

"Godspeed"

Our church is somewhat like a hive
Where people gather to buzz and thrive
And also to reach out and share their money
In hopes that the results will taste like honey.

There are happy times when life's tightly knit
When the puzzle pieces just seem to fit
When the joy we are seeking feels seamless and true,
And the perfect pair appears out of the blue.

Fred and Anne, it has been 15 years
Since you joined our throng and calmed our fears
Whether by design or fate, who can tell?
When you entered our hearts at TOL.

Where problems we solve and troubles we share
Where God has our backs no matter the dare
And a good leader stands up and stands out from the crowd
With camp songs and stories: some whispered; some loud!

Both of you—always models of love
Both of you—sharing the peace from above
Both of you listen with smiles; also tears
Sometimes with coffee and sometimes with beers!

We know that parting is such sweet sorrow.
We know you are headed for a happy tomorrow.
We know all good things must come to an end
But also that joy awaits 'round the bend!

May grace and blessing surround you each day.
May you feel His presence each time you pray.
May you carry us with you in some special way
While adoring Felix, Ruby and Shea!

We send you off with grateful heart
To another state, another start,
But love always follows where we've trod
When we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Diane Schmidtke

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Our Future -- Kelly

Everyone probably wonders what will happen when Pastor Fred leaves. Is it time for me to look for a new Church; should I stay and see what happens? Listening to Charlie talk on Sunday about what will be happening in the months going forward, boy, was my answer given to me! Stay, stay, stay!! So uplifting—all I could feel was joy, pride, love, togetherness, and a great sense of thankfulness for all those who have mapped out our future. I have nothing but excitement for the promise of a very stable and very promising future.

If you are having any doubts, just put them aside and think, "stay, stay, stay." We are a Church family, and family should always stick together! Praise God for our leadership and Praise God for the opportunities that lie before us.

Message from Pastor Fred and Anne

Dear Family in Christ,

Thank you first of all for all your prayers. My procedure on the 4th was a success. (Now all I have to do is keep myself from raising my hands high and singing "halleluiahs," and "praise ye the Lord" until I am healed!)

There are many words to describe how Anne and I are feeling a week after the celebration worship service and picnic. We are overwhelmed by the love you have shown us. We are blessed by all of you; by the people who planned, worked at, and brought food for this special day, and all who attended. It was a joy to share this day with each of you and to have you meet our family, whose stories have been in many sermons. We are grateful for the ministry we have shared during our years with Trinity Old Lutheran and Augustana. We are emotional as we read and reflect on your kind words, thoughtful cards, gifts and generosity.

Thank you for your support and good wishes. We keep everyone in our prayers as we move towards the next part of our life. Our journey together continues as family in Christ where borders do not separate us from God's love through Jesus Christ.

In Love and appreciation,
Fred and Anne



Thoughts from Earlene

On Sunday, July 26, the church families from Augustana and TOL joined together for a celebration of Pastor Fred and Anne's love for our churches. We met at Emery Park for our worship service led by Pastor Fred, Pastor's brother-in-law, The Rev. Dr. Bruce Davis, and The Rev. Sohail Akhtar. It was a fun and beautiful service.

Then we all enjoyed a yummy picnic lunch filled with sandwiches, salads, desserts and snacks. Paula from Augustana made two wonderful cakes—one honoring Pastor's birthday and one to wish Pastor and Anne a blessed retirement.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped plan, set up, clean up, brought a dish to share, and in any way participated in this day. Thank you for your generous contributions to their gifts. I think we did an amazing job in showing Pastor and Anne how much we love and appreciate them.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, January 2017*

Uncertain of what awaits us each day and what the year ahead holds for us, we ask God to grant us courage, hope and wisdom for facing the challenges and tasks that take us by surprise.

Trinity Tidings, September 2026

We invite you to join us for worship with
Holy Communion, Sundays at 11:00 AM.
(in-church or on Zoom)

**Tri-Congregational Worship at Good Shepherd LC,
Sunday, September 20, 11:00 AM**

ELCA Prayer Ventures, September 2026*

- † *National Suicide Prevention Month* Suicide impacts people of all ages, especially youth and young adults. Pray for hope, relief from suffering and skilled, compassionate care for people who struggle with loneliness, depression and mental illness. Pray that they will find comfort and encouragement in knowing that God abandons no one.
- † Remember children whose families lack safe, consistent shelter, that they will find care, stability and security in school among their peers, teachers and school staff.
- † Ask God to stir nations and their leaders to seek peace where there is conflict and war, no matter how complicated or unattainable peace seems. Pray that peace accords, ceasefires and negotiations will foreground those who are displaced, terrorized and treated unjustly.
- † *Labor Day* On this day, pray for the work people do to sustain themselves and their families and to benefit their communities and society. Pray that all people will receive fair wages and benefits and work in safe environments; that they will know respect, gratitude, joy and fulfillment through their labor; and that they will be renewed through times of sabbath. Remember in prayer also those who seek employment or who cannot work.
- † Remember in prayer immigrants, asylum seekers and families pulled apart by immigration issues and political division. Give thanks for ministries that help us provide hope, relief, compassion, advocacy and accompaniment, including Global Refuge, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA's AMMPARO.

