



Pastor's Ponderings

Ten Ways to LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:9)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Prove without punishing. (Colossians 2:15)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:17)

I have this on my bulletin board in my TOL office to remind me to LOVE, that LOVE takes effort, and LOVE can be shown in many different ways. This list doesn't include forgiving, sacrificing, selflessness and other values. However, it is a reminder to me that loving the way God LOVES, an "AGAPE" LOVE, is a selfless, full-time pursuit that encompasses our whole lives as we interact with God's earth, creatures, and fellow humans.

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, I am drawn to thank God for God's selfless and steadfast LOVE for us, exhibited in the LOVE Jesus showed from the Cross and through his ministry. I am thankful for all who have taught and shown me this kind of LOVE. I am encouraged that we, as we continue to share God's AGAPE LOVE, can change the world.

In Christ's LOVE I remain,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

From: Trinity Tidings, November 2020



Pastor's October/November Bible Study

Pastor Fred began a four-week Bible Study on the Book of Ruth at Augustana LC on October 24. The remaining two classes will be held on **Fridays, November 7 and 14** (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). Hope to see you there!

Sermon Discussion/Input with Pastor Fred Wednesday, November 19 at Noon in the Fireside Room

Pastor Fred invites you to join him in a bag-lunch discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. Please let him know if you plan to attend so he can prepare materials.



Good Shepherd LC Food Pantry to Provide Thanksgiving Meals

You are invited to help the Pantry collect items from the list below that are needed to assemble dinners that will be distributed to the families it serves.

Canned Items: Sweet Corn, Green Beans Cranberry Sauce	Boxed: Stuffing Mix, Instant Potatoes Turkey Gravy (jarred or dry mix)
Boxed: Brownies, cookies, cake mixes and frostings	Disposable foil roasting pans (tip: bring your items in a foil pan.) Also paper shopping bags with handles are also needed.

Please leave your donations in the elevator entrance (Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon), or in the narthex (look for the sign). We will be collecting your items until the **deadline on Sunday, November 16**. Thank you for helping others to enjoy a holiday meal with their families!

Kelly's Thoughts on Retreat 2025

Beautiful weather,
peaceful surroundings,
exceptional company and a
topic we can all relate to.



The theme this year was "Do you hear what I hear?" Listening and communicating with others is something we can all tweak and be better at. We had discussions, memory activities, group sessions, fun and games, and crafts! With the Holy Spirit by our side, we shared our thoughts and feelings; we laughed and sometimes we cried. The weekend left me with a better sense of who I am and who I want to be.

Each year I think "this was the best year ever!" But now I'm believing that it's every year—and there have been 11 retreats! That's how amazing these weekends are, thanks to Charlie Schmidtke, who continues to teach and inspire us each and every year.

Looking forward to Retreat 2026 – October 2, 3, 4
Mark your calendars and join us!



Annual Congregational Budget Meeting! Sunday, December 14, following worship

Please plan on attending either in person or on Zoom.

Trinity Tidings, November 2025

We invite you to join us for worship with
Holy Communion, Sundays at 11:00 AM.
(in-church or on Zoom)



ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2017/2018*

- † *All Saints Day* Today, we remember our sisters and brothers in Christ who have gone before us – loved ones, friends, saints and martyrs – and offer thanks and respect for how they have influenced and enriched our lives and faith.
- † Pray for those who are in mourning and despair over the loss of a loved one, family member, friend or neighbor, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us surround them with support, understanding and the hope we have through Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life.
- † Remember in prayer immigrants and refugees fleeing violence and dire circumstances to seek safety, peace and new opportunities; pray for those who, in spite of the personal risks and daunting challenges they face, return home with hope and determination to rebuild their lives and communities.
- † Pray we are grateful, responsible and generous stewards with everything God has entrusted to our care for the well-being of our neighbor and the sake of the world.
- † Pray for doctors, nurses, staff, health educators, missionaries and chaplains serving in faith-based hospitals, clinics, and places of care and healing throughout the world.
- † Give thanks that our church believes that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be - blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination - and pray for courage and self-reflection to face and change the uncomfortable things within ourselves, culture and society that selectively cause suffering and harm of others.
- † We pray we treat one another, especially people living in the margins of society or in contexts removed from our daily experience of life, with the same love, concern and mercy God has shown us.
- † *Thanksgiving Day* God is good, loving and generous, providing abundantly for humankind and all living things. Give thanks for the blessings that sustain us, and pray we are generous in sharing our resources, shelter, food, care and hospitality with our neighbor.
- † Lift up in prayer people who serve a role in planting, tending, growing, harvesting, transporting and preparing the food that sustains us and gives us joy, and pray for renewed commitment to doing everything possible to eliminate hunger in the world.

