



Pastor's Ponderings

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his
steadfast love endures forever." *Psalm 107:1*

Giving thanks is not automatic. Sometimes we are distracted or even overwhelmed by our own problems and worries that we may lose sight of the blessings, people, and happenings around us that could induce a thank you.

November is a month in which we exercise our right to vote. It is a month in which we celebrate Veterans who have served. It is a month that we experience the waning of Autumn and the beginning of Winter. It is a month in which our National Holiday invites us to take time for some introspection concerning what we are thankful for.

I am thankful for churches that strive to welcome all people. I am thankful for churches that lead with grace in their ministries and keep the commandment to "Love the Neighbor." I am thankful for Jesus' ministry to the least of these, and his sacrifice for all of God's children.

By taking time to be thankful and have gratitude for what God has given us, it helps us move out of the trees and see the forest. It helps us to get a perspective on God's amazing grace, and motivates us to imitate the God of Love.

God bless your attitude of gratitude this November.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fred he/him/his



Dear TOL Family,

Thank you so much for making my 50th Anniversary celebration such a memorable day for me and my family. I was truly surprised upon my arrival at church that morning. You are all very good at keeping a secret! Special thanks to all who played a part in making the service, luncheon and program so special. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance, including out-of-town guests who made the trip to Buffalo to join in the celebration. It was a real pleasure to have both Pastor Barbour and Pastor Fred involved in the service as well as all the special music both sung and played.

I thank the congregation for the special album filled with your kind messages of encouragement, appreciation and love. The beautiful carved wooden box containing a variety of very generous gift cards and generous monetary gifts was very thoughtful and much appreciated. It was a wonderful day that I will remember and hold in my heart forever!

In Christ's love,
Don Grabau



Thank You, Nancy!

On behalf of a grateful church, I write a thank you to Nancy, who has been our secretary for 10+ years.

Thank you for your friendly presence on the phone and when people stop in.

Thank you for being the face for all of our community partners and the follow-up needed to do that part of your position.

Thank you for being a great secretary and all the emails, correspondence, and reminders that are sent by you and through you.

We celebrate you and all that you do!

Pastor Fred and the People of TOL



TOL's Chicken Chowder Sale
Saturday, November 2
12:00 Noon until Sold Out
Come early!



Election Day Bake Sale—Reminder for TOL Bakers!

We welcome your donations of cookies, breads, pies, and brownies for the sale on **Tuesday, November 5** (no cakes, please—they are difficult to cut and plate). Please deliver them to the church on Sunday morning (November 3) or Monday, November 4 at 6:00 PM. If possible, please pre-plate or bag your donations. Thank you!

Pizza Party! -- Note from Kelly

All are welcome to our Pizza Party on **Sunday, November 17**, following the 11:00 AM worship service. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you plan to attend. Thank you!



Sermon Discussion/Input with Pastor Fred
Wednesday, November 27, at Noon in the
Fireside Room

Pastor Fred invites you to join him in a bag-lunch discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. Please let him know if you plan to attend so he can prepare materials.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2024*

All Saints Day Remember and give thanks for saints who are now in God's eternal, loving care. Praise God for their significance in your life – their influence, example and faith.

Trinity Tidings, November 2024

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



ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2024*

- † Pray for those in the Gulf Coast and other regions of the Southeast who are grieving loss and recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Pray that their hope, faith and determination will remain strong and that we will offer generous support and assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response, communities of faith, volunteers and disaster recovery agencies – for as long as needed.
- † Give thanks for those who work in hospice care and attend to the comfort and quality of life of people as they approach the end of life, and who provide emotional and spiritual support for their families.
- † Praise God for the wonders of the heavens, which stir our awe, curiosity and gratitude for God’s infinite power and creativity. Give thanks for scientists, astronomers and explorers who deepen our knowledge and respect for creation and its mysteries.
- † Give thanks for the people and experiences that break into our daily routines, interjecting joy and laughter.
- † *Day of Thanksgiving* Give thanks today – and every day – for what God provides to strengthen and sustain us and for those who work to feed the world, including farmers, agricultural workers, ranchers, commercial fishermen, food pantry staff and administrators of hunger relief programs such as ELCA World Hunger.



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, August 2024*

Praise God, for God provides all that is good and sustains us, imploring us to use these gifts to care for our neighbors in need.

