



Pastor's Ponderings

"We are broken... that's how the light gets in"

There is an argument on the internet if this is a quote from Ernest Hemingway, the author, or Leonard Cohen, the composer, or a combination of the two...

...however it came to be, I think it connects to we who are followers of Christ.

In our grief, in our fear, in our sin and search for redemption, in our insecurities, anxiety, depression, our apathy, anger, and arrogance, our pride and prejudices, in our actions toward the world God created and God's wonderful creatures, we expose our brokenness and failures. Yet with Christ these actions and non-actions, and our thought and thoughtlessness, are not an ending or defining who we are. Instead, there is a power greater than us that can shine through.

Jesus said "I am the LIGHT of the World" John 8:12

It is Jesus and Jesus' relationship to us that help us address and connect to a better way, a stronger stance, a more hopeful future. It is Jesus as the light that exposes, lights up, brightens our darkness.

Jesus the light of the world, changes our actions and attitudes to become a force for justice and peace in the world, as our baptismal promises state. Jesus the light of the world, allows you and me to live purposefully despite our brokenness.

I pray that we in little and big ways, separately and together, brighten the world around us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his

Pastor's Bible Study Continues in May

Friday Mornings 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
at Augustana LC and via Zoom

Explore Joshua



"One of the Bible's greatest testimonies to the mighty acts of God on behalf of Israel."

Pastor Fred's Bible study continues on Friday mornings through May. Each session stands on its own, so come to one or all. The group will meet at Augustana (3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda) and also via Zoom.

If you would like a Zoom invitation, please email Pastor at pastor_tol@verizon.net or call the Augustana church office at 832-5720 and leave a message. We look forward to seeing you in person or on Zoom!

Ascension of Our Lord Give thanks that we have not been left alone in the world to fend for ourselves, but that Jesus gives us purpose and that the Spirit equips and guides us to participate in God's work in the world.

Day of Pentecost Praise God that the Spirit is present in our lives, helping us remain faithful, equipping us for our baptismal journey, inspiring us to share the gospel, filling us with love and compassion, and guiding us in everything we do.



From: ELCA Prayer Ventures, May 2021
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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!



Adult Ed. with Charlie Schmidtke in the Fireside Room and on Zoom

Monday, May 3 at 1:00 PM

This will be our last class until September. We will be discussing Jesus' female disciples at Pentecost and in the early decades afterwards.

Information on the upcoming 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 classes appears elsewhere in this issue.

Charlie

Upcoming Chiavetta's Dinners at TOL Save the Dates!

- **Friday, June 18** (4:00 PM to 7:00 PM)
- **Sunday, September 12** (Noon to 3:00 PM)



Plans are being made for **two** dinners this year! Dinners will be drive-thru only, following COVID guidelines, and volunteers are needed for both.

Full details will be in the Sunday bulletins and in the June issue of *Trinity Tidings*.

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.

Local Food Pantries



Your donations will continue to benefit the pantries at Good Shepherd LC in Tonawanda and Community of Good Neighbors (CGN) in Buffalo.

Please use the shopping cart or the marked boxes for your items or leave them in 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.



Happy Mother's Day!
May 9

"Hearts & Hands"—Community Assistance during COVID-19

The organization currently operates with limited and restricted services, however, no in-home services are currently available.



However, by following COVID-19 health and wellness guidelines, volunteers currently assist with the following services:

- Transportation to everywhere it's needed.
- Non-contact grocery deliveries.
- "Friendly phone calls."

Areas now being served are: Amherst, Kenmore, Tonawanda, Clarence, Alden, and the Southtowns.

More volunteers are also needed and training is available via Zoom or by phone. For more program details and information (and how to become a volunteer), please visit the HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 406-8311.

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

Trinity Tidings

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April Mission

Thank you to everyone who supported of the Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program at Augustana Lutheran Church! Your donations will continue to help defray program costs.

May Mission: Lutheran Charities of WNY (LCWNY)

Your donations will help support the 14 missions and ministries receiving grant funding from LCWNY. Those currently receiving funding are:

- Augustana LC Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program
- Community of Good Neighbors in Buffalo
- Family Promise of WNY
- Good Shepherd LC Food Pantry Chowder Mission
- Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
- LuMin of WNY (campus ministry)
- Lutheran Youth of WNY
- Matthews Table (monthly dinner ministry at Lord of Life LC)
- Niagara Habitat for Humanity
- Peace of the City Ministries
- Peaceprints of WNY
- Samaritan Counseling
- Seneca Street Community Development Corp.
- St. Mark Evangelical LC Saturdays Bread Mission Monthly Meal.

More information on all of the programs can be found at www.wnylutherancharities.org.

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 Lutheran Charities of WNY).

Adult Retreat at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center October 1, 2 and 3

Theme: "Love in the Time of COVID: What have we learned about ourselves and others."

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 and have been vaccinated.

Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke



**Adult Ed., 2021-2022
with Charlie Schmidtke**

Classes will be held in the Fireside Room on Mondays from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. There will also be a Zoom option available for those who do not want to attend in person. Topics and related dates appear in the following table, and I have also included topics for upcoming classes in 2022-2023.

