



Pastor's Ponderings

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:15-16

Verse 15 is used in one of our favorite church Sunday School songs, "This Little Light of Mine"... 'Hide it under a bushel, NO!' Verse 16 is quoted in our baptismal liturgy, "Let your light shine before others ..." The light we are not hiding but letting shine, is the light of Jesus. Jesus declares he "is the light of the world." This light becomes our light as we shine God's steadfast love into the world, as we use the gifts we have been given to further God's kingdom on earth, and as we practice a "grace-filled" life in a world that needs examples of this daily.

Letting our light shine means welcoming all our neighbors, not just ones who are like us. Putting our light on the lampstand means keeping a steady presence in the world, so that people might act ethically, unselfishly, and generously. The light we shine individually becomes brighter when we do this as a community. Serving, Loving, Welcoming, Forgiving, Hoping, Enduring, Empowering are examples of many words that emanate from being the light in the world, while exposing racism, sexism, and other corporate sins that keep us from being a community together.

As the Autumn season sends us less sunlight, let us make sure God's light does not diminish. Let your light shine!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred

From: Trinity Tidings, October 2018



Bible Study with Pastor Fred

The final class of the Bible Study of 1st John will be held on **Friday, October 3** at Augustana LC (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). Hope to see you there!

Sermon Discussion/Input with Pastor Fred Wednesday, October 22 at Noon in the Fireside Room

Pastor Fred invites you to join him in a bag-lunch discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. Please let him know if you plan to attend so he can prepare materials.

Dinner/Theater at TOL, Friday, October 17
6:00 PM, Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 PM, Theater



Come and listen to Sancho (Charlie Schmidtke) talk about his adventures with Don Quixote de La Mancha. You will be taken to a world of ideals and windmills. Plus, you will get a glimpse into the importance of the Impossible Dream. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office (716-836-4868) or email the church office at trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or Charlie at schmidtkecharles@gmail.com. Admission free!

Save the Date! TOL's Annual Chicken Chowder Sale is Saturday, October 25!



Get ready for one of TOL's favorite fall traditions—our annual Chicken Chowder Sale is happening on **Saturday, October 25**, with pick-up starting at 12:00 PM. Chowder will be sold at \$8 per quart and \$30 per gallon. It's a popular event and chowder sells out fast, so come early!

If interested in volunteering, please use the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. Volunteers are needed the morning of **Friday, October 24** as well as the morning and early afternoon of **Saturday, October 25**.

A big Thank You to everyone who has donated money, ingredients, or their time to make this year's chowder sale possible!

Matt

September 6 Event, Thank You! -- Earlene

We held our 2nd Annual Craft Show-Basket Raffle-Bake Sale on Saturday, September 6. Plus, we had our first ever Pizza Sale! It was a great day with lots of shoppers and yummy food! Thank you to everyone who participated! You are the best!!!

Basket Raffle, Thank You! -- Kelly and Debbie

Thank you to all who helped with our annual Basket Raffle. We had a total of 90 baskets/gift cards and raised \$1,305. Words cannot express how grateful we are for all the support everyone continues to give us. A lot of work goes into this event (along with the craft show, pizza sale and baked goods sale), and we could not do it without you. So thank you thank you, thank you! We will be meeting on **Sunday, October 12**, following the worship service to start planning for next year, and to discuss the ups and downs of this year's event. If you would like to see how you can help, please join us in the Fireside Room!

Thank you to Matt for providing the September 6 event banner that was hung over the front doors to the church.
Great job!

Trinity Tidings, October 2025

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



ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2025*

Ask God to bless the work of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers. Give thanks for their vocations and the diverse roles they play in bringing food to our tables and around the world.