Trinity Tidings

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Mission for November: Veterans One-stop Center (VOSC)

New Name: VOSC now serves 12 counties including those outside of WNY. It is located at 1255 Niagara Street in Buffalo (the VOSC Fitness & Health Center is located behind that location). Any Veteran is eligible for their services.

VOSC Facts

- 15,000 Veterans & Active Service Members have been engaged at VOSC
- 89% of homeless veterans enrolled with VOSC moved to permanent housing and 20% to transitional housing

[from: www.vocwny.org. © 2024 VOSC.]

Please place your donations in the marked envelopes in the narthex; mail donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Veterans One-stop Center).

October Mission: Arlen Jenkins and Family

Thank you to all for your donations to support Arlen Jenkins and her family. Please continue to keep Arlen and her loved ones in prayer.

ELCA Prayer Ventures, November 2024*

Veterans Day, November 11 This is a day when we remember, honor and give thanks for the service and sacrifice of veterans of the armed forces who have defended our country and worked for freedom and justice in the world. Pray that their families, caregivers and survivors will receive the support and care they need. Give thanks for the work of Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA and of congregations with ministries serving veterans and their families.



Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke...You're invited to join the class on Monday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall (or on Zoom) from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Please contact Charlie for a Zoom link.



November 4 Jacob, Leah, and Rachel
November 18 David, Bathsheba, and Abigail



Celebrating Don Grabau -- Earlene Crocker

On Sunday, October 20, we had the absolute pleasure of honoring Don Grabau for his 50th Anniversary as TOL's Music Director. Poor Don started his morning being surprised by the choir with a silly song about "how he was going to have the day off" so we could celebrate his anniversary. Well, he didn't exactly get the day off; we invited him to join the choir in singing two anthems we had prepared for him. He then was asked to play two hymns and do an impromptu thank you at the end of the service! We were honored to have Pastor Rich Barbour as our guest preacher who offered a special meditation for Don. The service also included a special program entitled "A Servant's Heart" that was put together in Don's honor. I want to sincerely thank Amy Gangloff for her piano solo; Barb and Juli Yendall, Carol Zeffirelli, and Marie Hutton for their beautiful quartet performance; Pastor Lynn Scarpine and Charlie Schmidtke for being our readers; and the bell and voice choirs for their participation in the program.

After the service, we had a fun luncheon filled with more surprises for Don. The voice choir sang a silly song written by Barb Yendall honoring Don's anniversary; Diane Schmidtke read a beautiful poem she had written for Don; Lynn Scarpine led us in a rousing kazoo band rendition of "Rock Around the Clock," and Jeff Ward did an amazing job of putting together a video of pictures from old variety shows and Christmas programs for our viewing pleasure.

I think Don was overwhelmed by the whole day and I know he was extremely touched by everyone's presence and participation, as well as for the generous gifts.

I personally thank everyone who generously donated their gifts of time, money, and love. I've said it before and I'll say it again, "you're wonderful"! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

"For Don" -- Diane S.

The years slid by from then till now
With 50 at the keyboard - WOW!
Playing hymns, directing voices,
Hand bells, bands and oh the choices!
Beginning back in '74
Weddings, funerals, worship and more
Dealing with choirs of various sizes
One signal from Don and the music arises!
Teaching the kids and grownups alike
In a group, with a mic
Christmas programs, such delight
Organ and bells: Silent Night
Problem solving on the go
Creative thinking like a pro
All of this he does so well
Ever with love of TOL.
Always with a smile to share
Always there to listen with care
Sense of humor? Yes, indeed!
Lending a hand when there is need.
Up to the loft, how many times?
How many steps has he climbed?
On the ladder to hang and entwine
And assemble a Christmas tree divine!
To be a musician is to play a part
Sharing in ways, gifts from the heart
Stillness ensues and we feel his respect
With "Taps" on his horn to honor the Vet!
Tho' his music piles are sometimes askew
To God and church he's always true
And as for those sitting in the pew,
Don, we are ever grateful for you.



Tribute to Don Grabau -- Barb Yendall
(sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Donald Grabau, he's the man
Does what nobody else can.
He's led the music program here
Flawlessly for fifty years!

Don is amazing
Yes, Don is amazing
We know Don's amazing
A little birdie told us so.

Back in 1974
Donald walked through our church door,
We're sure the thought never came his way
That he would still be here today.

Don is amazing
Yes, Don is amazing
We know Don's amazing
The calendar tells us so.

