

# Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

APRIL and MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

## Pastor's Ponderings

**But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.**

**Luke 24:12**

On the devotional card for Easter, from our Wandering Hearts theme, the question for the day is What are you running toward? As you think about your answer, my mind is going to the many times I am running away from stuff, or the times I am avoiding and shifting from side to side to avoid stuff. I am also remembering the many times I stand still in shock, or do not know where to turn. It is only at certain points in my life, that I do run to stuff, and it seems rarer for me to run towards God.

Maybe it is the fear of commitment, or the wariness of the choices that a person running towards God has to make? It may be the open-ended nature of following a call to God that keeps my running sporadic? However, I notice that when I do run toward God, as John the Baptist did for Jesus, my mountains become lower to climb and my valleys become less deep. There is also usually a stillness that reminds me of Psalm 46 "be still and know that I am God", or a portion of the stillness and confidence that the great servant of God, Mary, felt when she was asked to bear God's son.

It seems to me that running toward God needs to be a more often event that I undertake... How about you?

The devotional prayer card ends with this prayer: God of the garden, just as Peter ran toward you that Easter morning, I too am running. I am running toward a stronger sense of self. I am running toward my call. I am running toward deeper relationships and deeper faith. I am running into the arms of love. Like Peter, I run toward you. Wait for me. I am on my way! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred he/him/his

## OUTREACH by Paula Kerr

### Lenten Sock Collection



Every year during Lent, Pastor Jeremiah Smith, Dean of the Niagara Frontier Conference of ELCA churches, challenges the congregations to participate in a project to help others. This year the challenge was to collect socks because they are frequently needed by people who are homeless.

He has reported that the 17 churches collected more than 12,000 pairs of socks! Augustana collected 246 pairs, which will be given to Hearts for the Homeless. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach that number.

We are looking forward to participating in next year's Lenten project.

### Egg Carton Collection for the Response to Love Center

Augustana has an ongoing collaboration with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Williamsville to collect empty egg cartons for the Response to Love Center in Buffalo. Please save and donate your used egg cartons (any type). There is a bin in the Narthex.

### Community of Good Neighbors

We continue supporting those locally who have food insecurity by collecting food items for Community of Good Neighbors. Thank you for your continued donations of Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereals, (non-sugary types), canned vegetables, Pasta and Tomato Sauces etc.... Collection bins are located in the Narthex.

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## AUGUSTANA 140th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, June 8**

Please join us! The day will begin at 11 am with a worship service jointly led by Pastor Fred and Pastor Jeremiah Smith, Dean of the Niagara Frontier Conference.

A luncheon will follow.

Additional details will be announced soon.



*Augustana's original church on Spring Street in Buffalo.*

## 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

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

We’re revving up for spring, hoping to offer learner permit classes in April. We have about twenty people on our waiting list! Lessons may include motor skill practice and extended vocabulary practice.

For those in Stevens Driving School lessons, they are so excited and eager to receive their licenses. Since January, we have added about four more students, with more to come. They are so very thankful for our program.

Thank you for helping so many immigrants and refugees learn to drive so that they can go to school, go to work, go to the grocery store, pick up their children, take their children to appointments and activities and so much more!

Drive safely!

Johanna (716-870-8518)



By Johanna Andritz

We’ve been learning about God and Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Israelites and more! The students seem eager to learn and participate. Thank you, parents, teachers, and students!

Looking ahead, our final class (until the fall) will be **Sunday, June 2**. We, again, hope to have the children participate in worship, perhaps reading the lessons and sharing other talents they have.

Children’s bulletins relating to the day of the church year are now offered in the narthex next to the grown ups’ bulletins. Please encourage our children to use them during worship or at home following worship! (Thank you, Donna Bartkowski, for printing them for us.)

Just a reminder that Sunday school classes are offered on the first and last Sunday of the month. Class begins after the children and their families have communed. We’re looking forward to learning more about our church, God, the Bible, and so much more!