Reformation Sunday, October 26
Worship at Augustana, LC
9:30 AM

ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2025*

- † *Reformation Sunday* Give thanks for our living, growing and changing church, which asserts its identity and purpose in the good news of Jesus Christ — God's free gift of grace and new life for the world.
- † Pray for those who suffer grief and trauma due to gun violence or accidental shootings. Ask God to help us be steadfast and wise in our advocacy to end gun violence and our care for those impacted.
- † Give thanks and praise for God's inexhaustible grace, which liberates us from despair when we feel ill-equipped to deal with our troubles.
- † Ask God to grant justice to those who suffer discrimination and inequity, and ask the Spirit to help us be bearers of God's justice in the world.
- † Ask God to strengthen and sustain those who work for peace between nations, including diplomats, negotiators, religious leaders and heads of state. Pray that they will find new ways to work through impasses, implement just and lasting peace agreements, and address the needs of those impacted by war and civil conflict.
- † Pray for congregations going through challenging times, that they will find resources and assistance to renew their sense of mission and their resolve to be God's loving presence in their communities.
- † Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and joy that in God we find strength, life, happiness, hope and an eternal home.
- † Remember in prayer students who experience difficulties in school — academic, emotional, physical or social. Pray that they will receive care and support from teachers, counselors and peers so that they will grow confident and thrive.

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd 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 Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd. Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love.

Trinity Tidings

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October Mission: Operation Christmas Child

This month, the focus is on shipping the shoeboxes assembled as part of the Sunday School's Operation Christmas Child project. The cost is \$10/box. Your monetary donations will help offset the cost. (An updated article appears elsewhere in this issue.) Please use the marked envelopes from 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: Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)

Thank you to everyone for your donations in support of this very important organization as it continues to assist those rebuilding their lives in the United States and around the world. From the www.globalrefuge.org website: "Everyone deserves a place to call home."

- † Pray for refugees and immigrants in our country and throughout the world, that they will be welcomed by communities and churches that accompany them through the challenges of rebuilding their lives.
[from ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2025]

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



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Celebrates its 80th Anniversary, October 16

"World Food Day 2025 is calling for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future. By working together, across governments, organizations, sectors, and communities, we can transform agrifood systems to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy diet, living in harmony with the planet."

[from: www.fao.org/world-food-day]

My Musings
by Diane Schmidtke

Blue

My youngest grandchild recently sent me a video from her family photo archive. It was taken 15 years ago and shows all 8 of our grandkids (ages 3-7 at the time) sitting around an outdoor patio table in Mayville, NY, home of daughter #1.

Welcome to "Grandma Buffalo's" Craft House!

Every summer I was in "teacher-mode" as we gathered as a family and did projects together. Most often it was tie-dye shirts, but this time the kids made kite kits as they chatted about mixing colors. They each had their own set of markers, and some were experimenting with what happens when colors are combined.

"What do blue and yellow make?"

"What about pink and blue?"

"How about red and blue?"

Each time they mixed and gave the answer. They seemed fixated on using blue. Then, from the youngest, in her 3-year old voice, came the sweetest, most earnest: "What if we mix blue and blue?" What, indeed? Let's try! Her answer came, satisfied, and matter of fact, in a happy voice, "Blue!" This made me laugh in the moment, and I've thought about it many times since.

Oh yes, we could complicate this answer by naming endless shades: teal, indigo, aquamarine, light, dark, sky, midnight, baby, navy, royal, azure, cerulean... On goes the list, each one a bit different from the rest but blue nonetheless. And today, many years down the road, as I think of my now grown, adult grandkids, I am lead to consider another word with many variations:

Love...

Here the modifiers include brotherly, family, puppy, agape, romantic, true, deep, unrequited, passionate, unconditional, first, secret, lost...on and on...

There are times when a descriptive word adds mystery, majesty, intrigue and anticipation. Consider "The House in the Cerulean Sea" (by TJ Klune). Describing the sea as not "just" blue made me want to dive right in!

It is great to have adjectives that add color, but sometimes it is just as satisfying to keep things simple.

Blue is blue.

Love is love.

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"Christ in Our Home"...booklets for October through December are available in the narthex. If you would like a large-print copy, please call Nancy in the church office (716) 836-4868.

Ways to Give to TOL

Online: [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) is available. For instructions, please visit the church website at www.trinityoldlutheran.com or download the [Tithe.ly](https://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.