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd 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 Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd. Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love.

Trinity Tidings

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Veterans Day, November 11



Mission for November: Veterans One-stop Center (VOSC)

The organization serves 12 counties including those outside of WNY. It is located at 1255 Niagara Street in Buffalo (the VOSC Fitness & Health Center is located behind that location). Any Veteran is eligible for the following services.

Suicide Prevention	Case Management
Veteran Peer Support	Legal Services
Emergency Housing Assistance	Financial/Benefits Counseling
Health & Fitness Center	

VOSC Values:

- Veterans First
- Collaborative and coordinated delivery of services
- Barrier-free access to services
- Continuous improvement
- Results-oriented

[from: www.vocwny.org. © 2024 VOSC]

Please place your donations in the marked envelopes in the narthex; mail donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Veterans One-stop Center).



Support for Local Food Pantries

Your donations in support of the Community of Good Neighbors Mobile Food Pantry in Buffalo and Good Shepherd Lutheran's pantry in Tonawanda are greatly appreciated. Please place your donations in the narthex shopping cart or leave them in the elevator entrance during the week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon). Thank you!



ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2017*

We remember in our prayers people who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless, praying they find safe shelter and that our congregations are caring communities assisting people with housing, food, employment and services necessary for daily life while respecting their dignity and desire to be self-sufficient.

My Musings
by Diane Schmidtke

Stay Gold...

The last line of a famous Robert Burns poem says
"Nothing gold can stay."

Gold is a metaphor for perfection, purity, innocence, life...



Since I'm writing this on the first day of autumn, it rings true. I watch the leaves on the trees and bushes in my neighborhood slowly lose their green and morph into red and orange, bronze and yellow as they fall. All of them are lovely, but nothing is permanent; nothing/no one stays forever...

We just saw "The Outsiders" at Shea's. I had read the book in college for a children's literature course. I can't say I looked forward to seeing teenage angst displayed through song and dance, but we have season tickets so off we went. I groaned inwardly as droves of teens entered the theatre, slurping on their drinks and chomping on their popcorn, giggling and goofy. Don't get me wrong: I love kids of all ages, but I pictured a loud, disruptive audience with rock concert behavior.

Well, I'm happy to say I was wrong on all counts! The musical was performed to perfection with great acting, singing and amazing choreography, lighting and timing. There was not a sound while the "teens" on stage played out their struggles. There was joyous response when each song ended.

At one point near the end as Ponyboy and Johnny (lead characters) were in hiding, Johnny recited the Robert Burns poem in its entirety. Later, in a pivotal scene, he encouraged his best friend to "stay gold" despite their difficult lives.

I need this reminder. It circles around to carpe diem, seizing the day, savoring the good moments as they come and then fade in the ever-flowing cycle of life. It again teaches me to withhold judgment, to be open to the gift of each day, to remember that the unpleasant, troubling, upsetting things roll on.

In country singer Gary Allan's words, "Every storm runs out of rain."

A reminder to:
"Stay Gold"...

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Upcoming Youth Activities hosted by
Lutheran Charities of WNY

Lutheran Charities will host two events for youths at Holy Trinity LC in Buffalo. Fliers are posted on the bulletin board with more details. For those interested in attending, you are asked to RSVP by using the appropriate QR code shown on the fliers.

- **Saturday, November 8, Grades K-5:** "Fall Fest" with games, crafts, and food!
- **Friday, December 19, Grades 6-12:** "Ugly Sweater Party" — bring your ugly sweater and celebrate the beginning of winter with friends and festivities!

ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2017*

Give thanks and praise to God for always being our strength and refuge, our hope and joy.



