

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

Volume 60

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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

Actual radio transcript released by the chief of naval operations on October 10, 1995.

- Station #1:** Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.
- Station #2:** Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.
- Station #1:** This is the Captain of a US Navy Ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.
- Station #2:** No, I say again, you divert YOUR course.
- Station #1:** THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE. WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW!
- Station #2:** This is the Puget Sound lighthouse. It's your call.

This story always takes me back to times when I dug in my heels, acted stubbornly, and was not about to yield. What inevitably happens in my case was a crash that hurt more than myself. Our society is digging in its heels into one position or another, and we are heading for a crash. This is not the way of Christ. In the Sermon on the Mount, we are given many examples of how not to crash, but to navigate life in a loving, kinder, righteous, and fairer way.

"You are the light of the world," "If you are angry with a brother or sister you will be liable to judgement," "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I say to you, do not resist an evildoer," "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged," and "do to others as you would have them do to you." These are just a few excerpts from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in *Matthew 5-7*.

His sermon finally ended with the call to not just be Hearers of the WORD but to be DOERS. If you are stuck in a position, take a good look to see if you are movable or unmovable. Most who listen, who are the body of Christ will work for a kind, just, and humble solution to issues.

May God bless your new year as you navigate your world through Jesus' example.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



Anne and I would like to wish all a Blessed Christmas season, and a happy NEW YEAR. Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, support and gifts of this past year.

[Pastor Fred will be out of town on January 14-21 visiting his grandson Felix. For any pastoral emergencies please call Vicar Lance Scarafia at 716-970-0170.]

New Bible Study!

"4 Parables of Jesus"

This four-week Bible Study will be held at Augustana Lutheran Church on **Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM from January 31 - February 21**. Augustana is located at 3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda.

You are invited to take a closer look at four of Jesus' parables, and think through their meaning for you and those who heard them for the first time. Pastor Fred will lead this study.

Christmas Program



On Sunday, December 8, members of the church came together to present our annual Christmas Program. This year our theme was "Do You Believe?" Special thanks to members of the voice choir, bell choir, special instrumentalists and soloists. Thank you to Evelyn and Charlie for their portrayal of Virginia and the New York Sun editor and to Charlie and Barb for being our narrators. And, of course, thank you to Kelly and Al and their grandson, Zachary, for portraying the Holy Family, and to the Sunday School kids for being our angels, shepherd and lamb. I am always so proud of the talent and dedication of our church family!

I also want to sincerely thank Debbie and Don for working with me to come up with the theme for the program, directing the musical numbers and working with the cast to make sure everyone came out on cue. Thank you to Jeff and his able assistant Rob for their help with the audio and visual portion of the program. Again, I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful group of people.

Thank you all for the wonderful card and gift, too! Hope everyone has a blessed New Year!

Earlene

That sound... Jeff and Matt added a new musical twist to the Christmas Program. With Don at the piano, they played handbells for "Go Tell it on the Mountain" using the "Malleting Technique." It consisted of handbells being "tapped" with special mallets (much like a xylophone), adding interesting and beautiful accompaniment! We hope to hear more in the future!

Annual Congregational Meeting

NEW Date! The Church Council decided to move this year's meeting to **Sunday, March 1**. A traditional Potluck Lunch precedes the meeting. Please mark your calendars with this change. All Annual Report articles should be given to Nancy by **February 16!**

On Sunday, December 15, the 2020 Budget was passed and three new members were elected to serve on the Church Council. Thank you to Dick, Judy, and Lanny for agreeing to serve!

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.



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ²"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." *Matthew 2:1-2*

Monday Afternoons, Adult Ed., 1:00 PM Led by Charlie Schmidtke

Beginning January 20, we'll continue our discussions of those gospels that were not included in the Bible, but were familiar to Jesus' followers in the first and second centuries.

Our schedule for the new year is as follows.

- January 20: What is the Apocrypha
- January 27: Books of Esdras
- February 3: Tobit and Baruch
- March 16: Judith and Esther
- March 23: Wisdom Books
- April 6: Susanna and Manasseh
- April 20: Children's Texts
- May 4: Both Maccabees



**You're invited to join us in the Fireside Lounge—
come to any or all!**

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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Wed., Back and Hip Yoga, 12:00 Noon 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 1st 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).

Wishing everyone a Blessed New Year!

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December Mission

Thank you for your donations to support Upstate New York Synod Benevolence and the ELCA at large. Our synod is one of 65 that make up the ELCA. Financial support benefits many missions including seminaries as well as campus, outdoor and youth ministries. For more information, please visit the website at www.upstatenysynod.org.

Mission for January

Our focus in January will be the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda. The pantry needs monetary support as well as the generous donations of non-perishable food items in order to assist all who are served each month. Marked envelopes will be in the pews for your donations—and the empty shopping cart is always available for food donations.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2: Please use the soup pot and shopping cart located in the narthex for your donations.

Thank you for your support of the Food Pantry!

Sunday School Project for 2020!

Beginning in January there will be a collection box in the narthex for Operation Christmas Child. Each month there will be specific items that we will be collecting. Please help us in any way you can by contributing to this very worthy cause. In November the Sunday School class will assemble the boxes with all items that were collected.

