



Pastor's Ponderings

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

"The Spirit sends us forth to serve, we go in Jesus name..." begins a familiar hymn. We sing about it yet Lutherans do not acknowledge the Holy Spirit as much as we need to be reminded that it is the Holy Spirit that empowers us from Baptism to our death. It is the Holy Spirit that challenges us and motivates us to act on Jesus' Word.

It seems that the fruit of the Spirit has taken a back seat in our country to what Paul wrote before the above list. Opposite or opposed to the fruit is "fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these" (vs. 20-21). I would add lying, racism, hate, evil intentions, and the list could go on.

We are called to be in the world and not of it. This is especially important NOW so we can reflect the fruits of the Spirit and by doing so be witnesses that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life," and "faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love."

We need reminding that we have the power of the Holy Spirit and are called to bear fruit and proclaim Jesus in word and deed.

God bless your sharing the fruit this summer.

Peace,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

G.R.A.C.E.

In June, Lanny represented TOL at the Upstate New York Synod Assembly in Rochester, NY. According to Lanny, it was a "Godsend"—the most upbeat Synod assembly he's attended. After two years of Covid restrictions, this year there were about 300 attendees.

The theme was cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. mindset (**G**enerous love, **R**estorative justice, **A**daptive learning, **C**ollaboration, **E**xperimentation). One of the highlights Lanny enjoyed was a song and dance to help raise money for World Hunger relief. In addition, for each "decorated and bedazzled" face mask created, Bishop Lee Miller donated an extra \$5 to this cause.

Bishop Miller and his staff did a wonderful job and judging by this Assembly, our Synod can look forward to good things to come!



Join us on Sunday, July 10 for **Pastor Fred's 30th Ordination Celebration**. We will have a combined service at TOL with worshippers from Augustana Lutheran at 11:00 AM, followed by a summer picnic in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited! Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board so we will have a count.

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Fred leads the two remaining classes on Friday mornings at Augustana Lutheran Church (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). The study of Paul's letter to the Philippians began on June 17. It is held both in person and on Zoom. Please ask Pastor Fred for the Zoom link.



All are invited!

Holy Rest Cemetery—Work Day!

On Saturday, **July 30, from 9:00 AM to Noon**, you're invited to join us as we gather to "spruce up" the cemetery! Bring your own gardening tools, trimmers, battery-powered weed whackers—and please don't forget your hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Matt will provide bottled water.



We'll meet at the cemetery (located at the corner of Pine Ridge Road and East Delevan Avenue in Cheektowaga). For more information, please contact Matt.

Hope to see you there!
TOL Stewardship Team

Prayers from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Uvalde, Texas

Gracious God, the news of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas has ripped our hearts and torn our souls. We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. In the depths of pain and anger, we come before you, O God, our rock and our refuge. You are our only comfort. You are our only hope. Merciful God, you know the depth of our suffering. We have only begun to mourn those we have lost. Amen.

Prayer Ventures, July 2022

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Pray that our love for God will be mirrored daily by our acts of love and concern for our neighbor, especially those who are needy, suffering and passed over.

Pray that we might notice and take to heart small acts of hope and kindness, and that these might renew our faith amid world events that inspire anger and despair.

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**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.



Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action

Hearts and Hands (HNN) continues to serve people living in Erie and Eastern Niagara Counties. Services are available for those who are 60+ years of age or disabled; services include In-home support and Caregiver Respite.

Please visit the HNN website at www.hnncares.org/services or call 716-406-8311 for more information or how to become a volunteer.

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



ELCA Prayer Ventures, July 2022

Independence Day Give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States and for all those who work to sustain them in our behalf. Pray that we might value our freedom and use it to benefit and uplift all people, especially those excluded, forgotten and oppressed.

Remember in prayer our neighbors who struggle financially and live with the uncertainty of how they will support and care for themselves and their families. Pray that the Spirit will inspire us to respond with respect for their dignity and to affirm our interdependence as children of God.

Ask God to help us comprehend that we have the ability, wisdom and resources to address the root causes of poverty and hunger in the world — especially when we work together and exercise generosity.

Praise God for the beauty and complexity of the universe that stirs our awe, imagination and appreciation, and for a creative power that stretches beyond our understanding.

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Trinity Tidings

Published monthly by
Trinity Old Lutheran Church
3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226
Church Office: 716-836-4868 or 716-836-4990
Church email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Karen Mulartrick and Jan Sherman, Co-Editors



June Mission Thank You

Thank you for your donations in support of ELCA World Hunger. ELCA funding provides programs to assist the hungry, as well as needed guidance and resources directed at ending hunger.

"God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry."

*[From the ELCA website at www.elca.org.]
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July Mission: Holy Rest Cemetery

TOL is a part-owner of Holy Rest Cemetery, which is located on Pine Ridge Road in Cheektowaga. While the cemetery needs some TLC, funds are also needed to support it. Your donations will help where it's needed most—general upkeep. TOL members serving on the cemetery board are Matt, Jim and Lanny. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions.

