

# 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

"An account of the genealogy of 'Jesus the Messiah,' the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, ... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah."  
Matthew 1:1, 16

We are preparing for our Lord Jesus Christ's Celebration of Birth. God's incarnation as a human. The date December 25 is probably not Jesus' true Birthday; however the birth, life and death chronicled in the Gospels and in the Matthew Gospel we see Jesus' lineage and the reality of his presence on earth.

Anne and I like to watch "Finding Your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. It is fascinating to learn the twists and turns of people's family trees and the creative way in which information about a family tree is discovered. Ancestors of the people on the show come from diverse backgrounds as criminals to kings. The stories range from public and notorious, to private and humble.

Jesus has a dynamic and different origin story as told by the genealogy found in the first chapter of Matthew. Intrigue and interesting stories accompany many of Jesus' ancestors. We see power, pride, sin, and shame in many of these stories. Jesus' fully human part is just that, human. Yet what else does this genealogy show us? That God interacted with Jesus' ancestors and finally when it was needed, God made Godself known in Jesus.

It is comforting to me that Jesus' human roots were both ordinary and extraordinary and through all the generations God was present. In this Advent season God is present with us, and was with our ancestors, and God desires us to make this known. We make this known by being consistent with what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our actions surrounding Christmas and by reflecting Jesus' ministry of Grace, Forgiveness, Salvation, and Hope in the actions and words we make known to others. In other words, Jesus is the reason for the season and we are to reflect this in our lives.

God was, is, and will be. Jesus was, is and will be. And I declare our life was with Christ, is with Christ, and will be with Christ. Come, Emmanuel, Come!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Fred he/him/his



## Christmas Program at TOL Sunday, December 8

Our annual Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 8** during the 11:00 AM worship service. Our theme this year is "Do You Believe?" We hope you will join us to once again hear the beautiful Christmas story!

A hot chocolate and cupcake reception will follow the program.

If you would like to participate, please see Debbie, Don, or Earlene. Our remaining rehearsal will be held on **Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 AM.**



## Seasons of Advent and Christmas at TOL

- \* December 8: Second Sunday of Advent, Annual Christmas Program
- \* December 15: Third Sunday of Advent
- \* December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- \* December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM

**Come, share the Christmas spirit with others—  
invite a friend or relative to church!**

## Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 15

Please plan to stay after worship for this important meeting. There will be a vote for new council members as well as the 2020 Budget. Thank you!

## Santa Lucia Pageant at Augustana Lutheran

**You** are invited to attend this annual half-hour pageant on **Saturday, December 14** at 7:00 PM. Plan to stay for coffee and desserts that follow!

Augustana is located at 3143 Eggert Road in Tonawanda.



## NEW! Pastor Fred's Advent Bible Study

Pastor Fred will lead a three-week Advent Bible Study **beginning on Friday, December 6** at 10:00 AM at Augustana Lutheran. All are welcome to join the group!

## 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.

### Poinsettias



If you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary this Christmas, please use the sign-up sheet located on the main bulletin board. For cost information, please speak to Barb Edwards (688-5508).

### Veterans Day Service

Thank you to Charlie Schmidtke and Pastor Fred for leading the Veterans Day Recognition Service at TOL on Monday, November 11.

Charlie once again arranged the processional and recessional for the attending veterans, as well as delivering the message. Thank you to Don and Jeff for providing the music and audio visual portions, and to Nancy for preparing the service bulletin. Thank you to those who brought in their loved ones' flags, which were displayed at the altar.



The WWI Women's Group hosted the coffee hour that followed—thank you to all who helped set up or brought in delicious baked goods.

The offering collected was donated to Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY. Thank you for your generous support!

### Bowl of TLC, from TOL!



Soup is easy to make—and share!

Visiting a member at home? Do you know someone who could use cheering up? Why not take them a quart or two of delicious homemade soup?

TOL's soup ministry offers a variety of soups that are in the freezer adjacent to the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

If you would like to take a quart (or two) of frozen soup, please follow the instructions on the freezer door.

If you'd like to help in any way, please see Velma or Matt.

### November Stewardship

Thank you for your support of the *TLC at TOL* Respite Care Program through your donations and prayers. Your support enables the outreach program to benefit the caregivers in the community and to remain free of charge to families.

