

April 18 & 25, 2020

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

22 Fox Run Road * Newington, NH 03801 * 603-436-1704

office@htelc.com

Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

In Memory of Cecil Slipp

Holy Trinity Member, Cecil Slipp, has sadly passed away on April 15, 2021 at the hospital. He was 91 years old. Cecil has been a longtime member of our congregation, since 1969, and is one of the founding members of our Thursday Morning Property Team. There will be a private celebration of life for the family of Cecil. Please keep his wife, June Slipp, and the rest of the Slipp family in your prayers.



Pop-Up Pantry

Drop food off at the church or make a recommended \$15 donation through our website or app! Also, if you wish to get more involved and want to pack the bags of food, help set up or help take down, please email Paulette at pbsirois@gmail.com.



Calumet Spring Cleaning Weekend

This annual event is a FREE weekend for anyone who comes to camp and volunteers their time helping Camp Calumet get ready for the height of the season! They need many hands to clear the cobwebs, give the windows a once over, rake up some pine needles, give the beach a facelift -- there's lots to do, and it's a great way to meet new friends, renew existing relationships, and share in the faith, fun, and fellowship that only Calumet can provide. TO LEARN MORE CONTACT ALICE at alice@calumet.org



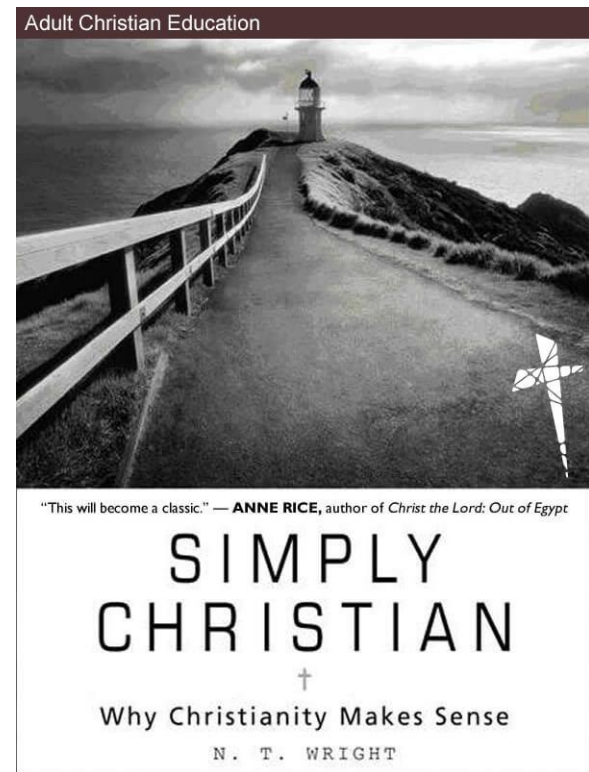
Pastor Tim's Article: April 19, 2021

I wanted to do a quick follow up from my sermon yesterday. I might have presented some ideas to you that were new and therefore may not have fully made sense. Or perhaps, you understood what I said, but are not sure if you agree. If you would like to talk further about it, I would love to have some conversations about it. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

The reason why I wanted to follow up though, was not because of the content of the sermon, but rather because of the book that I referred to during it, "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense" by N.T. Wright. I am thankful for all the ways that Mr. Wright has been influential on me and my understanding of the resurrection and what "the Good News" really means. He has a way of using analogies that makes sense and allow me to shift my understanding of concepts that help me see things in new ways. If you ever have a chance to listen to him or read his books, I would highly recommend it.

One of the things that I greatly appreciate about Wright is that he is highly respected from both the progressive and conservative sides of Christianity. He has a way of speaking that appeals to many people.

One area that he receives criticism from the progressive wing are concerning his views on same-sex relationships. During my sermon, I recommend reading the book mentioned above. If you do, he does speak of homosexuality and comes to a different conclusion than what we just affirmed as a congregation in becoming RIC (Reconciling in Christ). I only mention this to you, because, while I hope you take the time to read the book, I don't want you to then wonder, "Did we make a mistake about our conversations and vote this past year?" I don't believe we did for a minute.



Honestly, if you read from any theologians or scholars, you will most likely find something to disagree with. (unless you are listening to me or reading something that I write.) Remember, we are talking about God. We are using words, which have limits, to describe something that is outside of any category we have. This means, as soon as we attempt to describe God, at some level, we are missing the mark. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't talk or speculate, it only means to do so with a bit of humility.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Church Office Article

Last December, Holy Trinity upgraded our camera equipment in the Sanctuary, allowing us to stream our Worship Service online. We live stream the service at 8:30 AM every Sunday, or available to watch any time after 9:15 AM that same day. You can find the Worship Service towards the top of our homepage at htelc.com, and click on the YouTube link.

During our recent 8:30 AM Worship service, we experienced audio issues, but it was eventually corrected during the Sermon. I can't promise a perfect live stream every Sunday, but we're getting better every week and constantly learning new things about operating the equipment.

