre-Lenten Bible Study now extended through March 15

at Augustana Lutheran
(10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)

Pastor Fred's Bible Study continues **through Friday, March 15**. You are invited to join the group as they discuss the following marks of discipleship that encourage the practice of faith in everyday life, including: daily prayer; Bible reading; weekly worship; Christian service; relationships that encourage spiritual growth, and giving in the spirit of generosity.



The study is based on the book "Real Faith for Real Life" by Michael Foss.

March Coffee Hour

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour on **Sunday, March 17** following worship. The WWI Women's Group will be hosting—stop by and enjoy delicious baked goods, coffee and a wee bit o' conversation!



Mid-week Lenten Soup Dinner Soups and Desserts Needed!

TOL will host the "Five-Church" Soup Dinner on **Wednesday, March 13** (from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM). Soups and desserts are needed.

Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you can bring a soup or a dessert.

Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11





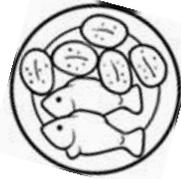
Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

Almighty God, bring us into a community guided by your love. Inspire in us a spirit of hospitality and kindness, and teach us to bear one another's burdens with compassion. Show us

your will for the ministries at Augustana and TOL, and strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love. Amen.

March Stewardship

The focus for March will be Vicar Sohail Akhtar's seminary expenses as he continues his education at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia.



As Pastor Fred reported last month, Sohail is doing well in seminary. He recently delivered a sermon to his preaching class that was based on John 6:1. It was recorded and it appears on YouTube—you can find it through the following link: <https://youtu.be/NWVq0hjxxGQ>.

Please use the pew envelopes for your donations. Thank you for your continued support and please keep Sohail and his family in your prayers.

February Stewardship

The shopping cart was overflowing with your non-perishable food items! Thank you for your donations and for the monetary donations in support of the food pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda.

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, February 2019

For the safety of our guests, their caregivers, and our volunteers, the program was cancelled due to freezing rain and ice.



We'll resume our activities in March!

Update: A check for the remaining 2019 Lutheran Charities of WNY Grant Funding (\$1,700) was received. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of this agency.



We need additional Respite volunteers. Please speak to Jan or Paulette if you are interested!



Voice Choir rehearsals are at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings and the **Bell Choir** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. There's always a place for **you** in the TOL Voice and Bell Choirs—see Don if you're interested in joining!

Trinity Tidings

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Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lenten Worship Schedule

Mid-week Theme: Encountering God in the World

March 6

11:00 AM

Ash Wednesday

Augustana Lutheran
3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5720

12 Noon

Ashes will be distributed by Pastor Emily and Vicar Miranda along Sheridan Drive.

7:00 PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran
2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5390

Wednesday, Mid-week Lenten Services: The host church will provide a soup meal at **6:00 PM**—service combined with conversation and worship around the dining tables.

March 13

Trinity Old Lutheran
3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst
Phone: 836-4868

March 20

Good Shepherd Lutheran
2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5390

March 27

St. Martin Lutheran
322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda
Phone: 693-4415

April 3

Abiding Savior Lutheran
1534 Ruie Road, North Tonawanda
Phone: 693-0180

April 10

Augustana Lutheran Church
3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5720



National Quilting Day, March 16

“Those who sleep under a quilt,
sleep under a blanket of love.”

From the 2019 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) National Quilting Day flier: “For nearly 70 years, compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts—hundreds of thousands of quilts every year. These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict.”



As quilters everywhere are celebrated on March 16, LWR will recognize all who participate in the LWR Mission Quilts program by hosting four regional events to “celebrate quilters, quilting, and the ministry of LWR Mission Quilts.”

LWR at TOL: We recognize the dedication of the quilters who meet on Wednesday mornings (and have been sewing LWR quilts for many, many years!). Last year, the group created 20 beautiful quilts.

We ask for God’s blessings on Barb, Joan, Marge, Barb, Carol, Nora, and Cathy. Thank you for continuing this special ministry.

Note: This year the quilts will be displayed, and blessed, on Sunday, April 28 at Augustana (joint worship service that day), before being sent around the world.



Celebration at Augustana — Sunday, April 28!

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program of Augustana Lutheran Church

**Joint Worship with TOL at 9:30 AM
11:00 AM Brunch (Free) and 12:30 PM Basket Raffle**

Augustana has been helping refugees and immigrants for over 25 years, and the current program began in 2007 as a way to help individuals earn their driver licenses.

