

# 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

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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.

## Pastor's Ponderings

*"Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!" Colossians 3:9-11*

I write this days after the terrible shooting in Buffalo. I, with all Western New York and the country, have come face to face with ideologies that are evil and that do not have a place in our society. White supremacy and conspiracy theories promote fear and division and are wrong. As we can see from Paul's letter to the Colossians, becoming new in Christ we are no longer divided but unified. This unity that is hoped for in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior cannot be done without recognizing that structures, laws, and actions that we take and have in the United States, directly result in the perpetuation of racism and division.

The church can be a place where we can work hard to be a safe place, where the difficult subject of Racism can be addressed. In an article from Baylor University's Center for Christian Ethics, it states that the church can provide stability. The ability to stay with a group for a long time. This is needed because to be reconciled to one another we need to practice confession and forgiveness in sometimes a painful way. It takes time and commitment to foster healing and change.

The church can also practice "true Christian hospitality." This is hard work, which means not merely tolerating or being nice to others, but to truly welcome them into all aspects of the community. This hospitality builds community and trust.

The church can also practice foot washing. This forces us to admit that we are not self-sufficient and that we must serve others and accept others' services. When we practice this across racial lines, it is a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ.

I am attempting to listen and act so that change can happen for the better. And will pray that racism can be addressed and lessened.

Peace,  
Pastor Fred Kopp he/him/his

P.S. As many of you know, I broke a bone in my foot and came down with Covid. I am healing from the broken bone and have recovered from Covid. Thank you all for keeping Anne and me in your thoughts and prayers, and for the many expressions of concern. It is a blessing to be part of a community that cares.

## Rescheduled: New Bible Study

Pastor Fred will lead this new study beginning **Friday, June 17 at Augustana Lutheran Church** (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). The group will dive into Paul's letter to the Philippians. All are invited to attend. It will be held in person and on Zoom. Please ask Pastor Fred for the Zoom link. Come to one or all of the classes!



## Chiavetta's Dinner—Coming Friday, June 17

The dinner is from **3:00 PM to 7:00 PM** and it is drive-through only. All dinners are \$14 and include two salads, roll and butter.

**Volunteers Needed!** If you are interested in helping with the dinner—filling in where needed—please contact or speak to Earlene.

A portion of the dinner proceeds will benefit Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action.

*This is a major fundraiser—please save the date!*

## Updates!

### Sandwich Ministry:

Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to make the sandwiches each week. We've already delivered 1,200 sandwiches to Friends of Night People! Good news—the ministry recently received a \$250 grant from Thrivent that will help with the cost of groceries and supplies.

### Friends of Night People:

Look for the [Bright Blue Barrel](#) located in the main hallway off the narthex for donations of needed clothing (mostly for men). Because of their limited storage space, they ask that seasonal clothing donations be clean and wearable, and blankets are also welcome. Thank you for your support!

### Prayer Chain:

If you, a loved one, or a friend is in need of prayer, please contact the church office with your requests (716-836-4868). Please contact Judy if you feel called to be a part of this important TOL ministry. All are welcome.



## ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's Prayer for Buffalo

God, our healer and our refuge, as we mourn the lives lost by the racially motivated killings in Buffalo, we pray for all who suffer. With your mercy, bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Comfort the mourners and embrace the lonely. With your might, empower us to change this broken world and end gun violence. Help us push back and speak out against racist ideas that further divide your children by perpetuating white supremacy, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in you. We ask this through the one once wounded for our transgressions and now standing with us in our sorrows, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



**We welcome you to join us for in-church worship on Sundays at 11:00 AM**

(a Zoom option is also available)

We are strongly encouraging everyone to please wear a mask indoors and keep in "bubbles," maintaining a six foot distance when relating to others.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in support of TOL ministries.

*Pastor Fred and the TOL Opening Committee*

**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, June 2022**



*Day of Pentecost* Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois and Upstate New York synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

Remember in prayer seasonal workers, often working behind the scenes, who are in transition throughout the year; pray that they will find safe and sustaining employment, affordable housing and a sense of community in our congregations.

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**Sunday, June 19**

**Hope and Healing—A Christian Cancer Support Group Augustana Lutheran Church and on Zoom**



Linda Sokoley leads this 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday-of-the-Month support group for those who are in a cancer journey and in need of hope and healing. Family, friends and those who have beat cancer are invited to attend (3:00 PM to 4:00 PM).

Please phone Linda at 716-694-2451 or email her at [lsokoley@hotmail.com](mailto:lsokoley@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend.

