

Trinity Tidings

The Mission of Trinity Old Lutheran Church is
Proclamation, Fellowship and Service
in the name of Jesus.



The Reverend Frederick W. Kopp
Pastor

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Trinity Old Lutheran Church is a member of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

From the Pastor

"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come."

Song of Solomon 2:10-12

We are in the midst of winter (though we may break high temperature records). Ash Wednesday services reminded us that "we are dust and to dust we will return." The purple and black, paraments of Lent seem oppressive after the white of Epiphany. It still gets dark out **too** early. The cold is biting, and the driving can be somewhat unpredictable. It is the shortest month, yet it feels to me, the longest.

It seems to be a month for Eeyore, "days, weeks, months, who knows?" Yet during February, we are reminded of **Love** on the 14th. In that vein I am reminded of the romantic, amorous poem in the Bible, **Song of Solomon**, and the above quote that hangs on my wall. The flowers to me is promise. The singing describes hope. And as we know from Paul's letter to the Romans, hope does not disappoint.

It is a call for us to be active in "hope" activities. Both TOL and Augustana through their ministries instill this in fragile populations: TOL, to those families who struggle with dementia and at Augustana, to those who are far from their homelands searching for a new home. The declaration of **Hope** permeates these ministries and needs to overflow in our expression to the world.



Saddened by the gun violence seen at Parkland, Florida and in our city streets, exposed during domestic issues, and lethal at suicide attempts, we need to inform the world that **Peace** is the answer. **Love** is life giving. And Jesus' life, death, and resurrection advocated for these to be his message in a very violent time in history. So God's justice cries out for continued ministry to the "least of these" in our community; God's justice calls for disarmament and policy that would reduce the needless gun deaths in our society.

Flowers and singing are coming. Thanks be to God for sharing the "Good News" Jesus brings all people.

Peace,
Pastor Fred

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Schedule

The host church will provide a soup dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by worship at 7:00 PM.

March 7 **St. Mark Lutheran Church**
576 Delaware Road, Tonawanda
Phone: 875-3707

March 14 **Augustana Lutheran Church**
3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5720

March 21 **Trinity Old Lutheran Church**



March Coffee Hour

The WWI Women's Group is hosting the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour. They invite you to join them following worship on **Sunday, March 18**. Come and enjoy delicious baked goods, coffee and a wee bit o' conversation!



Mid-Week Lenten Soups Needed!

TOL will be hosting the mid-week Lenten Service on **Wednesday, March 21**. A soup dinner begins at 6:00 PM and worship follows at 7:00 PM. We need your best crock-pot soups for the dinner! Last year we had seven different soups and chili—and the crocks were empty by worship time! Desserts are also needed! Please use the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.



Holy Week Worship Schedule Lutheran Churches of the Tonawanda's

Palm Sunday Worship, March 25
9:30 AM at Augustana Lutheran
11:00 AM at Trinity Old Lutheran

Holy Thursday, March 29
Abiding Savior Lutheran
(1534 Ruie Road, North Tonawanda)

Good Friday
11:00 AM at Augustana Lutheran
7:00 PM at Trinity Old Lutheran (Tenebrae Service)



Easter Sunday Worship, April 1
Augustana Lutheran at 9:30 AM
Trinity Old Lutheran at 11:00 AM

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana Lutheran Churches

For our congregations and leaders; through our shared work, let your word prosper among us and bring life to the communities beyond our doors. Show us your will for the ministries at Augustana and Trinity Old Lutheran, and strengthen our relationships in our communities as we serve our neighbors in love. Amen.



Easter Plants

Easter Sunday is April 1. If you would like to purchase hyacinths or Easter lilies, please use the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Thirty-six hyacinths are needed to fill the plant cross.

If you have any questions, please speak to Barb Edwards.

Adult Ed Afternoon Classes—Update

The remainder of the program (March through June) has been cancelled, but will resume in September.

At that time, we will complete the Oprah Winfrey “Belief” series and we will also have more time to examine “The Lost Gospels” in greater detail.

Please let me know if Monday afternoons are still a good time for the class, or if you would prefer to return to an evening format.

Hope you will be able to attend in the Fall!

Charlie Schmidtke



Hearts and Hands = Neighbors Helping Neighbors

There remains an increased need for volunteers! The organization has an office at 2710 North Forest Road in Amherst. To find out how easy it is to become a volunteer and to learn about the services provided for care receivers, please call 406-8311, Ext. 101 or visit www.hnhcares.org!

**TOL is a part of the
“Hearts and Hands” community of volunteers!**

TOL now accepts online donations!

Simply visit our website, www.trinityoldlutheran.com, and click on the Giving tab. On this page, click on “Give Today” and you will be sent to a third party page (hosted by Genesis, PPG of Clarence, NY) to process your contribution using your Master Card, Visa, Discover or AmEx credit and debit cards.



