



## Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

Monthly Newsletter - June - July 2026

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

*Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.*

# Pastor's Ponderings

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

I am leaving, but I still have you for a little while longer and want the transition and future to go well. So, I've been thinking about what to leave you with as you enter into this transition time. During this transition there will be a big need for all people of the congregation to be involved. I hope that each one of the members and friends of our congregations think about this transition as short term and how they can help it be successful. One way is to support and continue the servant ministries that are evident with each congregation.

Another way is to use as an example Geese. These are lessons I use in coaching leaders. It's helpful and Anne and I like birds. Here are lessons that we can learn from Geese.

- As each bird flaps its wings. It creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71% more flying range in a V-formation than flying alone

**Lesson:** People who share a common direction and a sense of common purpose can get there quicker.

- Whenever a goose flies out of formation it quickly feels the drag and tries to get back into position.  
**Lesson:** It's harder to do something alone than together.
- When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the head  
**Lesson:** Shared leadership and interdependence gives each of us a chance to lead as well as opportunities to rest.
- The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.  
**Lesson:** We need to make sure our honking is encouraging and not discouraging (see Bible quote above.)
- When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up and join another flock.  
**Lesson:** Stand by your fellow members in difficult times and well as in good.

I will be quacking from behind as TOL and Augustana and it's people take on the challenges of transition and exploration of a bright future together with Good Shepherd.

Peace, Pastor Fred



**June 7<sup>th</sup> Worship at TOL: Next Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** we will be worshipping together with Good Shepherd at Trinity Old Lutheran, 3445 Sheridan Dr, Buffalo, NY 14226. Worship begins at **11:00**.

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

### Council ...

- On Sunday, April 26, Augustana, Trinity Old Lutheran, and Good Shepherd voted on whether to join in serious planning about how the three churches can merge, to insure a prosperous future. Second, if it becomes necessary, we are willing to sell our church building. There was good discussion before all three congregations passed the motion.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> a large group from each congregation attended a meaningful day-long workshop. May 3<sup>rd</sup> we worshiped together at Good Shepherd.
- Sunday, June 7 all three churches will worship together at TOL at 11am.
- How can you help to lessen the deficit?: Please use the monthly yellow envelopes in your offering envelope box to make donations. Thank you!
- On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a flea market. (more info. to come soon)

- Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Your presence is important.
- Pastor Fred will retire on Sunday, July 26. There will be a worship service and picnic at Emery Park, South Wales to celebrate. More info. to come.

### **Other happenings...**

- About five members helped to beautify the Augustana grounds for Earth Day.
- The gardens continue to look more and more beautiful each week!
- June is Pride Month. There will be PRIDE and “diversity” bracelets available in the narthex on the table.

### **Thank you**

- Thank you to Ed and the choir for their beautiful music!
- Thank you to the bell ringers.
- Thank you for adorning the chancel with flowers!
- Thank you for your coffee hour donations that assist so many.
- Thank you for our busy gardeners!!! Our grounds all look beautiful.
- Thank you for your generous giving to help Josh Kennedy through his health issues... (I believe over \$700 was raised through coffee hour donations.)
- Many thanks to all who are supporting Patrick in so many ways. Patrick is so very thankful. Please continue to keep him in prayer.

- Thank you to everyone who joins us through Zoom! It is so good to worship together
- Many thanks to Dave Schmahl for taking care of our AED defibulator. He has replaced the battery and pads and contributed to their cost.
- Thank you for all the little things, big things, and all the in-betweens you do for our congregation, our neighbors, and the world!



- Devie Ellis will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Dave Ellis will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on June 14<sup>th</sup>
- Pastor Fred will celebrate the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on July 12, (and 15 years. on Dec.3<sup>rd</sup> for me).

## Congratulations

- **Congratulations** to Emily and Anthony Gobbi, who recently married and to their loved ones.... including Tom and Donna Bartkowski.