## Trinity Tidings

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### December Mission of the Month

The Stewardship Mission for December will support Upstate New York Synod Benevolence. Please use the marked pew envelopes for your donations.

"The Upstate New York Synod (ELCA) is an engaged, active body of people who put faith in God into action in many ways, all over Upstate New York and through partners in ministry around the world." [from: [www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org)]



### Chicken Chowder Success!

Thank you to all who helped with this year's chicken chowder fundraiser—and a big thank you for the donations (monetary and supplies)! This year we made \$915, 75% of which will be put towards new carpet for the sanctuary. The remaining 25% will be given to the Upstate New York Synod in response to its special request.

Special thanks to Velma for guiding us all the way through!

*Matt*

### Good Shepherd Food Pantry

Thank you to all who went shopping for items needed for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinners! Our donations, combined with Augustana, provided Thanksgiving dinner fixings for 20 families.

Thank you for your generosity during this season of gratitude for all that we've been blessed with!

*Matt*

### Election Day Bake Sale

Our Bake Sale was a success! Thank you to everyone who baked, to the ladies who were present at the bake sale table, and to Sandra and Diane for helping me plate and price the baked goods! Our proceeds will be given to the Respite Program.

*Earlene*

## TLC at TOL Respite Care Program, November 6

We welcomed eight guests to the program on a beautiful, sunny Fall day! It was a day to celebrate and thank all of the program volunteers.

Following the delicious morning snack, we gathered for patriotic and Thanksgiving-themed word games and trivia with Diane. This month's Guest of Honor was Thomas.

Leanne arrived and led everyone in gentle chair yoga, finishing with a short quiet time.



Guests moved to the craft tables and created colorful, festive Thanksgiving turkeys and cornucopias.

In recognition of the volunteers, a pizza lunch was enjoyed by everyone—along with delicious cake for dessert! Following lunch, Charlie led the group in Thanksgiving Bingo—with many winners!

Anne and her dog Carma joined us for pet time. They have been a part of the program for five years! We always enjoy hearing about Carma's journey to this area—a rescue dog from Kentucky. She is a beagle and Jack Russell terrier mix, and is now six years old! Anne and Carma are part of the SPCA "Paws of Love" program. Carma also meets travelers at the airport—and she enjoys McDonald's French Fries (as a treat!).

We welcomed Sue at the Piano during music time. She always has a great mix of songs—the old-time favorites and the more recent tunes. In honor of Veterans Day, she had a number of patriotic songs for us to sing-along with and enjoy!

*Jan Sherman and Paulette Hotchkiss*

## TLC at TOL Respite Care Recognition Month

We began the month of November with the special Respite Recognition Sunday on November 3. It marked the fifth year of the program—a reason to celebrate! Four of the program guests and their loved ones joined us, as well as many of the volunteers.



Following a brief summary of the 2019 program, a Power Point Presentation was shown—capturing the spirit of the program! We thanked the guests, the volunteers, and all of the donors and supporters of the program.

A special coffee hour followed the service. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

Our guests and volunteers are a blessing! It is a pleasure to be able to serve community caregivers and their loved ones.

We're looking forward to the New Year!

*Jan and Paulette*

## Food Pantry

The food pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tonawanda continues to help those in the community who need assistance. TOL recently answered the call for "sides" to accompany Thanksgiving turkey dinners provided by the pantry.



The shopping cart in the narthex is available for your donations of non-perishable food items throughout the year.

Thank you for your support!

## Operation Christmas Child Update

We collected **33** boxes—a record high!! I want to thank everyone who helped make this project a success! Whether you donated a box, donated to have one made, or donated money to help cover the cost of shipping—thank you!!



In January we will be announcing a new program where you can help us put together even more boxes next year. Watch the *Tidings* for more details!

Thank you again for helping us bring joy and Jesus' love to 33 children who otherwise would not know the message of Christmas.

May God bless you!  
*Debbie*

## TLC at TOL

TOL's free Respite Care Program continues every first Wednesday of the month from **10:30 AM to 2:30 PM** for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or any form of dementia. Guests are partnered with a volunteer (trained by the Alzheimer's Association) and they participate in various activities in a secure environment. A morning snack and nutritious lunch are provided. For more information on registering for the program, please contact Jan or Paulette at 836-4868.

## TOL's Caregivers Support Group

The group will meet on **Monday, December 2 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM** in the Fireside Lounge. All caregivers are welcome—bring a friend or relative! For more information, please contact Jan at 836-4868.



