

Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 2026

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of **✠** Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Praise Songs

Blessed Jesus

Blessed Jesus come to me, soothe my soul
With songs of peace. As I look to You alone,
Fill me with Your love.
Glorious, marvelous grace that rescued me;
Holy, worthy is the Lamb who died for me.

The Greatest Thing

The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you,
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.
I want to know you more, I want to know you more.
The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you.

The greatest thing in all my life is loving you,
The greatest thing in all my life is loving you.
I want to love you more, I want to love you more,
The greatest thing in all my life is loving you.

The greatest thing in all my life is serving you,
The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.
I want to serve you more, I want to serve you more.
The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

First Reading *Exodus 17:1-7*

Please be seated

The Israelites left the desert and moved from one place to another each time the Lord ordered them to. Once they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people started complaining to Moses, "Give us some water!"

Moses replied, "Why are you complaining to me and trying to put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty and kept on complaining, "Moses, did you bring us out of Egypt just to let us and our families and our animals die of thirst?"

Then Moses prayed to the Lord, "What am I going to do with these people? They are about to stone me to death!"

The Lord answered, "Take some of the leaders with you and go ahead of the rest of the people. Also take along the walking stick with which you struck the Nile River. When you get to the rock at Mount Sinai, I will be there with you. Strike the rock with the stick, and water will pour out for the people to drink." Moses did this while the leaders watched.

The people had complained and tested the Lord by asking, "Is the Lord really with us?" So Moses named that place Massah, which means "testing" and Meribah, which means "complaining."

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

¹Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

³For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

⁷For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸**Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'

Second Reading *Romans 5:1-11*

By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, we have peace with God. Christ has also introduced us to God's gift of undeserved grace on which we now take our stand. So we are happy, as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God. But that's not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which

gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.

Christ died for us at a time when we were helpless and sinful. No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person. But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.

But there is more! Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger. Even when we were God's enemies, he made peace with us, because his Son died for us. Yet something even greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, we will be saved by the life of his Son. And in addition to everything else, we are happy because God sent our Lord Jesus Christ to make peace with us.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th chapter.

(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel *John 4:5-42*

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

....*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time

Please be seated

Choir Anthem *God’s Covenant of Peace*

Message

Hymn of the Day

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with
 3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 all to call on you; to those who seek you, you are
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 good; to those who find you, life is new.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

A Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Patrick, Pr. Fred, Lanny, Glenda, Ralph, and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Ministry, as we serve our neighbors in love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

{Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.}

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

Please stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

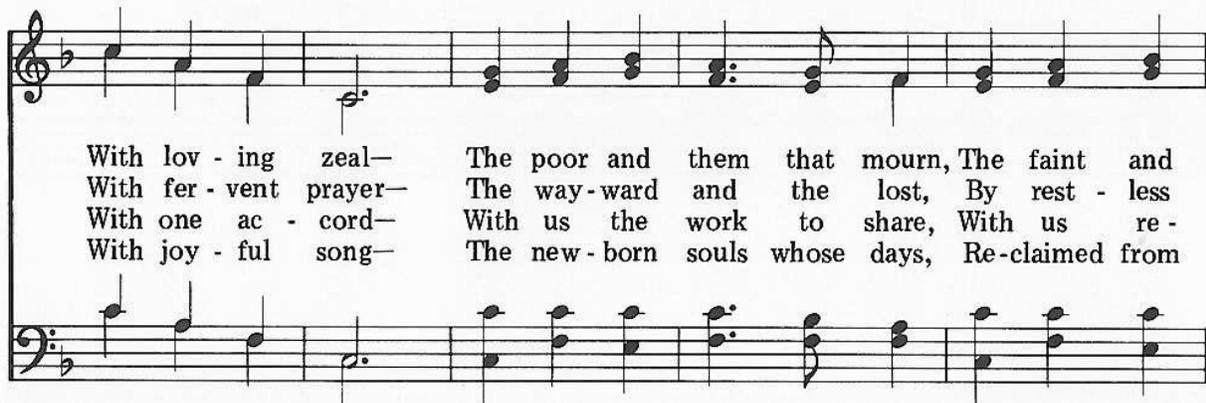
Closing Hymn

Christ for the World! We Sing 480

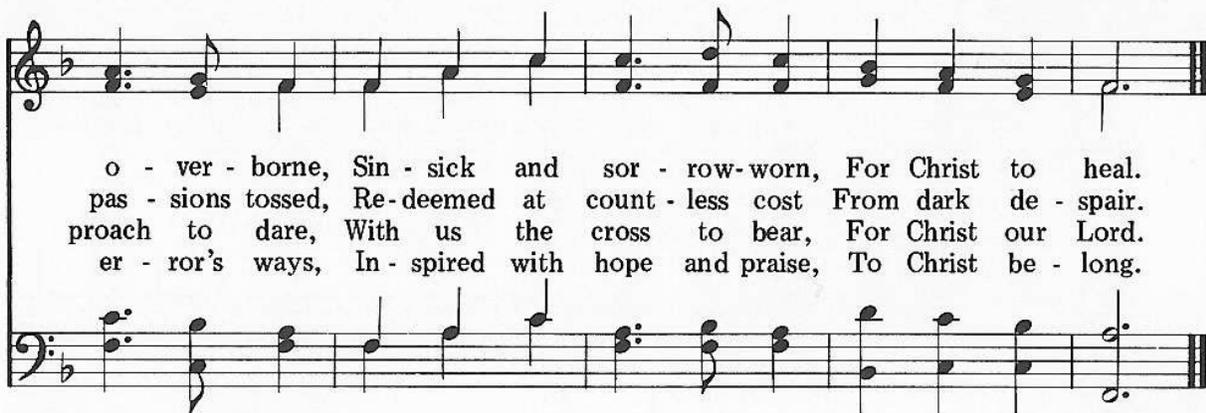
Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel . . . Mark 16:15