Upcoming Combined Worship Services

- **Sunday, November 9:** Worship and Veterans Remembrance Service at TOL, 11:00 AM. A coffee hour will follow the service.
- **Sunday, December 7:** Christmas Program and Worship at Good Shepherd LC, 10:00 AM.

Coming Soon to TOL!

On **Thursday, December 11 at 7:30 PM**, Barb's chorus—the Niagara Frontier Chord Authority (NFCA)—will present "Singing in the Season." It will be an evening of a *cappella* harmony along with gift baskets raffle, mystery gift card tree, 50/50 raffle. The concert will feature the NFCA chorus and quartets. Free refreshments will be served while we mingle and the raffle winners are drawn. Admission: \$10; children 10 and under are free.



The singers of NFCA are proud members of Harmony, Inc., an international organization of choruses and quartets united by the shared love of a *cappella* 4-part harmony. Please visit the website at www.nfcaharmony.org.

See Barb for tickets ahead of time.
They will be sold at the door as well.

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke... You're invited to join the class on Monday afternoons in the Fireside Room (or on Zoom) from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Please contact Charlie for a Zoom link.



November 10	Armenia - Nathaniel/Bartholomew and Jude/Thaddeus
November 24	Egypt - Coptic Tradition (Philip)
December 8	Infancy Gospels (Thomas and Syriac)

Playhouse Theatergoers: Here is a photo from our recent outing (Sunday, September 28) to see "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum" performed at the Ellicott Creek Playhouse. It was followed by most of us going to dinner at Raintree Bar & Grill. We also had two members of Good Shepherd join us—and a great time was had by all! We're planning to attend another performance in May—watch for details!



Hope & Healing: Christian Cancer Support

For anyone on a cancer journey, Linda Sokoly (Ministry Leader) from Augustana LC is available to give support through emails, phone calls, texts or one-to-one in person conversations or prayer. Linda can be reached through the Augustana church email at augustchurch@yahoo.com or by calling the Augustana church office at 716-832-5720.



Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: "Armenian Church"

Part III: Armenian Church

Like the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church, the Armenians believe that all of their priests remain in what is called the Apostolic Succession, since Nathaniel and Jude were apostles and all of the priests in Armenia have been ordained in a continuous succession from them. They had representatives at the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed and established the Canon of books for the bible. Political differences finally led to Armenia splitting from the Roman Church. In addition to the political split, there is one major theological split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Armenian Church. For Catholics and Lutherans Jesus is both Man and God, equally. For the Armenians there is only One Incarnate nature of Jesus. His one nature includes both a divine and a human self. This split is far more consequential for the Armenians than it may appear on the surface to us. It is unclear what influence Nathaniel, or Jude, had on the Armenian belief in Jesus' nature.

Over 93% of Christians in Armenia belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church, which is in communion only with the churches comprising Oriental Orthodoxy—of which it is itself a member. Ninety-eight percent of the population of Armenia itself is Christian and over 98% of the population is Armenian. It is a very homogenous country. The Oriental Orthodox Churches are Eastern Christian churches adhering to Miaphysite Christology (will talk about this later), with approximately 60 million members worldwide.

As some of the oldest religious institutions in the world, the Oriental Orthodox Churches have played a prominent role in the history and culture of Armenia, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Western Asia and India. Their bishops are considered equal to the Roman Catholic clergy by virtue of episcopal ordination. Their doctrines recognize the validity of only the first three ecumenical councils (Nicaea, 325; Constantinople, 381; and Ephesus, 431). They rejected the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and all subsequent councils.

The Oriental Orthodox Churches are composed of six churches: the Coptic Church of Alexandria, the Syriac Church of Antioch, the Armenian Church, the Malankara Syrian Church, the Ethiopian Church, and the Eritrean Church. They consider themselves to be the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church founded by Jesus in his Great Commission, and that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles.

Oriental Orthodox Churches shared communion with the Roman Church before the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, and with the Church of the East until the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, separating primarily over differences in Christology. The majority of Oriental Orthodox Christians live in Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Syria, Turkey and Armenia, with smaller Syriac communities in Western Asia.