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**May Mission**

Thank you for your continued support of Lutheran Charities of WNY (LCWNY). Your donations will enrich the lives of those served through these ministries and agencies; 100% of every donation goes directly to the funded agencies and organizations.

**June Mission: ELCA World Hunger**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. *Matthew 25:35*

"By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

One billion of our neighbors — that's one in seven people in our world today — live in poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond."

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Please place your donations in the marked envelopes located on the table in the narthex, donate online through [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly), or by mail (add ELCA World Hunger to the memo area on your check).



**Local Food Pantries**

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

- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, soup, tuna and chicken
- Pasta, Mac-and-Cheese
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Spaghetti and pasta sauces
- Cereal and other breakfast items (oatmeal, grits)
- Instant potatoes
- Paper products, feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards (Tops or Wegmans) (mail to church office)

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

**Adult Retreat, September 30, October 1 and 2**  
**Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center**  
**Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke**

**Theme: "Creation and Creativity"**

This will be a time for us to gather again in fellowship, laughter and prayer. It is open to all who are 18+ years of age. Please use the sign-up sheet that is posted on the main bulletin board along with complete information. If you worship with us on Zoom, please call or email the church office and we can add your name to the list.



Retreat Schedule	
<b>Friday, September 30</b>	Gathering begins at 6:00 PM. Program begins at 7:00 PM, followed by socializing and fellowship; bring your own beverages and snacks).
<b>Saturday, October 1</b>	Breakfast at 8:30 AM. Programming throughout the day. Evening for socializing and fellowship.
<b>Sunday, October 2</b>	Breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by program and worship. Depart by Noon.

**Information sheets** will be sent to everyone who registers.

**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

HNN is currently reaching out to members of the East Side Buffalo Community by offering free transportation to grocery stores for those in need.

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

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

**Lenten Diaper Collection**

Thank you for your support! During Lent, TOL collected 1,207 diapers and 10 tubs of baby wipes for "Every Bottom Covered." A big "Thank You" to the two volunteers who delivered the donated items to FeedMoreWNY on Holt Street in Buffalo.

FeedMoreWNY is coordinating the distribution of food and other supplies for those without a place to grocery shop while the Tops on Jefferson Avenue is closed due to the horrific tragedy there on May 14. The organization needs donations and volunteers. For more information on FeedMoreWNY, please visit the website at: [feedmorewny.org](http://feedmorewny.org).



**ELCA Prayer Ventures, June 2022**

Pray for an end to the invasion of Ukraine and the violence inflicted upon its citizens, for the safety and well-being of its refugees, for the healing of its communities and for the restoration of its infrastructure.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4). Give thanks and praise that God shows no bias, understands our human complexities and is not constrained by human borders, rules or traditions.

Pray that our hope and strength will be grounded and renewed in God's boundless and unfaltering love, especially in times when we feel uncertain, discouraged or powerless to impact what goes on in the world today.

*Juneteenth* This day of celebration commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, an observance dating back to June 19, 1865. Give thanks to God for the diversity of humankind and pray that God will help, guide and strengthen our commitment to work for the full inclusion of all people in the church, in our society and throughout the world.

Give thanks and pray for the safety of firefighters, first responders, members of the National Guard, disaster response volunteers, relief agencies and neighbors who respond to individuals and communities in times of severe weather and natural disaster.

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**Ways to Give to TOL**



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



**Recycle Cans and Bottles!**

Please place your can and bottle donations in the marked container in the hallway off the narthex (cans and bottles may also be redeemed at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center at 2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda. Thank you for your donations!

**Book Sale**

Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Stop by and take a look – lots of changes!

*joy*

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
 I awoke and saw that life was service.  
 I acted and behold, service was joy."

*Rabindranath Tagore*

## Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke

### Study Notes: Judaism

#### Part II-A: Being Jewish in Jesus' Time

Here are the primary influences for Jesus and his life as a Jew: Ethnically: one's birth defines Jews as people. As a group they profess to be people of one God (Yahweh); they are the Chosen Ones.

The Torah. Ezra read it in front of a gate after the second temple was built and decreed that this Torah was true and precise. It is the basis for the modern-day Torah for most Jews. Ezra also condemned mixed marriages which became a problem for the next five centuries between Galileans who had more mixed marriages and Judeans who usually followed Ezra's command. This version of the Torah emphasized Abraham, the Exodus and Moses, and the laws given to Moses on the mountain in the Sinai.

The emphasis on Abraham dealt with God's promises, the covenant and the importance of circumcision. Abraham was the Father of Faith because of his willingness to sacrifice Isaac (or Ishmael if you are Muslim). During the Captivity the Scribes took the oral traditions and the earlier versions of the Genesis stories and expanded and provided new details on who Abraham was. This version provided them with a common ancestor to define what it means to be Jewish.

