

Pastor's Ponderings

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

In 1997, Richard Carlson wrote a small book called "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and it's all small stuff." It has helped many people keep little (big) things from taking over their life. Recently we celebrated Pentecost, and we were reminded that the Holy Spirit is with us to guide, support, build faith, and empower our God-given gifts. We reflect the Holy Spirit through exhibiting and producing fruits of the Spirit. To an outsider these may be considered small stuff, but to us they are worth the hard work and sweat it takes to manifest them.

For those who are anxious about outside influences and things that draw us from our true self, the book by Carlson is helpful. We can be helped by the book, and put our attention to small stuff that needs to be bigger in our lives—the Spirit's fruit. By focusing on the fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—even Carlson seems to agree that our lives, the lives around us, creation, and God's mission on earth would be enhanced and improved through a little sweat.



When it comes to letting little (big) things overwhelm us, consider Carlson's book. When it comes to having an impact on our lives, the lives of others, and creation, consider putting in effort and allowing God's grace to shine through you as you continue and be empowered to produce fruits of the Spirit.

Sweating to produce Fruit, I remain,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

April/May Mission—A Successful Challenge!

The focus was Augustana LC's RIDE program (Refugee and Immigrant Driver Education). Our goal was to raise \$650.00—enough to assist one individual in obtaining a NYS driver's license. As of Sunday, May 19, we reached the goal!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who generously responded to this challenge!!



Augustana LC's 140th Anniversary Saturday, June 8

Members of Augustana Lutheran Church will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the church on **Saturday, June 8**. There will be a special service at 11:00 AM led by Pastor Fred and Pastor Jeremiah Smith (Niagara Frontier Conference Dean). Members of TOL are invited to attend.

Right after worship...

Please stay for the Coffee Hour on **Sunday, June 2**, following the 11:00 AM worship service. We'll gather in the Fireside Room across from the church office. Everyone is welcome!



Food and Fellowship

What a nice group we had for our pizza party on Sunday, May 19! Thank you to all who stayed after Church and enjoyed yummy pizza, goodies, and fellowship with Church family.



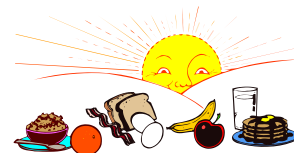
Thank you also to my fellow WWI women's group ladies who brought treats and beverages!

Our events happen because of all of you!

Kelly

The **Men's Breakfast Group** met at the Family Tree Restaurant on Saturday morning, May 18.

There was no agenda—just an enjoyable and relaxing breakfast! Their next meeting is planned for the third Saturday in September.



ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2024

Pray that biological fathers, stepfathers, adoptive fathers and foster fathers will experience the daily joys of fatherhood and find support and wisdom for the challenges of parenting, passing along their faith, teaching compassion and respect, and encouraging and guiding their children.



Trinity Tidings, June 2024

We invite you to join us for worship with Holy Communion, Sundays at 11:00 AM. (in-church or on Zoom)



ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2024

- † “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works” (Psalm 139:14). Turn to our Creator in prayer for comfort and confidence when you experience self-doubt or feel inadequate.
- † Give thanks and praise to God, whose power prevails over all evil and vanquishes darkness that can overshadow and frighten us.
- † What do you fear? Share your worries with God, who is present, loving and attentive even when we feel helpless and alone.
- † Pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in countries and regions torn by conflict and violence, including Sudan, Haiti, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza and indeed the entire Middle East. Ask the Spirit to be with those who suffer loss, trauma, hunger and displacement and that we will bring support, hope and love wherever there is suffering and turmoil.
- † Remember in prayer senior adults and those who suffer illnesses and conditions vulnerable to summer heat. Give thanks for community cooling centers, those who perform wellness checks, and first responders.

©Copyright & Trademark, 2024 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All rights reserved.

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.

“Christian Cancer Support”

If you are on a cancer journey and are in need of support, please contact Linda Sokoley. She is on a journey as well and she can offer you support, hope and healing.

Please contact Linda through Augustana LC’s office at 716-832-5720 or by email at augustchurch@yahoo.com.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2016

Seasonal workers provide hospitality and care for travelers, tourists, guests and strangers. We give thanks for everything they do on behalf of others and pray that we respond with care, respect, gratitude and generosity for their service and work.

©Copyright & Trademark, 2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All rights reserved.

Trinity Tidings

Published monthly by
Trinity Old Lutheran Church
3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226
Church Office: 716-836-4868 or 716-836-4990
Church email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Karen Mulartrick and Jan Sherman, Co-Editors

www.trinityoldlutheran.com



June Mission: ELCA Disaster Response—US Tornadoes

This month, the focus will be ELCA Disaster Response. There are many places in the US and around the world that are in great need of ELCA’s presence and support. Due to the recent wave of devastating and deadly tornadoes in the mid- and upper mid-western states, it was decided to designate TOL’s donations to “US Tornadoes.” The following is a prayer for those in need.

Ask God to grant hope, stamina and healing to those recovering from the devastation left by tornadoes and severe storms across our country. Give thanks for our work together through Lutheran Disaster Response to provide relief and assistance to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and worldwide. [from: www.elca.org.]

© Copyright & Trademark 2024 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All Rights Reserved.

Please use the marked donation envelopes found on the table in the narthex or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) through the TOL website. If using the mail, please write “ELCA Disaster Response: US Tornadoes” on your check memo.

Support for Local Food Pantries

Your donations in support of the Community of Good Neighbors Mobile Food Pantry in Buffalo and Good Shepherd Lutheran’s pantry in Tonawanda are greatly appreciated. Suggested items needed are listed below.



Please place your donations in the narthex shopping cart or leave them in the elevator entrance during the week (Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon). Thank you!

- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, soup, tuna and chicken
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Cereal and other breakfast items (oatmeal, grits)
- Pasta, Mac-and-Cheese
- Spaghetti and pasta sauces
- Instant potatoes
- Paper products, feminine hygiene products

Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans) (mail to church office)



“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Aesop

ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2024: Community

- † *LGBTQ Pride Month* Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom, leadership and faith of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask the Spirit to embolden us in advocating for social, institutional and legislative change that reflects justice, total inclusion and God's boundless love for humanity in all its diversity.
- † *Juneteenth* Today we commemorate June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved Africans were emancipated in the United States. We lament our nation's history of slavery, give thanks for freedom and justice, and pray for an end to racism and racial inequality.
- † Our need for food and nourishment never ends. Pray for community meals, food pantries and food truck ministries that relieve hunger and feed our spirits.

©Copyright & Trademark, 2024 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All rights reserved.

Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action (H&H)

H&H is a year-round service organization that provides assistance to adults aged 60+ and adults with disabilities. Services are available to individuals residing in Erie and Western Niagara counties.

Volunteers are always needed—participating as their time allows them. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or if you need further information, please visit the H&H website at www.hnhcares.org.



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

Operation Christmas Child

The suggested donations for June are: small stuffed toys (10" or smaller), dolls, reusable plastic cups/water bottles. Please remember that these are just suggested donations for each month. At any time (or any sale) the items on the original complete list, which appeared in the January issue of *Trinity Tidings*, are always welcome. We also continue to collect yarn.



Please place your donations in the box labeled "Operation Christmas Child" located in the narthex.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Kelly and Debbie

Ways to Give to TOL

Online: Tithe.ly is available. For instructions, please visit the church website at www.trinityoldlutheran.com or download the Tithe.ly app to your smartphone. Please call the church office at (716) 836-4868 if you have any questions.



Giving by mail: Please send your checks to the church and to the attention of the Financial Secretary.

Adult Retreat—October 4, 5 and 6

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke

"Who am I?"

Am I the same person I was 30 years ago?
Does our personality change as we get older?
How have I become the person I am?

These and other questions will be raised during our time together.

Retreat Schedule

Friday, October 4
Gathering begins at 6:00 PM. Program begins at 6:30 PM, followed by socializing and fellowship; bring your own beverages and snacks.

Saturday, October 5
Breakfast at 8:30 AM. Programming throughout the day.
Evening for socializing and fellowship.

Sunday, October 6
Breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by program and worship.
Depart by Noon.

Cost and Packages

- Option 1:** Friday through Sunday (room and meals):
- One person in a single room: \$193
 - One person in double room: \$129
- Option 2:** Friday through Saturday night or Saturday through Sunday (room and meals):
- One person in a single room: \$119
 - One person in double room: \$87
- Option 3:** Meals only: \$45

Reservations Deadline: Sunday, September 22

Contact Trinity Old Lutheran at 716-836-4868 or Charlie Schmidtke by email at schmidtkecharles@gmail.com.

Payment due by Friday, October 4. Make checks payable to Charles Schmidtke, please. Information packets will be sent to everyone who registers.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

[Photos and memories from last year's retreat are displayed in the narthex. Stop by and take a look!]

Summertime Events: Lutheran Charities of WNY (LCWNY)

- Friday, July 12: 26th Annual Golf Classic at Chestnut Hill Country Club in Darien Center.
- Friday, August 9: Annual Bisons Night at Sahlen Field in Buffalo, Game Time, 7:05 PM.
- Raffle: "Yankees Game Package Raffle" Inside the Legends Club at Yankee Stadium.

Please see the LCWNY golf registration brochure and event fliers posted on the bulletin board next to the church office OR visit the website at www.WNYLutheranCharities.org!