Oriental Orthodoxy shares much theology and many ecclesiastical traditions with the Eastern Orthodox Churches. These include a similar doctrine of salvation and a tradition of collegiality between bishops, as well as reverence of the *Theotokos* and use of the Nicene Creed. *Theotokos* refers to the decree of the Council of Ephesus that Mary is Mother of God because her son was both God and Man. The primary theological difference between the two communions is the differing Christology.

Miaphysitism is the Christological doctrine that holds Jesus, the "Incarnate Word, is fully divine and fully human, in one 'nature' (*physis*). It is a position held by the Oriental

Orthodox Churches and differs from the Chalcedonian position that Jesus is one "person" in two "natures," a divine nature and a human nature (Dyophysitism). Miaphysitism teaches that the incarnate Christ has one "nature," but one that is still of both a divine character and a human character and retains all the characteristics of both, with no mingling, confusion (pouring together) or change of either nature.

The break in communion between the Imperial Roman and Oriental Orthodox churches did not occur suddenly, but rather gradually over 2-3 centuries following the Council of Chalcedon. Eventually the two communions developed separate institutions, and the Oriental Orthodox did not participate in any of the later ecumenical councils.

Some Oriental Orthodox Churches such as the Coptic Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox, Eritrean Orthodox, place a heavier emphasis on Old Testament teachings than one might find in other Christian denominations, and its followers adhere to certain practices: following dietary rules that are similar to Jewish Kashrut (clearly prescribed ways of preparing foods and of restricting types of foods—pork, e.g.); require that their male members undergo circumcision; and observe ritual purification.

The First Council of Nicaea, in 325, declared that Jesus Christ is God; that is to say, "consubstantial" with the Father. Later, the third ecumenical council, the Council of Ephesus, declared that Jesus Christ, though divine as well as human, is only one being, or person (hypostasis). Thus, the Council of Ephesus explicitly rejected Nestorianism, the Christological doctrine that Christ has two distinct persons, one divine (the Logos) and one human (Jesus), who happened to inhabit the same body. The churches that later became Oriental Orthodoxy were firmly anti-Nestorian, and therefore strongly supported the decisions made at Ephesus.

Twenty years after Ephesus, the Council of Chalcedon reaffirmed the view that Jesus Christ was a single person, but at the same time declared that this one person existed "in two complete natures," one human and one divine. At times, Chalcedonian Christians have referred to the Oriental Orthodox as being monophysites—that is to say, accusing them of following the teachings of Eutyches (c. 380 - c. 456), who argued that Jesus Christ was not human at all, but only divine. Monophysitism was condemned as heretical alongside Nestorianism, and to accuse a church of being monophysite is to accuse it of falling into the opposite extreme from Nestorianism. However, the Oriental Orthodox themselves reject this description as inaccurate, having officially condemned the teachings of both Nestorius and Eutyches. They define themselves as Miaphysite instead, holding that Christ has one nature, but this nature is both human and divine.

Oriental Orthodoxy does not have a magisterial leader (pope) like the Roman Catholic Church, nor does the communion have a leader who can convene ecumenical synods like the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Here's a brief summary of the controversies over Jesus' nature:

- Nestorius: Two persons, one divine (logos), one human in same body.
- Chalcedon/Roman Catholic: One person with two natures.
- Oriental—Miaphysite: One nature, divine and human characters.
- Eutyches—Monophysite: One divine person.

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Blessings

September's Harvest House Baby Shower...Thank you to everyone who brought in diapers (765), baby wipes and other items!

Friends of Night People (FoNP)...The socks, underwear and hygiene supplies collected were delivered. They were so grateful for these much-needed items. To help keep their clients warm during the upcoming cold weather, they are asking for donations of clean used or new blankets, sleeping bags, hoodies, jackets, hats and gloves. Please place them in the donations area. Thank you!

Thank You to Frank for recently "refreshing" the safety lines on the sidewalks with new yellow paint!! The visibility is much improved!

On-going Collections!

Look for the marked containers in the donations area in the main hallway.
Thank you!

Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo

Recycle Cans and Bottles...Your donations can be placed in the marked container or you may also redeem them at Bottle and Can Redemption Center (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). TOL has an account there.

Friends of Night People

- Collection of new men's socks, and small-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste) or create care packages.
- Men's seasonal clothing collection.

Miles of Pennies

Dash's Register Tapes for Niagara Health System

Ways to Give to TOL

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

