



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

Monthly Newsletter - October 2026

The Rev. Adam Arends - Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.

***Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,
just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV***

Dearest Members for Good Shepherd, Augustana, and Trinity Old Lutheran,

As we continue on this path of exploring what God has in store for us, I'm reminded of sports teams. And not just because our local football team is doing well!

Soon after we were married, my wife and I joined a bar league volleyball team for a season. I've never been good at volleyball, and we joined just to hang out with friends. Most of the time we all got along, enjoyed each other's company, and had a good night – even when we missed the ball consistently. But once in a while, instead of shaking off the misses, and continuing to play for fun, one member of our team would feel a bit competitive. And would start to grumble when one of us missed the ball. And then might start to groan louder when we didn't set the ball to them, or when we'd trip in the sand. Instead of playing for fun, the games became about trying not to anger one member of the team.

As we go along together these next several months, there will be times when we get along great, and we build one another up. There may also be times when we're tempted to grumble if we perceive that things aren't going our way.

At those times, I hope we can keep the Apostle Paul's words in our ears:

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

Paul wrote to the early church in Thessalonica, which had its own disagreements and frustrations, to remember that they gathered together in the presence and hope of Jesus the Christ who had died on the cross and lived again to take away all our sin and frustration, our guilt and shame, so that we might work together for God and for one another.

Paul's words of encouragement, not of condemnation, continue to ring true for us today. May we continue to build one another up in the Spirit, just as we are doing.

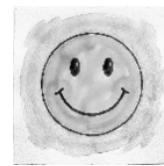
In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam

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**WNY Church Unleashed**

If you are unable to join us for in-person or ZOOM worship, you can watch Lutheran worship on Cable TV Chanel 5 MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 am. "Church Unleashed" is run by Lutheran Pastors, Beigner, Griffiths and Smith. For previous weeks, go to YouTube and search for "WNY Church Unleashed."

## Odds *N* Ends *from the Council President*



- Although the weather wasn't the greatest, it could have been worse! Worship, the food, and the fellowship among four churches (including St. Timothy's) was a joy!!! Thank you to all who helped in some way!
- Welcome to our tri-church transition pastor, Pastor Adam Arends!
- **October 25: Tri-church worship Reformation at Augustana 9:30am**
- November 15: Tri- church worship Veteran's Day Worship at TOL 11:00am
- December 6: Tri- church worship Christmas program at Good Shepherd
- Thank you to Linda LiSacchi for volunteering to be the congregational council secretary!
- Thank you to Pastors' Dave and Devie for leading worship regularly!!
- Welcome to Pastor Adam Arends as Augustana, Trinity Old Lutheran, and Good Shepherds' transition pastor.  
[pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com).
- Pastor Fred and Anne's new address:  
719 Holter Street      Helena, Montana 59601
- Thank you to Paulette and her team for a wonderful God's Work Our Hands Baby Shower to benefit Harvest House!

Everything was lovely and delicious! The baby gifts are wonderful! Thank you to everyone who donated.

- **How can you help to lessen the deficit?:** Please use the **monthly yellow envelopes** in your offering envelope box to make donations. Thank you!
- Sunday school begins Sunday, September 27 following communion.
- Choir anthems have begun! Join us!!!

### **Coming Up:**

- **Saturday, October 24, Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fall Festival**  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Join Us!
- **October 25: Tri-church worship Reformation at Augustana 9:30am**
- **Saturday, November 7th: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
Our delicious **Chicken Chowder sale!**

### **Thank you:**

- **Thanks be to God** for the gift of Patrick!
- Thank you to Ed and the choir for their beautiful music!
- Thank you counters\$!
- Thank you to those who help clean up after coffee hour!
- Thank you for adorning the chancel with flowers!

