



Pastor's Ponderings

The best part of the new Mandalorian series is baby YODA. He is cute, unpredictable, powerful, and looks like a smaller version of his later self. It has been a pleasure to get to know this character on the new Disney+ streaming service. Though my interest is piqued when YODA does something, in the back of my mind it's a fictional story that is created for entertainment. I may be coming a fan, but that's it.

Obviously it is different for me with Jesus. I can be described as a fan at what Jesus does and the stories of his "heroics" and his miracles intrigue me, however I am propelled to a bigger and deeper relationship with Jesus and his story than any fictional character, or historical figure I know. With Jesus and this salvation story I am brought to a hope, a belief, an attraction, a commitment to the story that no other story brings me. As I engage with Jesus and the Gospels my energy is renewed and it empowers me to continue to live, review my life, serve and grow in service in reflection with how Jesus served and lived and taught.

In the gospel of John, the author writes that what we have in these accounts of Jesus is only the tip of the iceberg. Near the close of the gospel John writes, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God..." John 20:31

I pray that you too might engage in the Word and see Jesus as an example of how to live and engage in the world. He did not seek the power and prestige of a world leader; instead he was a servant leader. He did not promote himself, or put down his fellow humans; instead his examples of living lead us to deepen our spirituality, to work for the "least of these," to be generous with what we have, and to love through doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with the Lord as the prophet Micah proclaimed.



As we believers in Jesus Christ move from the celebration of his birth to his ministry, and eventually to his death and resurrection, join me in engaging this story so that it reflects in our daily lives.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

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.



Table Talk at TOL!

Wednesday, February 12 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Everyone is invited to join us on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM to share ideas, concerns and conversation. The discussions are led by Pastor Fred Kopp and Dr. Charles Schmidtke. The topics vary each month. Light refreshments will be served.

[Remaining dates: April 8, and May 13.]

February Coffee Hour

WWI will be hosting a coffee hour on **Sunday, February 23** following the 11:00 AM service. Mark your calendar and come join us for some yummy goodies and wonderful fellowship!

If you would like to help with the coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



Happy Valentine's
Day 

Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, March 1

Please plan to stay for this annual meeting! A traditional Potluck Lunch precedes the meeting.

Reminder: All Annual Report articles should be given to Nancy by Sunday, February 16!

New Bible Study—"4 Parables of Jesus"

This four-week Bible Study, led by Pastor Fred, is held at Augustana Lutheran Church on **Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (it began January 31)**. The group will meet on February 7, 14 and 21. Augustana is located at 3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda.

You are invited to take a closer look at four of Jesus' parables, and think through their meaning for you and those who heard them for the first time.

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.

A Prayer Partner is available after worship every week to pray with anyone in need of prayers.

The Prayer Chain is available to anyone having a prayer request. Please contact Carol Diana at 634-5282 with your requests.

FYI: Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)

“Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters, in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.” [from: Lutheran Disaster Response bulletin insert, ELCA website at www.ELCA.org/disaster]



Recent earthquakes and strong aftershocks have recently occurred in Puerto Rico while citizens continue to recover from Hurricane Maria in 2017. Many other areas in the United States remain impacted by past hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding. LDR assists those affected areas as long as needed.

For more information on the ELCA’s responses to global disasters and how you can help through your donations, please visit the website.

Operation Christmas Child

For the month of February, we are collecting children’s hats, mittens, scarves, and socks. Please place your items in the collection box in the narthex. Thank you so much!

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

The free 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.



TOL’s Winter Weather Policy

Emergency/Snow Closing Information will be carried on TOL’s Facebook page, by email notification and on local TV Stations Channels 2 (WGRZ), 4 (WIVB) and 7 (WKBW).

Trinity Tidings

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3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226
Church email: trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net
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Mission for February

“Live out the spirit of giving by sharing your time, treasure & talent with Hearts & Hands Neighbors Helping Neighbors Since 2003”



(from: Hearts & Hands, 2020)

Hearts and Hands (H&H) provides the following services for seniors in Amherst, Kenmore and Tonawanda including: light housekeeping, transportation and yardwork, as well as “Coffee & Conversation” and friendly visits. Caregiver respite is also offered. For volunteers, there is the ability to choose assignments that fit into their schedules (as often as they want). A professional staff will handle all arrangements. Please place your monetary donations in the pew envelopes.

New volunteers are always needed! For more information on how you can support H&H, please visit the website at www.hnhcares.org.

Updated brochures are now available in the church office and in the narthex!

Mission for January—Thank You



Our focus in January was the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda. Thank you to all who gave monetary donations as well as non-perishable food items!

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2. Please use the soup pot and shopping cart located in the narthex for your donations.

Monday Afternoons, Adult Ed., 1:00 PM Led by Charlie Schmidtke

We are continuing our discussions of those gospels that were not included in the Bible, but were familiar to Jesus’ followers in the first and second centuries. You’re invited to join us in the Fireside Room—come to any or all!

- February 3: Tobit and Baruch
- March 16: Judith and Esther
- March 30 (tentative): Wisdom Books
- April 6: Susanna and Manasseh
- April 20: Children’s Texts
- May 4: Both Maccabees



Ash Wednesday—February 26

Service at Augustana Lutheran, 11:00 AM

3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5720

Distribution of Ashes

Good Shepherd Lutheran at Noon

2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5390

Ashes will be distributed by Pastor Richard Neal and
Vicar Miranda Hammer.