1. Christ for the world! we sing; The world to Christ we bring
2. Christ for the world! we sing; The world to Christ we bring
3. Christ for the world! we sing; The world to Christ we bring
4. Christ for the world! we sing; The world to Christ we bring



With lov - ing zeal— The poor and them that mourn, The faint and
With fer - vent prayer— The way - ward and the lost, By rest - less
With one ac - cord— With us the work to share, With us re -
With joy - ful song— The new - born souls whose days, Re - claimed from



o - ver - borne, Sin - sick and sor - row - worn, For Christ to heal.
pas - sions tossed, Re - deemed at count - less cost From dark de - spair.
proach to dare, With us the cross to bear, For Christ our Lord.
er - ror's ways, In - spired with hope and praise, To Christ be - long.

WORDS: Samuel Wolcott, 1869
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Frederick Kopp

Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email:

trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990 Email: pastor_tol@verizon.net

Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com

Music Minister: Don Grabau

Media Minister: Jeff Ward

Today's Worship Assistant: Charlie Schmidtke

Today's Prayer Partner: Velma Achenbach

Today's Ushers: Frank and Karen Modlich

Prayers and Announcements

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: Today's prayer partner is Velma Achenbach. If you are in need of additional prayer, please see Velma following worship. Prayers are confidential.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from Sam and Sandi Koch.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only—please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithely.com, which can be accessed through TOL's website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

March Mission: Pastor Sohail and the South Asian Worship Community. For the month of March, our focus will be on Pastor Sohail and the South Asian Worship Community, which began in 2023. It is a mission start of the ELCA and serves people whose languages of origin are Urdu and Hindi. The monetary donations will be received to help their ministry evangelize and grow. Please mark gift with South Asian Worship. Thank you.

Lenten Collection: Pastor Jeremiah Smith, our Conference Dean, announced that we're not having a competition this Lenten season, but invites all the local ELCA

churches to join together and collect healthy cereals to support local food pantries. TOL's donations will go to the Good Shepherd LC pantry. Please place your cereal (and all other shelf staple foods) in the narthex shopping cart. Thank you!

Easter Flowers: This year Easter is **Sunday, April 5**. There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board with details about ordering Easter lilies and hyacinths. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 22. Thank you.

Mid-week Lenten Services and Soup Suppers: Here is this year's schedule of Wednesday Lenten soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (6:30 pm):

March 11	Augustana, 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
March 18	St. Martin's, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda
March 25	TOL

Lenten Midweek Soup Supper: Calling all soup/dessert makers! On **Wed., March 25**, TOL is hosting the Lenten supper and worship service. If you can help us by preparing your favorite soup or dessert for that evening, please sign up on main bulletin board. We will also need help with set up and clean up. Thank you!

Adult Education: The next two classes are listed below. Classes start at **1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. **Please contact Charlie Schmidtke if you need a Zoom invite.**

March 16	Ephesus – Paul
March 30	Alexandria and Byzantium

Palm Sunday: This year, we will gather at **Augustana Lutheran Church for the Palm Sunday worship service on Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 am**. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be there also. **There will not be a worship service at TOL that day.**

Good Friday Services: Will be held on **Friday, April 3**. There will be an 11 am service that day at Augustana, and a 7 pm service here at TOL.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch: Our annual meeting/congregation potluck was postponed and will be re-scheduled in April, date to be determined by church Council. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board to let us know what dish you'll bring and how many will attend.

Women's Lunch Group: You are invited to join the group for lunch this **Thursday, March 12** at 12:30 pm, at Joey's Place Restaurant, 83 Niagara Street, Tonawanda. Please contact Judy Menz or Barb Maugans if you have any questions.

Sermon Discussion/input: Meets again on **Wednesday, March 25 at noon**. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are interested in discussing the texts for the next month of sermons.

Book Club at Augustana: March’s book is Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini. Book club will meet **Thursday, March 26** at 6:30 pm at Augustana.

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, next on **Tuesday, April 7**. The meetings begin at 10 am in person or on Zoom.

Curtains Up: On **Saturday, May 2**, please join us at Ellicott Creek Playhouse for a live performance of “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.” There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board. We have 30 seats available.

Friends of Night People: Thanks to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches each week! We also collect warm clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, boots, hand & foot warmers, gloves, hats, hygiene items, lip balm & mugs. Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Operation Christmas Child: The suggested donations for **March** are brushes, combs, barrettes, and scrunchies. Thank you.

Thank You for your Continuing Support of these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – bin in hallway.
- Dash’s Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – bin in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Warm clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Items for Operation Christmas Child boxes – bin in hallway.
- Calendars for 2026 for Veterans Hospital – bin in hallway.

This week’s calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are <u>Tuesday, 9 am – 1 pm, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</u></i> <i>For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred.</i>	Sun	2/22	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	2/23	10 am 5:45 pm	OA Meeting Yoga
	Tues	2/24	9 am 5:45 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Sandwich Team #5 Chair Yoga Eta Sigma CoDA
	Wed	2/25	5:45 pm 6 pm	Yoga Lenten Soup Supper & Worship – at Augustana

<i>For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i>	Thurs	2/26	9:30 am 5:45 pm 7 pm	Yoga Yoga GA Meeting
	Fri	2/27	11 am	Pr. Sohail's South Asian Community
	Sat	2/28	1 pm	Contra Dancers
	Sun	3/1	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

Announcements: *If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning.*

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

