



Pastor's Ponderings

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

During our vacation in Montana, not only did we soak up our grandson Felix, his parents Nate and Julia, and spend time with Bekah and Yogi, we also visited Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild Park. This Park included a dozen sculptures that helped the visitor connect to the wildness and beauty of Big Sky country.

One sculpture called "Clearing," by Alison Sigora, stood out to us. This sculpture looked like a large nest; the outside was created of burnt wood logs (in Montana, like the rest of the west, wildfires are a part of life.) The diameter and height were more than 12 feet. It was imposing and seemingly unwelcoming until one entered it through a door that brought one to a space where smooth native wood planks lined the whole inside, and a bench was attached to the curved walls. In this space one left the unpredictable and sometimes harsh world behind, and one entered a sanctuary of sorts, with the only connection to the outside being, at that time, the blue skies of Montana.

Jesus went away alone to pray and at these times he connected to God and found direction and help. Sometimes we need a space or a time to shelve our troubles for a moment and connect with each other, with nature, and with God. Autumn is a good time to do this. We can marvel at the colors in God's creation, spend time with family and friends, and look to the hills to be with God. As we look to God, we can be encouraged that God loves us and is there for us during times of suffering and pain.

May this season be a time of renewal and peace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



1st Peter Bible Study... ...this letter exhibits a triumphant conviction of faith.

Pastor Fred's six-week Bible Study continues on Friday mornings at Augustana Lutheran Church (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). The class will meet on **October 8, 15, and 22.**

A Zoom invite will be offered for those who can't make it in person. Hope to see you there!

Table Talk Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM

Please join us for this bi-weekly discussion group! We are using Charlie Schmidtke's new book, "My I's," as a resource for the topics of discussion (including love and respect for the world, family and friends). Reading the book is not a pre-requisite for attending. This class is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend. Topics for October are listed below.



- Gender differences and our misunderstandings (October 6)
- Generational relationships and myths and realities of aging (October 20)

Adult Ed. 2021-2022 Charlie Schmidtke



We meet on **Mondays (1:00 PM to 2:30 PM)** in the Fireside Room with a Zoom option for those who do not want to attend in person. Please let me know if you would like to be included in the Zoom invitation. I suspect we will continue to Zoom and meet in person for the foreseeable future. Upcoming World Religions classes are listed below. Hope to see you at any or all.

Charlie

- Buddhism (October 4, 11, 18)
- Daoism (November 8, 15, 22)
- Judaism (January 10, 17)
- Islam (January 31 and February 7, 14, 21)
- Other Christianities (March 28)
- Native American (April 4, 11)
- Tribal African and Aboriginal (April 25 and May 2, 9)



Reformation Day, Sunday, October 31 Shared Worship at Augustana Lutheran

(3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda)

Worship at 9:30 AM



In-church Worship Guidelines (October)

Based on new CDC and Upstate New York Synod recommendations, we are strongly urging everyone to please wear a mask indoors and continue to socially distance.

We understand that getting vaccinated and wearing masks are personal decisions, and we ask everyone to be respectful and nonjudgmental about the decisions of others.

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.



ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2021

Reformation Day

The impact of Martin Luther and other reformers has special significance for the global community of Lutheran Christians. Give thanks that we are set free by the grace and light of God to grow, change, confess our flaws and failings, and ground our church anew in the word and truth of God in Jesus Christ.

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Feast of Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Pray that we will greet each day with a sense of awe, gratitude and respect for creation, for the organisms and creatures that inhabit the earth, for our pets, and for humanity in all its diversity and complexity — the handiwork of God entrusted to our care and love.

For People Enduring Conflict

Remember in prayer countries or regions where there is conflict, civil unrest or violence, especially Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar and the Middle East. Pray that God will protect and care for people who endure conflict; have been displaced from their homes and nations; suffer loss, despair, persecution or trauma; and long for peace, healing and stability. Give thanks for the work we do together through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Witness in Society, ELCA World Hunger and our partner organizations.

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Trinity Tidings

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October Mission

The focus for October is Operation Christmas Child. Your donations, in addition to some of the basket raffle proceeds, will help offset the cost of completing and shipping the shoeboxes. (An updated article by Debbie and Kelly appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Please use the marked envelopes located in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (please indicate on your check that it is designated for Operation Christmas Child).

September Mission, Thank You

Thank you for your donations in support of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)!

LIRS Core Values

Welcome

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” Rooted in faith, LIRS believes that we are called to welcome those fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in the United States.

Prophetic Witness

Not all are prophets, but all are called to be prophetic witnesses. At LIRS, this means we are committed to speaking out boldly and standing up for the just treatment of those we serve.

From: www.lirs.org

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Items for the Worship Bulletins



All items for the Sunday bulletins should be submitted to the church office by **9:00 AM on Wednesdays**. Thank you!

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 if you have any questions (716-836-4868).

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



Chiavetta's BBQ, & Basket Raffle Thank You Notes!