While you're worshipping from home, it's easy for you to follow along with the service. There will always be text on the bottom of the screen for the Confession and Forgiveness, the First Reading & Gospel Reading, and words for the Hymns. No bulletin is needed, but we have bulletins available on our "Sunday Bulletin" webpage. *(You can see an example of our live streamed service on the picture here)*



If you can't make it to worship in-person, and watching at home on YouTube is not an option, we also have a weekly podcast with the Gospel Reading and Pastor Tim's Sermon. You can subscribe to it on all podcast apps on your smartphone, or listen on our "Recent Sermons" webpage.

Property Team

These property team reports typically cover isolated information on some specific details of selected property related things of current interest ... mostly to me I surmise ... and you may wonder why I bring them to your attention. That is a very good question, and I suspect it has mostly to do with my needing to periodically meet my commitment to provide some copy for Tidings. I know that from time-to-time I have also attempted to let you know that the Property Team is stretched very thin, and it is often a challenge for us to keep up with even routine matters. I thought I would devote this month's Tidings contribution to the "Big Flick".



In the first few years of my career at Seabrook Station, we were engaged in initial construction and licensing, all of which involved many thousands of details, and all of which supported the main event ... getting the plant built, licensed and operating. As a co-worker at the plant responsible for driving details to completion would often remind us when it seemed we might be getting lost in details, we had to always focus on the "Big Flick" as he put it. Of course he was referring to the big picture goal of building, licensing, and operating the facility. The same kind of thinking applies to any major enterprise involving a huge number of details needed to make a major project come to fruition. I use my Seabrook Station example because it spawned one person's view of the "Big Flick" that sticks in my mind, but we have other obvious examples such as the overhaul and refueling of submarines at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the major highway and bridge construction project on the Spaulding Turnpike and approaches, and, yes, the ongoing periodic maintenance and refueling outages at Seabrook Station. What all these major enterprises have in common is the recognition of their respective "Big Flick" and the appropriate resources (time, people, funding) to allow the big picture to be achieved.

Here at Holy Trinity we have our own "Big Flick", although I surmise there are many views of the definition of our big picture. The Property Team has to deal with its own big

picture which, of course, has to be a subset of the many "frames" comprising the Holy Trinity "Big Flick". Are you confused yet?

I have to keep the big picture for property matters as simple as possible. My big picture view says the property team deliverables are a safe, presentable, legal, serviceable facility (building and grounds) that continues to meet the needs of our congregation (as defined by our Pastor and leadership team). And I want to say that this is a tall order! The team is significantly constrained by time, people, and financial resources. We have a large facility and are basically operating in a reaction mode, dealing with things that come up. We mostly take on problems as they find us. We do not have the resources to develop and pursue a "Big Flick" property plan. When I first became involved with Property Team matters, we had a substantially larger group of volunteers doing what had to be done. More people meant a wider range of available skill sets to do things, resolve problems, seek bids, coordinate outside services, and tend to the many details needed to keep property matters on track.

Today we are much more limited in what we can do. Our facility is larger and older than it has ever been. It demands more and more. To be sure, we still have fantastic volunteers, but not enough of them, and the budget for routine work does not support hiring of outside services to do things that we have typically done ourselves over the years.

I wish I could be more positive, and I wish I was better at recruiting volunteers ... and I wish I was better at developing and using budgets, and ... and ... the list goes on.

David Mercer, Property Team Leader

President's Article

I would first like to say thank you to all the individuals who contributed to meaningful Lent, Holy Week, and Easter activities and services. Pastor Tim's diverse and reflective services along with Mark Donahue's capable media production were appreciated by parishioners who attended Holy Trinity in person and online. The musicians (both instruments and vocals) complemented the peaceful and beautifully decorated sanctuary and the glass-still water set the tone for a memorable sunrise Easter service.

Last Sunday, I discovered a bouquet of daffodils tucked inside my gardening shoes that live on my doorstep as soon as the snow melts. It was a lovely gift that reminded me of the beautiful Easter we had the previous weekend. The inklings of new beginnings and life grew out of Lent's time of questions and reflection. During Pastor's sermon on March 21st, he mentioned one of his favorite movies, *Amazing Grace*. The protagonist of this movie is the historical figure, William Wilberforce, who was the driving force in the English parliament to pass the Abolition Bill in 1789. Pastor made connections between Wilberforce's quote, "You can choose to look the other way, but can never say again you did not know" and the charge Jesus asks of us to do messy, challenging, and uncomfortable work. Pastor also mentioned that Jesus's rebirth breaks through the sadness of life to encourage hope, goodness, and compassion. I can remember past opportunities when I looked "the other way" from my neighbors because that was the easier, more convenient, or less scary. We are reminded that taking opportunities that could increase someone's feeling of hope, goodness, or compassion is what Jesus asks us to do. Making shifts in my life to try and "live" the church out in the world can feel uncomfortable and overwhelming. Those daffodils emerged through the last inches of snow, matted leaves, and cold soil. Their determination to bloom year after year may encourage you to open up to new ways of "looking" toward our neighbors.



Opportunities exist at Holy Trinity for serving others by using your phone or computer, supporting neighbors with food insecurity, and meeting with new neighbors who face immigration challenges. Please contact Mark in the Church office, or myself, should you be curious about learning about these ministries.