

# 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 58

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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

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the  
words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest." Psalm 22:1-2

A familiar psalm from our Lord's mouth in the Garden before his arrest, torture, and death. A psalm that comes to my mind as I see suffering. This past week we had the capsizing of a duck boat in Branson, Missouri. In the past months children being separated from parents at our border. During my lifetime terrible gun violence from a Las Vegas hotel, to a school in Parkland, Florida, and a church in Charleston, South Carolina. Terrible earthquakes, windstorms, and floods. My God, my God!

I feel these words spoken by our Lord in my being when thinking about getting up the courage to fight fear. The fear that is pervasive in the world that leads us to close our doors, our wallets, our eyes, ears, and mouths to suffering. I am tired of the fear of the "other." I am tired of justifying unkindness and human degradation as protecting ourselves and what is ours. However, belief in this God that we feel forsaken from, our great and glorious God, leads me to realizing that our God is the creator and "owner" of all that exists. In a sense what is ours isn't ours, it's God's!

How would God want for us to use what we think is ours?  
To open doors, open hearts, open wallets, open minds, and



open our future to a new a different reality that does not lead with My God, my God! Instead it leads with... "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ... "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37) Love the Lord, love the neighbor as we love ourselves. The church needs to be a voice of love, courage, hope,

kindness, and peace in a world of division, fear, selfishness and doubt.

I am still trying to find the courage, My God, my God! Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Fred

The heat of the summer does not deter us from joyfully worshipping our Lord each Sunday. During the month of August, we are meeting in our Fellowship Hall, which is much cooler than the sanctuary!



Come and join us!

## Matt and Josh: ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston



We went to Houston three weeks ago for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. It was so much fun, and we had a great time. We are still great friends with the people that we went with who are from other churches in our area.

On the first day, we went to the interactive center. Here, we played dodgeball, basketball, and met new people by playing games with them. On the second day, we had Synod day, which meant we gathered with people from the Upstate NY Synod. We had a church service with them, sang songs and played games. The third day was our service day. We had to wake up early and were then bused to Acres Homes, which were damaged by last year's hurricane. Once there we cleaned up a local park and then we went around in trucks and cleared garbage and debris from the side of the road. On the final day, Sunday, we had a big church service—including having communion—in the stadium with all 30,000+ people in attendance.

Every night we would have a mass gathering with everyone in the NRG stadium. During this time, there would be bands and speakers who talked to us about life messages and stories they had about God. We can't wait to go to Minneapolis in 2021!

*We would like to thank the church for their generous support in sending us to Houston!*

*Matt and Josh*



**Car Wash at TOL**  
**Saturday, August 11**  
**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

There will also be hot dogs for sale and the event proceeds will benefit Holy Rest Cemetery (from Josh's Eagle Scout Project). Volunteers are needed—please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Come in for a wash—and enjoy a hot dog (or two) while you wait! Thank you for your support!



It's not too early to be thinking about preparing for the **Basket Raffle** during our annual **Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner**, which is set for **Sunday, September 9.**

Make your own basket or give us items to make one for you! Suggested items are: soup pot and ingredients, gardening items, auto cleaning supplies, baking supplies for cookies/cakes, Thanksgiving or Halloween themes, and coffee break or tea time items. Donations of gift cards are always welcome!

Please see Debbie or Kelly if you have any questions.

## Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

Almighty God, you prosper the work of our hands. We pray for the outreach ministries of these congregations and we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to direct them into a blessed future. Give us the power through your Son to proclaim the Good News boldly, and joyfully fellowship with and serve others. Amen.



### Walk to End Alzheimer's Saturday, September 15

Registration: 8:30 AM  
Opening Ceremony: 10:15 AM

This year, the Buffalo Walk moves to the Buffalo Outer Harbor. Over the years, TOL has participated by walking (Team TOL) and by raising funds to support the Alzheimer's Association. New walkers are always welcome to join us!

Watch for fundraising and registration details in the September issue of *Trinity Tidings* and the Sunday bulletins.

### Chiavetta's BBQ Chicken Dinners and Basket Raffle Sunday, September 9 at TOL!

We'll need volunteers and desserts for the annual dinner—please watch the Sunday Bulletins for more information!

### Celebrate Augustana Lutheran's 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Members of TOL are invited to join the celebration luncheon on **Sunday, September 23** at 11:00 AM. The catered lunch is \$15.00 and children are free.

Reservations should be made by Sunday, September 9. For more information, please contact Kathy Maishak (695-9505) or email her at [katmaishak@gmail.com](mailto:katmaishak@gmail.com).

Augustana is located at 3143 Eggert Road (near Colvin Blvd.) in Tonawanda.



### Hearts and Hands = Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Currently, there is an increased need for volunteers! To find out how easy it is to become a volunteer and to learn about the services provided for care receivers, please call 406-8311, Ext. 101 or visit the website at [www.hnhcares.org](http://www.hnhcares.org)!

**TOL is a part of the  
"Hearts and Hands" community of volunteers!**

## Trinity Tidings

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### August Stewardship

The focus for the month will be Holy Rest Cemetery, which TOL partially owns. Monetary donations are needed for maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. Please use the marked envelopes located in the pews for your donations.

