

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

Volume 62

September 2022

Number 9

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

Loren Keller was a member of TOL, a poet, author, teacher, playwright, and humanitarian. At his celebration of life I shared a prayer attributed to 1500's British explorer Sir Francis Drake. I thought of Loren, who through his words, pushed us beyond ourselves.

"Disturb Us Lord"

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

As we enter Autumn and gather our thoughts from the Summer, may we think boldly about our calling as God's children. Dare to dream! Dare to Risk! Serve with gusto! We are meant to be in the rough seas to see the stars and reach for heaven.

Paul encouraged his church in Philippi with these words..."this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Blessings on your journey.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



ELCA Prayer Ventures, September 2022

Pray that we will find wisdom, guidance, nourishment and joy in the commands and ways of God, becoming "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and [whose] leaves do not wither" (Psalm 1:3).

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New Bible Study Begins, Friday, September 9



Pastor Fred will be leading an eight-week study of the Old Testament book, Judges. Please join us beginning Friday morning, **September 9** (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM). We will meet in Luther Hall in the basement of Augustana LC. A Zoom option will be available for those unable to attend in person. Please ask Pastor Fred for the link. Each session stands on its own—no prep required. Come and share, learn, and grow! See you there.

Table Talk Returns Wednesday, September 14

Please join us for this bi-weekly discussion group beginning **Wednesday, September 14**. Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. A discussion will follow each episode. We begin at 6:30 PM and go until 8:00 PM. There will also be a Zoom option. (Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for the link.) This class is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

Adult Retreat—September 30, October 1 and 2 Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

Retreat Coordinator: Charlie Schmidtke

This year's theme is "Creation and Creativity." Please join us as we gather in fellowship, laughter and prayer! It is open to all who are 18+ years of age. Full Schedule details and Cost/Package options are posted on the main bulletin board.



Reservations: Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board; or contact: the TOL church office (716-836-4868); Charlie Schmidtke at 716-694-1335; or through Charlie's email at schmidtkecharles@gmail.com. Information sheets will be sent to everyone who registers.

Payment is due by September 30. Please make checks payable to Charles Schmidtke.

Annual Chiavetta's Dinner/Basket Raffle Sunday, September 11 (Noon to 3:30 PM) Dine In or Take Out!



Dinners: \$15 (includes two salads, roll/butter and dessert)

Volunteers and Dessert Makers! Help is needed with setting up tables on Saturday (10:00 AM), serving, and cleaning up. Desserts are needed to accompany the dinners. (Please, no cakes for this event—they are difficult to portion out and plate.) Contact Scott or Earlene if you have any questions or if you can help. Thank you!

Basket Raffle: Donations needed—completed baskets, gift cards, and other items are appreciated. Please bring your donations to church on or by Sunday, September 4. If you have any questions, please speak to Debbie or Kelly.



**We invite you to join us for worship,
Sundays at 11:00 AM!
(in-church or on Zoom)**

**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, September 2022

Labor Day On this day we recognize and pray for the work people do to sustain their families and the service they do to benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for all those who seek employment to find work, and for the well-being, care and support of people unable to work.

Remember in prayer the needs, concerns and challenges of parents who have children in school.

International Day of Peace (September 21) Join with our neighbors and siblings in Christ around the world in praying for peace, healing, restoration and unity.

First day of autumn Give thanks for the changing seasons and the beauty and blessings of autumn, which delight us, inspire us, help us prepare for the winter months and remind us of the cycles of life in God's creation.

Pray that we might grasp the tenacity of God's concern for those suffering from poverty and hunger, here and around the world. Embrace God's call to care for our neighbors in need and to end poverty and hunger through our shared compassion, resources, wisdom and resolve.

"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19). Pray that we will be kind, generous and attentive to God's work in the world, trusting God's favor and the promise of eternal life over wealth, status or accomplishments.

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ELCA Prayer Ventures—September 2021

Pray for the relief and resilience of people and communities impacted by wildfires, flooding, severe storms and extreme heat.

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August Mission: Thank You!

Thank you for your donations in support of Family Promise of WNY (FPWNY). The organization's mission is providing emergency housing and assistance to homeless families in Buffalo while keeping families together.

September Mission

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will be the mission focus. LIRS has been welcoming migrants and refugees from around the world for over 80 years (more than 500,000 individuals). The current crisis in Ukraine has forced millions of refugees to flee from their homes.

"Driven by our faith and our nation's values, LIRS works to protect and embrace refugees, migrants, and children seeking a new life in America. Having carried out this work for more than eight decades, LIRS and our national network of service providers are uniquely equipped to provide holistic, trauma-informed, and age-appropriate care to the vulnerable individuals we serve."

*From the LIRS website at: www.lirs.org
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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 Immigration and Refugee Service).

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 in Tonawanda are greatly appreciated. Suggested items needed are listed below.



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).

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

Heidi's Hats: Stop by the Heidi's Hats display in the narthex to see if you'd like one for yourself or a friend. All proceeds go for research to fight leukemia. Heidi's brochure on battling cancer is also available for anyone to take.

