

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

In Memory of Joe Lugalla

On Tuesday, July 25, friend of Holy Trinity Joe Lugalla passed away. Joe is survived by his wife Sapi, and three children: Tumani, Imani, and Wema.

Joe and his family are the main reason that Holy Trinity began a relationship with Tanzania. He first began teaching at UNH in the 1990's, and came to Holy Trinity to seek a Lutheran congregation, as his father was a Lutheran Pastor in Tanzania. Together with Pastor Opderbecke, Joe helped bond Holy Trinity with his father's parish in Tanzania, blossoming into a strong relationship between the two parishes we still hold together today.



Joe Lugalla was affectionately known around our church as having a very outgoing and uplifting personality. He had a Carnegie Fellowship at Harvard Medical School, lead the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the University of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania, and retired in 2016 as the Professor of Anthropology at UNH. Joe also wrote and published several books on the topic of Education, Tanzania, and Social Change.

In the coming weeks, Holy Trinity will feature in The Tidings a more detailed piece on how remarkable of a person Joe Lugalla was, and how much he meant to our congregation.

As of today, no plans are set for a memorial service for Joe, but the family plans to take his body back to Tanzania for his final resting place. The congregation will be notified if and when a service for Joe Lugalla will take place state-side. If you wish to mail Sapi Lugalla a sympathy card, please request the address from the Church Office.

Please keep Sapi, Tumani, Imani, Wema, and the rest of the Lugalla family in your prayers.

Library Team

“We care for God’s creation and each other by being good stewards.” (From Holy Trinity’s “Guiding Principals,” last statement under “Serve the Lord”)

I’m sitting at my computer, attempting to write a short Tidings article about the latest BGLibrary news. There’s a fan inches away blowing cool air directly into my face, but, still, sweat pours off my forehead, threatening my eyesight.

This summer the entire world is breaking temperature records week after week. Here in New England we’re experiencing unprecedented flooding, broken dams, washed-out roads, and rising sea levels. Across southern U.S., people are dying from heat stroke in unremitting 100+ degree temperatures. Climate change is undoubtedly the world’s biggest threat. Climate experts warn us that things are only going to get worse unless we humans immediately change the ways we use (and misuse) energy.



This morning on the radio I listened to a report that the United States and China are the world’s largest consumers of fossil energy, the largest source of climate change. Ugh. That includes me. I can’t blame this on Europe or Russia or Asia or any of the under-developed nations.

I think of my future. Personally, with the years I have left to live and enjoy this beautiful earth, the changes might not impact me so much. On excessively hot days, I’ll just carry along my tiny personal battery-powered fan. I’ll enjoy an icy drink. I’ll get along. That story I heard this morning said we have a few more years—maybe 20—before the damage is irreparable. But. Twenty years from now my kids and grandkids will just be in their prime. And I want them to have a beautiful world.

So what can I do? What can we do? As an individual, no matter how much I care, I’m pretty much powerless to change or stop the fuel industries.

Here's what I can do: I can become informed. The BGLibrary has a section labeled "Creation Care." It's not yet very large, but the set contains several wonderful books specifically about climate change. The more we know, the more informed we become, the better equipped we'll be. Only through knowledge will we be able to activate. In a democracy, an individual has a vote, and we need to use that vote to advise both politicians and industries.

Four BGLibrary books that will help me grasp a better understanding of what we're dealing with:

- The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert
- The Water Will Come by Jeff Goodell
- On Fire by Naomi Klein
- The Green Consumer by Elkington, Hailes, and Makewer

These aren't necessarily "fun" summer reading, but I guarantee that each has valuable information, the kind of information we all need now at this dire time in our earth's history. "In the Holy Scriptures, God assigns a sacred responsibility to human beings: we are to care for and keep God's creation for future generations." (Opening statement from Earth's Climate Crisis, a message from the ELCA, page 1.) For further reading, there's a copy of Earth's Climate Crisis on the library desk. Check it out, or go on-line at ELCA.org for a personal copy.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School this summer!

We had a great time together learning about God's grace and living water poured out for each of us. What a wonderful way to come together, grow in faith and serve the Lord! For our service project, we put together twenty meal bags, which were all given out to patrons at the Dover Friendly Kitchen. Our volunteers were outstanding and so much appreciated for giving themselves and their time to help make a faith-filled experience for all. We are grateful for the congregation's prayers and support for the children of Holy Trinity and Imanuel.

Lara Scammon



Property Team

It has been an unusual spring and summer period for the Property Team. Normally, our outside work would have slowed down quite a bit by July, but that has not been the case this year. The ongoing wet year has kept things growing vigorously and has presented a challenge to keep up with our normal grounds work. This year our numbers and capabilities have been reduced due to physical impairments and other matters, but we have been blessed with support from summer volunteers. I especially want to thank Scott Carson who has generously given up many hours of his summer vacation from his teaching position to help us out in this busy period. Martha was a teacher for many years, so I know just how precious this summer vacation time is for a teacher. Thank you Scott! You are the best!



