



Pastor's Ponderings

"Don't let the entire staircase overwhelm you.
Just focus on the next step."

In these days of COVID-19 virus, the future is hard to predict. The global, national, local happenings seem overwhelming and anxiety producing. We can get wrapped up in the news/opinions of the day. Therefore it may be good to bring our thoughts a little closer to home. Walk day by day into the future.

Psalm 42:8 mentions that

"By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and
at night his song is with me, ..."

Going day by day does not mean we aren't impacting the world. In fact, the Talmud (which is a source of Jewish theology and scriptural interpretation) shares this:

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's
grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk
humbly now. You are not obligated to complete
the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

Join me day by day working in a world created by God,
redeemed by Christ, and infused with the Holy Spirit. Keep
loving, doing justice, walking humbly and staying a safe
distance, wearing masks, helping the virus not spread to
the vulnerable among us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



Dear Friends,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for your continuous support of TOL during these difficult times. It is wonderful to see so many smiling faces on Sunday mornings at the "Zoom" worship service!

Your financial contributions are also a tremendous benefit to keep our organization running smoothly.

Keep up the great work and stay safe!

Yours in Christ,
Stephanie Seyse
Council President

ZOOM to Church!

No more excuses!!!—"It's too cold; it's too icy; it's snowing; it's too hot; my clothes are in the wash; I can't walk that far!"

None of these pronouncements hold any water in these days of quarantine and COVID-19. Worship with the TOL community is available online through the ZOOM app. It's easy to get the app and easy to use it.

I have attended four worship services this way, three on Sundays and one on Good Friday. It's a joy to see and hear from church friends, some of their family members, fellow worshippers from First English Lutheran in Lockport—people from all over the country! Our isolation is broken, if only for an hour.

Pastor Fred has worked hard to provide beautiful backgrounds to make a worshipful setting for our experience. His messages to the kids and adults alike have been timely and meaningful. We've even learned some biblical sign language! Vicar Sohail also added his talents with a wonderful sermon about God's peace. We are blessed!

So, why don't you join us next Sunday at 11:00 AM? You should be receiving a sign-in number and password each week from the church office in your email. This is all you need to connect with a positive experience.

God bless us, everyone.
Diane



Giving to TOL

Online: Tithe.ly is available. 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.

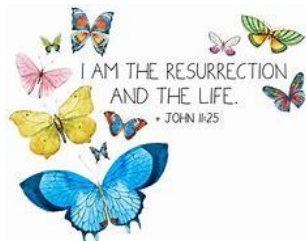
Items for the Worship Bulletins



All items for the Sunday bulletins should be submitted to the church office by **9:00 AM on Wednesdays**. Thank you!

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.



From Pastor's Easter Sunday Letter

With all we and the world are going through, Jesus shared a helpful statement to his disciples from which we can learn. Jesus said,

“Be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.”

If we are not looking outward to help others but just acting for own self-interest, we are not doing as God commanded. Remember, there are no boundaries for God; God has the whole world in His hands.

God be with you

- † as you celebrate the GOOD NEWS!
- † as you navigate in this uncertain time!
- † as you remember you are a special child of God and part of a community.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred

Happy Mother's Day!

May 10



Trinity Tidings

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[COVID-19 Prayers from the ELCA website: www.elca.org]

† For times of public health concern

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† For when congregations are not able to gather

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen.

Suggestions for additional prayers; for:

- † Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities
- † Medical researchers and scientists
- † Schools: Bring calm to children who are fearful from all they hear and see around them; patience in times of school closures
- † For all who grieve the loss of loved ones
- † Workplaces: Workers who are anxious about the safety of their workplaces; uncertainty in how work will be accomplished in the days ahead
- † Calm and guidance amid financial uncertainties.

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Lutheran Disaster Response to COVID-19

ELCA Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is responding to this pandemic here in the United States and around the world, including:

Across the United States, LDR is providing support for ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread grants, which are supporting congregational feeding ministries as they do the critical work of providing those who are in need in their communities with food.

In New Orleans, LDR is aiding the expansion of Bethlehem Lutheran Church's community meal program, which targets the at-risk population who are impacted at this time.

In Southern California, LDR is supporting Care Connection Network, a social ministry organization, to serve older adults and people who are home bound by delivering food and essential supplies, in collaboration with congregations in the Pacifica Synod.

In China, we helped provide medical supplies including ventilators, protective face shields, disposable gloves and more, as well as daily necessities such as food.

In Italy, through the ELCA's companion church, the Chiesa Evangelica Luterana in Italia, LDR is providing Betania Evangelical Hospital in Naples, Italy, with support and medical gear and supplies.

In Palestine, LDR is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land to provide food and necessities to families whose livelihoods have been impacted.

In Sierra Leone, we are supporting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone so the church can participate in a national response plan with the government.

LDR is also working with the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance to support their global responses.

As the situation develops, LDR will continue to be in communication with companions and partners at home and abroad to assess the needs and provide support. We anticipate this public health crisis will escalate in coming weeks and will affect many more people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in our communities. Here in the U.S., we stand ready to work with Lutheran social service organizations affiliated with LDR and with ELCA synods to address the needs of those impacted.

What you can do:
Pray

Please pray for our nation and the world as we face uncertainties. May God's healing presence bring peace and hope in this time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones and strength to those who are working diligently to care for affected communities.

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Armed Forces Day
May 16

Memorial Day
Observed
May 25



Coronavirus Outbreak

Online Sources of Information

New York State: www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

Erie County: www.erie.gov

ELCA: www.elca.org

Upstate New York Synod: www.upstatenysynod.org

Local Television Stations:

WGRZ TV: www.wgrz.com

WIVB TV: www.wivb.com/health/coronavirus

WKBW TV: www.WKBW.com

Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019

Johns Hopkins University:

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus>