



# Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY and MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

**“A Day hemmed in Prayer is less likely to unravel.”**

This saying is written on a block of wood where I can see it daily. It reminds me that prayer is important and a needed helper that one can turn to and rely on when we are struggling, anxious, depressed, with challenges before us, and as we face roadblocks and circumstances of our own making.

It also is a springboard to the many passages on prayer in the Bible. “ Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” Thess.5:16-18, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Phil. 4:6, “the Lord is near to all who call, to all who call on the Lord in truth” Psalm 145:18.

This month Lent begins, and a Lenten season hemmed in Prayer is less likely to unravel. Join me in getting out our needle and thread to keep our Lord sewn into the beginning, middle and end of our days.

Yours in Christ.

Pastor Fred he/him/his

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## **Sundays in Lent: Wandering with Peter**

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter’s story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love.

This Lent, we’re joining Peter in figuring out faith. We’re no idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we’re hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

Peace, Pastor Fred he/him/his

# LENTEN, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES 2024

All services at TOL and Augustana will also be on Zoom.

Any additional info. about the other churches will be shared when available.

<b>Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14</b>	11 am	Augustana
	Noon—1 pm Ashes to Go	Good Shepherd
	7 pm	Trinity Old Lutheran and St. Martin
<b>Mid-Week Wednesday Lenten Services</b>	<b>Soup Supper provided by the host church at 6:00 pm, Followed by the worship service at 6:30 pm. (Note new service time.)</b>	
<b>Feb. 21</b>	Augustana	
<b>Feb. 28</b>	Good Shepherd	
<b>March 6</b>	St. Martin	
<b>March 13</b>	Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL)	
<b>March 20</b>	Abiding Savior	
<b>Holy Week</b>		
<b>Palm Sunday, March 24</b>	9:30 am	Augustana
	11:00 am	Trinity Old Lutheran
<b>Maundy Thursday March 28</b>	7:00 pm Dinner—Church Service	Abiding Savior
<b>Good Friday March 29</b>	11 am Tenebrae	Augustana
	Noon—2 pm Stations with Peter	Good Shepherd
	7 pm Tenebrae	Trinity Old Lutheran
<b>Easter Vigil, March 30</b>	7 pm	St. Martin
<b>Easter, March 31</b>	7:30 am Sunrise Service	St. Martin
	9:30 am	Augustana
	11:00 am	Trinity Old Lutheran

**Augustana** 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda 14150 / (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com

**TOL** 3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst 14226/ (716) 836-4868 / trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

**Abiding Savior** 1534 Ruie Road, North Ton. 14120 / (716) 693-0180 / abidingsaiornrnt@gmail.com

**St. Martin** 322 Old Falls Blvd. ,North Ton. 14120 / (716) 693-4415 / stmartin@wny.twcbc.com

**Good Shepherd** 2669 Sheridan Drive, Ton. 14150 / (716) 832-5390 /office.gslc.tona@gmail.com

# OUTREACH by Paula Kerr

## Collection for the Homeless

We are continuing to collect specific clothing for the homeless: mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. There is a designated 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 and Jelly, Cereals (non-sugary types), canned vegetables, Pasta and Tomato Sauces etc.... Bins are located in the Narthex.

We recently received this letter in response to our donation. For more information about this school and our support, see the bulletin board in the narthex, or ask Paula or Donna.

### Sierra Leone Cultural Alliance of Western New York Inc.

January 20, 2024

Augustana Lutheran Church  
3134 Eggert Road  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Dear Rev. Frederick Kopp & Congregation:

On behalf of the Sierra Leonean community in Buffalo and the school pupils at the Evangelical Model Primary School at Roknola village, I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your donation of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) toward the school building project at Roknola village in Sierra Leone. Thank you all for this big contribution to our country and the lives of our future leaders.

We are planning to work on the next phase of the project this April. This phase is intended to complete the floors and walls. If the funds permit, we may have a few windows installed. Please look forward to our update by the end of May or June 2024.