Thank you so much for your encouragement and support.

## SPRING CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY SUNDAY APRIL 14



APRIL 14, 2024 -- 12:30-1:30PM  
ST. PAUL'S AMHERST CAMPUS  
5125 MAIN ST AMHERST NY 14221

# Is your church ready to respond to an emergency?

Join together with other conference churches to learn and discuss readiness for emergencies such as: active shooters, dangerous person, fire and EMS. If your church has an existing EAP, please bring copies to share.

Training led by: Capt Scott Persons, Amherst PD  
and Rev. Steve Biegner, Erie County Emergency Services

### **St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main St., Williamsville NY 14221**

12:00-12:30 – Light lunch/coffee

12:30-1:30 – Presentation and question/answers

1:30 – Conference business

Who to bring: pastors, paid staff, lead ushers/greeters, choir/band member, security team member, member that is active in local first response community (fire/EMS/law enforcement)

What will be covered: The training will take a look at the different types of emergency responses, current practices of local law enforcement/EMS, best practices for community spaces and deepen our understanding of how churches can respond more successfully. Throughout Erie County and nationwide, we find much more successful responses and resiliency when communities spend time in pre-incident training and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) preparations.

What to bring: if your church has a current EAP, please bring copies to share.

Please respond to Dean Smith by using this [LINK](#) with expected numbers attending. (The link takes you to a Google doc.)

Each congregation is welcomed to bring as many folks as are interested in attending. However, only two members may be considered voting members for conference business. The business portion will not take long. Besides reports our main action item will be accepting nominations for Synod Council and Church Wide Assembly.

## RECONCILING WORKS

**Coffee Hour Presentation and conversation: Sunday, April 14**

You are invited to join us **Sunday, April 14**, during coffee hour for another presentation and conversation about becoming a fuller, more welcoming congregation to our LGBTQIA community. We also invite you to be part of Augustana's group that studies the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their church, congregations and community.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



**The Lutheran Chorale  
Of the  
Niagara Frontier**

Julia Ann Cordani, Director  
Presents  
*Mozart's  
"Vesperae Solennes de Confessore"*  
*And selections of the Spring Season*

Saturday, May 4, 2024  
2:00 p.m.  
First Trinity Lutheran Church  
1570 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Tonawanda, New York

Judy Thomas is a member of this outstanding chorale. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the door, or check their website for instructions on buying tickets:

<https://www.thelutheranchoraleoftheniagarafontier.com/>. Call (716) 741-4573 for more info.

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### PLAY at PAUL ROBESON THEATRE

"A Pitch from Satchel Paige" written by the late Loren Keller (member of TOL) and by James Keller will be presented at the Paul Robeson Theatre on weekends through April 28. The Paul Robeson Theatre is at 350 Masten Avenue in Buffalo. This play was a winner of the New York New Works Theatre Festival in NYC. For tickets, go to : [paulrobesontheatre.org](http://paulrobesontheatre.org) .

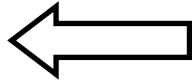
## UPCOMING LUTHERAN CHARITIES EVENTS

### LUTHERAN AWARDS 2024

14th Annual  
Lutheran Awards Banquet  
May 3, 2024 6:00 pm  
Ripa's Italian Restaurant  
4218 Walden Avenue, Lancaster  
\$55.00 per person.



Registration  
begins soon!



### Lutheran Night at the Bisons

August 9, 2024

7 PM \$15

Augustana has a long history of going to a Bisons game each summer. In the past few summers, several Augustana baseball fans were not able to attend during Lutheran Night, so we chose our own night and attended. Everyone who might be interested: please check your calendars and talk to Tom Bartkowski about your preference for this date vs another that we choose.



