



Pastor's Ponderings

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

I have been thinking a lot about hope. As I listen to the news trying to listen without my privileged cisgendered white male perspective, I get anxious for all the siblings in Christ that are trying to be the best version of themselves. As some people enter Pride month and as some people legitimately fear for their lives if asked to leave the USA or are forced to leave, they are on my mind, and I get scared for them.

Humans created in God's image should feel safe.

In the anxiety that I feel for many folks, I turn to scripture to try to find hope. Our Bible verse from Isaiah gives me hope and I hope it gives people patience, endurance and strength to carry on. For me, it describes a God who is there for all of God's people and is with us through it all.



Folks who are scared also need people to reach out to them to support them and tell them they are not alone. I encourage all to expand our circle of people we interact with to include those who are on the fringe, or on the outside of our circles, with support, friendship, prayer and inclusion.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2025*

† *Pride Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, wisdom, leadership and faith of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask the Spirit to embolden us as we work together for justice, total inclusion and love for humanity in all its diversity.

Sermon Discussion/Input with Pastor Fred Wednesday, June 25 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.

Support Group for Grieving Parents

This group, specifically for parents of children and grandchildren who have died, meets each month in the Fireside Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM) and also on Zoom. Coordinators are: Charlie and Diane and Jean.



"Many hands make light work"

Our upcoming Craft Show-Basket Raffle-Chicken BBQ needs your help and input! Last year was our first year having this kind of event on a Saturday. It was a lot of work and we could use your help this year.

We are having a **planning meeting on Sunday, June 29**, following the 11:00 AM worship service. Please come and join us—be part of this great event!

Kelly

Holy Rest Cemetery—Clean-up Day Planned!

Save the date!! A clean-up day is scheduled for **Saturday, July 19!** Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks to help spruce up the grounds. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and *Trinity Tidings*.

Matt

Come join us for a **Pizza Party**, hosted by the WWI Women's Group. Meet in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 AM worship service on **Sunday, June 8**. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board.

PIZZA!

Hope to see you there!

Kelly

ELCA Prayer Ventures, May 2025*

† Ask the Spirit to help us respond to the call to participate in God's work in the world, no matter where it might lead, who we might encounter or what God might ask of us.

Trinity Tidings, June 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, June 2025*

- † Pray that our words and actions will glorify God and reflect the immeasurable, unprejudiced grace God has shown humankind through the gift of Jesus Christ.
- † *Day of Pentecost* “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). We are never alone or forgotten. Give thanks to God that we have received the gift of the Spirit, who accompanies us throughout our baptismal journey.
- † Pray that in times of uncertainty and anxiety, we will find comfort and strength in God’s steadfast love and that, from this foundation, we will confidently and courageously bear God’s peace, justice and reconciliation into the world.
- † Amid conflict and war, pray for national leaders, diplomats and other representatives whose negotiations might bring ceasefires and lasting peace. Ask the Spirit to guide their deliberations and stir their humility, respect, compassion and mercy.
- † Give thanks for the relief work we do together through Lutheran Disaster Response, and remember in prayer those impacted by disasters and severe weather as they rebuild their lives and communities. Pray that we will be generous with our prayers, encouragement, volunteer assistance and financial support until they recover – physically, spiritually and emotionally.

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.

Happy Father’s Day
Sunday, June 15



Trinity Tidings

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Mission for June: TOL’s Sandwich Team Ministry

“It has been three years since the start-up of the Sandwich Team Ministry at TOL. And the “team” is still going strong. It is really pleasing to know that over 15,000 sandwiches have been made and delivered so far to the Friends of Night People, an agency on Hudson Street in Buffalo. Thanks be to God that we can do this!

Five teams, and six teams in the summer, have been meeting weekly in the TOL kitchen on either Monday evenings or Tuesday mornings. The sandwich making takes only about 1½ hours weekly. We are told that the recipients are thankful and enjoy the sandwiches. FoNP, which distributes the sandwiches, are thankful for our help, and the volunteers enjoy getting together for a good cause and have a few laughs while doing it. So this is a WIN–WIN–WIN situation.”

[Excerpts from Sharon’s article in the 2024 TOL Annual Report.]

To make a donation, please use the marked envelopes found on the table in the narthex or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) through the TOL website. If using the mail, please enter “TOL Sandwich Team Ministry” on the check memo. Also, your donations of peanut butter and jelly are most welcome—especially during the Summer months!