Service at St. Mark Lutheran, 7:00 PM

576 Delaware Road, Kenmore
Phone: 875-3707



Wednesday Mid-Week Lenten Worship Schedule

The host church will provide a soup meal at 6:00 PM
followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM.

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|-----------------|---|
| March 4 | Abiding Savior Lutheran
1534 Ruie Road, North Tonawanda
Phone: 693-0180 |
| March 11 | St. Mark Lutheran
576 Delaware Road, Kenmore
Phone: 875-3707 |
| March 18 | St. Martin Lutheran
322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda
Phone: 693-4415 |
| March 25 | Good Shepherd Lutheran
2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda
Phone: 832-5390 |
| April 1 | Trinity Old Lutheran |

Mid-Week Lenten Season Collection

During the weeks of Lent, congregations are invited to support Rainie's Foster Closet on Oliver Street in North Tonawanda. It is an all-volunteer organization that assists the foster care families in the community.

The following is a partial list of items needed. More detailed lists can be found at the marked box located in the narthex.

Babies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diapers/wipes (all sizes)• New Bottles• Infant Toiletry and Bath Items• Infant/Toddler Clothing (all sizes)	Children <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing of All Sizes and All Seasons• Toiletries• Full-Size Bottles of Shampoo
Juniors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing of All Sizes• Hygiene Needs	Other Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scarves/Hats/Outerwear• Backpacks filled with School Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toys for All Ages—New in Boxes Only• Books—Gently Used or New Books for All Ages	

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

After having a "respite" in January due to New Year's Day, we are ready to resume our activities on Wednesday, February 5.

On Thursday, January 9, we attended a meeting at the Lutheran Charities of Western New York (LCWNY) office at St. John's Lutheran in Williamsville. Representatives from local agencies supported by LCWNY were there to share



information about their programs and goals for 2020. It is always interesting to hear about the work being done in their communities.

We are pleased to have received a portion of the 2020 grant funding from LCWNY. This helps cover monthly expenses, which enables TLC at TOL to remain free of charge for caregivers in the community.

We thank Lutheran Charities for the continued support—it is greatly appreciated.

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss

Hopkins' "Pied Beauty"

Almost any poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins can blow me away with its energy and its rhythms. One of my favorites is a short poem he called "Pied Beauty":

Glory be to God for dappled things--
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-fourth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

Some critics feel they have to "analyze" a poem like this, teach us how it was put together:

Hopkins has set up an overall asymmetrical piece, within which are symmetrical lines, the first and last, the second and third, and asymmetrical lines that do not have doubles in meaning or in syntax. Succeeding lines of each tercet are indented and extended beyond the last, so that the lines seem to "grow" or reach out...

All I want to say is that it's an exciting poem-prayer that finds beauty in unusual places and things, and that thanks God enthusiastically for making them beautiful.

Loren Keller

[from: *Trinity Tidings*, September 2005]

Author's Biography: Gerard Manley Hopkins was born in Stratford, Essex, England on July 28, 1844. He died in 1889.

Calendars for 2020—Thank You!

We extend our thanks to the Roberts & Wedekindt Funeral Home (Grover Cleveland Highway and Bailey Avenue in Amherst) for generously donating beautiful, inspirational calendars for members of TOL.

ELCA Campaign Dollars—Update

“Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA” began in 2014 and statistics on the success of the program are available and documented in “Boundless,” Winter 2019” (an ELCA publication).

Through the generosity and support of members and congregations across the country, real impacts and differences have been made in the United States and around the world.

A number of areas of growth and success of the campaign include:

- 281 new start-up congregations
- 1,300 seminary students receiving ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships
- 953 ministries working to end hunger in the United States
- 453 Young Adults in global mission serving or having served in countries around the world
- 100 disability ministries grants distributed for workshops, training opportunities, education and camps.

Upcoming Lutheran Charities Event

Meats & Sweets Raffle

(featuring Sloan Meat Market & Sweet Beginnings Bakery)
Saturday, March 21, 2020

The event will be held at the Kenmore Knights of Columbus (1530 Kenmore Avenue in Buffalo) and the doors will open at 5:00 PM. It is open to everyone 21 and over. There will be a Door Prize, and Premium and Grand Finale Raffles.

Tickets are available at www.wnylutherancharities.org or at the door. For more information, please visit the website or call the Lutheran Charities office at 632-2623.



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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Wed., Back and Hip Yoga, 12:00 Noon 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 the 1st Wednesday of the month 6:45 PM (Fireside Room)

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

Presidents’ Day, February 17



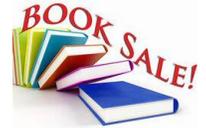
Recycle!



Please continue to place your cans and bottles in the marked container located in the hallway near the main bulletin board. You may also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in the Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). Thank you!

Recycle the can tabs too! Place them in the marked container in the narthex.

TOL Book Sale!



The book sale continues in support of the Sanctuary Carpet Fund.

Stop by the downstairs Nursery Room. The tables are filled with something for everyone—children to adults! There are also CD’s, DVD’s and puzzles.

There are many to choose from—at surprisingly low prices!



“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