Online Giving

In addition to tithing, this site may be used for special one-time contributions, too. If you wish to give towards a special cause (mission of the month, memorials, Window Fund, etc.), simply indicate it in the Description box provided. If not otherwise indicated, all gifts given to the church will go to the General Operating Fund.

We encourage you to use this new giving option. If you have any questions, please call the church office (836-4868).

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March Stewardship

The Barnyard returns to the narthex during the month of March as we make the ELCA's Good Gifts/God's Global Barnyard the stewardship focus.

Please place your monetary donations in the special envelopes located in the pews or fill the green and yellow barn located in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

February Stewardship, Thank You

The Souper Sunday theme was carried throughout the month of February. Thank you for your monetary donations and the non-perishable food items that will support the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda.

Mid-Week Lenten Project for Journey's End Refugee Services in Buffalo

During Lent (in conjunction with the shared ministry congregations), churches will be collecting items for “Home Again Starter Kits.” The kit is a package that contains items needed for everyday living for refugees in our area. Items requested are for personal care, school, household, housekeeping, kitchen, etc. Look for the collection container and copies of the list in the narthex. Thank you!

An Evening with Lynn Whitworth!

Please join the TOL Women's Group on **Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 PM** for a special evening of spiritual refreshment, fellowship and laughter with Lynn Whitworth.



Lynn has been a Conference Deacon in the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate NY Synod of the ELCA for several years and she is currently part of the transition team at Holy Cross Lutheran in Farnham, NY. She is widely known as a speaker whose messages

resonate with all women—don't miss this opportunity to hear her message!

Please contact Kelly if you have any questions.



TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

The program was held on Wednesday, February 7—the snowiest one we could remember. Early morning snows created slippery driving conditions as the snow piled up. A couple of rounds of snow shoveling prepared the way for our four guests and their caregivers.

There was a Valentine's Day theme—with "Heart" Bingo and a Valentine craft. Everyone enjoyed a summertime lunch of hot dogs and baked beans—and Valentine cupcakes for dessert.

Due to adjustments to the schedule, guests and volunteers had time to enjoy a lively round of "snowball toss" (thank you to Joan for providing the "snowballs" and containers). The game allowed everyone to show off their skills!



In spite of the weather challenges, we were happy to provide respite for the caregivers, while we enjoyed the company of our guests.

♥ A special Thank You to the TOL Sunday School children who made beautiful Valentine's Day cards for our guests! ♥

Jan and Paulette

TLC at TOL

TOL's free Respite Care Program continues every first Wednesday of the month from **10:30 AM to 2:30 PM** for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or any form of dementia.

Guests are partnered with a volunteer (trained by the Alzheimer's Association) and they participate in various activities in a secure environment. A morning snack and nutritious lunch are provided.

For more information on registering for the program, please contact Jan or Paulette at 836-4868.



Caregivers Support Group at TOL

The group met on Monday, February 5. The main objective remains to offer a place where everyone is free to share their struggles and accomplishments with supportive caregivers. Discussions remain caregiver-driven. Some may wish to share tips, experiences, or concerns—others to just listen. It is hoped that each attendee will take away something from the meeting—no matter how small—and to know that they are not alone.

For more information, please contact me at 836-4868. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 2 at 7:00 PM** in the Fireside Lounge.

Jan

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

Rabindranath Tagore

Yellow Leaf Prayer

This little poem has been reprinted in magazines and anthologies, including one in Sweden, where it received a prize.



I have always liked the idea that, given the ability to speak, the leaf would have said this.

To stay yellow
one more day,
even if it
snows, to cling
to this branch
one more day,
even in wind,
in wind, to
watch that one
red leaf across
the road stay
red, stay red
and cling as
long as I.

Amen.

Loren Keller

[from *Trinity Tidings*, November 2011]

Our Community Partners Meeting at TOL

Gamblers Anon.	Sun., 7:00 PM
Gam-Anon,	Sun., 7:00 PM
Overeaters Anon.	Mon., 10:00 AM
Co-Dependents	Tues., 7:30 PM
Eta Sigma	Meets on 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Wed., Yoga for Anxiety, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Thurs., Gentle Yoga, 9:30 to 10:45 AM Thurs., Beginner Yoga, 5:45 to 7:00 PM
Love Life Self Help Group	Meets on 1 st , 2 nd , and 4 th Wednesdays, 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)
Women's Dance Group	Mon., 8:00 PM

Note: If you are interested in any of the different Yoga classes offered at TOL, please contact Leanne (864-1194).

Can and Bottle Collection

The focus of the collection will now be to support Josh's upcoming Eagle Scout Project.

Please place your donations in the marked container in the narthex. You can also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in the Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza at 2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda. There is a TOL account there—anyone can go in and drop off bottles and cans for the TOL account.

Thank you!