



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER September 2021

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.

This month's message is from our incoming Bishop, Rev. Lee Miller II. Rev. Miller was the Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo before he was recently elected as Bishop of the Upstate NY Synod.

Pastor Fred will be attending Bishop-elect Miller's installation service in Syracuse on Sept. 18, 2021. If you would like to join Pastor Fred, please contact him (augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com / (716) 984-8541).

September 1, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!"
Ps. 118:24)

These words from an ancient psalmist are how I've greeted the communities I've served every Lord's Day. "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice!" It is a statement of faith and a proclamation, a witness to God's love active in the world.

Some days these words sound foreign; as when I have used them to greet an assembly gathered to commend a beloved one into God's eternal care; or on the day after 9/11, or in the midst of a pandemic.

But these words are no less true, even when the "earth should change, [and] the mountains shake in the heart of the sea" (Ps. 46:2).

God is with us. God has been with us all along. The Divine continues to walk with us, alongside us, feeding us (that's what all of these "bread" Sundays have been about after all) and leading us forward, together.

I am privileged, humbled, excited, and just a bit fearful, as we begin this call together as church and servant-bishop. I look forward to learning about God's love made present in the world from you. I look forward to growing with you, activated by the one who has created us in an image of loving-kindness, and set free to do the liberating work of the gospel. *Continued, page 2*



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I know that the pandemic has been exhausting in many and various ways. This can't be overstated. I believe as God's people, saved and transformed by the sacrificial love of Christ and his death on the cross, we are raised up to new life, to be the church for such a time as this. I also believe, that as we come through the pandemic together, we do so with heightened needs for community and connections, for relationship and real purpose in being together. Our intentions have been focused and we are collaborating in new ways for the sake of our siblings. This is an incredible time to be the church!

I look forward to connecting with you this Fall as we begin our ministry together and renew our relationships throughout our synod, which is Christ's church, together. Join me at your local conference Fall Assembly where we'll have some time to meet and listen to one another. Join me as well in praying for all God's people, for our communities throughout the Upstate New York Synod, our ELCA, the Lutheran World Federation, and for all people in need everywhere.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Thanks be to God for the ways that love activates us in the world to do justice and share in the joy of Christ!

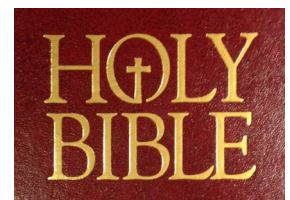
"This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Lee Miller II, Bishop, Upstate New York Synod

BIBLE STUDY

**Pastor Fred's next Bible Study is on 1st Peter,
a 'triumphant conviction of faith.'**



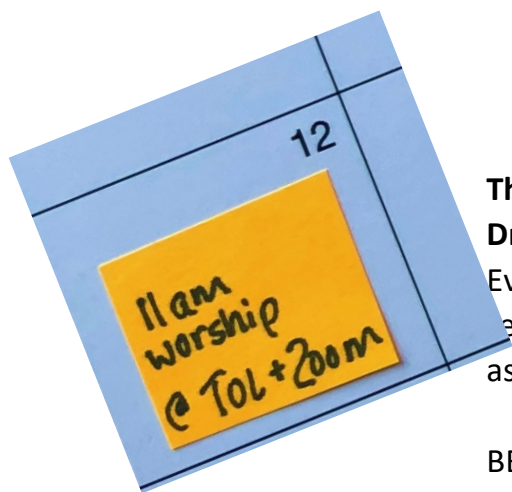
This 6-week Bible study on 1st Peter will meet on Fridays, 10 -11:30 am at Augustana. The class will meet on September 10, 17, 24 and October 8, 15, 22.

A Zoom invite will be offered for those who cannot attend in person. Email Pastor Fred for a Zoom invite (augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com). You can participate in any weeks that fit your schedule. Hope to see you there!



Pastor Fred will be in a worship service on TV on **Sunday, September 26 at 10:00 am on Cable Channel 5, MeTV**. This is part of the WNY Church Unleashed programming run by Lutheran Pastors Beigner, Carroll and Smith.

The program is recorded ahead of time, so Pastor will still lead us in worship at Augustana and TOL on that date. You can also watch the service later on YouTube. Google 'WNY Church Unleashed.'



On SUNDAY SEPT. 12 worship will take place at TOL only, at 11:00 am.

There will NOT be a service at Augustana on Sept. 12. The TOL service is at 11:00 am, in the church (3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst) and via Zoom.

Everyone on Augustana's email and US mail bulletin lists will receive the bulletin and Zoom invitation for this service at TOL as usual from the Augustana email address.