We've had Pastors come and go
and move on from TOL.
Don continues on and on
He's our music cornerstone.

Don is amazing
Yes, Don is amazing
We know Don's amazing
The Pastors told us so.

Don's directed choirs and bells
All these years at TOL.
Larger groups or not so much
They sounded great, he's got the touch.

Don is amazing
Yes, Don is amazing
We know Don's amazing
The choirs told us so.

Thank you, Don, for fifty years
Of dedication, laughs and tears.
One last thing though, we implore
Can we please have fifty more?

Don, you're amazing
Yes, Don, you're amazing.
We know you're amazing
Congratulations, and many more!



Thoughts on the 2024 Retreat - Kelly

Ten years ago I came out of my comfort zone and attended my first retreat at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. Now it is something I look forward to every year.

It's hard to describe the over-all feeling of one of these retreats without having experienced it yourself. With Charlie at the helm, he guides, teaches, and leads us to places and feelings we didn't know existed. Sometimes there are tears, other times there is laughter—but most of all, there is a feeling of closeness and togetherness.

Thank you, Charlie, for your spiritual leadership, your friendship, and most of all your willingness to help us on our spiritual journeys.

Looking forward to Retreat 2025!
Come out of your comfort zone and join us!
You will not regret it!

Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke
Study Notes: Jesus the Galilean

Part I: Jewish History in Galilee

In order to understand Jesus as a Galilean, we need to have some historical background as to what being a Galilean really meant for him. Abraham and Lot divided the “Holy Land” with Abraham going west of the River Jordan and Lot to the east. Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, had 12 sons and he divided the land he inherited among his sons—known as the 12 tribes of Israel (circa 1800-1500 BC). If you look at a map of Israel in the days of Jacob and his sons, you will see 12 tribes scattered throughout the Holy Land. Edom was to the east and the Edomites were descended from Esau (Jacob’s brother). The Moabites and Ammonites (also to the east) were descended from Lot (Abraham’s nephew). Jacob was referred to as Israel and the lands of his sons have also been referred to as Israel—thus, the name today. Before Abraham and Lot came to the Holy Land most of the area was populated by the Canaanites. Jacob’s sons married Canaanite women and adopted many of their ways of cooking and keeping clean. Eventually these practices morphed into Kosher laws (e.g., separate bowls/plates for meat and dairy, heavily salting meats, draining blood for storing, and cleanliness).

Moses and the Exodus occurred around 1250 BC. We know Jews lived in Goshen and those who were living there returned. There is no evidence of Egypt using slaves for their building projects and there is no evidence of a mass Jewish exodus. The only “evidence” we have is in the Torah (the Book of Exodus) and a Charleton Heston movie. By the time of David (circa 1050BC), the land was divided and the tribes did not get along. Also, there were other people surrounding and living within the territory we now call Israel. David united the tribes and had all the other people living within the land subjugated to his rule or exiled. He was the most ruthless leader in the Bible and made Jerusalem, a small town, the capitol because no tribe was in control of it. The other reason he did so was because of the Jewish belief that Abraham’s intended sacrifice of Isaac occurred on Mt. Moriah, which is in the heart of Jerusalem. His son, Solomon, built a temple in Jerusalem on this site. The temple provided a sacred place for sacrifices to Yahweh, as well as a house for the ark of the covenant (the original tablets containing the 10 commandments). The Jews believed that Yahweh was present on earth in the Tabernacle with the ark.

After Solomon built the temple (950 BCE), the political division between the north and south occurred. The northern kingdom was called Israel with its capitol in Shechem, which is in Samaria (a land area, not a country). Shechem was the site of the first Jewish sacrifices when the Jews returned from captivity in Egypt under Joshua’s leadership. The southern kingdom was called Judah and Jerusalem was its capitol. In 722 BC the Assyrians attacked Israel, the northern kingdom and conquered the people, taking many as slaves and dispersing the others. There was no real Jewish presence left in the land of Israel, except for the Samaritans. The Assyrians did not bother or scatter the Samaritans and failed in their conquest of Jerusalem. The Judeans took that as a sign that God did not favor the Kingdom of Israel and the rulers and people who were conquered. They included the Samaritans as a part of God’s disfavor because they were a part of the Kingdom of Israel and God was punishing the people of Israel for their failure to obey His laws. God was

the Judeans’ protector and they were really His chosen people. In 586 BCE the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and tore down the temple. They took the leadership and many Jews into captivity for over 50 years. The Samaritans were left alone and they built a temple on Mt. Gerizim near Shechem the site they believed Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac.

