

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

One Day of Giving, Camp Calumet

Over 1,700 participants have signed on to Walk the Walk 2021 for Calumet. The goal: To walk a total of 200,000 miles during the 62 days of July & August. On August 25 — Calumet's One Day of Giving — friends & family members of our participants will be able to offer a small gift to Calumet as a way of showing support for their favorite walker(s). Give Online: Go to www.calumet.org/onedayofgiving Or by check: Send to Calumet, PO Box 236, W. Ossipee, NH 03890. Your sponsorship on August 25 — the One Day of Giving — will be a big help to Calumet. Thanks very much! Boom Chicka Boom!



Stewardship

In my usual Stewardship articles, I have tried to write idyllic and lofty or, even, pretentious articles about giving. But now we are at the time to begin considering our giving for the current year and next year. I am not privy to any pledges except my own. I hope you are current in your giving. In this year of COVID-19 and isolation, it is easy to fall behind. Now, we are meeting in the Church on Sundays and at other times for all types of meetings. It is nearing the time of the pledge campaign for 2022. We should begin planning our next year's giving. It is a time to determine how we value our God and our Church.

— Dave Arrington



Pastor Tim's Article: August 12, 2021

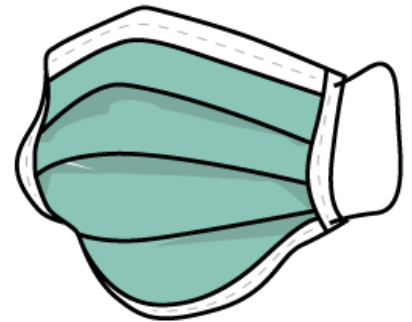
UPDATED MASK GUIDELINES

Council met this past week and, as always, we took time to talk about our COVID guidelines and how that affects the way we gather together. As we all have heard in the news, case counts are on the rise again, which means, hospitalizations are up and most likely, in the next 2-3 weeks, the amount of people who will have died will increase as well. All of this seems to be attributed to the Delta variant of the COVID virus.

So, the question remains, what does that mean for us at Holy Trinity and how we worship? For the time being, we are going to stay the course that we have been on the last few weeks and not change our masking policy. This means...

- Unvaccinated people are required to wear masks
- Vaccinated people have the option to not wear masks

When we first started this policy, I would estimate 90% of people in worship were going maskless. Honestly, it felt really good and safe and gave a sense of "normalcy."



A few weeks ago, things started to shift as the Delta variant started to spread. In response, the CDC issued new mask guidelines which were specific to individual counties. Unvaccinated people were still "required" to wear a mask indoors, but now vaccinated people were asked to mask again if their county had a substantial or high COVID transmission rate. Initially, Rockingham and many of the surrounding counties in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts were designated as moderate. At that time, I wrote to all of you and said that while I, a vaccinated person, was not required to wear a mask, I was going to be proactive and begin wearing a mask while in public places and in worship. I asked all of you to do the same, while acknowledging it may not be practical for some.

I was pleased to see how many people joined me in wearing masks and would estimate that 90-95% of us are wearing masks. (I do take mine off when I am up front speaking, but put it back on when I return to my seat to sing.)

When I have talked to other pastors about your response to my request, many were astounded. Most expressed they wished they would have had that kind of response in the congregation they serve. So let me say thank you and well done. I assume, you are like me and would much rather not wear a mask. Personally, I want to throw it in the garbage and never see it again. Alas, it does not seem we are there yet. But if we want to get there, masking in certain situations seems like the sensible thing to do and the path we need to take.

But, as stated earlier, and due to your response over the last couple of weeks, even though Rockingham and the surrounding counties have now been designated as places of substantial transmission, we are not changing our masking policy. If you are vaccinated, you have the option of not wearing a mask, but we do ask that you consider wearing one. If, for whatever reason, you choose not to wear a mask, you are welcome in worship.



Here are two links to the CDC website that we are using to guide us in our decisions that might be useful to you as you make your decisions.

Interactive map of transmission rate by county. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Information about the Delta variant in relation to vaccines and masks. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

Also, because we know there are people who want to worship in person but aren't comfortable coming indoors yet, we will continue to have our mid-week, Wednesday evening worship, outside, underneath the tent. Join us every Wednesday at 6pm for singing, communion, prayers and a mediocre sermon (masks are optional for everyone).

Don't forget, our Sunday morning worship is live-streamed directly to our website (htelc.com) and is available immediately afterwards to watch at your convenience.

