



Pastor's Ponderings

Luther said, "God created the world out of nothing; so as long as we are nothing, God can make something out of us."

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

"Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around; loaves abound." (refrain from the hymn, Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ)

I am starting to feel it, are you? Hope! Breath! Something new? It has been an interesting, stretching, challenging, and for some, a depressing year. I feel we are moving to an ending, and a new beginning. I am challenged to make this ending be as hopeful as my new beginning.

I am ending by looking back at blessings, hardships, hopes, and activities of the past year. The blessings I have seen are people caring for others, families supporting each other, masks being worn to protect strangers, prayers being lifted up, and a strong desire to hear the WORD. The hardships and challenges we experienced this year seem overshadowed by the many people impacted by the virus through sickness and death. The hope of this past year for me still remains with God working amid this pandemic to challenge us to be the church and share the good news of forgiveness, eternal life, and that we never walk alone. The activities we participated in helped expand our world and our reach to people in need, and added much needed skills to communicate and interact with others, like using Zoom.

The new beginning, the breath that we are feeling, is hopeful. I am trying to make sure I do not regress back to some of the thoughts and attitudes of the past that I am not proud of and that is not of God. I am trying to be open to let God make something new in me. As a "new creation" I hope to be a person more action-oriented concerning justice issues like racism, and hunger in the world. As a "new creation" I hope to be a person who values honesty and respecting others above my own



Adult Ed. with Charlie Schmidtke in the Fireside Room and on Zoom

Mondays at 1:00 PM

We did finish Jezebel and Asherah in February, and we also started the New Testament with Mary and Elizabeth. The remaining classes are listed below. Also, if you have any suggestions for next year's study, please don't hesitate to let me know!

Charlie

- March 8: Mary and Martha
- March 22: Unnamed Women during Jesus' Ministry
- April 12: Women from the Crucifixion to Pentecost
- April 26: Women after Pentecost
- May 10: Lydia and Priscilla

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 7

2021 Vision

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

Following worship, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. We're planning on a hybrid format—you can attend in-person (with masks and distancing), on Zoom, or by phoning into the meeting (Zoom and phone instructions will be provided beforehand).

We hope you will be able to join us!



**Daylight Saving Time
begins March 14!**

**Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and
Augustana Lutheran Churches**

Almighty God, bring us into a community guided by your love. Inspire in us a spirit of hospitality and kindness, and teach us to bear one another's burdens with compassion. Show us your will for the ministries at Augustana and TOL, and strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love. Amen.

World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 5

Promoting justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebrations.

"World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service." This year's program is written by the women of the Republic of Vanuatu (an island country located in the South Pacific Ocean).

Copyright 2021 World Day of Prayer
Website: www.wdp-usa.org

You are invited to join TOL's Hybrid Worship Services
(In-church or on Zoom)!

We continue to follow COVID-19 health guidelines by:
wearing a mask at all times; following six feet distancing
when possible; cleaning, and sanitizing all areas used.



**Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule
(In-church and Zoom)**

Palm Sunday, March 28
Augustana Lutheran, 9:30 AM
Trinity Old Lutheran, 11:00 AM

Holy Thursday, April 1
Trinity Old Lutheran, 7:00 PM (Zoom Only)

Good Friday, April 2
Augustana Lutheran, 11:00 AM
Trinity Old Lutheran, 7:00 PM



Easter, April 4
Augustana Lutheran, 9:30 AM
Trinity Old Lutheran, 11:00 AM

Trinity Tidings

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February Mission—Thank You!

Hearts and Hands—Faith in Action was the focus for the month. Thank you to all who donated! For more information about the organization (or how to volunteer), please visit the website at <https://hnhcares.org>.

**March Mission—Family Justice Center
of Erie County (FJC)**



Family Justice Center
YOU'RE SAFE HERE

Incidents of domestic abuse and violence have increased as families continue dealing with the effects of quarantine, shelter-in-place restrictions and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic—making it more difficult for victims to reach out for help. FJC serves more than 2,500 clients each year at its four locations (Buffalo and the Northtowns and Southtowns, and on Grand Island). More information can be found at www.fjcsafe.org.

