

Trinity Tidings



The Mission of Trinity Old Lutheran Church is
Proclamation, Fellowship and Service
in the name of Jesus.

The Reverend Adam Arends
Transition Pastor

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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.

From the Pastor

Therefore encourage one another and build
one another up, just as you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV

Dearest Members for Good Shepherd, Augustana, and Trinity Old Lutheran,

As we continue on this path of exploring what God has in store for us, I'm reminded of sports teams. And not just because our local football team is doing well!

Soon after we were married, my wife and I joined a bar league volleyball team for a season. I've never been good at volleyball, and we joined just to hang out with friends. Most of the time we all got along, enjoyed each other's company, and had a good night—even when we missed the ball consistently. But once in a while, instead of shaking off the misses and continuing to play for fun, one member of our team would feel a bit competitive, and would start to grumble when one of us missed the ball. And then might start to groan louder when we didn't set the ball to them, or when we'd trip in the sand. Instead of playing for fun, the games became about trying not to anger one member of the team.

As we go along together these next several months, there will be times when we get along great, and we build one another up. There may also be times when we're tempted to grumble if we perceive that things aren't going our way.

At those times, I hope we can keep the Apostle Paul's words in our ears:

"Therefore encourage one another and build
one another up, just as you are doing."

Paul wrote to the early church in Thessalonica, which had its own disagreements and frustrations, to remember that they gathered together in the presence and hope of Jesus the Christ who had died on the cross and lived again to take away all our sin and frustration, our guilt and shame, so that we might work together for God and for one another.

Paul's words of encouragement, not of condemnation, continue to ring true for us today. May we continue to build one another up in the Spirit, just as we are doing.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam



Sunday Worship Leaders for October

October 4:	Pastor Adam Arends
October 11:	Charlie Schmidtke
October 18:	Charlie Schmidtke
October 25:	Service at Augustana LC (Reformation)

Chowder Time!

October is right around the corner—almost time for chowder! This year's fall Chicken Chowder Fundraiser will take place on **Saturday, October 24**. Chowder will go on sale at **Noon for \$8 per quart**; proceeds supporting the ministries of TOL are at the discretion of Council.

Prep Day: As always, it takes many hands to make our fundraiser a success! Our **Chowder Prep Day** will be **Friday, October 23, beginning at 9:00 AM**. Volunteers will help cut up chicken and beef and chop potatoes, celery, carrots, and onions. It's a lot of work—but it's always a fun morning with plenty of laughs—perhaps a few tears from the onions!

Sale Day: We'll need volunteers on **Saturday, October 24**, to help cook and sell the chowder. At least four people are needed at **8:00 AM** to stir the chowder and get things ready for the sale. Also, three or four volunteers should arrive by **11:00 AM** to help with sales and cleanup.

If you're able to help on either day, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. To donate ingredients, a list of needed items is available in the Narthex. Please deliver all fresh produce to TOL during the week of October 19, prior to our prep day. We're excited to keep this TOL tradition going and hope you'll join us! If you have any questions about volunteering or donating, please contact Matt.

Craft Fair Event—Thank You!

Kelly: Thank you, thank you, thank you to **everyone** who helped in any way to make this event so successful! Our basket raffle had a total of 103 baskets/gift cards, and our total money raised was \$1,303 (money will be distributed to Operation Christmas Child, a donation to WNY Heroes, and TOL's gas/electric bills). We deeply appreciate your generous donations, whether it was your time, a gift card, basket, lottery tickets, or monetary contribution. It is all for the good of our Church and Church family, and our outreach ministries. Each year this event gets bigger and better and we could not do it without all of you. We look forward to next year and hope you will join in on our fun day here at TOL. Many hands make light work!

Earlene: Our 3rd annual event was a fun day filled with wonderful vendors, our amazing basket raffle, book, pizza and bake sales. All of our visitors seemed to enjoy it. We would not be able to hold such a special event without the hard work of a number of people. **Thank You** to Nancy and Lanny who were instrumental in communicating with the vendors and helping to organize the event; to Debbie and Kelly who once again did a fantastic job in putting together the baskets and taking care of the sale and distribution of the basket; to Dan and Kathy for their assistance with the pizza sale; to everyone who contributed yummy baked goods and to Velma and Sharon for taking care of the sales; to Barb for taking charge of our book sale; to all of our amazing crafters who donated their crafts for our TOL table; to everyone who helped in setting up and assisted in any way. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone! You truly are the best!