- Thank you for our coffee hour volunteers and donations that assist so many.
- Thank you to everyone who joins us through Zoom! It is so good to worship together.
- Thank you, Zoom helpers!!!
- Thank you, dear treasurer and financial secretary!
- Thank you, cantors, deacons, acolytes, and altar guild!
- Thank you attendance takers..., including Jean Spoon!!!
- Thank you for all the little things, big things, and all the in-betweens you do for our congregation, our neighbors, and the world!

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All ten of our fire extinguishers have been inspected! A boiler inspection is coming up in November. Gutters have been checked. We're looking into the parking lot drain and pipe "mysteries." Amy S. and Rich K. have been sharing their skills to help solve of the mysteries. The gardens continue to be tended with love and care! Many thanks to our committee and the many others who help keep our property safe, efficient and up to date!

Refugee Immigrant Driver Education



Drive to Thrive

“Serve one another humbly in faith.” Galatians 5:13

We have two students in our learner permit classes, one is from Afghanistan and the other is from South Africa.

We decided to have classes here this year. The first class was last Saturday and the last class will be Saturday, September 19th. At the completion of the second class both students will receive a gift card to pay for their learner permit.

We are hoping they both receive their permits soon, so that they can then receive ten free lessons with Stevens Driving School.

Many thanks to Patrick for helping!!!

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**“Wash Me Clean” Collection:-** Augustana will be collecting personal & household hygiene products for people and families in need. This is being run through Social Ministry at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Williamsville. A bin will be in the Narthex for your donations. If you have any questions, see Paulette Hotchkiss.

## Augustana Prayer Chain



If you have a prayer that you would like  
to be shared on the Prayer Chain,  
contact Devie Ellis:  
RevDevie@aol.com / (716) 909-9583



**HOPE**  
*and*  
**HEALING**

Christian Cancer Support

For anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis,  
Linda Sokoly can give support, through  
phone calls, e-mail, texts or 1:1  
In person conversations and prayers.

If you or someone you know is in need  
of support, or if you have questions  
please contact Linda through the  
church office at (716) 832-5720  
or ... [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com)

### Deacon Schedule for October

Deacon | Cantor

|       |                                    |          |       |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 10-4  | 19th Sunday after Pentecost        | Kathy    | Donna |
| 10-11 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost        | Nate     | Ray   |
| 10-18 | <u>21st</u> Sunday after Pentecost | Paulette | Paula |
| 10-25 | <u>22nd</u> Sunday after Pentecost | Kathy    | Nate  |
|       |                                    |          |       |

**Augustana Fall Fun Fest:** Please sign-up to help. Thank you!

# FALL FESTIVAL



**Saturday,  
October 24**

**11 am - 2 pm**

**Indoor 'Trunk or Treat'**

**Live Music      Apple Cider & Donuts**  
**Wear a costume      Games & Activities**  
**Loads of Treats      Bring Your Treat Bag**  
**Bring the family!      Everything is free!**

## **AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda**  
**(corner of Rockland, near Colvin exit of 290)**  
**(716) 83205720 / [augustanachurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustanachurch@yahoo.com)**

Augustana Book Club's next read:

### **THE CALAMITY CLUB**

by Kathryn Stockett *Author of The Help*

**Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm**

**3143 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda**

Questions?: [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com) / 832-5720



## **Good Shepherd Food Pantry**

Please consider buying a few items  
when doing your regular food shopping.

**for OCTOBER**

**Applesauce ♦ Rice Sides**

**THANK YOU for your continued support.**

# Around the Area



## **Trinity Old Lutheran Church**

3445 Sheridan Drive

Amherst, New York 14226

Phone: 716-836-4868 or 716-836-4990

Email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

## **TOL's Fall Chicken Chowder Sale Saturday, October 24**

We're bringing out the new soup kettles for the second Chicken Chowder Sale this year! There are a number of ways you can help: volunteer (veggie prep day is Friday, October 23); donate ingredients – and spread the word! Matt will have a sign-up board in the narthex. Watch for more details in the Tidings and in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions, please speak to Matt Grabau.