Prayer for Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd 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 Trinity Old Lutheran, Augustana and Good Shepherd. Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love.

September/October Community Collection!

4th Annual Harvest House Baby Shower — Diapers



This is a two-month collection as we once again join with local Lutheran churches in donating diapers (sizes 2-5) that will benefit Harvest House in Buffalo. Along with diapers, the most-needed items are: baby wipes; new children's socks; baby hygiene products; bottles and feeding supplies.

Please place your items in the marked container in the donation area. Thank you for your continued support!

Trinity Tidings

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September Mission: Global Refuge

Mission and Impact

"Driven by the belief in human dignity and the intrinsic value of every individual."

"For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help forge a way forward for New Americans. We're committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities while providing a soft place to land.

Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 800,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States."

"Everyone deserves a place to call home."

- Resettlement
- Asylum Services
- Crisis Response
- Advocacy
- Belonging and Empowerment
- Supporting Children/Families
- Combatting Disinformation

(from: www.globalrefuge.org)

Please use the marked envelopes located in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Global Refuge).

August Mission: ELCA Disaster Response—Venezuela

Thank you to everyone for your donations to support ELCA Disaster Response—Venezuela. The ELCA assists Venezuelans in the aftermath of two catastrophic earthquakes that occurred on June 24. Many died, many are injured, and many are still missing.

2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's...Walkers from

"Team TOL" are lacing up their sneakers and making plans to walk in this year's event on **Saturday, September 26!** All are invited to join the 2-mile walk that leaves from Buffalo's Outer Harbor (Outer Harbor Drive and Fuhrmann Blvd.). You can sign up online at www.alz.org/WNY, or use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Non-walkers can support the team by donating through the website (Team TOL).



Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins! Please speak to Earlene if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Welcome Pastor Adam (excerpts from Pastor's article to TOL members; full article in the Sunday bulletin, August 23)

Hello TOL!

I'm Pastor Adam Arends, and I'm excited to join Trinity Old Lutheran as we continue our work on the next faithful step with Augustana and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches. I have been the transition pastor working with Good Shepherd for the last few years, and I have a three-quarter time call with St. Timothy Lutheran Church on Grand Island. My role with TOL, Augustana and Good Shepherd is as Transition Pastor, which means that I will help the three congregations through a transition period towards what is next. My covenant with these three churches is for six months to start, and we'll see where we go from there. During this time I will meet with council, check in with the office weekly, and help lead pastoral care visits. While I won't be leading worship at TOL every week, I will lead worship once or twice each month. We have worship leadership scheduled through the end of the year.

I look forward to getting to know the people of TOL as we partner in this season to continue the amazing ministry you continue to do.

In Grace + Peace,
Pastor Adam

Tri-Congregational Task Force (T-CTF) It's been a busy year.

- Since our annual meeting last year, we have worshipped together (Augustana, Trinity Old Lutheran, and Good Shepherd) seven times, with attendance always about 90.
- T-CTF met at least four times.
- Each congregation had their building inspected/appraised.
- Each congregation put \$500 into its 2026 budget for T-C activities and mission.
- Each congregation passed a motion that stated: We as a congregation are willing to be part of this process of combining/merger moving forward and that as a congregation we will be willing to sell our church building.

At the last meeting, we divided up into three teams:

- Mission and ministry. This team will at what ministries the congregations have, building usage, and what the mission and ministry might look like together.
- The Legal and Finance Team will look at present and future legal matters, and look at all budgets and what a combined church might look like.
- The Liturgy and Communication Team is looking at what worship we have and what it might look like if we combined. We seek to improve communication among the churches.

Outcomes from our last T-CTF meeting:

- Supplying backpacks for children in the Ken-Ton Schools.
- Collecting items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.
- Possible T-C photo directory produced by people at TOL.
- All three churches already collect for the Good Shepherd food and clothing pantry and a Thanksgiving meal collection.
- The date for the first meeting of the T-CTF teams is Tuesday, September 15 (7:00 PM) at Good Shepherd. People are welcome to join us; please see Johanna Andritz.