Outside the scope of our school building project, I am saddened to inform you that the aftermath of the social disturbances during the 2023 presidential elections in Sierra Leone is still lingering around. The country is currently facing serious political challenges: an alleged coup d'etat took place in November of 2023. As a result, the country's young and fragile democratic process is gradually falling apart. Without doubt this recent political upheaval has added to the high cost of living, and consequently high rate of students' dropouts from schools, lack of basic medical services, insufficient staple foods, unpurified drinking water etc. As our people continue to experience these unpleasant living conditions, I would like to ask for your prayers. Please remember Sierra Leone and the citizens in your daily prayers.

Again, I thank you, Pastor Frederick, your congregation, for all the goodness you have shared with the children of Sierra Leone. I pray that the Almighty God will continue to keep you all in good health and grant you prosperity in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Allan A. Sesay – Secretary

A MISSION TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF REFUGEES RESETTLED IN WESTERN NEW YORK  
AND THE CHILDREN OF SIERRA LEONE

SLCAWNY Inc. PO Box 183 Buffalo, NY 14220  
slcawny@yahoo.com

### Help Needed

On Wednesday, February 21, Augustana is hosting the first of the Midweek Lenten dinners. Help is needed in making soup, serving, and cleaning up. If you can help, refer to the sign up sheet in the narthex, or see Paula.

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

We are very thankful to receive our generous grant of \$9,000 for our RIDE program from Lutheran Charities of Western New York. That money primarily goes to offer the immigrants and refugees in our Learner Permit classes the cost of a learner permit --- about \$70 per participant. These monies also allow us to offer ten professional driving lessons to our participants --- these 10 lessons include the required five-hour course and the road test --- at this time costing \$615 per participant. We are also very thankful for the monetary gifts we have received from the estates of two of our former members, and from other donors, including Trinity Old Lutheran and Coffee Hours.

Interest and participation in our program continue to be high. We receive requests for both permit classes and driving lessons mostly weekly. With funding from the time of the pandemic and last year’s grant (\$9,000) we were able to help about 25 participants with permit and/or driving program... --- AMAZING!

Again, special thanks to Donna Bartkowski, Beth Kerr, Nora Pomplun, Carol Kreger, Paula Kerr, and Pastor for all of their help this past year.

We are hoping to offer learner permit classes this spring. We, already, have a nice beginning list of possible participants!

Johanna (716-870-8518)



By Johanna Andritz

It was wonderful to be able to resume Sunday school classes again last year! Many thanks to Dave Ellis and Linda Sokoley for being teachers!

And thank you to our parents, grandparents and the congregation for their support. Our studies began --- “in the beginning” with the story of creation and have continued through Abraham... with more to come this year. The children have also learned about the special seasons and days of the church year!

Children’s bulletins relating to the day of the church year are now offered. 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 for children ages 4 -Confirmation age 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!

# CELEBRATE EASTER AT AUGUSTANA—MARCH 31!



**Worship Service**  
**9:30 am**  
In the church  
and on Zoom



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**10:30 am**  
**For kids of all ages**  
Rain or shine; indoors if  
raining. (Kids participate in the  
hunt and then eat breakfast)



**Breakfast 10:30 am**  
Scrambled eggs, pancakes  
(including the option of  
blueberry pancakes), sausage  
links, fruit, tea, coffee, juice.  
Cost is by donation that day.

**All are invited!**

Everything is family-friendly and wheelchair accessible. Guests are welcome.  
Sign up for the Egg Hunt and Breakfast in the church entry hall  
or contact the church office by March 24: 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com .

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## Prayer Chain Update by Devie Ellis

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving present your requests to God”. Philippians 4:6.

The prayer chain is being updated. If you would like to pray for those who need immediate prayer, please add your name to this ministry.

A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Please add your name and email address. The request will be sent via email. If you do not have email, I will call you.