## **Support Group for Grieving Parents**

**This group, specifically for parents of children and grandchildren who have died, meets each month in the Fireside Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday**

**(10:00 AM to 11:30 AM) and also on Zoom.**

**Coordinators are: Charlie and Diane Schmidtke and Jean Campbell**



### **On-going Collections!**

Look for the marked containers in the donations area in the main hallway.

Thank you!

**Can Tabs** for Buffalo's Ronald McDonald House.

**Recycle Cans and Bottles...** Your donations can be placed in the marked container or you may also redeem them at Bottle and Can Redemption Center (2790 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda). TOL has an account there.

### **Friends of Night People**

- Collection of new men's socks, and small-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste) or create care packages.
- Men's seasonal clothing collection.

### **Miles of Pennies**

**Dash's Register Tapes** for Niagara Health System

## 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.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Seyse & Pete Stecher*



## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, ELCA**

2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda NY 14150

**Rev. Adam Arends, Transitional Pastor**

Email: [pastor.gslc.tona@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.gslc.tona@gmail.com)

### **Church Office**

Email: [office.gslc.tona@gmail.com](mailto:office.gslc.tona@gmail.com)

Phone: (716) 832-5390

**WWW.GSLCTONA.ORG**



**Join Us  
Wednesday  
September 16  
6:30 PM  
@ The Dome**

Questions? See Kevin Cronyn (832-6650)



### **Please Remember to Support our Ongoing Collections:**

(items can be put on the bookcase in  
the Narthex)

- Pop/Beer and Fruit/Soup **metal tabs** for the Ken-Ton Closet
- Greeting **card fronts** for Schofield Nursing Home
- **Dash's tapes** for the Lutheran Home Guild

In His service,

Carolyn Swanson and Sue Murphy

## Operation Christmas Child

One of TOL's outreach programs is packing shoeboxes for children around the world who don't receive Christmas gifts. It is an expression of God's love for children.

If you would like to join us on this mission, contact Debbie (716-946-2683) or the TOL church office (726-836-4868).

You can use your own plastic shoebox or we can provide one for you. The boxes may be filled with a variety of items that are appropriate for boys or girls, ages 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. The biggest need is for boys age 10-14.

Some ideas are dolls, soccer balls with pump, small stuffed animals, crayons, pencils, markers, note pads, glue sticks, combs, brushes, hair bans, toothbrushes, wash cloths, and card games. Also, books, play dough, jewelry, hats, gloves, sunglasses, puzzles, jump ropes, and yoyos.

Unacceptable items are: candy, toothpaste, food, war-related toys, liquids, glass items, and soap.

If you are able to include \$10 for shipping, that would be appreciated.

Boxes can be brought to TOL on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> which is a joint Veterans service for all three churches.

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Your Bottles & Cans Support the Food Pantry and the General Fund!



Take your donations directly to the return center at 2790 Sheridan Drive or bring them to church and we'll return them for you!

Dates to Remember

Month	#	Day	Happening	Time - Place
<u>Oct</u>	3	Saturday	Craft and Vendor Show	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Good Shepherd
<u>Oct</u>	24	Saturday	Chicken Chowder	<u>TOL</u>
<u>Oct</u>	24	Saturday	Fall Festival	11:00 am - 2:00 pm Augustana
<u>Oct</u>	25	Sunday	<u>Tri-Worship</u>	9:30 am Augustana Reformation
Nov	7	Saturday	Chowder Sale	11:00 am - 2:00 pm Augustana
Nov	7	Saturday	Man of La Mancha	7:30 pm - <u>TOL</u> - \$22.00 Niagara Regional Theatre Guild
Nov	15	Sunday	<u>Tri-Worship</u>	11:00 am <u>TOL</u> Veterans Day
Nov	22	Sunday	Assist	9:30 am Augustana
Dec	6	Sunday	<u>Tri-Worship</u>	10:00 am Good Shepherd Christmas Pageant