Marked envelopes are available in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (please indicate on your check that it is designated for Holy Rest Cemetery). Donations can also be made online through Tithely.

Reminder: If you have a few hours on Saturday, July 30 (9:00 AM to Noon), please join us for a work day at Holy Rest. See the front page for more details.

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.



- 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
- Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans) (mail to church office)
- Paper products, feminine hygiene products

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).

Chiavetta's Wrap-up and Thank You!

On a very windy Friday, June 17, we hosted a drive-through-only Chiavetta's dinner. The turnout of customers was maybe not as "over the top" as last year, but we still had a good number of people come by to pick up their dinners. A kind of apropos thing happened during the course of the sale. Two women drove up and wanted to buy a dinner for a homeless woman they had seen nearby. We were touched by their generosity so in the spirit of why we were holding the dinner in the first place, we did not charge them for the meal. They were happy, we were happy, and hopefully the woman felt blessed, too.

I am always so proud of and grateful to the volunteers who come to help. A great big thank you to Barb and Dick, PJ, Velma, Frank and Karen, Elaine, Jeff, Cheryl, Nancy, Diane, and Sandra. Huge kudos to Scott for all his efforts in "running the show"—we would not be able to do what we do if it wasn't for you! You are all the best! Thank you, thank you!

Earlene

Adult Retreat, September 30, October 1 and 2

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtko

Theme: "Creation and Creativity"

This will be a time for us to gather again in fellowship, laughter and prayer. The retreat is open to all who are 18+ years of age.



Complete retreat 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 or Charlie.

Hope and Healing—A Christian Cancer Support Group Augustana Lutheran Church and on Zoom

Linda Sokoley leads this 4th Tuesday-of-the-Month support group for those who are in a cancer journey and in need of hope and healing. Family, friends and those who have beat cancer are invited to attend (3:00 PM to 4:00 PM). Please phone Linda at 716-694-2451 or email her at lsokoley@hotmail.com if you would like to attend.

Hope



Operation Christmas Child... It's summertime, summertime, sum-sum-summertime! So what does that have to do with this month's suggested donation!? Absolutely nothing!!! Just couldn't resist. Lol

The suggested donations for July are pens, pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils/cases. We are also going to add shoe boxes. We will need at least 30 boxes (hopefully more) when it comes time for our Sunday School class to assemble them. (Shoebboxes can be found at the dollar stores as well).

Thank you for your continued support of our monthly donation suggestions—every donation is greatly appreciated!

Kelly and Debbie



ELCA Prayer Ventures, July 2022

Remember in prayer our neighbors who struggle financially and live with the uncertainty of how they will support and care for themselves and their families. Pray that the Spirit will inspire us to respond with respect for their dignity and to affirm our interdependence as children of God.

Ask God to help us comprehend that we have the ability, wisdom and resources to address the root causes of poverty and hunger in the world — especially when we work together and exercise generosity.

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Heidi's Hats

As many of you know, our 21 year old daughter, Heidi, died of leukemia after 2½ year battle which included a stem cell transplant and a bone marrow transplant. Two of her sisters were donors. Her other sister was a nurse at Sloan Kettering and provided invaluable support and information. After Heidi's death, in our desire to honor her as well as a place to direct our grief and give back, we held "Heidi's Day" for several years. Located at the shelter in Ellicott Creek Park it included food, theme basket raffle, bike riding and lots of love and memories. The money raised went directly to Heidi's Leukemia Research Endowment at Roswell Park.



A friend designed a logo (theatre themed, of course!) and we offered "Heidi's Hats" for patients at Roswell along with advice that she had written on dealing with cancer. Over the years people have bought hats for their own use or to give to friends and family who have cancer battles. There will be a box of hats in the narthex along with Heidi's pamphlet for you to take if interested. All donations will go to her Roswell endowment to be used for leukemia research.

"HATS OFF" to conquering this horrific disease!

A side note: the whole time I wrote this while sitting on my front porch I was serenaded by a robin in the peach tree right in front of me. This has never happened to me before...I am filled with the beauty of love...

Diane S.



Happy Independence Day!

God Works in Mysterious Ways

Early this June on one of his Aldi shopping runs, Lanny chatted with a woman in the checkout line. He was there buying supplies for TOL's Sandwich Ministry that serves Friends of Night People in Buffalo. Lanny explained to her why his cart was filled with bread and cheese and meat. When the \$50+ bill was presented, the woman insisted that she wanted to support our outreach by paying.

I see two things at work here. Lanny, as a goodwill ambassador, was spreading the good news of love and care for others. The woman, upon hearing this good news, opened her heart and helped to further our mission. I'm sure neither one left Aldi that day without feeling blessed. And, who knows? Perhaps others witnessed this and were affected by the spirit of giving.