The Judeans, while in captivity, used that time to redefine what being a “real” Jew meant. They edited the Torah—the first five books of the Old Testament - established Rabbis to be teachers, rededicated themselves to prayer, purity and circumcision. The Passover became an important festival once again and they promised God that they would no longer resort to honoring pagan gods or goddesses (especially Ashura, the fertility goddess of the followers of Baal). They also rededicated themselves to ritual and daily purity. They edited the Torah and emphasized the importance of Abraham and the Laws given to Moses on Mt. Sinai (not just the 10 commandments). This was the Judaism in which Jesus and his apostles lived—the Judean way, not the Samaritan way.

When the Persians conquered the Babylonians and returned the Judean Jews to Jerusalem, they helped them rebuild their temple. From about 520 BCE until 70 CE the Jews referred to this period as the Second Temple. After the temple was completed, the Prophet Ezra led some of the remaining Jews in Babylon back to Jerusalem (circa 480 BCE). He found that the Jews in Judea were not keeping the Jewish holidays, had married Gentiles and weren’t following all of the Laws. He called the Jews to meet with him. He told them to divorce their Gentile wives, which they did, and he read the new Torah at the gates of the Temple. He demanded that the Jews refrain from any mixing with other people in the future and that they must adhere to the Laws of the Torah and celebrate the holy days. No intermarriage of any kind was allowed. This included the Samaritans.

For the next 450 years, Jews slowly repopulated the land north of Samaria which became called Galilee. This repopulation intensified after the Maccabees’ revolution about 100 BCE. A real Jewish identity began to emerge then. The Galileans united in their beliefs with the Judeans and began to shun the Samaritans. During this period and until the time of Christ, the prejudices among the Judeans, Samaritans and Galileans festered and intensified. The Samaritan’s unedited Torah was now different from the Judeans and they continued to believe their temple was the true site of Abraham’s intended sacrifice. The laws for purification and for following God’s will were different. The Judeans looked down upon the Samaritans as lacking the integrity to be proper Jews. Good Jews were supposed to make a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem three times a year. Of course, the Samaritans never bothered and thought it was pompous and arrogant for the Judeans to expect all Jews to go to Jerusalem. Besides, they had their own temple and had offered to help the Judeans rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The Judeans refused their help which only exacerbated the hostility. It was very difficult for the Galileans to travel the distance to the temple because they either had to travel through Samaria or go east to the highway on the other side of the Jordan River. Some made it annually; others less often; and some rarely went. Many Judeans (especially the leaders in the Temple) were scornful of this failure.

Used with permission.

Diamond Art Craft Night -- Diane Schmidtke

There is something special about being with other women in a group with a purpose. Recently, the "WWI" met to try their hand at Diamond Art (also called Diamond Painting). In case you're unfamiliar, this is a craft "that involves applying resin rhinestones to a preprinted canvas to create a shimmering mosaic."



It is similar to paint by number, using a stylus and small colored "diamonds." It's easy to learn and has many benefits: reduces stress, stimulates artistry, fine-tunes motor skills, and unplugs us from technology.

We had much fun at our gathering. Earlene was the fearless leader and soon had everyone positioning their diamonds like pros! She has made countless works of lovely art, both large and small. Between conversations and laughter we learned and created!



This is a perfect project to set up and work on in the winter days coming. It's satisfying to see the design grow and come together. If you have questions, just ask a WWI member (open to all women).

For we are...

Women With: Issues, Interests, Integrity, Intelligence, Intuition, Information, Insight, Ideas, Imagination, and Impact!!



My Musings by Diane Schmidtke

Reflecting on the LCLC Retreat

"Who Am I?", the poet asks
And also the philosopher...
Do we change as life goes on?
It's paradox for sure!

A retreat to contemplate our time,
Our gifts and struggles and joys
God and Spirit will combine
And filter out the noise.

Nature at its very best
The Lake and colorful leaves
Our hearts are open to a quest
Eucharist under the trees.

Renewed by love and hugs, we smile
But even as we roll the dice
Change always moves us another mile
You can't step in the same river twice!



[LCLC: Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center]

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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.

Give thanks to
the Lord, for he is
good; his love endures
forever.

psalm 106:1