May Mission: Family Justice Center

Thank you for your donations to support Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJC). The organization continues to help area clients who are dealing with domestic and family violence issues.

Flag Day
Saturday, June 14



Blessing of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts

On Sunday, April 27, the LWR quilts were on display and blessed during worship. These beautiful quilts were lovingly made by members from TOL and Augustana LC and will be donated to various organizations. Thank you, ladies!



My Musings
by Diane Schmidtke

Dandelion Tea

"Some see a weed; others see a wish."

The dandelion is a metaphor for hope, strength, perseverance and resilience.

I just sat down to drink my very first cup of dandelion tea straight from our front yard! I've always loved dandelions, from the cute yellow flowers to the white puffs of wishes...



I realize they are an invasive species and can get out of hand, but I'm happy to let them feed the bees for a while as Spring gets underway.

Before mowing the lawn, I decide that they can also feed me; I look up a recipe for tea made from the flowers and brew my first cup. It is kind of an adventure: first the picking, then the washing, then the steeping in boiling water and finally, the straining. The taste is very mild. I add a teaspoon of honey. It doesn't "WOW" me, but it isn't at all objectionable...

So, as I sit here, looking out the front window, I feel the pride of a mission accomplished.

It is only now that I begin to picture all the people walking their dogs past our house, all the birds perching on the peach tree, all the bunnies scampering across the lawn, all the squirrels playing tag...

Hmm...

This may be my first and my last cup of dandelion tea...

Used with permission.

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.

Operation Christmas Child

The suggested donations for June are stuffed toys 10" or smaller, and dolls. Please place your donations in the bin marked Operation Christmas Child located in the hallway. Thank you so much!

Kelly and Debbie



"God does not need your good works,
but your neighbor does."

Martin Luther



ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2025*

- † For Father's Day (June 15), remember in prayer biological fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers and foster fathers, that they will treasure the joys of fatherhood and find support and wise counsel for the challenges of parenting, passing along their faith, teaching compassion and respect, and encouraging and guiding their children.
- † *Juneteenth* This day of celebration, dating back to June 19, 1865, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Give thanks and praise to God for creating humankind in all its diversity, and ask God's forgiveness for yielding to fear, suspicion and intolerance of others. Ask God to guide and strengthen our work of including all people in the church and society.
- † *World Refugee Day* On this day (June 20), we honor the courage and resilience of refugees and immigrants, and work to build empathy and support for people who have fled their home countries because of conflict, natural disaster or economic crisis. Give thanks that we can respond together through AMMPARO Migrant Ministry, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Global Refuge and Lutheran social service organizations.
- † Lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere (June 20). Give thanks for longer days, growing crops and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors — gifts from God that awaken our senses and lift our spirits.
- † Pray for Seafarers International House in New York City, a mission affiliated with the ELCA that has served mariners and immigrants since 1873. Remember in prayer seafarers who work under difficult and dangerous conditions and are isolated from family, friends and faith communities for long periods.

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.

BBQ

Weidner's Chicken BBQ Dinner at Good Shepherd LC...Saturday, June 14, from 12:00 Noon until Sold Out

It's drive-thru only and dinners are \$15.00.

The church is located at 2669 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda. For information, please contact the church office at 716-832-5390.

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: Jesus and Judas

Part I: Who was Thomas?

Thomas was called Didymus, the twin. (Thomas' followers sometimes claimed he was Jesus' twin. He may have looked like Jesus or he actually had a twin who may not have been a disciple or he actually was Jesus' twin as the Hindu Christians believe.) He was a practical, no-nonsense type. He and Judas may have seemed a lot alike. However, Judas seems to have become a zealot—that is, believed in militant Judaism. Thomas was more like Jesus—peaceful. Judas lost faith in the apostles, but probably never lost his faith in Jesus. Thomas probably never really had faith in the apostles either. They were weak and cowardly. They were dreamers and rather self-centered—one of the reasons he left for Syria and moved on to India and never returned. He also may have gone to India because Jesus told him that he was the chosen apostle to go to India and become the apostle to bring Jesus' message to the Hindu people (as was prophesied by Jesus' yogi instructors). He was the founder of the original Christian church in India.