The cemetery is also in need of more clean-up. The volunteers who helped with Josh's Eagle Scout Project in May were able to make an impact with their efforts, but more work remains to be done. We are planning to organize another clean-up session in the Fall. Watch for more details in the September *Trinity Tidings* and the Sunday bulletins. For anyone wishing to work on their own, please feel free to stop by the cemetery on Pine Ridge Road in Cheektowaga!

Your monetary support and your willingness to help with clean-up is most appreciated!

### July Stewardship

Thank you for your donations to Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, which will be designated for use where needed most. LCLC is open year-round for outdoor ministry and programmed retreats—not just for summer camp! Programs are offered for children, adults and families.

**Reminder:** TOL's Adult Retreat will take place at LCLC on September 28-30—there's still time for you to sign up!

### New! TOL Coffee Bar

This September, TOL's narthex will see the addition of a coffee bar. It will be a place to gather for Keurig® coffee, tea and a doughnut (or two) before worship.

The Evangelism Committee is spearheading this new pre-worship fellowship time, but anyone willing to bring a baked good or box of Timbits® is more than welcome to do so.

Once we get it started, be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet!

*The Evangelism Committee*



"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

*Rabindranath Tagore*

## Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

It's one of the best-known passages in the Bible, of course. Most of us have known it all our lives, but we don't take it out and think about it really carefully very often. When I was a kid, on Garfield Street in Lancaster, neighbor meant the people who lived next door, or across the street, or down the block. A neighborhood was a definite area, and neighbors were the kids we played with, who lived in the houses we trick-or-treated on Hallowe'en. I don't remember asking myself whether I loved them. I'm pretty sure I loved my own family a lot more, anyway. I don't remember thinking about loving myself. That would have seemed to be a strange thing to think about.

Well, here I am, almost 82 years old, taking a good look at myself and at other folks and trying to come to terms with what this great old Biblical statement really means. Let's start with the idea of loving yourself. I guess this is the way I see it. If you're doing the things you believe are right to do; if you're not going around feeling better than everybody else; if you're accomplishing some good things when you have the chance; you have a right to "love" yourself, funny as it may sound.

The problems many people have with this wonderful old saying have to do with a much more extended meaning of "neighbor" than the one I had as a kid. If you think of all God's children as your neighbors—and I think that's what the Bible wants us to do—the comfortable feeling of a neighborhood kinda disappears. People look different, speak different languages—notice how words like "different" complicate the situation.

I've been watching the Olympic games on TV this summer, and I find it heartwarming to see people from one country hugging those from another, often even after losing to them in a race or game; to see athletes of different colors and nationalities admiring the abilities and strengths of people they're in competition with. Oh, sure, national pride is actively present, too, but it's wonderful to see admiration, good nature, compliments being passed among so many of the athletes. People from countries that have fought bitter wars in past years are out there speaking favorably about each other's talents, strengths, abilities.



Love your neighbor as yourself. It's not always easy, but often you can find clear reasons for feeling close to someone rather than emphasizing things from the distant past or ideas someone else gave you about a person or a whole country. Wouldn't it be great if we could concentrate on seeing the strong and beautiful things about our worldwide neighbors!

*Loren Keller*

*From: Trinity Tidings, September 2012*

## 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.

## TOL's Caregivers Group

The group will meet on **Monday, August 6 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. Caregivers need to know that they are not alone.

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



**Experiencing Europe with Diane and Charlie (always an adventure!)**

**6:00 PM ~ Potluck Dinner  
7:00 PM ~ Program**

## October 26: Saints and Sinners

Walk with us through Luther's Germany and see the good, the bad and the amazing from Warburg, Torgau, and Wittenberg, to Buchenwald, Prague and Berlin. We're excited to share such a thrilling adventure!

## January 18: Europe in All Its Glory

Join us for a walk through small towns and big cities in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic—the glamour, the grit, and the glory. See and hear our stories about people, food, places, and the unexpected.

## 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 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Yoga Classes will resume in September.
Love Life Self Help Group	Meets on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)
Women's Dance Group	Dance Classes will resume in September.



**TOL's Adult Retreat  
September 28-30  
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center**

**This year's theme is: Who Am I?**

Here are reasons why you should attend!

- Do you ever ask "Why me?"
- Do you ever feel confused about who you are?
- Do you ever ask why you did what you did?
- Would you like to spend time with people who will listen?
- Would you like to have some time to yourself?
- Would you like to feel uplifted and loved?

Come and spend time with wonderful people! You'll finish the retreat by saying: "I am me!"

Full retreat details were included in the June issue of *Trinity Tidings* and they are also posted on the bulletin board, along with a sign-up sheet.

Please think about attending—talk to those who have gone in the past—bring a friend! (A poster with past attendees photos and comments can also be found at the bulletin board.)

If you have any questions, please let me know.

*Charlie Schmidtke*

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**Adult Ed. With Charlie Schmidtke**

**Monday Afternoons at 1:00 PM  
Fireside Lounge**

During the **Fall 2018**, the group will focus on Oprah Winfrey's *Belief* series that was started last year.

- September 17 and 24
- October 15 and 22
- November 19 and 26
- December 3
- 

Topics for the **Winter and Spring** (2018-2019) will focus on lost gospels such as Judas, Mary, Hebrews, etc.

- January 7 and 21
- February 4 and 25
- March 4 and 18
- April 1 and 15
- May 6

Everyone is welcome!