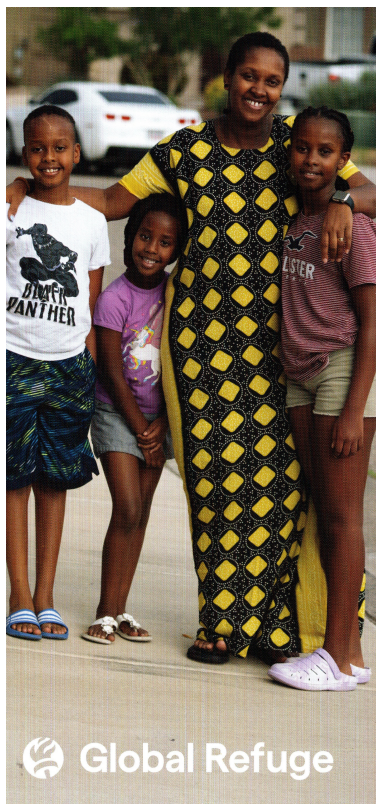
If you have any questions, please contact me at church or through the church office.

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*Pray that we will not grow weary of serving our neighbors in need, both nearby and around the world. Ask the Spirit to renew us when we feel overwhelmed by human needs.*

*From ELCA Prayer Ventures, February 2024*

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**  
has a new name:  
**Global Refuge.**  
Learn more: [globalrefuge.org](http://globalrefuge.org)

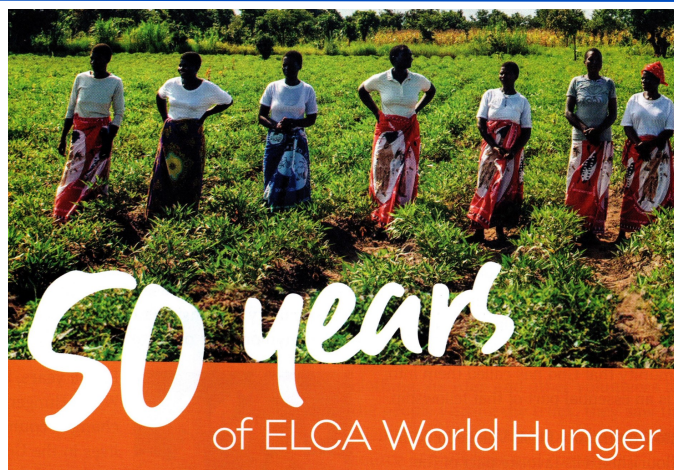


**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is now Global Refuge**, a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, we have welcomed more than 750,000 of those seeking refuge from around the globe, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis. **We walk alongside** individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services for asylum seekers, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children.

At Global Refuge, welcoming newcomers isn't just our duty—it's an inherent part of our identity, rooted in our **Lutheran heritage and inspired values** and serving as a testament to our unwavering **commitment to those in search of refuge.**

**S**ince 1974 hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger.

Countless more have prayed for our shared mission, led their congregations in special fundraising efforts, volunteered at local hunger ministries, or advocated to change policies and systems that perpetuate injustice. Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty, providing food to meet immediate needs while equipping communities to foster long-term change through access to education and quality health care, sustainable solutions in agriculture, and advocacy for just laws that make ending hunger possible.



**“Let us love  
not in word or speech  
but in deed and truth.”**

**1 John 3:18**

## RECONCILING WORKS

We 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. Please talk to Pastor Fred if you would like to participate.



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

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#### **Adult Education February and March 2024**

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

Classes are at TOL and on Zoom on select Mondays, from 1:00 pm—2:30 pm.

There are four classes in February and March:

Feb. 5: Babylonian Captivity

Feb. 19: Last Supper

March 4: Between Easter and Pentecost

March 18: Pentecost

The complete list of topics and dates are on the flyer on Augustana's bulletin board, available for you to take one home. 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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#### **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. Feb. 28 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.

## 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 .

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Redeem your **CANS** and **BOTTLES** at the bottle return store at 1942 Colvin at Brighton. Just put your returnables on the counter and ask the clerk to put it on Augustana's account. They mail us checks regularly. Thank you!

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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.

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## Happy Times magazine for kids, Feb.+ March and Christ In Our Homes daily devotionals for adults, January–March



are available in the church entry hall, or contact the church office and we will gladly mail one to you. We have one large print copy of Christ in Our Home remaining. If you would like a regular print devotional, let Donna know and she will try to obtain additional copies.



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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

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

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

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