# Refugee Immigrant Driver Education

 *Drive to Thrive*

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

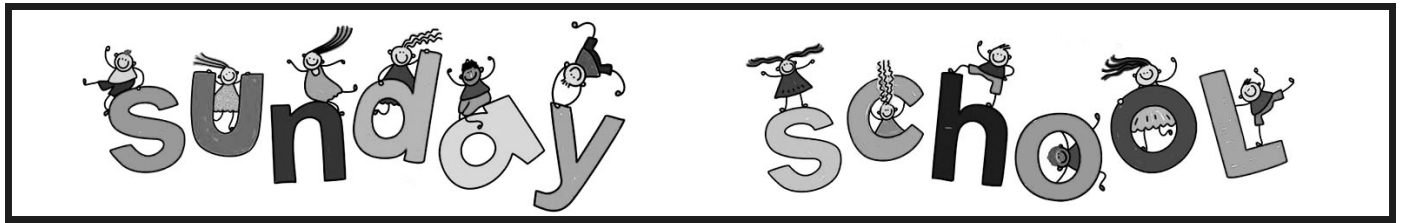
The RIDE program is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year. WOW! Thank you so much for your help and support throughout the years and this year. We are so thankful for the increased support through our chili and chowder sales (this year)...

We are hoping to have learner permit classes. Right now, we are providing driving lessons, the 5 hour course, and road tests to twelve students from India, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other countries. They are all so very thankful for this opportunity to be more independent, to help their families and others, to continue their studies and so much more. We also have about 14 students waiting for lessons. Just this week, we received the last portion of our \$10,000 grant from Lutheran Charities...

We hope to offer several more students lessons during the summer.

Thank you!





Many thanks to our students for regularly coming to Sunday school and participating in Pastor's messages..., for your part in Sunday worship, and so many other things.

Thank you families and the congregation for your support throughout the year in so many ways.

Thank you to our teachers for the special activities, your preparations for classes, and for teaching... See you in September!!!.



## **SOME HIGHLIGHTS**

- This year, we leaned into curiosity, courage, and creativity as we explored what it means to cultivate a GRACE mindset in a season of experimentation.
- The guest speakers were the Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Director of Theological Diversity and Engagement for the ELCA Churchwide organization, and the Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman, Stuempfle-Folkemer Professor of Homiletics at United Lutheran Seminary. (She was my homiletics/preaching professor in Philadelphia.)

- A theme Bible verse was Isaiah 43: 19 <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;
- Experimentation is finding something new, supporting the new, saying yes, yes and, taking action..., wonder together
- \$21,956.95 was given to World Hunger (We contributed \$150!!!)
- Deacon Rachel Sosebee is the new Associate to the Bishop for Transitions.
- We are a connected church. We need connectivity.
- Good Shepherd is celebrating 75 years.
- Devie Ellis, Dave Ellis are celebrating their 45 year anniversary of their ordination, Rev. John Scarafia is celebrating 55 years.
- Lindsay Standard was elected the new Vice President of the synod.
- Upstate New York has a new logo



- Consider who we are and what we as a congregation are becoming
- We have a story to tell!!!
- North Greenbush Church was welcomed as a new member of the ELCA and Upstate New York.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, **June 28**, following worship. All annual meeting articles are due Wednesday, **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.



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)

## 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."

## 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](mailto:RevDevie@aol.com) / (716) 909-9583

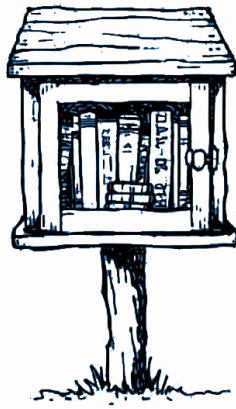
## AUGUSTANA FUNDRAISER

Any donations to our "lawyer fee appeal" can be placed in the offering.

Please label it: "fundraiser" or "lawyer fee appeal" ... Envelopes are on the table in

Please make checks payable to Augustana Lutheran Church. Thank you.





Augustana's Book Club - Next Read:

**LULA DEAN'S LITTLE LIBRARY  
of BANNED BOOKS**  
by Kirsten Miller

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4 @ 6:30**  
3143 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda

Questions?: [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com)  
(716) 832-5720

## FOOD PANTRY

Augustana is now collecting non-perishable food items for Good Shepherd's food pantry. Please bag your donations. Bags are available by the food collection tote.

For June

**Canned Chicken  
Chili Seasoning ♦ Cake Mix**



**THANK YOU** for your continued support.





# garden news

The children planted flowers last Sunday at Augustana. They had fun and the pots look lovely. Their help is much appreciated and they each got to take a plant home.