## Online Giving to TOL

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



## Recycle!

Please continue to place your cans and bottles in the marked container located in the hallway near the main bulletin board.



You may also redeem them at the Bottle and Can Redemption Center located in the Sheridan-Parkhurst Plaza (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). Thank you!

Recycle your can tabs too! Place them in the marked container in the narthex.

**Monday Afternoons, Adult Ed., 1:00 PM  
Led by Charlie Schmidtke**



You're invited to join us in the Fireside Lounge as we continue to examine those gospels that were not included in the Bible, but were familiar to Jesus' followers in the first and second centuries.

We will meet once in early December, and then return in January 2020.

- December 2: The Gospel of Truth
- January 20: What is the Apocrypha
- January 27: Books of Esdras
- February 3: Tobit and Baruch

**TABLE TALK at TOL!**

**Wednesday, December 11 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Topic: "Grace and Grieving"**

Table Talk is a gathering of people who are interested in listening and sharing ideas and concerns in a safe environment. Pastor Fred Kopp and Dr. Charles Schmidtke lead this time at Trinity Old Lutheran on one Wednesday evening each month.

Topics are reviewed by the group and can vary from discussing faith and science to mental health, and sin, to capital punishment and much more. All are invited and welcome! Wine, coffee, and refreshments will be served.

[Upcoming dates in the New Year are: January 8, February 12, April 8, and May 13.]

**"Hearts & Hands"**

"Feeling Grateful this Season?"

Share Smiles

Spread Warmth

Volunteer to Help Your Neighbors"

[from: *Hearts and Hands*, 2019 flier]

TOL is a part of this community of volunteers—Neighbor Helping Neighbor Volunteer Program! Volunteers choose assignments that fit into their schedules and they may help once a month or as much as they wish.



HNNH serves Amherst, Kenmore and Tonawanda and services include: transportation, light housekeeping, yard work and caregiver respite.

For more program details and information, please visit the HNNH website at [www.hnhcares.org/services](http://www.hnhcares.org/services) or call 406-8311, Ext 107.



**TOL's Coffee Bar, Open Every Sunday!**

On these cold Sunday mornings, please stop by the narthex for a cup of hot chocolate or coffee (and a little fellowship) before worship!

**Inside the Stable**

There are many stories and poems in which the author imagines being inside the stable the night Jesus was born. Usually the writer thinks of being a shepherd, or puts him(her)self into the mind and feelings of Mary or Joseph.



One of my favorite poems is this one by Luci Shaw (used here with permission) in which she puts herself in a humble, wondering animal.

The groundhog is, at best, a simple soul without pretension, happy in his hole, twinkle-eyed, shy, earthy, coarse-coated grey, no use at all (except on Groundhog Day). At Christmas time a rather doubtful fable gives the beast standing room inside the stable with other simple things, shepherds, and sheep, cows, and small winter birds, and on the heap of warm, sun-sweetened hay, the simplest thing of all—a Baby. Can a groundhog sing, or only grunt his wonder? Could he know this new-born Child had planned him, long ago, for groundhog-hood? Whether true tale or fable, I like to think that he was in the stable, part of the Plan, and that He who designed all simple wonderers, may have had me in mind.

Re-reading it makes me want to wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS to all the people, all the sheep and cows, all the little birds, and yes, all the simple wondering groundhogs who might have been there with the Baby that night, and to all of us who may be remembering other beautiful stories about angels and wise men, and...well, you know what I'm talking about.

*Loren Keller*

[from: *Trinity Tidings*, December 2005]



**Our Community Partners Meeting at TOL**

Gamblers Anon.	Sun., 7:00 PM
Gam-Anon,	Sun., 7:00 PM
Overeaters Anon.	Mon., 10:00 AM
Co-Dependents	Tues., 7:30 PM
Eta Sigma	Meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Fitness Room	Mon., Yoga Pilates, 5:45 to 7:00 PM Wed., Back and Hip Yoga, 12:00 Noon Thurs., Gentle Yoga, 9:30 to 10:45 AM Thurs., Beginner Yoga, 5:45 to 7:00 PM
Love Life Self Help Group	Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month 6:45 PM (Fireside Lounge)

Note: If you are interested in any of the different Yoga classes offered at TOL, please contact Leanne (864-1194).