Flag Day, June 14

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: "Temple or Mount of Olives"

Part I: Jesus at the Temple

Read Luke 2: 41-52

According to Luke, Jesus' family went to Jerusalem every year for Passover. There was a Jewish obligation to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year. This obligation was very onerous for those living in Galilee. Very few families could afford the travel and staying in Jerusalem that many times. Devout Jews from Galilee usually just went once a year and the Passover was the most favorite time to go. Where did Jesus' family stay? In Jesus' younger years they probably stayed with Elizabeth (and Zechariah). We don't know for sure when either one died. My guess is that Elizabeth was probably still alive through Jesus' teen years and probably at the time of this story. John was still living with his mother and probably stayed with her to care for her. John joined the Essenes sometime during his adult years (age 12 and older) and may have done so when Elizabeth died. I believe his father died when John was a young child. Elizabeth either lived in Hebron which was 15-16 miles from Jerusalem or in the wilderness between Jerusalem and Hebron. This distance would explain why it took three days to find Jesus. The first day, they would have traveled back to Elizabeth's. The second day, searching in Hebron and the wilderness area and staying the night. The third day, they would have gone back to Jerusalem to the temple and found him. Looking in the temple was not like looking in a church, however. It was a massive complex. This is my speculation because Luke provides no details.

On the surface of the story, we have a pre-pubescent boy doing what he wants and not worrying about his parents at all. Mary says: "Son, why have you done this to us?" His response: "what did you expect? Of course, I'd be here". (Wouldn't you like to know the tone of voice he used in this instance.) So, Jesus is doing what he is "supposed" to be doing in his own mind and why don't his parents understand. That's the simple story. Let's turn to the complicated version. First of all, do you get as frustrated as I do that more details aren't given to us in the bible? In our Christian tradition and our bible, this is the only story we have of Jesus after his birth and the visit of the Magi before he starts his ministry at the age of 30 or so. Wouldn't you like to know about his youth and his adult life before he was thirty? Who were his friends? What did he do? Where did he go? What did he believe? Don't you want some details about what happened to Joseph? This gospel story is the last time we hear anything about Joseph. And what were Jesus' brothers and sisters like? We've heard some of the Coptic stories about Jesus' early childhood but we don't have any gospel stories to answer the questions that I've asked. We are left with making some assumptions, using indirect ways of getting more details or relying on other traditions (e.g., the Coptic Church or the Indian Orthodox Church).

What was Nazareth like during Jesus' lifetime? The population has been estimated to be anywhere between 480 and 2000. The estimate for the population in Galilee was three million according to Josephus, the Jewish Historian. Scholars believe that's a ridiculous number. They estimate the population for all of Galilee to be somewhere between 250,000-400,000. Nazareth is located in a valley with a spring of fresh water. There was terraced agriculture and probably sheep in the hills too. It probably didn't have olive trees that were common throughout other parts of Galilee,

although it did have trees for Joseph's carpentry needs during Jesus' lifetime.

Here are some things we know about the typical life for Jews in Galilee: Children played games that are similar to hopscotch and jacks. They had toy animals on wheels, spinning tops, hoops, and played a form of checkers. Joseph would have kept a chip of wood behind his ear to designate that he was a carpenter (he would not do so on the Sabbath). Graven images were forbidden so there were no portraits or paintings or sculptures anywhere. Only the Romans or Gentiles would have had such things. However, dolls for children were ok. Typically, a family had two meals. Breakfasts were light (flat bread, olives, goat or sheep cheese). Men would take the cheeses with them and eat them at mid-day. Dinners were heavy and typically would have had vegetable/lentil stew or fish, bread, fruit, eggs, and cheese. Red meat was only for big celebrations. Locusts were delicacies (tasting like shrimp).

Jewish leaders had prescribed that all Jews should make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times each year. This was reasonable for those living in Judea who only had a day or less to travel to the Temple. But for Jews living in Galilee that was a real hardship, especially for the poor or those who had to labor to make ends meet (e.g., fishermen, carpenters, craftsmen, farmers or shepherds). Nazareth was about 80-90 miles from Jerusalem and it took about three days at least and no one dared travel alone. Caravans or in groups were the only safe ways to go. That would be easy to do at Passover time because that was the most popular time to travel. We'll look at Jesus being lost in the temple next month.

Used with permission.



"Young Frankenstein"
A review

Is it Frahkenschteen or Frankenstein
The question of the day
And who is Igor and who's the monster?
Ah, my friends that is the play!

We were delighted to head to the theatre
And to listen and chuckle and clap
The tap dancing was terrific
The ensemble ran all over the map!

Full of energy, vim and vigor
Their antics delighted—can't you tell?
We're so happy that we were a part
Of the group from TOL!

Diane S

Used with permission