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

World Religions:

Hinduism	September 20, 27
Buddhism	October 11, 18, 25
Daoism	November 8, 15, 22

Abrahamic Religions:

Judaism	January 10, 17
Islam	January 31, February 7, 14, 21
“Other” Christianities	March 7, 14

Other Traditions:

Native American	March 28, April 4, 11
Tribal African and Aboriginal	April 25, May 2, 9

Topics for Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Biblical Places:

September – November	Babel, Mt. Mariah, Goshen (Egypt), Mt. Sinai, Persepolis (Babylon), Qumran, Via Dolorosa
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Paul’s Cities/Regions:

Winter/Spring	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Damascus, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Thessalonica, Rome
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Looking for a good book, a puzzle or DVD?

Please stop by the Book Sale in the downstairs nursery room any day (Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon). The tables are filled with something for everyone—**children to adults.**

Feel free to bring in your books or puzzles to add to the inventory.

Proceeds from the book sale go towards replacing the well-worn material on the communion rail kneelers!



Cable TV Worship, Parkside Lutheran in Buffalo
Sundays, 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
(Cable Channel 5)

**You are invited
to join TOL’s Hybrid Worship Services,
Sundays at 11:00 AM
(In-church or on Zoom)!**

We continue to follow COVID-19 health guidelines by wearing a mask at all times, following six feet distancing when possible, and cleaning, and sanitizing all areas used. If you would like to join the Zoom worship, please call the church office (836-4868) or email the church at trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net to receive the Zoom link.



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

*Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church
(1181 – October 3, 1226)*

Ways to Give to TOL

Online:

Tithe.ly is available for online giving. You can set up your account through the TOL website at www.trinityoldlutheran.com or download an easy-to-use app to your phone. The site is user-friendly and safe to use.



Giving by mail:

Please send your checks to the church and to the attention of the Financial Secretary.

Through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans:

"If you're a Thrivent member, please designate your Choice Dollars to TOL—they will send TOL your available Thrivent Choice dollars at no cost to you! Also, if you are a Thrivent member, you are entitled to apply for two (2) Thrivent Action Team grants per year to help fund the supplies needed for a service project, educational event, or fundraiser, which will benefit our church or community.

There is a short on-line application to complete. If or when it is approved, Thrivent will send a Visa-type card valued at \$250, which can be used for the supplies needed for your project. If you need help with the on-line application, please see Nancy. Thrivent has a certain amount of money budgeted for this, so the earlier in the year you apply, the greater your chances are of being approved."



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, May 2021

As we return to restaurants and other places where we socialize around food, remember in prayer those who suffer hunger and food insecurity across our nation and world. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our commitment to end hunger, advocate for our neighbors in need and bring hope and relief.

Throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, give thanks for the rich heritage, gifts, cultures and contributions to our nation and church of our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ. Ask God to bless and further the work and witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the ELCA's Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Pray for an end to the gun violence that has become commonplace in our country, and ask God for the wisdom, will and courage to advocate and work for laws and solutions that honor and protect God's gift of life, for the sake of our neighbors and communities.

Pray that we will be fearless, selfless and generous in our love and concern for one another because of the love God has revealed to us through Jesus Christ and the work of the Spirit within us.

There is so much talk of love in the gospel message! Ask God to help us live fully the love we know in Jesus Christ, and pray that it will shine brightly in the world so all may know that God is love.

Ask God to grant an extra measure of faith, strength, hope, resourcefulness and resilience to those recovering and rebuilding after natural disasters and severe weather. Pray that we will listen carefully to them and respond helpfully to their immediate and long-term needs.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises," for God has done amazing and wonderful things!

Pray that we will not forget nations or regions where conflict, civil war or other turmoil spread violence, displacement, suffering and despair; pray that leaders will seek just and peaceful solutions and reconciliation and attend to people needing safety and relief. Ask the Spirit to help us respond to these crises, especially through supporting Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Ask God to renew our self-discipline, patience, empathy, and spirit of community concern and care as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 and respond to its impact.

Pray for teachers and school staff who continue to adapt to changing education dynamics and requirements because of the pandemic. Ask God to grant them wisdom, creativity, patience, strength and renewed passion for their vocation as they serve students of all ages and abilities.

Pray that the Spirit will renew and equip us for the difficult work of understanding, bridging and mending the differences and schisms in our communities and nation. Pray that God will make us bold in our witness as people of

faith, yet humble, empathetic and caring as we listen to and talk with one another.

Give thanks for the Spirit, which helps us when we are weak, sustains our faith when we are uncertain and pleads for us "with sighs too deep for words" when we aren't sure how to speak with God.

Trinity Sunday Pray that God will help us live with and value the Holy Trinity and other mysteries of our faith that far exceed our ability to comprehend.

Memorial Day Remember, mourn and give thanks for men and women in the military who gave their lives for justice, peace and the freedom of our country and all nations.

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Armed Forces Day

May 15



MEMORIAL DAY

May 31

Operation Christmas Child

Suggested items for the shoeboxes are listed below. Please leave your donations in the marked container located under the window shelf in the narthex.

- May: sunglasses, stickers, jewelry
- June: stuffed toys 10" or smaller, musical instruments or small dolls
- July: pens, pencils, small manual pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, pencil cases
- Aug.: markers, coloring pads, notebooks
- Sept.: coloring books, crayons, watercolor paints, games, puzzles
- Oct.:



LOVE



GROW



SERVE