Thanks for your continual persistence during this time. COVID-fatigue is real and I know I am feeling it. Therefore, I ask for your prayers to find the strength to do what is needed for the most vulnerable and I will do the same for you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Dover Friendly Kitchen

Dear Holy Trinity,

It's time to organize for our August 24th Dover Friendly Kitchen meal. It is the picnic supper that we will be preparing, and again, we will be doing it take out style. In fact, we will not be serving in person until further notice, depending upon how the Covid numbers increase or improve. Our DFK volunteers are limited in number and we are all masked and gloved as we work. We also do not have contact with the guests except if we exchange greetings from a distance, so we work safely.

For September, or any other upcoming date, if you are able to volunteer to prepare the meal, or to bake some of the 300+ cookies we also need, please either call or text Bonnie Sanders or the Church Office.

I have been very grateful for each of you who have either come to help with the meal or baked cookies, or done both! Last month we gave out 111 meals. You can see by that number that the need to help struggling people in Dover has only increased and with God's help, and yours, we will continue to meet the challenges of our church's mission here. Thank you so very much and God bless you.



Bonnie Sanders

Pastor Tim's Article: August 19, 2021

What can I do?

As we watch the news over the last few of days, "What can I do?" is a question we all are asking ourselves.

We hear about the Taliban taking over Afghanistan and we see images of airports and planes overcrowded with people trying to leave and we think, "These people are going to need housing, food, water, clothing, jobs, and safety. How can I help?"

A green speech bubble with a white border and a drop shadow, containing the text "how can I help?" in white lowercase letters.

We see crumbled buildings and hear about the death toll rise from the 7.2 earthquake in Haiti and our hearts are wrenched because it seems like they are still recovering from the last major earthquake, even though it was 10 years ago, and we think, "These people are going to need housing, food, water, clothing, jobs and safety. How can I help?"

We want to do something tangible. We want to do something where we see an immediate and direct impact. We want to do something that matters. We are tempted to collect items. We think about going through our closet or basement and want to donate things that are in good shape and we aren't using anymore. Those are good thoughts supported by good intentions, but that is not what is needed immediately.

I believe the best thing we can do right now, besides pray, is to give money. There are organizations that are already "on the ground" working in tragic and disastrous situations around the world and who will need extra resources to deal with these new situations.

Three which are affiliated with the Lutheran church, and are highly respected while doing great work are Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Ascentria Care Alliance

Vicky and I have already donated \$300 total to these organizations and we ask that you take a few minutes and learn about each charity and decide how you might financially support them also. You may not be in a position to give at that amount, but even though it sounds cliché, but every little bit helps. Here are their websites.



Lutheran World Relief – www.lwr.org

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services – www.lirs.org

Ascentria Care Alliance – www.ascentria.org

You will notice, each organization has a link easily found on their homepage that will guide you through the giving process.



Take a moment, learn about what each charity does, discern how you might be able to give and then click on the “DONATE” button on the organizations website that you choose.



Lastly, perhaps you know of another organization that does great work that you believe in and want to give to it instead. Go for it. Within that \$300, Vicky and I are giving to a smaller one we know personally in Haiti. (www.whatiffoundation.org).

Thanks for your generosity. It matters.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

Property Team

As I have mentioned in previous blog entries, the number of volunteers serving the Property Team, particularly on Thursday mornings, waxes and wanes with time. People join us from time-to-time and some must leave for various reasons. We appreciate the work of all of our volunteers, those who serve for the long haul and those that cannot. We never know where help can come from. Recently, Gisela Wemple brought some visiting relatives with her to help on some tasks. Please accept my thanks to each and every one of you who have helped in any way, currently or in the past, on Thursday mornings or any other time. You are the very best!



This summer we welcomed a couple of new volunteers to our number as Jeff Morrison and Bill Larson joined us. Jeff has helped us for many years on special electrical tasks, and I believe he also worked with the Thursday Group before my time. I do not know Bill's history with the Property Team, but I imagine he has supported property matters when called upon in his long tenure with Holy Trinity. Thank you Jeff and Bill for giving generously of your time in retirement. Your involvement is making a big difference in what we are able to do. If any of you readers feel the urge, join us on Thursday mornings or see me about some special projects that can be addressed at times that work best for you. I know some folks feel comfortable working alone and others do not. We are a flexible group and can make arrangements to team you up with another volunteer who is willing and able to work on a flexible schedule. I should also say that we do not expect or anticipate that our volunteers will have to pay for materials, tools, or supplies. We will work with any volunteers to determine what materials or tools may be needed and to obtain what is needed. I know some people prefer to work with their own tools and equipment, and that is fine also. Let's do this!

David Mercer, Property Team Leader

Faith Formation

This was our last week of Backyard Wednesdays. The past five weeks have flown by because our evenings together have been filled with great food, happy faces and awesome people. Thank you to all who have taken time to be together and to those who have volunteered, we couldn't have done it without you! Stay tuned for more information on everything the Faith Formation Team is planning for the fall! Here are a few pictures from last night's Backyard Wednesday.