Just a reminder—the items need to be small enough to fit into a shoe box. Many of the items can be purchased at the dollar stores. Thank you so much!!

Sunday School Project: Operation Christmas Child

- January: toothbrushes, dental floss, washcloths
- February: hats, mittens, scarves, socks
- March: combs, brushes, hair items
- April: 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
- August: markers, coloring pads, notebooks
- September: coloring books, crayons, watercolor paint sets
- October: games, puzzles

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program December 4

We welcomed five guests to the Christmas and winter-themed program on a wintry day!

Following the delicious morning snack, we gathered for word games. This month's Guest of Honor was Jackie, and Diane also shared a new seasonal Haiku poem. Leanne arrived and led everyone in gentle chair yoga, ending with short quiet time. During craft time, guests painted beautiful wooden Christmas ornaments (angels, gift boxes, wreaths, Christmas trees) using colorful paint sticks. A big thank you to the anonymous donor of the ornaments!

The Kitchen Staff treated everyone to a special lunch of chicken in a delicious cranberry/barbecue sauce along with homemade dressing and green bean casserole on the side—and festive cupcakes for dessert. A big thank you to Joan, Sally, Velma and Nora for preparing and serving the holiday feast!

Following lunch, Charlie led the group in a variety of Christmas Bingo games—and many winners! With the onset of winter weather and snow—guests participated in lively rounds of Sno-Ball Toss before music time.

We thank Joan for graciously offering to play piano! Everyone enjoyed singing favorite Christmas carols and familiar holiday tunes—a fun way to get into the holiday spirit.



Each guest was given a beautiful Christmas cactus plant to take home. A big thank you to the anonymous donor of the plants!

We will not have a program on January 1 so that guests and volunteers can enjoy the holiday. We'll return on Wednesday, February 5.

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss

Thank You Letter from Hearts & Hands

Pastor Fred recently received a thank you letter from **Hearts & Hands** in response to TOL's Mission support in October 2019.

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.

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

TOL's Winter Weather Policy

Emergency/Snow Closing 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).

TLC at TOL

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 for the program, please contact Jan or Paulette at 836-4868.

**No Respite Program on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.
It will resume on February 5.**

Bowl of TLC, from TOL!

Soup is easy to make—and share!

Visiting a member at home? Do you know someone who could use cheering up? Why not take them a quart or two of delicious homemade soup?

TOL's soup ministry offers a variety of soups that are in the freezer adjacent to the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

If you would like to take a quart (or two) of frozen soup, please follow the instructions on the freezer door.



Recycle!

Please continue to place your cans and bottles in the marked container 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!



Recycle the can tabs too! Place them in the marked container in the narthex.



Pastor Fred recently received a thank you letter from **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** in response to TOL's September Stewardship mission.

"The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow." Psalm 146:9

Dear Pastor Kopp and Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$120.00 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

By helping LIRS welcome the stranger, you are sending a powerful message of hope conquering fear. The critical support and sustaining relationships your congregation's gift provides truly make a life-changing difference. I am eternally grateful for your congregation's compassion and I know the families you help extend their gratitude too. Thank you so much for your gift!

Together in faith,
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President and CEO

Thank You Received

TOL recently received a thank you letter from **Veterans One-stop Center of WNY** in response to donations received (including those from the TOL Veterans Day Service on November 11, 2019).

Dear Members of the Trinity Old Lutheran Church
Congregation:

On behalf of the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, I'd like to thank you for your support of our efforts to positively impact the lives of our veterans and their families. Your commitment and generosity allows us to continue our work of empowering veterans and their families to achieve economic success, housing stability, emotional health and general well-being in their transition from military to civilian life.

Your generous donation of \$361.00 from members' contributions helps us provide the highest quality of services and support to the men and women who have served our country. Your gift has a direct and powerful impact; whether it is providing a veteran the opportunity to resume their education, giving a military child a backpack of much needed school supplies, or allowing veterans the opportunity to attend events to connect with other veterans and find their new community after returning home.

Yours in service,
Chuck Marra, President & CEO

To Be This Hungry

By Jane Sadowsky

I was young, in school,
Lucky enough not to know the meaning of hunger.
It seemed they were everywhere then,
old men in tattered coats, hands unfurled.
But it's you, I remember,
in a small store, asking, please, for food.

The young clerk dished up a cup of soup, pressed it, wordless,
into your waiting hand.
One sip, and you roared.
Roared!
"It's too hot – too hot!
Do you know what it's like?
To be this hungry, have food in your hand
and not be able to eat?"

Shaking with hunger or rage, almost weeping your despair,
you were a wildness I'd never seen,
towering over the clerk who cringed away from her good deed.
Two men grabbed your arms,
hustled you ungently out of the store, back onto the street.
Out of our lives.

Too hot to be able to eat.
Your image burned into my brain.
Later, my friends declared
we had stumbled into a bad part of town,
dismissed you.
But, I see you still.
To be this hungry, have food in your hand, and not be able to
eat.

Jane Sadowsky, one of Buffalo's finest poets, is a former student and now a good friend of mine. She has given permission to this poem's appearance in *Trinity Tidings*.

Loren Keller

[From: Trinity Tidings, 2015]