"The **Family Justice Center** provides free services for domestic violence victims and their children through an extensive collaboration with several partner agencies, all located at one secured, comfortable location, where victims can get all the services they need to safely escape abuse."

© 2018 Family Justice Center of Erie County. All rights reserved.

Please place your donations in the marked envelopes located in the narthex or mail your checks to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Family Justice Center).

Souper Bowl, Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to all who supported the Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) food pantry in Buffalo with your donations on Super Bowl Sunday—and thank you to Lanny for making the delivery!



COMMUNITY OF
GOOD NEIGHBORS
FOOD JUSTICE
MINISTRIES

**Lenten Collection to Support Community
of Good Neighbors (CGN)**

During Lent 2020, Pastor Jeremiah Johnson (Parkside LC) challenged the conference churches to participate in a friendly competition to determine which church could collect the most donations of toilet paper. The donations would benefit local food pantries.

Pastor Johnson's **2021 challenge** is to collect donations of feminine hygiene products, which will be given to CNG in support of women served through the organization.

Please place your donations in the marked boxes in the narthex and at the elevator entrance. Thank you for accepting this challenge!

Thank You from Barbara Edwards

As many of you might remember, about two years ago I stood up in church and said I wanted to start a carpet fund, and that the turquoise carpet was the original from when the church was built in 1962. It was old! I will have to say that they made carpet really well back then—it didn't owe us anything.

I mentioned that I was going to donate all of my old books and puzzles—inviting others to donate as well. We would sell soft-cover books and puzzles for fifty cents and hard-cover books for one dollar. Not much, and I figured it might take five years or more—but let's get started.

So we sold a lot at a Chiavetta's dinner. I then moved items to the old nursery room and continued to sell to anyone who came into the church. With my hip replacement and COVID-19, it sure gave me more time to buy and read books.

I want to thank all who donated and bought books—and also to those who jumped on the Carpet Fund and gave memorials to it. Also, thank you to the two anonymous people whose donations took it to the finish line.



Lanny took over and got bids from different companies. Then it was time to pick a color. Nancy, Sue, and I each picked three colors—the winning color received the most votes. Anyone could have voted, so if you don't like our choice, it's on you. It did take about three weeks or so to get the old carpet up and the new one installed. It probably even surprised the carpet guys with how much dust came from the old padding. I mean, a lot—dust went everywhere!

Again, Lanny stepped up and put a team together to clean—or should I say remove the dust—in time for resuming in-church worship on Sunday, February 28. On Saturday, February 20, a team arrived to clean: Lanny and Nancy, Sue and Sonny, Debbie, Dick, Peter, Velma, Cheryl and Tony (and their son, Jerry), Karen and Frank, Don, Diane, and Stephanie. What a great job they did—it looks beautiful! I can't wait for everyone to see it. The parent's room, the narthex and all the way to, and including the altar, have been carpeted.

We will continue to sell books and puzzles in the nursery, and the monies will go towards new coverings for the kneelers.

So again, thank you to Lanny for his work, the cleaning crew, and everyone else for taking my vision and reaching the end goal.

Thank you,
Barbara Edwards



Finishing Touches in the Fireside Room

A big thank you to the carpet installers for putting in the vinyl base wall moldings—the room is now completely finished and it looks great!

TOL Quilters

The group made quilts between September 2019 and March 4, 2020. Because of COVID-19, they were not collected by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for overseas distribution. However, there was a need in our area for the quilts and we donated 12 to Hospice Buffalo in Cheektowaga and 10 to Park Creek Senior Living Community in Williamsville.



I would like to thank all of the quilters who helped during last year: from TOL—Carol and myself; from Augustana LC—Barb, Marge, Nora and Joan.

Barb

Thank you to Judy for delivering the quilts! Judy said that both organizations were extremely happy for the quilts and that she has received many thank you cards.

