

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

[www.htelc.com](http://www.htelc.com)

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

[office@htelc.com](mailto:office@htelc.com)

Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## God's Work Our Hands

This year the HTELC family will be assisting Ending 68 Hours of Hunger (E68HH) as our large project. For many children who receive free meals at school, the weekends are a time when meals become scarce. E68HH sends home packs of food on Fridays so that approximately 180 local children are sustained until they return to school on Mondays. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic continues to affect us all, and many of these families are also lacking the means to obtain supplies to keep themselves clean and healthy. In particular, the needs are hand sanitizer, hand soap and disinfecting wipes. Additionally, masks will be required in schools and for some children, needed at home. We will be collecting these supplies at HTELC until Sunday, October 17.



On October 18 we will need a few volunteers to assist in transporting these items to where E68HH "warehouses" their supplies. Their volunteers will then pack the items for their individual distribution. So, that's sanitizer, hand soap and wipes for 180 school-aged children. Masks are a bonus and would also be appreciated! In the next two weeks we will also be sharing some more news regarding God's Work, Our Hands 2021.

## Faith Formation

The Faith Formation team is very excited to begin in person faith formation activities at Holy Trinity. Our first in-person, all ages Faith Formation time will be after worship on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We are happy to be able to offer Sunday School for children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under during this time. We have also been busy making plans for the next National Youth Gathering which will take place in Minneapolis, MN, July 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2022. If you or someone you know are in 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade this year, we would love for you to join us. Please reach out to Pastor Tim or Faith Bygd, the Faith Formation coordinator, for more details!

## Pastor Tim's Article: September 7, 2021

What follows is not new information but is a recap of what has been in previous Tidings and announced at church. Here is our schedule for worship and Faith Formation this fall.

### Sunday morning worship – 9:30am

We will rotate between our Traditional and Contemporary formats. Services will remain at approximately 45 minutes long to limit the amount of time that we are gathered indoors. In order to accomplish this, we will continue to have communion using the pre-packaged cups and receive offering in a plate as you walk into worship.

### Faith Formation – immediately following Worship

Something each week for everybody. Each week we will rotate through one of 4 options. Food and Fellowship, Intergenerational, Age-Appropriate Faith Formation or Service Projects.



### Sweet Worship Tuesday – Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm

These nights we will worship outdoors, under the tent, and hear the grand narrative of the Bible throughout to learn how all of the Bible stories we know relate and connect to one another. Jon Koelker and Jonathan Bock will lead us in music and the sermon will be more of an explanation than a proclamation. We will also pray and have communion each week. After our 30-minute worship, we will stay for dessert!

### Online Worship – Sunday at 9:30 and anytime afterwards

Don't forget, if you are not able to make it to church on Sunday morning, for any reason, our services are live-streamed right to our website and then available immediately afterwards to watch at your convenience. The easiest way to find the worship is our website, [www.htelc.com](http://www.htelc.com).

### One last reminder – Mask policy

Thank you to how well masks have been received on Sunday mornings. I know it is not ideal, and I don't know of anyone who likes or wants to be wearing one. Yet, I bet we have close to 95% of people in worship wearing a mask on Sunday morning. Our goal should always be to make worship as safe and welcoming for as many people as possible. While you might feel protected from COVID without the mask, we want to protect others, i.e. children under 12, immune-compromised, people who work with vulnerable populations, etc... If wearing a mask will help them, then let's do it.

## Council President's Article

In last Sunday's gospel on St. Mark (Chapter 7:24-37), a woman asks Jesus, "to cast the demon out of her daughter." In Pastor Tim's sermon, he talked about his understanding of how Jesus grew in his wisdom after his interaction with the women. Jesus seems to begin his interactions with one understanding and then shifts to another. Why did this shift happen? Did he listen more carefully? Was he beginning to form a better understanding of the heartbreaking situation of her daughter? Did he simply realize his mistake of disrespecting the women after her initial request? Hypothesizing these "whys" of Jesus's actions could make an interesting discussion, yet Pastor's interpretation of Jesus's responses was the focus of not just doing what was right, but to get to what was right. The "getting to" part is the process we go through to understand what is behind a response or action. I know I sometimes don't take the time or gather this energy to "get to what was right."



Pastor also mentioned that, "Faith frees us up to take in new information about who I am, who God is, and my place in the World." I couldn't help but think about all the new information I have gained during these last 18 months of COVID. And I can't imagine anyone not having to change their life in even a small way given new information. I know I have never experienced a sustaining worry about my health before and this is without a significant threat to my family. I can't also help but think of the different ways we have helped others which has also helped us get through this difficult time. So many of you contribute to others at Holy Trinity and in our community... through your time, energy, baking, offerings, creativity, conversations, questions, kind words, prayers, church maintenance, communion visits, and quick smiles and hellos. We have also taken time to gain knowledge, hold discussions, acknowledge errors or misunderstandings, adapt as needed, and do what we can to enrich our lives through Jesus' examples.

## Creation Care

The BGLibrary has a new section. What was formerly labeled Science and Nutrition is now Creation Care. We've added some wonderful new books that explore climate change, global warming, and necessary earth modifications, all within the light of faith. Included are Christianity, Climate Change, and Sustainable Living, by Spencer, White, and Broblesky; A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming by Sallie McFague; and Behold the Lilies: Jesus and the Contemplation of Nature: A Primer by Rev. H. Paul Santmire. Week by week the bulletin board will feature reviews of the newest materials. In addition, Glenn Oswald has volunteered to include reviews here in the Tidings.



## Pastor Tim's Article: September 13, 2021

As we have announced over the last couple of weeks, our mid-week worship is moving day and time. Starting this week, it will be...

**Tuesday at 6:30-7pm, Outside under the Tent. Dessert immediately following!**

The whole point of our mid-week worship is to learn the larger narrative of the Bible. Many of us know Bible stories. Or, at least, we know names and characters of the Bible. Many of us don't know how they all fit together. Therefore, we want to be intentional about our Bible literacy and understand what is going on and what it might mean for us today. As we go through this together, keep the following phrase in mind. ***"It isn't always about whether or not something actually happened, but rather to understand how it is still happening."***

The format will be simple enough. We will **enjoy music** from Jon Koekler and Jonathan Bock. We will **confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness**. We will **read a passage** or portions of several passages from the Bible followed by **me talking about them**. We will have **communion** and **end with music** from Jon and Jonathan. While we will have some formal parts of worship, I envision this a bit like our Backyard Wednesday services: festive, informal and fun.

It is designed not to be a replacement to Sunday morning worship (although you are welcome to make this your primary worship), but rather to supplement Sunday worship and to act as a faith formation opportunity for people of all ages.

If you are not able to join us in-person, but are interested in what we are learning about, the readings and sermon will be recorded and made available on our website the next day.



Pastor Tim