Please plan to stay after the service to enjoy the delicious BBQ chicken luncheon and participate in the basket raffle. See page 6 for details.

LCLC Fall Retreat for Adults

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center is having an Adult Fall Retreat Sept. 17-19 for singles and couples. It includes worship, bible studies, nature walks, crafts, field trips around Chautauqua, food and fun. If you are reading this online, you can [click here](#) for more details and a printable registration form, and you can [click here](#) to register online. If you are reading this on paper, contact Donna Bartkowski in the church office and she will help you. The cost is \$120 for one person and \$224 for a couple. (See TOL announcements on page 7 for Charlie Schmidtke's retreat in October.)

In-Person Coffee Hour

The Re-opening Committee is happy to announce that we have started Coffee Hour again in the church. In Sept., Coffee Hour is on 9/19 and 9/26. In Oct., is on the 10th and 24th. We need a host for the 24th.

In Nov. and Dec., Coffee Hour is on 11/7, 11/21, 12/5 and 12/19. Hosts are needed for all of those dates.

Thank you to those who have signed up. If you would like host, see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex, or talk to Paulette if you have questions / concerns.



Sesay Family Visit on Sept. 19

Alan Sesay, who spoke to our congregation recently about the school we support in Sierra Leone, and his family will be visiting with us on Sept. 19 to mark the 20th anniversary of their arrival in Buffalo from Sierra Leone. (They arrived in Buffalo on 9/8/01). They will be at coffee hour, too, so you can have the opportunity to help them celebrate their anniversary.

Augustana Summer Outreach Focus: Model Evangelical Primary School Roknola Village, Sierra Leone

We had a goal of raising \$2,000 so that the school could be finished, and through your generous donations, we reached our goal! Additional donations will be used to provide food for the children. Thank you for your support.

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Ministry On The Road Report Update - September 2021

By Paul Kennedy

In-person learner's permit classes have not yet resumed, but we continue to provide professional driving lessons for those who already have their permits. Some individuals who started driving lessons this year have now passed their road test and have obtained their driver's license. Congratulations!

Service to others is life-affirming.

We engage in service as an expression of gratitude to a gracious God.

Lutheran Disaster Relief: From Ashes To New Life

By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter for the Upstate New York Synod

Again, the Western states of the US are on fire. The smoke from them can be seen from satellites it is so dense. Entire towns have been wiped off the face of the earth. Whole hillsides of trees have burned, leaving them vulnerable to mudslides. Complicating the situation, of course, is the continuing pandemic. How can people safely rebuild their lives, go to work, and attend school when all their possessions have been lost? Lutheran Disaster Response is always at the ready to determine the best ways to respond, from immediate needs like food and shelter, to long term emotional and spiritual support. LDR also has helped the fire departments by purchasing generators for volunteers who have lost their homes, and by starting a tool lending program. Children have been helped through the trauma by attending summer camp sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Your generous gifts of mission support to the Synod, and direct gifts to LDR, have shown people impacted by these disasters that you care for them, whether through long-term recovery projects or something as simple as a generator. **Thank you!**

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Update: Lutheran Disaster Relief is also helping in areas affected by Hurricane Ida, and in Haiti and Afghanistan. You can read about it here: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> And here: <https://www.facebook.com/ELCALDR> .

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT AUGUSTANA

Help prepare for the weekly service: People are needed to fill the wine cups and chalice, place communion wafers on plate and in cup, check oil / refill oil in candles next to altar, light eternal candle, check for flowers, set up flower stands as needed, dust altar area. Additional duties can be added as the church season changes. Volunteer sign up will be for one month at a time. See **Nora** or contact her if you are interested or have questions: 430-7422 / nora.pomplun@gmail.com / Thank you for giving this prayerful consideration.

Greeter: Greet attendees and take attendance. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex (entry hall, near the sanctuary doors).

Tech Person: Set up the Laptop, iPad and TV for Zoom. Need to be at church at 8:45am. The volunteer only needs to set up, not run the equipment during church.

Building Care: Lock up the church office and outside doors, turn off lights.

Please see **Lance Scarafia** if you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions, or contact him: **(716) 970-0170/ ministeraugustana@yahoo.com** .

Any help you can give us would be great. Thank you.