National Quilting Day Saturday, March 21, 2021

We pray for God's blessings on all quilters.



Looking for a good book, a puzzle or DVD? Please stop by the Book Sale in the downstairs nursery room any day (Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon). The tables are filled with something for everyone—children to adults—with many to choose from, at surprisingly low prices!

Also, you are welcome to bring in your books or puzzles to add to the inventory.

NEW! Proceeds of the book sale will now go towards replacing the well-worn material on the communion railing kneelers!

Thank you for your support!



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Online Giving to TOL

Tithe.ly is available for online giving. You can set up your account through the TOL website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or download an easy-to-use app to your phone. The site is user-friendly and safe to use.



Cable TV Worship, Parkside Lutheran in Buffalo
Sundays, 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
(Cable Channel 5)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Ventures, March 2021

Women's History Month Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership in the church and society, raised and cared for us, taught us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equality and healing. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

Give thanks that we can trust completely God's promises, love and forgiveness, especially when we feel unlovable, unfaithful or uncertain.

The Spanish word *amparo* means protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. Pray for the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy, and pray that we will join in serving the most vulnerable children and their families as they seek safety and the opportunity to live in welcoming, humane communities and congregations.

During our Lenten journey, pray that God will help us reflect on aspects of our life and faith that we find difficult to examine and confess, and that we will remember we are always loved and made new through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, redeemer and source of hope.

Ask God to bless and guide our efforts to worship, commune, study Scriptures, socialize and care for each other online, and to find safe ways of gathering in person. Give thanks for the inspiration of the Spirit and the creativity of our siblings in Christ, who help us envision and practice new ways of being church together.

International Women's Day Pray for women everywhere, for gender equality and equity, for the elimination of gender bias and stereotypes, and for opportunities for women to develop and use their gifts, skills, insights and passions without barrier or discouragement.

Lift up prayers of joy for, and find ways to reach out to, those celebrating birthdays, marriages, anniversaries and other special occasions without being able to share those moments with others in person.

Pray that we will continue to gain ground on vaccinating people against COVID-19, especially those who are most vulnerable and those who provide essential services for the sake of our health, well-being and daily needs, here and globally.

Give thanks that God has created us to do good in the world and that, even in complex and difficult circumstances, the Spirit is always at work teaching and emboldening us to love and serve our neighbor.

Give thanks that God loves us, hears our pleas — spoken and silent — and grants us hope, comfort and relief amid our troubles. Ask that the Spirit will show us how to respond with wisdom, compassion and hope when our neighbors experience difficulties.

Ask God to prepare and equip congregations and communities — physically, emotionally and spiritually — to respond to the severe weather that often comes in spring, and to help one another endure.

Pray for God's mercy and love every day. Ask that God will instill in us joy and hope, create in us a faithful spirit, teach us

truth and wisdom, and stir gratitude in our hearts for all that God has done and continues to do for us and all humanity.

Pray for all those who grieve and suffer the loss of a loved one, friend, co-worker or neighbor, especially those impacted by the death of someone from COVID-19.

Palm Sunday Jesus endured persecution, inner conflict, betrayal by his closest followers, arrest and an unfair trial leading to his death — all for our salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises and love. Give praise and thanks to the Son of God!

Pray that we might reconcile our differences and embrace, teach and act on our values, appreciating the diversity of humanity and our communities, attending to our neighbors in need, practicing mutual respect and care, and pooling our diverse gifts, skills and perspectives to change our society, church and world.

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"Hearts and Hands" (HNH)—Assisting the Community during COVID-19

The organization continues to operate with limited and restricted services. No in-home services are currently available. However, by following COVID-19 health and wellness guidelines, volunteers continue to assist with the following services: transportation to everywhere it's needed; non-contact grocery deliveries; and "Friendly phone calls."



Volunteers are needed! For more program details and information on how to become a volunteer, please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311.

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

Thank You from Hearts and Hands (2020 Donations) (excerpts)

Dear 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