Special Sock Collection for Friends of Night People



Wow—it is amazing—140 pairs of new socks and 1 package of men's briefs were collected during the summer!! Go team!! **Thank you** to everyone for your generous donations that are so much appreciated!

Communication/Evangelism/Outreach Team

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke

You are invited to join the class on **Monday afternoons** in the Fireside Room (or on Zoom) from **1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**. Please contact Charlie for a Zoom link.



October 13

Antioch - Barnabas (Acts)

October 27

India - Thomas (Acts of Thomas)

Blessings

Special thanks to Jenna for arranging to have rescue dogs from City of Buffalo Animal Shelter be part of the September 6 event. Many people had an opportunity to visit with the dogs and their handlers!



Operation Christmas Child...It is that time again for Sunday Schools' outreach program to pack the boxes for children in need of some Christmas cheer and messages of Jesus' love. If you would like to help and need a box and a tag, they are in the hallway in our marked box. You can also just use a plastic shoe box.

We will be packing boxes on **Sunday, October 12**, in our Sunday School Room. All are welcome to come and help—no experience necessary! If you are making your own boxes, they need to be given to Debbie or Kelly by **Sunday, November 9**. The boxes will be blessed and then taken to the drop-off location. Any questions, please contact Debbie.

Support Group for Grieving Parents...This group, for parents of children and grandchildren who have died, meets on the **1st Tuesday** each month in the Fireside Room (**10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**) and also on Zoom. Coordinators are: Charlie and Diane and Jean.



Augustana LC Happenings in October!

- **October 4 (Saturday): Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ.** It's take out from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM or until sold out. Tickets: \$15 at the door; \$14 pre-sale. Please call the church office (716-832-5720) or email the office at augustchurch@yahoo.com.
- **October 18 (Saturday): 3rd Annual Fall Fun Fest.** Indoor fun for the whole family from **11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Enjoy live music, food, apple cider and indoor Trunk or Treat. Wear a costume and bring your treat bag!



"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: "Armenian Church"

Part II: Armenia and Christianity

During the Gorbachev era of the 1980's, with the reforms of *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*, Armenians began to demand better environmental care for their country, opposing the pollution that Soviet-built factories brought. Tensions also developed between Soviet Azerbaijan and its autonomous district of Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority-Armenian region. About 484,000 Armenians lived in Azerbaijan in 1970. The Armenians of Karabakh demanded unification with Soviet Armenia. Peaceful protests in Armenia supporting the Karabakh Armenians were met with anti-Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan. Compounding Armenia's problems was a devastating earthquake in 1988 with a magnitude of 7.2. Gorbachev's inability to alleviate any of Armenia's problems created disillusionment among the Armenians and fed a growing hunger for independence. On August 23, 1990, Armenia declared its sovereignty. On March 17, 1991, Armenia, along with the Baltic states, Georgia and Moldova, boycotted a nationwide referendum in which 78% of all the voters voted for the retention of the Soviet Union.

On September 21, 1991, Armenia officially declared its statehood. Levon Ter-Petrosyan was popularly elected the first President of the newly independent Republic of Armenia on October 16, 1991. On December 26, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist and Armenia's independence was recognized. The initial post-Soviet years were marred by economic difficulties, which had their roots in the conflict with Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijan SSR instigated a railway and air blockade against Armenia. This action effectively debilitated Armenia's economy as 85% of its cargo and goods arrived through rail traffic. In 1993 Turkey joined the blockade against Armenia in support of Azerbaijan.

The economies of both Armenia and Azerbaijan have been hurt in the absence of a complete resolution and Armenia's borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan remain closed. On September 27, 2020, a full-scale war erupted due to the unresolved territorial conflict. Both the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan reported military and civilian casualties. The ceasefire agreement to end the six-week war was seen by many as Armenia's defeat.