A Thank You from Holy Rest Cemetery Board

Thank you to Stephanie and Dave and to Don and Matt for attending TOL's annual workday at Holy Rest Cemetery, which was held on Saturday, July 30. It was a small group this year, but they worked hard to trim around as many stones as possible, pick up fallen debris and collect unsightly garbage that accumulated near the road.

thank you

Holy Rest Cemetery is managed and maintained entirely by volunteers, so the extra help is always welcome. If you are interested in helping to maintain the cemetery or have questions about the cemetery, please contact Jim, Lanny or Matt.

Holy Rest Cemetery Board

Hope and Healing: A Christian Cancer Support Group

4th Tuesday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 PM
Augustana Lutheran Church and on Zoom

I invite you, your family and friends for hope and healing to those who are in a cancer journey now. I invite those of you who have beat cancer for your help to give hope and healing to others.

Hope

Please call me at 716-694-2451 or email me at lsokoley@hotmail.com that you will be attending. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Linda Sokoley



Upcoming Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke

1:00 PM in the TOL Fireside Room and on Zoom

Beginning **Monday, September 12**, we will be looking at who the "Real Jesus" may be. We'll review some biblical passages but, for the most part, we'll look at sources and writings that are not included in the bible. For example, what the Coptic and Armenian churches teach about their beliefs in Jesus' childhood and life.

We'll also delve into his childhood and young adult life from a variety of sources. For example, who was in his family (nuclear and extended) and what happened when he was 12? What do the other gospels and letters not included in the bible tell us about who He was?

2022

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| Sept. 12: | The Bible's two different Nativity stories |
| Sept. 26: | The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood (I) |
| Oct. 10: | The Coptic stories of Jesus' childhood (II) |
| Oct. 24: | The Gnostic stories of Jesus' childhood |
| Nov. 7: | Was it the Temple or Mount of Olives? |
| Nov. 21: | Jesus' young adulthood: Nazareth or India? |
| Dec. 5: | Jesus' family and his Jewish roots |

2023

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| Jan. 16: | Elizabeth/Mary and John/Jesus |
| Jan. 30: | The Essenes influence on Jesus |
| Feb. 13: | Jesus according to Thomas and Judas |
| Feb. 27: | The Armenian Jesus |
| Mar. 13: | Jesus and Mary Magdalene |
| Mar. 27: | What the Q documents tell us |
| Apr. 10: | Jesus and John, the Apostle |
| Apr. 24: | How the Gospels were selected |
| May 8: | The Council of Nicea |

Operation Christmas Child

Summer is winding down and it is already time to think about the remaining two months for collecting donations. We had a wonderful response last year and we would like to continue our success. You can help make a child's Christmas special by donating plastic shoe boxes, items for us to make or complete a shoe box, or make your own. More details to follow. Thanks!

Debbie and Kelly

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 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.

Hearts and Hands: Faith in Action

Hearts and Hands (HNH) serves Amherst, Clarence, North Tonawanda, and the Southern Tier, as well as 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 HNH website at www.hnhcares.org/services or call 716-406-8311.

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

On-going Collections

Thank you for your continued support!

Can Tabs...Your donations of aluminum tabs will be donated to the [Ronald McDonald House Charities of WNY](http://www.rmhcwny.org) (RMHC).

The Vision of RMHC of WNY:

"We believe that when you change a child's life, you change a family's, which can change a community, and ultimately the world.

We strive to be part of that change and part of the solution in improving the lives of children and their families by providing programs that strengthen families during their most difficult or challenging times."

[from: www.rmhcwny.org]

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Your can tab donations can be placed in the marked container in the narthex. Thank you!

Friends of Night People

- Collection of new men's socks, and small-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste) or create care packages. See the marked container on the table in the narthex.
- Men's seasonal clothing collection—look for the Big Blue Barrel near the main bulletin board.

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke Judaism Study Notes, Part IV, Conclusion

Who are the Jews of Israel?

Ashkenazim: Make up about 80% of the world's Jews. They came from Europe began building Tel Aviv (today's capital of Israel) in 1900; they were the primary force behind Zionism since 1885; they revived the Hebrew language; and built a Jewish Nation.

Mizrahim: Jews from the "East" (Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Iran and Afghanistan). Many are descendants from the Jews who remained in Babylon after the Persians freed them from captivity.

Sepharim: Jews from Spain who are descendants from Andalusia. The Jews from Portugal and Spain have different histories and cultures from the rest of Europe.

Haredim: Ultra-Orthodox who oppose the Jewish state and Zionism. Only God can restore Israel, not humans. Modern Israel is a catastrophe. They are known for their hats—brims from Poland and fuzzy from Russia.

Russians: Include Jews from Ukraine, Belarus, and Central Asia. Over 1 million immigrants in the 1990s swelled the Jewish population.

Ethiopian: Maybe the lost tribe of Dan or descendants from Solomon and Sheba's son? They believe they have the "original" Torah and Ark of the Covenant. In order to become Israeli citizens and accepted as Jews when they were freed from persecution in Ethiopia, they had to be purified and men had to have a small "nick" to simulate circumcision.