Thomas was not learned and clearly had trouble with understanding the parables and Jesus' stories. I think he disliked the endless debates the apostles had while traveling with Jesus. Jesus was a teacher and Thomas was a lousy student until Pentecost. Thomas wanted right and wrong, facts. He needed to be shown things that he could see or touch. He was a carpenter by trade and was comfortable working with his hands, not with thinking about parables and the meaning of miracles. (His followers use this fact of his carpenter background as an explanation for why Thomas and Jesus were twins. The problem is why isn't he listed with Jesus' other siblings in the Gospels?) I believe Thomas saw Jesus as a special person who had charisma. He saw Jesus as gentle, patient, and kind. Thomas always trusted Jesus and accepted his own shortcomings. He always responded with faithful service to anything Jesus asked. I do not believe he should be called a doubter. Here's why.

Two months before Calvary, Jesus' friend Lazarus was dying. All the other apostles were opposed to going toward Jerusalem so Jesus could see Lazarus. They were afraid—and justifiably so. They weren't going to go to Jerusalem at first, rather, they were actually going to Bethany where Lazarus, Mary and Martha lived. Bethany is in Judea across the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem. The following gospel passage by John illustrates who the truly faithful apostle was. By the way, John probably did not like Thomas because they were so different. John was gentle; Thomas was rough. John was educated; Thomas was not. John was young and impressionable; Thomas was more mature and worldly. Read this passage: John 11: 7-16.

The apostles did not want to go with Jesus. Thomas probably thought it was a crazy idea because of the hostility in Jerusalem and Judea toward Jesus by the Jewish authorities. But once Jesus spoke clearly, Thomas did not hesitate. Thomas, whose nickname was 'Twin,' said to the other disciples, "Come on. Let's go, so we can die with him." Thomas never hesitated when Jesus spoke. He rarely jumped when the apostles spoke and probably did not think they were strong enough to be Jesus' messengers.

The Last Supper would have been confusing for him and the other apostles. They probably drank too much. They thought it was a celebration because of the triumphant march into Jerusalem and Jesus going to the temple and overturning the money changers' tables. They felt as if they were on top of

the world and ready for Jesus to ascend to his title of Messiah. However, Jesus talked in such strange ways at the meal (according to the passages of John). Thomas may have noticed that Judas was acting funny while all the others were happy, because they thought this was the start of something big. For the militants, they thought that Jesus would call all the people to take up arms and free the Jews from Roman control—maybe some thought he would unseat the Jewish leaders and put some of them in charge.

During the supper, Jesus kept talking about going to the Father and razing, then building the temple. No one had any idea what he was talking about. None of what he said at the Last Supper became clear to the apostles until Pentecost.

Jesus' death was the worst day of the apostles' lives. It was scary and tragic. All the hope and promises were dashed in a whirlwind of trials, anger and brutality. All of the apostles except John were cowardly. Thomas would have been ashamed that he was no better than Peter or the others—they all cowered and hid. Only John stayed by Mary's side. I think Thomas felt for Judas. As he thought about events, he probably saw that Judas was driven by Jesus to do what he did. Judas wanted Jesus to lead a rebellion against the Romans. He never understood that Jesus could never do such a thing—nor would he even condone such a thing. In the next issue we will continue the story of Thomas and Jesus.

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Do You Hear What I Hear?

*Did you ever experience a miscommunication?
Do you feel you need to learn how to listen better?
Do you want to discuss what gets in the way of
good communication?*

Do you want to share time away with others and enjoy great fellowship?

Join us!

Adult Retreat - October 3, 4 and 5
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

Retreat Schedule

Friday, October 3	Gathering begins at 6:00 PM. Program begins at 7:00 PM, followed by socializing and fellowship; bring your own beverages and snacks.
Saturday, October 4	Breakfast at 8:30 AM. Programming throughout the day. Evening for socializing and fellowship.
Sunday, October 5	Breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by program and worship. Depart before Noon.

Cost and Packages

(prices have increased from last year)

Option 1: Friday through Sunday (room for 2 nights and 4 meals):

- One person in a single room: \$210
- One person in double room: \$140
- Couples: \$280

Option 2: Friday through Saturday night or Saturday through Sunday (room for 1 night and 4 meals):

- One person in a single room: \$130
- One person in double room: \$95
- Couples: \$190

Option 3: Meals only: \$50

If you have any questions please contact: Trinity Old Lutheran at 716-836-4868.

Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.