I recently invited the Newington Fire Department to come in to review the various fire and emergency doors in our building. The review went well and I have better insight into the door requirements. The Fire Department suggested we keep one of our normally open interior doors near the kitchen closed except for normal passage. We will add appropriate signage and, perhaps, a closer on this door to encourage compliance. There is another interior door into the basement that should also have a door closer. We will add these tasks to our work list. I recently had a contractor in to complete some repairs to two exterior emergency exit doors, and I also changed the lock hardware on a third emergency exit door to bring the doors into code compliance. The fire department also pointed out that some combustible materials stored in the back emergency stairway from the second floor should be removed. The Property Team will take care of this as well.

I am continuing to solicit bids for some work I discussed at the congregational meeting in June. I have bids for the steeple painting and for staining of the exterior wood around the main entry and sanctuary. I am in the process seeking a contractor to replace the ceiling fan in the sanctuary. I am hopeful that the steeple work, staining work, and fan replacement work can be completed this summer or early fall. The fan replacement project is a small job, but relatively complex due to its location, and I am seeing limited interest so far from contractors, particularly those who deal mostly with residential work.

I have retained Portsmouth Sign Company to complete the first periodic inspection of our new highway sign. This is a routine inspection recommended by the manufacturer and is scheduled for July 25. I anticipate completing two such routine inspections each year. The inspections will focus on any water intrusion issues, failed bulbs, and component degradation. This work requires a boom truck and specific knowledge of sign component details, so it is not suitable work for property team volunteers.

Dave Mercer, Property team Leader (pro tempore)

Stewardship

Generally, when we think of good stewardship, we think of how we manage our finances and our faithfulness in paying God's tithes and offerings. But it's much more than that. In fact, it's more than just the management of our time, our possessions, our environment, or our health. Stewardship is our obedient witness to God's sovereignty. It's what motivates the followers of Christ to move into action, doing deeds that manifest their belief in Him.

Many years ago, we at Holy Trinity were asked by Immanuel Indonesian Congregation if we would allow them to use our building on Sunday afternoons for their worship. At that time their congregation was a Reformed Church. Their pastor became a Lutheran pastor and Immanuel became a Lutheran Congregation. Now, many of the Indonesians worship with us at Holy Trinity because they have no Pastor, although they do have a worship service on Sunday afternoons for the Indonesian Community.

We have a vital relationship with Isimani Lutheran Church in Tanzania. That relationship has been transforming for us here at Holy Trinity as well as Isimani. Two of our members spent a term teaching at Iringa University in Tanzania.

We have assisted in the relocation of an Afghan family when they came to Portsmouth from Afghanistan. Holy Trinity has aided in the ministries of the Dover Friendly Kitchen, Operation Blessing, and other local outreach.

In addition, there are many in-house areas here at Holy Trinity, such as, helping in worship, the Church library, building maintenance, and building our faith through teaching and inspiring.

These are some of the ways our actions in the world and locally that have shaped us in our Vision of our faith and the stewardship of our time and talent. It is time to consider our participation in the Time and Talent Ministries here at Holy Trinity Church. We have many ways of serving. These can be found at Holy Trinity's website: <https://www.htelc.com/time-and-talent>.



Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, Alice Peterson, Bob Hollister, Don Gindlesperger, Steve Bush, Joyce Rivoire, Richard Anderson, Yvonne Topping, Dave Smith, Larry Sanders, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Geri Seig, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson, Julie Moore, Dick Topping, Gisela Wemple.

Homebound: Carol Saufley, Barbara Werdelin, Ron Evers, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Matthew Hanrahan, Brendan Podszus, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot.

Friends: Dave Bly (Sue Althof's brother), Cinda DeWerff (Rich Wilcox's sister), Kathy Wyrick (Linda Marshall's friend), Jacquelynn & Richard Murray (Jessica Feeley's sister and brother-in-law), Rich Conway & Karin Otero (Lois Laurence's friends).

Prayers will be listed for at least 6 weeks unless told otherwise. If you would like a prayer concern listed in the bulletin, please fill out a Prayer Request at the Usher's table or contact the Church Office at office@htelc.com.

Monthly Attendance & Offering

Sunday, July 9:	68 (In-Person) + 32 (Online) = 100	Offering:	\$5,654.25
Sunday, July 16:	62 (In-Person) + 15 (Online) = 77	Offering:	\$4,698.45
Sunday, July 23:	60 (In-Person) + 22 (Online) = 82	Offering:	\$4,602.05
Sunday, July 30:	76 (In-Person) + 24 (Online) = 100	Offering:	\$4,102.50

Calendar at-a-glance

October 1: Pastor Luther's Installation Service

Sunday Worship, Sundays at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study, Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Property Team, Thursdays at 9:00 AM until noon.