There are Ultra-Orthodox, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, lapsed, non-practicing, and Secular types of Jews in all the groups above.

Who are the Jews of the United States?

There are 90-95% Ashkenazi Jews who descended from the diaspora from Central and Eastern Europe. Sephardic Jews were first to arrive with Portugal colonization. There are approximately 7.6 million Jews in the US (circa 2.4% of US population). This number includes 4.9 million adults who identify as Jewish religion; 1.2 million Jewish adults who identify with no religion; and 1.6 million children. The genetic number of Jews in America is around 15,000,000 because this includes anyone who has a grandparent who is Jewish even if the person is Christian or any other religion. Having a Jewish grandparent makes the person eligible for Israeli citizenship.

Primary Holy Days

Shabbat (Sabbath) day of rest after the Creation. It is a time to pause in people's efforts to build a better world. Hosting a Shabbat meal is an important ritual. It includes inviting others to the meal, candle lighting, reciting the Kiddush (prayer recited over wine, grape juice), having discussions during the meal, and closing the discussions with a reflection and gratitude.

High Holy Days: Traditionally God inscribes each person's fate for the coming year into the Book of Life on Rosh Hashanah and waits until Yom Kippur to "seal" the verdict.

Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year): It is a two-day observance and celebration with meals, prayer and quiet meditation. Traditionally it is seen as the anniversary of Adam and Eve's creation. The best-known ritual is the blowing of the "shofar"—a musical instrument made from an animal's horn (e.g., a ram). It's blown 100 times during each day and is used to remind Jews to mend their ways and repent. "Sleepers, wake up." Symbolic foods include apples dipped in honey

(hoping to evoke a sweet new year – a tradition started with European Jews). Some host a Rosh Hashanah seder, which may include the apples, dates, pomegranates, black-eyed peas, pumpkin filled pastries, leek fritters, beets and a whole fish.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement): The most solemn day of the Jewish year. A day of self-examination to start the new year with a clean slate. The tradition is to have a day-long fast, make confessions, have intensive praying, and spend most of the day at the synagogue in services. The tradition also includes no eating or drinking, no wearing of leather shoes, no bathing or washing, no anointing oneself with perfumes or lotions and no marital relations.

Pesach (Passover): Celebrating the Exodus and God passing over the Jewish houses in Egypt and killing the first born of the Egyptians. It is the Festival of Freedom. People prepare by giving a thorough cleaning of their home, especially removing all traces of leavened foods or additives (for example, yeast). This year's celebration begins on the evening of Friday, April 15 and concludes on the evening on Saturday, April 23. The first seder will be on April 15 after nightfall. Families replace their ordinary dishes with special ones. They prepare and enjoy the seder meal: food, traditional questions and answers, leave a chair for Elijah, 4 cups of wine, and read the Exodus story. The Seder also includes eating the Matzah (unleavened bread) and Maror (bitter herbs). Throughout the 7 days in Israel or 8 days in the diaspora all leaven is strictly avoided. The first two days celebrate the passing over of death and the last two days celebrate the parting of the Red Sea.

Shavuot: Jewish Pentecost occurring 50 days after the first day of Passover. It is a time of harvest (initially wheat) and first fruits. It also celebrates the giving of the Torah to Moses and the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. Sometimes it's called the festival of weeks. It is a one-day observance now which includes prayers, making Kiddush, having meals and being joyful.

Sukkot: Feast of the fall harvest/Tabernacle commemorates the 40 years in the Sinai wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. This feast is commanded by the Torah and celebrated for 7 days in Israel and 8 days in the diaspora. The first day is like Shabbat, meaning no work. It is a time to remember the journey to the Promised Land and what the people had to endure. Prayers are essential and meals are shared, especially the first day. Orthodox follow very strict rules for each day.

Hanukkah: Festival celebrating the liberation from oppression, having freedom to worship and finding light in the darkest of times. It recalls the recovery of Jerusalem and the rededication of the temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Greek/Seleucid Empire. It is celebrated for 8 days and includes lighting candles (menorah), singing, playing the game of dreidel, eating oil-based foods and dairy foods. It is a minor holiday.

Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Memorial Day.

Israel has two major ports: Tel Aviv and Haifa. The West Bank is a large land area east of Israel and the Gaza strip is in the southwest.

The population of Israel = 9.5 million (Jewish = 74.7%; Muslim = 17.7%; Other = 4.1%; Christianity = 2%). The total population of the West Bank = 3,120,448. The majority of the population is Arab (mostly Sunni) = 2,155,743 and Israeli (mostly Jewish) = 850,481. The population of the Gaza Strip = 2,106,745 (98% Arab, Sunni). The Golan Heights were taken in the Six-day War from Syria. Ownership remains disputed. In 2019, President Trump declared the area to be a part of the state of Israel; the European Union declared it would not recognize Israeli sovereignty.

What does it mean to be Jewish?

Hopefully, these articles have demonstrated that trying to answer that question is both complex and controversial. In fact, it might be safe to say that no one description accurately answers the question.