

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

Volume 59

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Number 2

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.

Pastor's Ponderings

"There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain." Isaiah 4:6

It is cold as I write this article! I need to find warmth, hope, and a sign that this difficult winter will give way to spring. I found this hope in the Bible verse above. It describes what God will provide to the remnant of Israel—a canopy or pavilion that will give shade, refuge, and protection. Refuge, protection and "warmth" for us in the North!

Being in the presence of Jesus and in his service gives us hope in what is to come. This helps us through difficult times. If you are struggling, I pray that you trust in God's protection and strength. When we are lonely, sad, hurt, or lost, God is always there. If your life seems to be going in a direction that needs to be steered differently, God is there. One way God is there is through the community of faith at TOL. Turn to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let your brothers and sisters in Christ listen and help carry some of your burdens.

faith
hope
love

An article I recently read stated that younger generations are seeking a nonjudgmental (Do not judge so that you may not be judged. Matthew 7:1), welcoming (Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them: for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. Matthew 19:14), community (Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. Acts 2:46). Let us strive to be that community for Amherst.

Warming up for the work ahead.
Peace,
Pastor Fred

Reprinted from *Trinity Tidings*, February 2014.

Thank You!

A big thank you to the Church Council for hosting the potluck luncheon that preceded the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27. Thank you to all who brought in delicious food and desserts!

Many thanks to all who stayed for the meeting, which moved along quickly. Extra copies of the 2018 Annual Report and the TOL Constitution are available in the narthex. The new TOL Constitution was approved. Thank you to Stephanie, Diane, Barb, and Pastor Fred for their efforts in updating the document.



New Members Received

On Sunday, January 27, Vicki and Jim, Jean, and Lanny were welcomed into the TOL family. We pray for God's blessings on them and look forward to joining them in carrying out the mission of TOL in proclamation, fellowship and service in the name of Jesus.

Online Giving to TOL

Tithe.ly is now up and running. You can set up your giving 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.



February Stewardship Began on Super Bowl Sunday



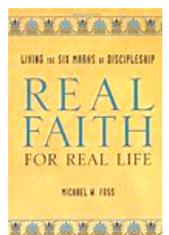
The focus for February is the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran. The soup pot in the narthex is there for your monetary donations, and we're hoping to overflow the shopping cart with non-perishable food items. Thank you for your support!

Pre-Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Fred (Fridays through March 8) Augustana Lutheran, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Pastor Fred invites you to join the study group that is designed for Christians seeking to apply their faith to everyday life. They will be using "Real Faith for Real Life" by Michael Foss as a guide. During the study, they will lift up six time-tested marks of discipleships that encourage the practice of faith in everyday life including:

- Daily prayer
- Bible reading
- Weekly worship
- Christian service
- Relationships that encourage spiritual growth
- Giving in the spirit of generosity

The group will be following the book and expanding on it, connecting Bible to Faith. If you desire to go more in-depth, you are invited to order the book through Amazon.



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.

A message from Pastor Fred:

Friends, our congregation member, Sohail Akhtar, is proceeding well in his seminary education. Recently he had a preaching class and they put his sermon on YouTube. Vicar Sohail's sermon is based on John 6:1-14. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/NWYq0hjxxGQ>. Please keep Sohail and his family in your prayers.



January Stewardship

Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action was the focus for part of January. Thank you to all who donated! For anyone wishing to volunteer, please go to the organization's website at <https://hnhcares.org>.

Extended December Stewardship

Thank you to all who donated much-needed new warm hats, gloves and socks for Ken-Ton Closet in Tonawanda during December and through January 13! With more bitter cold weather to come, they will be appreciated!



TLC at TOL Respite Care Program Updates

Lutheran Foundation of WNY: We attended a Lutheran Charities meeting on January 10 at which time we received a check from the Lutheran Foundation of WNY for \$500 (representing partial funding from the total 2019 Lutheran Charities Grant Funding). The Foundation supports congregational outreach ministries. As part of this funding, we will provide progress reports to the board in May and October.



We thank the Foundation Board for its generous support.

Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter: We applied for available Sustainability Funds from the organization in December 2018, and a check for \$600 was received from the Alzheimer's Association in January. The funding will be available for the purchase of new and updated activity items, food and paper products, as well as additional seating for the comfort of our guests at the various activity areas. Community Respite Monthly reports will be submitted and will include how the funds were spent. Also, we will attend quarterly Respite meetings during the year.

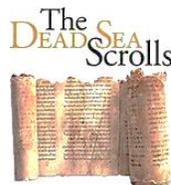
We thank Lauren Ashburn, Director of Respite Services & Advocacy (WNY Chapter) for her guidance in securing the funding, and to the Alzheimer's Association for its generous support.