Trinity Tidings, October 2026

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

**Tri-Congregational Worship at Augustana LC,
Sunday, October 25, 9:30 AM
Reformation Sunday**

ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2026*

- † Reformation Day Give thanks for the work of Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers who were inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Spirit, Scripture and prayer to renew the church through five convictions: Scripture alone, Christ alone, faith alone, grace alone and glory to God alone. Pray for the Spirit to help us consider how we might reform and renew our church for the sake of doing God's work in the world. 
- † National Disability Employment Awareness Month Remember in prayer those living with disabilities who seek employment that affirms their gifts, abilities and passions. Ask for God's help in modifying work environments, equipment, tasks and employment policies to encourage diverse abilities, create employment and leadership opportunities, and foster success and fulfillment in the workplace.
- † Remember those who have suffered loss and are recovering from the devastation of earthquakes, floods, wildfires and tornadoes, especially in the Pacific Northwest, the western states, the Midwest, Colombia, Nepal and Venezuela. Give thanks for those who are quick to respond with emergency relief, support for immediate and long-term recovery, and grants, including Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, ecumenical partners, social ministry organizations and local relief networks.
- † Pray for the health and well-being of military personnel who are separated from family, friends and communities of faith while deployed for extended tours of duty around the world. Ask God to help us accompany and support their families and loved ones during their absence.
- † Indigenous Peoples' Day Give thanks for Indigenous communities that have lived in the Americas and other parts of the world for thousands of years. Pray that we will not overlook them in our telling of history and that we will honor our church's commitment to repentance, reconciliation, healing, respect and unity as children of God.
- † Pray that we will be alert to what is good, kind and admirable in the world, and give thanks and praise to God!
- † Pray for Lutherans Restoring Creation and the organization's "creation care ambassadors," who work with congregations and synods to protect natural resources entrusted to our use and to develop solutions or restoring and healing creation.

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.

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October Mission: Operation Christmas Child

This month's focus is on shipping the shoeboxes assembled as part of this Sunday School project (\$10/box). Your monetary donations will help offset the cost. 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

Thank you for your donations and continuing support of Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration Services). The organization is dedicated to providing assistance to those who are rebuilding their lives in the United States and around the world. *"Everyone deserves a place to call home."* [from www.globalrefuge.org]

Remember in prayer immigrants and asylum seekers. Ask for guidance, wisdom and courage as we accompany these neighbors and siblings in Christ, helping them remain hopeful in the face of criticism and mistrust and supporting them through the complex process of becoming U.S. citizens. [ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2026*]

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!

God has given us abundant resources to ensure that the hungry have access to nourishing, life-sustaining food. Pray that we will respond to their immediate needs, seek sustainable solutions, and advocate for our leaders, government and institutions to address the needs of our neighbors, especially children and youth, with compassion. [ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2026*]



My Musings by Diane Schmidtke

As We Gathered at the River

Although the day was cloudy
And the rain came sprinkling down
It didn't stop the Lutherans
From making a joyful sound!

We came together in Veterans Park,
Four congregations in all,
To praise and sing and share our love,
Grateful there wasn't a squall!!

And weren't we blessed to have this time
For fellowship and fun,
To realize the gifts we're given,
To come together as one?

We learned by way of the children
That Jesus leads the way,
And we but need to follow
And do what He has to say...

The Message spoke of action
Not just listening to God's word,
But reaching out to neighbors:
Then so much could be cured!

As we journey forth in separate lives
It is good to keep in mind
That along the way love always wins
If we practice being kind.



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Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke... You're 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.

Oct. 19:	Apostles and Deacons
Oct. 26:	Early Christian Women
Nov. 9:	Mohammad
Nov. 23:	Ali (Shia) and Abu Bakr (Sunni)
Dec. 7:	Mani - Manichaeism



Tri-Congregational Task Force (T-CTF) Notes -- Charlie Schmidtke

The T-CTF met on Tuesday, September 15. The teams started their work on collecting information and setting forth tasks to be done. For example, the Liturgical Team is preparing to publish a picture directory of members of all three congregations. It is also looking at our liturgical practices and proposing that we have two joint worship services each month. The Legal and Finance Team has compiled a summary of each church's facilities and is looking at ways to share expenses and merge budgets. The Mission Team is compiling information on all the ministries sponsored by each congregation and is organizing a calendar that includes all the ministries and groups who use our church facilities. The reports from each of the teams have many more details because there is a lot of information we are gathering in order to make more informed recommendations to the councils and congregations in the future.

September/October Community Collection! 4th Annual Harvest House Baby Shower – Diapers

This two-month collection is an effort to collect diapers (sizes 2-5) and other infant needs together with other local Lutheran churches. Your donations will benefit Harvest House in Buffalo. Along with diapers, the most-needed items are: baby wipes; new children's socks; baby hygiene products; bottles and feeding supplies. Please place your items in the marked container in the donation area. Thank you for your continued support!



ELCA Prayer Ventures, January 2017*

Uncertain of what awaits us each day and what the year ahead holds for us, we ask God to grant us courage, hope and wisdom for facing the challenges and tasks that take us by surprise.

Operation Christmas Child



The suggested donations for October are children's books, puzzles, travel size games, and flash cards. Please place your donations in the box in the main hallway. Thank you!

As we get ready to pack our boxes, we would like to express our utmost gratitude for any—and all—of your donations this past year! We would not be able to send as many boxes as we do if it were not for your generous donations. Thank you so much!

Kelly and Debbie



Give thanks for farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers and others involved in the production, tending and harvesting of food. Remember in prayer those in other countries who produce and distribute food to us and other people around the world. [*ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2026**]

Hope & Healing: Christian Cancer Support

For anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis, Linda Sokoly can give support through phone calls, email, texts or one-on-one, in-person conversations and prayers.