They returned to monotheism and rejected Baal, Asherah and other gods. They also rejected witchcraft, sorcery, fortune tellers and images of gods.

Temple sacrifices were replaced with prayers and synagogues. Meals especially became time for blessings and celebrations. The Laws defined what it meant to be Jewish and the 10 commandments became the central political force for Jews. They created the role for rabbis as teachers and guides in interpreting the laws (Pharisees and Sadducees are by-products).

They established the Sabbath as holy and reemphasized the Passover as a time of celebration, understanding and renewal. They restored purity laws and practices both for the community and for individuals.

After the exile, Greek, then Roman influences dominated all of Israel. Greek influence was most notably found in education, thinking and interpreting the Torah. The Pharisees by Jesus' time had two primary schools: 1) a traditional/literal approach to the Torah and 2) a Liberal, Greek school started by Hillel, the great teacher. His pupil was Gamaliel who taught Paul. Plato and Socrates influenced Paul's education and his way of thinking about the world, God, sin and the Good News. Greek influence seeped into Judean ways of thinking and acting while Roman ideas and practices influenced politics and social structuring. Sepphoris and Tiberius were two major Roman cities which had significant influence in Galilee. The Roman control of the Jewish leaders became more and more problematic in Jesus' time. Herod the Great was a Roman puppet. Jesus probably worked with his father in Sepphoris – which was rebuilding after a Jewish "Messiah" had led a revolt and destroyed most of the city. (A personal note: I think Jesus may have developed his ideas about caring for poor, marginalized, and down trodden from his experiences in Sepphoris.)

The Jews of Jesus' day included 1) the Galileans living in the north; 2) Judeans living in the south with Jerusalem as the

center; 3) Samaritans living in center; and 4) the Jews scattered throughout the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, Syria, Armenia, Persia and India.

Galileans – They were seen by Judeans as being backward, filled with revolutionaries, sinners, heathens, and fools. "Nothing good comes out of Galilee." They do not prepare food properly according to Judeans. A problem for Judas was that he was a Judean, while everyone else, including Jesus, was Galilean. From where did the Galileans come remains a mystery. In 722 the Assyrians conquered the Kingdom of Israel which included all of Galilee. The Jews were scattered and non-Jewish tribes remained. There are differing theories about who moved back: some Judeans migrated there because of the fishing trade and fertile soil; some Galileans may never have left; some may have returned from their exiled home; some may have come from Jewish settlements around the Mediterranean, etc. Jewish settlements outside of Israel were created because of trade (Jerusalem was a hub from Egypt, to Europe to the Middle East, to India, Persia, etc.). Also, Jewish merchants, traders, caravans, artisans, carpenters, etc. who never lived in Galilee may have decided to move there. There were Jewish settlements throughout Egypt, Ethiopia, Asia Minor, Syria, Persia, Babylon, even into India. In Galilee fishing around the sea was a major business incentive for moving to the area. Also, sheep and farming flourished because of the rich land for growing and grazing. There was a period of over 700 years when immigration back to Galilee occurred after the Assyrian invasion until the time of Jesus.

Judeans – With Jerusalem at the center, they proclaimed themselves the proper norm for following the Laws. The High Priest and Sanhedrin were at the political center for all Judaism. There were conflicts between those who followed the Exile changes and those who preferred the old temple tradition. There was a 500+ year period from the time of Exile until Jesus. Judeans were a blend of those who stayed and those who left with the lines blurring over the centuries. Judeans included the wealthy who catered to the Romans, educated who followed Greek thought and customs, workers who followed Rabbis, Pharisees and Sadducees with whom they agreed, farmers/shepherds, carpenters and artisans, merchants and traders. Since the exile, the Passover, and other festivals, were highly celebrated. Judeans expected all Jews to make three pilgrimages to Jerusalem each year. Practically, Judeans could go (1, maybe 2-day trip). For Galileans, the pilgrimage would take 3-6 days each way. Each pilgrimage was very costly, so they would only go once per year – usually Passover. Jesus and his family were probably one of these types of Galileans. We know Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover when he was 12 and when he returned to Jerusalem for his crucifixion. I believe he probably went annually until he began his ministry at age 30. As a child his family may have stayed with Mary's cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Jesus was influenced by John, who became an Essene. Sometimes Galileans did not stay the entire 7 days for the celebration. Judeans see that as improper and sinful; Galileans see that as necessary to survive. This was another reason which caused some Judeans to look down upon the Galileans.



**Flag Day, June 14**