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss

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Trinity Tidings email: jesherm86@roadrunner.com
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Adult Ed. With Charlie Schmidtke Monday Afternoons at 1:00 PM

Please join us in the Fireside Lounge on **March 4** when classes resume with our discussion of the Dead Sea Scrolls.



Ash Wednesday and Mid-Week Lenten Worship Schedule

March 6 11:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Augustana Lutheran 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda Phone: 832-5720
12 Noon	Ashes will be distributed by Pastor Emily and Vicar Miranda along Sheridan Drive.
7:00 PM	Good Shepherd Lutheran 2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda Phone: 832-5390
Wednesday, Mid-week Lenten Services: The host church will provide a soup meal at 6:00 PM —service combined with conversation and worship around the dining tables.	
March 13	Trinity Old Lutheran 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst Phone: 836-4868
March 20	Good Shepherd Lutheran 2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda Phone: 832-5390
March 27	St. Martin Lutheran 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda Phone: 693-4415
April 3	Augustana Lutheran Church 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda Phone: 832-5720
April 10	Abiding Savior Lutheran 1534 Ruie Road, North Tonawanda Phone: 693-0180



Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, January 2019

Our first program of the new year was held on January 5—a pleasant day, and even a little sunshine! We welcomed six guests (several guests were unable to attend).

We are blessed to have a new volunteer—welcome, Nancy!

Word and craft activities had New Year and wintertime themes. There wasn't enough time for the Snowball Toss/Bean-bag Toss, so beginning with the February program, we will adjust the schedule to allow time for this activity. Everyone enjoyed chair yoga with Leanne and Everyone Wins Bingo.

Thank you to the kitchen staff for serving delicious Sloppy Joe sandwiches for lunch and cookies for dessert!

Afternoon activities began with a visit from Lynn and her Border Collie, Chrome. This was their second visit to the program. Everyone enjoyed greeting them and we learned that there are two other dogs in the family, both enjoying agility activities. Chrome is definitely a therapy dog!



For music time, everyone joined in with Sing-along with Susie Q and music from the '70's. We ended the program with singing "Happy Birthday" to Betty.

Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss

We still need additional Respite volunteers.
If you are interested, please speak to Jan or Paulette!



Sunday School

The class was cancelled on January 20, due to the winter snowstorm. A wrap-up of the ELCA God's Global Barnyard project will be included in the March *Trinity Tidings*.

Pastor Fred's children's message on Sunday, January 27, was based on a box of assorted objects he gathered; each item had a different purpose. He then asked the children, "What is your purpose?" This brought a thoughtful and meaningful response from Evelyn—she said "Help the World." A good message for everyone! (Sunday School will return on February 17.)

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 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 Wednesday of the month, 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)

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

Giving? Taking Away?

In the early years of the 20th Century, there was a brilliant young pianist in Vienna. His name was Paul. Everyone was convinced that he would become a truly great musical performer. Unfortunately World War One broke out and Paul, like thousands of other young men, was sent into military service. He was severely wounded in a battle, and it became necessary for doctors to amputate his right arm.



What do you think would go through Paul's mind at this time? Was he totally depressed? Did he sit in a corner thinking "Why me"? Of all the people to lose a right hand, why a pianist, who needs one so much? Or did he try hard to be philosophical, thinking, "Mine was a God-given talent. God gives and God takes away."

We can't be sure about Paul's thoughts, but we can be sure where his heart was. His heart was where it had always been, in making beautiful music on the piano. Paul decided not to give that up. Perhaps in "taking away" his hand, God had actually given him something that made him special, unique.

He worked very hard, training his left hand to do more than anyone else would expect from it. And he went to a friend of his, a promising composer, and asked him to compose a special piece of music just for him, a Piano Concerto for the Left Hand.

The composer's name was Maurice Ravel, and the composition he created is still considered, a hundred years later, one of his most outstanding works. People who heard Paul play it say it was one of their most moving musical experiences. They heard the music of a man who was thanking God for what he'd been given.

Loren Keller

[from: *Trinity Tidings*, July 2004]
Used with permission.

TLC at TOL Respite Care Program

This free social program occurs on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or any form of dementia. For more information or to register for the program, please contact Jan or Paulette at the church office (836-4868).

TOL Caregivers Support Group

All Caregivers are invited to join us on **Monday, April 1 (7:00 PM to 8:30 PM)**. Bring your questions and we'll try to help you find answers! For more information, please contact Jan at the church office (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).