Gardening:



Landscaping stones have been moved to make some of the garden areas smaller and more manageable. Grass has been planted. Many thanks to a generous friend of Augustana who donated several hostas which were planted near the new door on the Rockland side. Native perennials that hopefully will not need much watering have been planted near the elevator access door. Paul continues to do a lot of work maintaining the shrubs near the door and



going toward the sidewalk. Mums, blossoming soon, are in pots at the front door. The milkweed-monarch garden was successful in supporting the hatching and growth of several monarch caterpillars, but I think they may have recently become part of the food chain rather than becoming monarchs. I keep checking! Although we have made progress in 'taming' the landscaping, more 'taming' needs to be done, and despite many bags of mulch, weeds keep popping up, so we always need help with weeding. (We weed with garden tools, not chemicals.)

Please contact **Donna Bartkowski** if you can help with the gardening in any way (cell: 425-7870).

TRINITY OLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
3445 Sheridan Drive (near Sweet Home Road)
Amherst, NY 14226
Phone: 836-4868 (church office)
www.trinityoldlutheran.com
Like us on Facebook!



Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ and Theme Basket Raffle

**Sunday, September 12, 2021
12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM**

Dinner is Take-Out Only!

**Basket Raffle tickets will be sold from 12 – 3 pm.
Winners will be contacted by phone after 3 pm.**

**Chicken Dinner: \$12.00
(includes two salads, roll and butter)**

**All are welcome, and masks are strongly encouraged for those
coming into the building! Thank you!**

The church building is wheelchair accessible.

What's Happening at Trinity Old Lutheran (TOL)

Adult Retreat at LCLC: "Love in the Time of COVID:"

"What have we learned about ourselves and others?:"

We hope to return to our annual retreat this year and gather again for fellowship, laughter and prayer at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran camp on October 1, 2 and 3. Details and restrictions are rather changeable, but a vaccination will be required. There will be more information when we have a clearer picture of the gathering. There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board, and if you are worshipping with us on Zoom, or are a member of Augustana, call or email the office and we can add your name.

Table Talk

Beginning this Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm, please join us for a bi-weekly discussion group. We will use Charlie Schmidtke's new book, "My I's," as a resource for the topics of discussion, however, reading the book is not a pre-requisite for attending. The first topic of discussion will be "Discovering our racial prejudices." This class is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

Book Signing and Fellowship: Join us here at TOL Saturday, September 11 for some relaxation and conversation between 10:15 am and 12:15 pm. Charlie Schmidtke will sign copies of his latest book, My I's, which will be available for purchase if desired. There will be tea, coffee, and cookies to enjoy. Feel free to come anytime and stay as long as you wish.

Adult Ed Classes - Fall 2021

Did you always want to learn more about other world religions? This Fall, the Adult Ed classes will help us learn about these! Here is the schedule for this series of classes, which take place on Mondays at 1 pm, in the Fireside Lounge and on Zoom.

Sept. 13 & 20 Hinduism / Oct. 4, 11, 18 Buddhism / Nov. 8, 15, 22 Daoism

Alzheimer's Walk 2021:

This year's walk will be held on September 18 at Buffalo Outer Harbor. If you are interested in walking, you can register on the Alzheimer's website. If we have enough people interested, Earlene Crocker will be happy to register TOL as a team.

3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, 14226
Office: (716) 836-4868 / trinityoldlutheran@verizon.net

Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm (Zoom): Augustana Church Council Meeting



Lutheran Charities Thanks Us for Our Help

Augustana received a letter from Lutheran Charities, signed by the Executive Director, Thomas Madden, thanking us for our donation of baskets for the 23rd annual Lutheran Charities Gold Classic held on August 9, 2021. "The basket auction alone raised over \$1700 for Lutheran Charities agencies offering education, nutrition, health care and social services to our underserved neighbors."

HOUSING NEEDED

Pastor Julius Carroll is beginning a position as intentional interim pastor of Holy Trinity in Buffalo on October 1. He and his wife Geneva are seeking a home to rent for one year. If you know of someone renting a home, please contact them at 919-760-5482 or drcarroll@nc.rr.com.

Update on Masking Recommendations

by Paulette Hotchkiss

Due to the rise in Covid and the Delta variant, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask while in the church, even those who are fully vaccinated.

During coffee hour, please wear a mask except when you are seated at a table.

We understand that getting vaccinated and wearing masks are personal decisions, and we ask everyone to be respectful and nonjudgmental about the decisions of others.

If you have any questions or concerns about our worship practices, please contact the Church Office at 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com, and Paulette Hotchkiss will get back to you.

Thank you for your offerings and donations.

You can give your offering at church, US mail it to church, or give online through Tithe.ly.
(For information on Tithe.ly, see our website: augustanaonline.org.)

Augustana Lutheran Church

3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150

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

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

www.augustanaonline.org

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