Last winter was rough on our garden. A lot of work has gone into keeping the gardens maintained this spring. The next time you are at Augustana, check out the beautiful work of our parishioners, and the results of their efforts,



Augustana Lutheran Church  
**FLEA MARKET SAT. JULY 11**

and **Hot Dogs** too!!!



11 – 2pm      Rain or Shine



**Join Us    Get a table for \$20**

Check out all the terrific things for sale!

Questions: See/Call Judy 716-445-6963. Thank you!

# Around the Area

## **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  
June 17th  
6:30 PM  
@ The Dome**

Questions? See Kevin Cronyn (832-6650)

**Save the Date**



**Three Church  
Cooperation**

August 30th  
Three Church  
**Outdoor Worship & Picnic**

## **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!

Who Wants a Chance to

# WIN COLD HARD CASH

Proceeds support the mission of

**Ticket Cost: \$20**



Winning Tickets will be  
**Drawn June 29th**  
at the Charity Golf Classic!



**THREE PRIZES AVAILABLE**  
to Win:  
**\$1,000 or \$500 or \$250**

To Purchase Tickets, See or Call  
**Mike Murphy**  
OR  
**Jessica Lawrence**



**JOIN US ON THE LINKS**  
for EXCLUSIVE USE of the



**PENDLETON CREEK GOLF CLUB**  
North Tonawanda, NY

**JUNE 29, 2026**

Register Online at  
[www.WNYLutheranCharities.org](http://www.WNYLutheranCharities.org)  
or get a mail-in registration form from any  
Lutheran Charities representative.

**LUTHERAN CHARITIES GOLF CLASSIC**



**Join the BuffaLutheran Herd!**

**Buffalo Bisons**  
VS  
**Lehigh Valley IronPigs**

**Friday, August 21st**  
@ Sahlen Field / Game Time 6:35 PM  
"Shea's Theater Night" & Post-Game Fireworks

**Save the date**




**Trinity Old Lutheran Church**  
3445 Sheridan Drive  
Amherst, New York 14226  
Phone: 716-836-4868 or 716-836-4990  
Email: [trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

↓ Next Page ↓

## **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

### **Adult Ed. Classes with Charlie Schmidtke (one more class before Fall)**

<sup>3</sup> Charlie decided to add a class on **Monday, June 1**. You're invited to join the class in the Fireside Room (or on Zoom) from **1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**. Please contact Charlie for a Zoom link. The topic is "Gospel of Mary Magdalene."



### **Women's Luncheon Group**

You are invited to join the group for lunch on **Thursday, June 11 at 12:30 PM**. They will be going to Buffalo Olde Brewery Restaurant (1221 East Lovejoy Street in Buffalo; phone 716-464-3018). Please contact Judy Menz or Barb Maugans if you have any questions.

### **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.

## Niagara Chord Authority Spring Concert at TOL!

The acapella group is returning to Trinity Old Lutheran Church for a Spring Show, "Let the Music In," on **Saturday, June 6 at 7:00 PM**. We are so



excited to sing for you as we have just returned from our regional contest with awards for "Most Improved Chorus" along with recognition for performance of our tunes! We would love to see you there. Tickets are \$10; children 10 and under are free. -- Barb Yendall



### 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. Your donations of blankets, sleeping bags, hoodies, jackets, hats and gloves are most appreciated as well!

### Miles of Pennies

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



| RECEIPT                      |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| LOCAL GROCER                 |                |
| DATE: 2023-10-27             |                |
| TIME: 14:35                  |                |
| MILK 1 GALLON                | \$3.99         |
| BREAD WHOLE WHEAT            | \$2.49         |
| APPLES (3 LBS)               | \$4.50         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                | <b>\$10.98</b> |
| THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE! |                |

**St. Martin Lutheran Church  
322 Old Falls Blvd.  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Phone: 716-693-4415  
Email: StMartinNT@gmail.com**

**FREE Vacation Bible School**



**July 27 - 31,  
9:00 am - 12 pm  
St. Martin  
Lutheran Church  
322 Old Falls Blvd. NT**



**Scan here to  
register.**



**Augustana Lutheran Church 3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150**

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 in the church and on Zoom.**

**Contact the church office for a Zoom invite.**

Church Office: (716) 832-5720 / [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Fred Kopp:** (716) 984-8541 / [augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com)

[www.augustanaonline.org](http://www.augustanaonline.org)

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