The combined worship schedule is as follows:

- August 30: Picnic at Veteran's Park, Tonawanda, 10:00 AM
- September 20: Worship at Good Shepherd, 11:00 AM
- October 25: Reformation at Augustana, 9:30 AM
- November 15: Veteran's Day Worship at TOL, 11:00 AM
- December 6: Christmas program, Good Shepherd, 10:00 AM

Operation Christmas Child -- Kelly and Debbie

For September, the suggested donations are a carry-over from August: markers, small notebooks, safety scissors, coloring books, crayons, and watercolor paint sets. We've combined the two months since school supply sales include some of the items from each month. We are grateful for all donations. Please place them in the bin marked Operation Christmas Child located in the hallway.

Holy Rest Cemetery -- Matt and HRC Board

We had a very productive work day at Holy Rest Cemetery on Saturday, August 1. Six of us from TOL met at 9:00 AM, armed with trimmers, rakes, and plenty of enthusiasm, to give the cemetery grounds some much-needed attention.

Over the next three hours, we trimmed around monuments, picked up branches and other debris, and tackled the weeds that had begun growing through cracks in the roadway. By the time we finished, we had filled a dozen contractor bags with debris and made a noticeable difference throughout the grounds. Most importantly, the entrances and roadway were cleaned up and looking much more welcoming to those who come to visit and remember loved ones.



Caring for Holy Rest is an important part of preserving this special place and honoring those who have gone before us. A few hours of work—and quite a few full bags—went a long way! Thank

you to John, Brian, Dave and Stephanie, and Don for giving your Saturday morning and lending some muscle to the effort. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Craft Show ~ Bake Goods Sale ~ Pizza Sale ~ Basket Raffle ~ Book Sale

Saturday, September 19 (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

Basket Raffle from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM (with winners being pulled shortly thereafter).

We are so excited to be having our 3rd Annual event — each year it gets bigger and better! We are so thankful for all our volunteers who help in so many ways. If you would like to help by volunteering; baking; donating a \$1.00 lottery ticket for a lottery basket; donating a basket or items for a basket; or by donating a 12 pack of soda or water — please speak to Kelly, Debbie, Nancy, Lanny, or Earlene. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board.

There are many different ways to help — and all are greatly appreciated.

This event would not be so successful if it weren't for all of you!

TOL Fall Chicken Chowder Sale Saturday, October 24

Volunteers are needed for soup prep on **Friday, October 23** and the day of sale. See the chart in the narthex for how you can help with donations of soup ingredients. If you have any questions, please speak to Matt!

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Part II

Along with the apostles, the following were also at Pentecost:

Mary Magdalene - (7 demons/epilepsy) - Eastern Orthodox tradition: she went with John (and Mary) to Ephesus and died there. The French say she evangelized in Provence for 30 years. A medieval legend says that she married John; other legends she married Jesus. She probably left Jerusalem shortly after Pentecost. She probably followed Jesus' example and spread the news around Galilee (maybe starting in her hometown of Magdala) before going to Ephesus and/or France. Her stories would have been personal.

The other women - probably Apostles' wives and Jesus' sisters, also Joanna, Salome (Mary, wife of Zebedee), Mary (wife of Alphaeus), Mary (Mark's mother), Veronica.

Mary (Mother of Jesus)

- **Mary and Martha** (sisters of Lazarus)
- **Jesus' brothers:** James, Judas, Simon and Joses
- **Children of apostles and other unnamed followers**
- **Lazarus, Joseph of Arimathea, Barnabas**
- **Deacons** - selected by the Apostles - probably all part of the 70 to spread the gospel
- **Philip** - went to Samaria - met Ethiopian official - also went to Caesarea - not to be confused with the apostle
- **Stephen** - 1st known martyr - stoned - Saul was present
- **Prochorus** - chosen to take care of the poor in the community in Jerusalem; nephew of Steven and accompanied Peter, then John. He may have written down the book of Revelation for John
- **Nicanor** - was martyred maybe along with Stephen
- **Timon** - chosen to administer to widows of Jerusalem - was a Hellenic Jew - became a bishop in Syria and/or Corinth - was crucified
- **Parnenas** - preached in Asia Minor and Macedonia
- **Nicolaus** - 1st church scandal! - came from Antioch and was a convert to Judaism - supposedly started a heretical sect that was condemned in the Book of Revelation: supposedly encouraging his followers to be indifferent to life and to enjoy the pleasures of the flesh (sexually promiscuous).
- **Others** - John Mark (gospel writer) and his mother, Mary. Unnamed disciples who joined over the three years of Jesus' public ministry

The story of early Christianity has two basic starting points:

- 1) Jerusalem beginning with Pentecost.
- 2) Conversion of Saul (covered in later issues). We'll follow the spread of Jesus' message throughout the first century and see the variety of centers that existed then: Rome was not the primary center in the first century.