The story doesn't end quite yet. Enter social media! When I heard about Lanny's experience (from Nancy), I asked permission to post it on Facebook. I belong to a group that shares Aldi stories. It's a "good news" site touting positive experiences people have had while shopping at Aldi. I wrote a short account and put it on my newsfeed. Within minutes people from all over the world were responding. I received a total of 775 "likes" and "loves" along with many comments praising the encounter and the mission. Who knew?

Diane S.



Friends of Night People "Humanity Served Daily for 50 Years"

*[Excerpts from Quarterly Newsletter, Fall 2019;
www.friendsofnightpeople.com].
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Dear Friends,

"Friends of Night People is an organization dedicated to improving lives. We have been working hard to achieve this goal since 1969. Our mission to "provide food and necessities to address the effects and impacts of poverty," has been directed by the changing needs of individuals who seek our assistance. In the past 50 years, the organization has continued to reinforce the objective of our mission, "No one should go to bed hungry. No one should worry about where they'll sleep tonight. Everyone should know they have a friend they can turn to when they need help."

"Friends of Night People is the place one can go to and find kindness, compassion and respect. With your support, we can continue to improve lives in this community."

Sincerely,
Joseph S. Heary
Executive Director

Along with TOL's Sandwich Ministry, there are two on-going TOL collections in support of Friends of Night People.

- Collection of new men's socks, small size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste or create care packages). See the marked container on the table in the narthex.
- Men's seasonal clothing collection—look for the Big Blue Barrel near the main bulletin board.

Thank you for your support!

Adult Ed. Classes at TOL, 2022-2023

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, we'll examine what the Coptic and Armenian churches teach about their beliefs in Jesus' childhood and life. We'll 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

2023

- Jan. 16: Elizabeth/Mary and John/Jesus
- Jan. 30: The Essenes influence on Jesus
- Feb. 13: Jesus according to Thomas and Judas
- Feb. 27: The Armenian Jesus
- Mar. 13: Jesus and Mary Magdalene
- Mar. 27: What the Q documents tell us
- Apr. 10: Jesus and John, the Apostle
- Apr. 24: How the Gospels were selected
- May 8: The Council of Nicea

Book Sale

Parents, grandparents, are you looking for children's books for summer reading? Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library (the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board) where there is a wide variety of children's books for all ages.



Stop by and take a look!

Ways to Give to TOL

Online: [Tithe.ly](https://www.trinityoldlutheran.com) 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.

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: Judaism

Part II-A began our look at the variety of Jews in Jesus' day, and Part II-B completes this portion of the study.

Part II-B: Being Jewish in Jesus' Time

Samaritans - They were not exiled in either the Assyrian assault on the Kingdom of Israel or the Babylonian assault on the Kingdom of Judah. They did not rewrite their Torah and they built their own temple on Mt. Gerisim: their site of the sacrifice of Isaac. The temple was near the city of Samaria which was originally the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. There was profound prejudice and discrimination between them and the Galileans and the Judeans. Usually, the Galileans added extra miles and an extra day by going east to the Jordan River, rather than travel through Samaria. These deep-seated feelings probably explain why Jesus used the parable of a Good Samaritan to address the evil of prejudice and discrimination.

Those living throughout the Mediterranean Sea area and east to India and Persia. Egypt and Ethiopia were two significant countries with Jewish populations. Jesus' family lived in Egyptian Jewish communities when he was a child (one was probably Heliopolis). Ethiopian Jews believe they have the original Torah and saved the Ark of the Covenant when the Babylonians destroyed the first Temple. These treasures now reside in a house/temple in Ethiopia which has existed for 2500 years.

There are also differing religious groups or sects: Essenes (John the Baptist was one), Zealots (Simon, the apostle, and possibly Judas), Pharisees (liberal and conservative), Sadducees (conservative and ultra-conservative). Zealots were a splinter group from the Pharisees. They were strict adherents to Jewish laws and wanted to overthrow Rome—following in David's tradition of using the sword.

Who was a Jew and what it meant for Jesus to be Jewish are very complex and complicated questions. It is probably a good idea not to think of Jesus as Christian, but to remember that he was Jewish.

He did not turn his back on his religion and culture. He did, however, reform and restructure priorities: For example, Love superseded the Law; the Sermon on the Mount replaced the emphasis upon Jewish justice (eye for an eye); and the Last Supper replaced Passover.

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ELCA Prayer Ventures, from April 2022

Pray for congregations and communities preparing for severe weather, that they might preserve human life, respond to community needs, and prove resilient in the face of natural disaster. Give thanks for our ability to respond to disasters through Lutheran Disaster Response in collaboration with companion churches, disaster response organizations and ecumenical partners.

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