On Sunday, September 12, we held our annual Chiavetta's dinner and basket raffle. Of course, it was a little different this year since we weren't able to invite our guests to sit down and enjoy their dinners in the Fellowship Hall due to COVID concerns. But, all went well and we had a fruitful afternoon. As always, we would never be able to have a successful venture without our amazing volunteers!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with preparation, serving, being our cashier, and cleanup! Special thanks to Scott for being our "fearless leader."

Earlene

A huge thank you to everyone who donated baskets, gift cards, items for baskets, and to those who bought tickets to win a basket. Thanks to you we had 58 baskets/gift cards/gift certificates.

Kelly and Debbie



TOL Book Sale in Room 103

Looking for something new to read...or for different puzzles or CD's? TOL's ongoing book sale has something for everyone.

Please stop in after worship—or anytime you visit TOL. New items continue to be added (as always, please feel free to bring in your items to add to our inventory).

Recycle Your Cans and Bottles

Please use the marked container in the hallway near the bulletin board for your donations.



You can also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza (2790 Sheridan Drive) in Tonawanda. It's an easy process and TOL also has an account there.

"Christ in Our Home" Devotionals

Booklets for October through December are now available in the narthex. Please take a copy!

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office (716-836-4868).



Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action



Hearts and Hands (HNN) continues to serve Amherst, Clarence, North Tonawanda, and the Southern Tier and is now welcoming all residents of Erie County and Eastern Niagara County.

- In-Home Support includes: Food Preparation, Laundry, Coffee and Conversation, Housekeeping, Minor Home Repairs
- Caregiver Respite Services include: Canine Caregivers, Coffee and Conversation, Friendly Visiting at Home, Sharing a Meal

For more program details and information (and how to become a volunteer), please visit the HNN website at www.hnncares.org/services or call 716-406-8311.

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

Operation Christmas Child



It is that time again—to spread Jesus' love around the world.

The last two years we have sent 33 boxes!! Shoeboxes are still available in the narthex. [Please do not include any candy, toothpaste, or glass items.]

If you are able to help with the \$9 shipping fee, please make your check out to me or put your cash donation in the marked envelope. If not, it is okay. We will use some of the profits from the basket raffle. They are due by Sunday, November 14. Thanks again for your help.

Debbie and Kelly

Oct.: coloring books, crayons, watercolor paints, games, puzzles

Local Food Pantries

Thank you for your continued support of the pantries at Good Shepherd LC in Tonawanda and Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) in Buffalo! Please place your donations in the shopping cart in the narthex or leave your items in the marked boxes at the elevator entrance during the week (Tuesdays – Fridays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon). Suggested items include:



- Canned goods (vegetables, soups, tuna, etc.)
- Jar items (spaghetti sauce, peanut butter)
- Boxes of pantry staples (cereal, pasta)
- Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans stores) can be taken to the church office.



ELCA Prayer Ventures—October 2021

Continue praying for people and communities impacted by recent hurricanes, flooding, severe weather and wildfires, and for those working to recover from natural disasters. Pray that all will find comfort, strength and hope in God's loving presence and in the response and support of caring neighbors, faith communities, disaster response volunteers, Lutheran Disaster Response, and the global community of siblings in Christ.

Give thanks for the bounty of autumn and the people who tend crops and orchards that nourish and sustain us. Pray that we will work together year-round in our communities to help our food-insecure neighbors find convenient, consistent, affordable sources of healthy food.

God, we ask you to teach us to appreciate life and see each day as an opportunity to do God's work in the world — serving our neighbor, sharing our faith and expressing our gratitude for God's steadfast love and compassion.

Pray for soldiers serving in places of conflict, returning home from deployment or recovering from injuries or trauma. Give thanks for the people who attend to their well-being and daily needs, especially chaplains serving in the U.S. military and in Veterans Affairs hospitals, and congregation members providing care and support for soldiers and their families.

Nothing is hidden from God, who knows our every thought, intention, desire and need. Give thanks for Jesus, the Son of God, who lived in the world with us and reassures us that, in every circumstance, God is approachable, full of grace, mercy and understanding.

Pray that the Spirit will strengthen our wisdom and skills that we might better steward our oceans, which influence weather, provide bountiful food, facilitate global trade and travel, and renew us with their beauty and power, reflecting God's creative might.

Pray that during this lingering pandemic the Spirit will guide us to show patience, exercise flexibility and care for our neighbor's physical and spiritual well-being, and that it will inspire in us a spirit of sacrificial love and concern for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

Give thanks that we can trust in God — our refuge, strength and hope in every circumstance.

Pray for the work and ministries of our global companions during this time when we cannot accompany them in person. Give thanks that the Spirit continues to strengthen our relationships as siblings in Christ through prayer, technology, generosity, advocacy and shared resources.

Give thanks for our siblings in Christ who write hymns and songs that reflect on our faith, Scripture and God's work in the world, helping us express our daily joys, sorrows and concerns.

Praise God for the wisdom and intent of creating a wonderfully diverse humankind and world. Pray that we will respond with awe, respect and joyful thanksgiving.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced" (Psalm 126:3). Give joy, praise and thanksgiving to God!

Pray for our neighbors who are, in increasing numbers, homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Give thanks for communities of faith that respond with food, shelter, clothing, social services and health care, and that work diligently to end homelessness.

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