Let's start with Jerusalem.

How long the followers remained in Jerusalem and what they did is only open for conjecture. Let's talk about what we know. First, we start with James, John and Peter, the three who basically formed and organized the followers in and around Jerusalem. James, Jesus' brother, was the leader of the Jerusalem church—supposedly Peter was the head of the apostles, but there is little reference in Acts or anywhere

about how he exerted his authority over the apostles. He organized the selection of Matthias to replace Judas, but after that we don't know if he organized the apostles to spread out as they did. We know the apostles were imprisoned by Jewish authorities and Gamaliel, Paul's teacher, was instrumental in their release. One early controversy revolved around the distribution of food to widows. The Greek-speaking followers complained that the Aramaic-speaking widows were given a fair share, but the Greek widows were not. Acts says that the apostles appointed seven deacons to take care of the administrative details of organizing the followers in and around Jerusalem. Peter is not mentioned as leading this decision. The names of those chosen are on the list noted above.

Who was James, Jesus' brother? He grew up as a devote Jew and wanted to be a Rabbi. Jesus and his brothers were taught Hebrew (how to read and write along with writing in Aramaic). He followed with his Father's work and became a carpenter and mason. I believe he went to Sepphoris (not far from Nazareth) with his father and Jesus to help rebuild the Roman city after a self-proclaimed Messiah destroyed much of it. That experience probably drummed into his head that the wealthy didn't care for the poor and they blamed the poor for being lazy and causing their poverty. I believe Jesus and his brothers talked about that quite a bit because it upset them so much. James and the whole family would have come to Jerusalem for Passover each year and would have been there for the crucifixion and resurrection. They probably stayed to be with their mother until Pentecost. In 1st Corinthians, Paul refers to a meeting of Jesus and James after the Resurrection: they shared bread and wine and Jesus taught him the importance of communion. He also told him about his sermon on the mount and asked him to follow their devotion to the poor.

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Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
2026-2027 Theme: Religious Leaders

You're invited to join the class on Monday afternoons in the Fireside Room (or on Zoom) **from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**. Please contact Charlie for a Zoom link.

Sept. 14: Moses - The Law
Sept. 28: Maimonides - Andalusia
Oct. 19: Apostles and Deacons
Oct. 26: Early Christian Women



Man of LaMancha – Sign Up for Tickets!

Please join us for a live performance of Man of LaMancha at 7:30 PM on Saturday, November 7. This is a Niagara Regional Theatre Guild presentation at the Ellicott Creek Playhouse (550 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda). Tickets are \$22 each. Please sign up on the main bulletin board or reach out to us. We have reserved 30 tickets.



This show is a classic musical-within-a-play. Set in a 16th century Spanish dungeon during the Spanish Inquisition, author Miguel de Cervantes and his manservant face a mock trial by fellow prisoners. Cervantes defends his manuscript by enacting the story of Alonso Quijana, an aging man who believes he is the chivalrous knight Don Quixote, inspiring hope and idealism before his peaceful death.

Stephanie & Pete

My Musings, by Diane Schmidtke

"BE NOT AFRAID"

It was probably 10 years ago when this hymn came to my attention at the funeral of a Catholic friend. I immediately fell in love with it. While researching the origin, I discovered it was written by a Jesuit priest named Bob Dufford while he was in seminary. The words and tune came to him over several years and helped ease his anxiety and fears. He began to write it in 1972 and with encouragement from others, it was published in 1976. It is very popular in Roman Catholic congregations and in some mainstream Protestant churches as well.

After Pastor Fred arrived at TOL, and we shared stories, we heard how meaningful this hymn had become in his life when years earlier he had a very serious illness; Anne would sit by his bedside and sing it to him, again to ease fear and anxiety.



And now the time has come for our goodbyes to the Kopps. Recently, 140 people met in a beautiful park and sang "Be Not Afraid" once again. The words are a reminder to us and to each another that we are not alone in our fears, our troubles, our questions, our uncertainties about today and the days to come. This applies to our personal lives as well as our church lives.

We each have known a barren desert; we all have wept and mourned and suffered, but through it all we have been held from behind and shown the way forward.

We are not alone.

Be not afraid.

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Ways to Give to TOL

Online: [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) is available. For instructions, please visit the church website at www.trinityoldlutheran.com or download the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app to your smartphone. Please call the church office at (716) 836-4868 if you have any questions.
Giving by mail: Please send your checks to the church and to the attention of the Financial Secretary.



Adult Retreat—it's not too late to sign up!

The Retreat is at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center on October 3-5 and is open to all who are 18+ years of age. This year's theme is "Words Matter" and space is still available. Full details are posted on the bulletin board. Please speak to Charlie Schmidtke if you have any questions.