If you or someone you know is in need of support, or if you have questions, please contact Linda through the Augustana church office at 716-832-5720 or by email at augustchurch@yahoo.com.



Ways to Give to TOL

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

**"Life's most persistent and urgent question is
'What are you doing for others?'"**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jerusalem, Part III

Jerusalem was the Jewish capital and the early church in Jerusalem was influenced by this Jewish culture. James, Peter, and John believed that all of Jesus' followers should be circumcised and follow Jewish laws. The central beliefs of the Jerusalem church were:

- 1) Jesus was the Messiah - Pentecost revealed that Jesus was the fulfillment for all the laws for all the Jews.
- 2) Ten Commandments were the primary guide for living but all of the Laws in Leviticus defined who Jesus' faithful were and should be.
- 3) Circumcision was a necessity for fulfilling the covenant between God and Abraham.
- 4) Importance of prayer; starts with Lord's prayer.
- 5) Baptism brought faithful into communion and fellowship - so many of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem and Judea also followed John the Baptist when he was alive.
- 6) Commemorating the Eucharist - breaking bread and drinking wine - sharing stories and praying together.
- 7) Share wealth and care for poor.

They were a Jewish sect and decided to share all of their worldly goods.

There was a general expectation that Jesus would return soon to free them from the bondage of Rome and their oppressors; for many, His return would lead to a form of Last Judgment. It was expected that all of Jesus' followers would sell their goods and property and share the money and goods with all the other followers, especially giving to the needy. Luke says that His followers were well liked and they were happy.

One odd event described in the 5th chapter of Acts: A couple by the name of Ananias and Sapphira sold their property to share with all the others. However, they cheated and kept some of the money for themselves. When Ananias took the rest of the money to the apostles, Peter said "Why has Satan made you keep back some of the money from the sale of the property? Why have you lied to the Holy Spirit? ... You lied to God." As soon as Ananias heard this he dropped dead. Three hours later Sapphira came in, not knowing her husband was dead. Peter confronted her: "Why did the two of you agree to test the Lord's Spirit? The men who buried Ananias are by the door, and they will carry you out!" At once she fell by Peter's feet and died. This sounds very Jewish and Old Testament to me: Eye for an eye type of justice and a vengeful God.

The first basic split in Christianity was between the Nazarenes and the Hellenic followers of Jesus—between the church based in Jerusalem and those baptized by Paul and apostles and disciples who spread out around the world. We'll look at Paul and other apostles in later issues. Here's a summary of the Nazarenes.

They were found throughout Galilee and Judea, a few in Samaria. All the males were circumcised and they followed Jewish laws. Typically, they were poor rural farmers, shepherds, etc., or fishermen around Sea of Galilee or workers in Jerusalem. They were steeped in tradition,

especially following oral traditions; that is, they spread the good news by word of mouth. They followed Jesus literally and shared the Eucharist, usually in homes. There were still prejudices between the Galileans and the Judeans. Neither trusted any of the Samaritans who started following Jesus. The conflict with Paul revolved around two elements: 1) He did not require circumcision and 2) He followed a Hellenic tradition which was not a literal approach to the good news. The conflict between Paul and the church in Jerusalem lasted from the time of his conversion until the Great Compromise. However, I think mistrust persisted for decades.

James was the architect of the Great compromise - the deal between Paul and James, John and Peter.

The great compromise proclaimed that:

- 1) Circumcision was not required for Gentiles
- 2) All Jews and Gentiles must follow Jewish laws and traditions
- 3) Gentiles must abstain from eating anything offered to idols.
- 4) Gentiles must not eat meat of any animal that is strangled or still has blood in it.
- 5) Must not commit any terrible sexual sins and intermarriage must follow all Jewish sexual codes. How to avoid intermarriage among the Gentiles was a strange part of the compromise. What did it actually mean? Jews could only marry Jews, so what did this mean for Gentiles?

Over time these elements of the compromise were forgotten or ignored. This became especially true after 70 CE when the Romans destroyed the Temple and scattered the Jews out of Judea and Galilee - the diaspora that lasted for 1800 years. With the scattering and the destruction of the temple, the community in Jerusalem dissolved and the heavy Jewish influence began to wane.

The centers for Jesus' followers spread out and we'll be examining them throughout the year: Tarsus, Antioch, Alexandria, Ephesus, Rome, Byzantium, India, Armenia, Spain, and France.

The different centers established different practices, held different beliefs and adopted different writings. We'll be looking at these differences throughout future articles.

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Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Pray for the Spirit to stir within us humility, generosity and respect for our neighbors in need and for all living creatures — from microscopic organisms to massive whales. Give thanks for pets and service animals that provide joy, comfort, companionship and assistance. [*ELCA Prayer Ventures, October 2026**]



For pastoral needs or emergencies, please contact Pastor Adam Arends at 716-773-4400 or email him at: pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com

For any general questions, please contact Nancy in the church office (716-836-4868) and she will refer you to the proper person.