Today, Armenia has a territorial area of 11,484 square miles (the size of South Carolina). The terrain is mostly mountainous, with fast flowing rivers and few forests. The land rises to 13,419 feet above sea level at Mount Ararat, and no point is below 1,280 feet above sea level. Average elevation of the country area is the tenth highest in the world and it has 85.9% mountain area, more than Switzerland or Nepal.

Mount Ararat, which was historically part of Armenia, is the highest mountain in the region at 16,854 feet. Now located in Turkey, but clearly visible from Armenia, it is regarded by the Armenians as a symbol of their land. Because of this, the mountain is present on the Armenian national emblem today.

Armenia has a relatively large external diaspora (eight million, greatly exceeding the three million population of Armenia itself), with communities existing across the globe. There are 40,000 to 70,000 Armenians still living in Turkey (mostly in and around Istanbul). About 1,000 Armenians reside in the Armenian Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, a remnant of a once-larger community. The four quarters in Jerusalem are Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian.

Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, an event traditionally dated to 301 CE—decades

before Constantine made it a practice in the Roman Empire. Christianity came to Armenia centuries earlier with the apostle Nathaniel, who is also referred to as Bartholomew, which causes confusion at times. He was from Cana and may have been connected to the one hosting the wedding feast where Mary asked Jesus to help with the wine. Nathaniel is quoted as wondering whether anything good can come from Nazareth. Cana was larger and not as remote and out-of-the-way as Nazareth. Philip was probably a friend or even possibly a brother of Peter and Andrew and became a fisherman. He and Nathaniel were friends and he introduced Nathaniel to Jesus. Philip lived in Bethsaida. It is possible that Nathaniel moved to the Sea of Galilee area (Bethsaida) because of Philip and joined the group of future apostles (Peter, Andrew, James and John) in their fishing business. If that is true, then he was probably a follower of John the Baptist also. We do not hear much about either apostle in the Gospels.

After Pentecost, Nathaniel and Philip joined together and probably went to Syria, Greece and Phrygia (a part of modern-day Turkey). When Jesus' brother James, who was running the church in Jerusalem, was martyred, he was replaced by a man named Simeon. As soon as he took over, Simeon called the apostles back to Jerusalem to try and coordinate their missionary work. Thomas was in India and did not return. Nathaniel and Philip were in Hierapolis, a city in Phrygia. After the meeting they returned to Hierapolis. While they were there Philip cured the wife of a Roman Proconsul (like a governor). The thank you he received was being martyred. Nathaniel was protected from the Proconsul's wrath (no clear reason for this). He took Philip's body, buried it, then left and went to Armenia. Eventually he too was martyred, probably in Albanopolis (northern Greece).

The apostle Thaddaeus also went to Armenia. He is known as Thaddaeus or Judas or Jude which creates confusion over who he was. Did he write the Letter of Jude? Was he a brother of James the Lesser and Matthew? Was he a brother of Jesus? He was probably crucified in Edessa and is known for the Doxology. Tradition holds that Thaddaeus/Jude preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea (south of Judea), Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya. In all probability, he spoke both Greek and Aramaic, like almost all of his contemporaries in that area, and was a farmer by trade. Although Saint Gregory the Illuminator is credited as the "Apostle to the Armenians," when he baptized King Tiridates III of Armenia in 301, converting the Armenians, the Apostles Thaddaeus/Jude and Bartholomew/Nathaniel are traditionally believed to have been the first to bring Christianity to Armenia, and are therefore venerated as the patron saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Linked to this tradition is the Saint Thaddeus Monastery (now in northern Iran) and Saint Bartholomew Monastery (now in southeastern Turkey), which were both constructed in what was then Armenia. According to tradition, Jude suffered martyrdom about 65 AD in Beirut, in the Roman province of Syria during the 1st century together with the apostle Simon the Zealot, with whom he is usually connected. The axe that he is often shown holding in pictures symbolizes the way in which he was killed. Their acts and martyrdom were recorded in the Acts of Simon and Jude, which was excluded from the New Testament. Thaddaeus and Nathaniel were in Armenia from 40-60 CE. The Armenian church has been very influential in Asia and the Holy Land. I saw Armenian churches in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

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