For details and registration for these events, go to :

<https://www.wnylutherancharities.org/index.cfm>

## LUTHERAN YOUTH WNY

Lutheran Youth's upcoming activities are posted on Augustana's bulletin board (next to the office) and on their website: [www.lutheranyouthwny.org](http://www.lutheranyouthwny.org) The next activity is an 'Earth Day Lock In' for grades 6-12 (April 19–20) at Messiah Lutheran in Lewiston. To get on Lutheran Youth WNY's email list, email them at [lutheranyouthwny@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranyouthwny@gmail.com).

## LAKE CHAUTAUQUA LUTHERAN CENTER

LCLC in an ACA Accredited camp (American Camp Association) and is a part of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Registration is now open for the 6 weeks of summer youth camps!

<https://www.lclcenter.org/summer-programs>

## LUTHERAN SUMMER GATHERING AT SILVER BAY ON LAKE GEORGE

This is a camp run jointly by the Upstate NY Synod and the Metropolitan Synods of the ELCA. This year's gathering is July 13-19, and is for people of all ages: <https://www.lutherans-silverbay.org>.

# ***HAPPENING AT TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN CHURCH (TOL)***

## **Adult Education April and May 2024**

Biblical events – examining context and discussing what they mean. Instructor: Charlie Schmidtke

The classes take place at TOL and on Zoom on select Mondays, from 1:00 pm—2:30 pm.

These are the three remaining classes for this series:

April 15 The Great Compromise

April 22 Rabbi Gamaliel (Paul's teacher)

May 6 The destruction of the Second Temple.

If you are interested in participating, let TOL know so that you can receive email updates if needed regarding possible rescheduling of classes due to weather, etc.

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## **Chiavetta's BBQ Pop-Up**

On Friday, April 19, Chiavetta's will be selling chicken and ribs dinners in the TOL parking lot, drive through only. Why not give yourself a night off from cooking dinner? Dinners will be served from noon till 6 pm. A portion of the proceeds will go to TOL.

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## **Lutheran World Relief Quilters Group**

The quilters are meeting again on Thursdays at 9 am. All are welcome. If you can use a sewing machine or an iron, there is a place for you in the group! If you are interested, or have questions, ask Barb Maugans: (716-692-8116). They are collecting flat or fitted sheets in new or like-new condition. We will collect them at Augustana and deliver them to the group.

**(716) 836-4868 / [trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com)**

**3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226**

**Weekly Sunday worship is at 11:00.**

**Contact TOL for a Zoom invite for Sunday worship and Adult Education classes.**

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## **OPPORTUNITY FOR SERMON DISCUSSION / INPUT**

Pastor Fred invites everyone to join him in a **bag lunch** discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. These lunchtime meetings take place on the **4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month. The next session is Wed. April 24 at noon**, for two hours. All sessions are held in **Trinity Old Lutheran's Fireside room**. Let Pastor Fred know if you plan to attend so that he can prepare materials for the discussion about the text/world events/church challenges: [augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com) / (716) 984-8541.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Easter service meaningful, memorable, and delicious, especially Richard Kirsch and crew for the breakfast, Johanna Andritz and Linda Sokoley for involving the youth and congregation in the butterfly activity, and Emily Bartkowski for the Easter Egg Hunt.

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### CHRISTIAN CANCER SUPPORT: Hope and Healing



For anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis, Linda Sokoley can give support through phone calls, emails, 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: (716) 832-5720 / [augustchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:augustchurch@yahoo.com).

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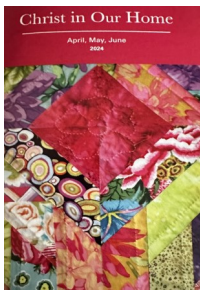
### WNY Church Unleashed

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

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### Covid Health and Safety

If you start to feel sick or test positive for Covid after you have been in church, please contact Beth Kerr (553-0385), trained contract tracer.



Happy Times magazine for kids, April+ May  
and  
Christ In Our Homes daily devotionals  
for adults, April–June

are available in the church entry hall, or contact the church office and we will gladly mail one to you.



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**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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