Participants receive referrals from local agencies including Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Service, the International Institute, Journey’s End and local schools—and there is always a waiting list to enter the program. Those who graduate contribute their time and share their knowledge with current students.

Having a driver’s license allows individuals to gain better access to employment opportunities, healthcare, neighborhoods and schools, as well as to become involved in community activities.

Over the years, Augustana volunteers have assisted over 100 participants from 30 different countries. In addition to those receiving their licenses, others have earned their driving permits.

For more information, please call 832-5720 (church office), or visit the website at www.augustanaonline.org.

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

TOL’s free Respite Care Program continues every first Wednesday of the month from **10:30 AM to 2:30 PM** for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s or any form of dementia. Guests are partnered with a volunteer (trained by the Alzheimer’s Association) and they participate in various activities in a secure environment. A morning snack and nutritious lunch are provided.

For more information on registering, please contact Jan or Paulette at 836-4868.

TOL’s Caregivers Support Group

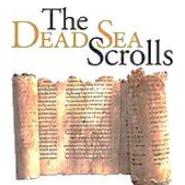
The group will meet on **Monday, April 1 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** in the Fireside Lounge. It’s an informal setting and the conversation is caregiver driven—or one may wish to just listen. Ideas, tips, and shared experiences can prove helpful to caregivers.

For more information, please contact Jan at 836-4868.

Adult Ed. With Charlie Schmidtke Monday Afternoons at 1:00 PM

We will resume our discussion of the Dead Sea Scrolls on **Monday, March 4.**

Upcoming topics also include the Apocrypha and the Lost Gospels and letters. We’ll take a look at what was written around Christ’s time but which has not been part of our traditional religious education.



Hope you can join us in the Fireside Lounge
on Monday afternoons at 1:00 PM!

Upcoming Dates: March 18, April 1 and 15, and May 6

Recycling Continues!

Please continue to place your cans and bottles in the marked container now located in the hallway near the main bulletin board.



You may also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in the Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). Thank you!



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday,
March 10!

Church Emergency/Snow Closings

Information will be carried on TOL’s Facebook page, by email notification and on local TV Stations Channels 2 (WGRZ), 4 (WIVB) and 7 (WKBW).

Defining Faith

How do we define faith? Well, a good dictionary says “belief that is not based on proof” and goes on, “belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion.” Pretty basic stuff. Turning to Hebrews 11, we find

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

And Hebrews 11 has sections devoted to the faith of Abraham in offering up Isaac; of Moses choosing to share ill treatment with his people; of the Israelites passing through the Red Sea; before moving on to a longer study (in Hebrews 12) of Jesus’ faith.



Paul’s letter to the Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.” And a footnote to that verse in the Harper Study Bible has this to say:

Salvation is secured by faith alone; this excludes any and all human works of righteousness. True saving faith always has in it three elements, each of which is necessary: (1) knowledge, for no one is saved without knowing something (Rom 10) (2) mental consent to the knowledge, i.e. one is convinced in his or her mind that the good news is true; and (3) laying hold of Christ by a personal act of the will—i.e. receiving Jesus Christ as one’s Saviour.

There’s an old story about a preacher who spoke on the relationship between faith and fact. He said, “That you are sitting here before me in this church is a fact. That I am standing here speaking to you from this pulpit is a fact. That I believe anyone is actually listening to me is pure faith.

Another definition of faith is “the belief that God knows what He is doing, even when we don’t fully understand.

Loren Keller

[from: Trinity Tidings, March 2009]

“Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action”

TOL is a part of this community of volunteers—Neighbor Helping Neighbor Volunteer Program! Volunteers choose assignments that fit into their schedules and they may help once a month or as often as they wish.

Services provided by HNH include: transportation, light housekeeping, yard work and caregiver respite.

Along with the need for volunteers, monetary donations are also greatly needed in order to continue providing free services. Please place your donations in the pew envelopes.



For more program details and information, please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311, Ext 107.

Our Community Partners Meeting at TOL

Gamblers Anon.	Sun., 7:00 PM
Gam-Anon,	Sun., 7:00 PM
Overeaters Anon.	Mon., 10:00 AM
Co-Dependents	Tues., 7:30 PM
Eta Sigma	Meets on 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Thurs., Gentle Yoga, 9:30 to 10:45 AM Thurs., Beginner Yoga, 5:45 to 7:00 PM
Love Life Self Help Group	Meets on the 1 st Wednesday of the month 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)

Note: If you are interested in any of the different Yoga classes offered at TOL, please contact Leanne (864-1194).