

October 10, 17, & 24, 2021

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Dover Friendly Kitchen

Your Dover Friendly Kitchen crew of 12 volunteers made 110 meals of baked ham dinner last month. Every meal was taken, and the few leftovers were given away as well. There were also some cookie packets which were taken to Crossroads House in Portsmouth where they are always much appreciated.

Jill and I would like to again thank the faithful volunteers who come to help every month. They are so capable and we are always proud of the meal they prepare and their efficiency. For now, we are still doing take out service and that is working well.

We want to also thank the ladies who have been making beautiful cookies that taste as good as they look! This is a real treat for the homeless and struggling and we are so proud of how you have answered our requests for your help over this last year with its challenges.



All of you have made this ministry of Holy Trinity possible to the Dover Community and to folks who come from neighboring towns (because DFK serves anyone who comes, every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 5, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dover). To the congregation as a whole, we are deeply grateful for your continuing financial support of this important work through your offerings. Everyone knows that food has gotten even more expensive so we are doing our best to be good stewards when we shop.

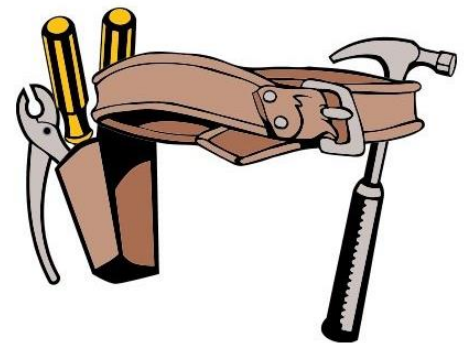
God bless all of you for providing this meal to so many each month, on the fourth Tuesday.

Bonnie Sanders and Jill Schock

Property Team

As the song says. "Signs, signs, everywhere signs ..." Signs are ubiquitous and convey all manner of information. Lest we forget, Holy Trinity has its share of signs inside and outside the building. I know we have had at least one special committee that looked into our major outside signage a few years ago. I do not recall what came out of that effort, but I know we currently have three exterior signs that present information about who we are and what we do.

First, we have the lighted informational sign near the building that we can change easily by inserting different wording to suit current happenings, services, and seasons. We also have a very nice wooden sign at Fox Run Road, originally placed to serve primarily the people exiting the highway and traffic approaching the church along Fox Run Road from the malls and Woodbury Avenue. A couple of years ago, this sign was reoriented to better serve the traffic situation after the highway exit at our location was closed. The sign was also refurbished and primarily serves people that may come to our church for the first time and people that are entering or leaving Walmart or the nearby businesses across the street from the church. The third sign is the large, lighted sign on the property line at the Spaulding Turnpike. I know nothing about the history of this sign, but I surmise it was not professionally made or installed. I imagine it was made and installed with love and best intentions by our property team volunteers, but it has not aged well and has marginal lighting.



Over the past couple of years, we have pursued options to replace the highway sign with a modern, professionally designed and installed version that would better serve our needs and represent us in the best light (yes, I know ... bad pun!). This initiative moved forward in fits and starts, and has been pursued aggressively since early June. We received bids and reviewed sign layout options. In late September we selected Stewart Signs, a Florida company specializing in church signs and accepted their proposal for our new highway sign. The sign will be manufactured in their factory in Alabama and shipped to one of the installation companies in New Hampshire that Stewart Signs uses.

The first phase of the sign project will require a visit from engineers to do a survey and prepare sealed engineering drawings for an installation that will withstand design wind loads of 120 mph. The installer will obtain the required permits for the sign installation, remove the existing sign and footing, pour a new footer and hardware attachments, and install the new sign after the new footer has fully cured. We anticipate that the new sign will be in place before winter. Much of the preparatory work

will be done during the period when the sign is being manufactured, shipped, and receipt-inspected. There will be a period of time (a few weeks) when there will be no sign at the highway.

The new sign will be a significant change from the old. The main portion of the sign will be 6 feet high and 10 feet wide. The lower portion (Immanuel) is the same width and 2.5 feet high. Both portions are fully back-lighted (a box light sign) and presented on both sides of the sign. Keep an eye out for the changes as they occur this fall.

David Mercer, Property Team Leader

Pop-Up Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated canned soups this month. We were blown away by the amount of donations given in September. In October, the Pop-Up Pantry is requesting **Soft Bags of Coffee**. Drop off your donations in the Narthex on the table as you enter, or in the large plastic bins after office hours.



Faith Formation

The Faith Formation team has been pleased that we have been able to have in-person Faith Formation activities after worship each week at Holy Trinity. We are offering Kid's Church for kids up to 6th grade during the Adult Forum week, each month. We have also been busy making plans for the next National Youth Gathering which will take place in Minneapolis, MN, July 24th-28th 2022. If you or someone you know are in 8th through 12th grade this year, we would love for you to join us. We are also looking for one male and one female chaperone for the Youth Gathering. Please reach out to Pastor Tim or Faith Bygd, the Faith Formation coordinator, for more details!



President's Article

I occasionally receive the email entitled "Monday Medley." This email contains a calendar of events /news about the New England Synod, and sometimes a short informal video from Bishop Hazelwood. The heading for his September video was, "Can we be kind during these challenging times?" He recorded the video while in Syracuse, NY for the installation of a NY bishop. He mentioned that when he attends these events, he has the opportunity to meet Bishops from around the country. In talking about some areas of the country, congregations are going through very challenging times due to the harsh, cruel, and mean encounters between church attendees. I think the depth and sustained hardship related to COVID has certainly tested my patience to appreciate what I have, ability to be flexible, respond empathetically to others, and breathe through my frustrations.



Bishop Hazelwood continued in the video to say that New England is doing a good job and thanked us for being helpful for showing love and caring for others. He wants us "to learn to engage one another in helpful, constructive ways" in ways that show "decorum, Christian Love, and care." The angst, uncertainty, extra work, and fears, can sure make everything more difficult, yet he enthusiastically encourages us to take on this challenge.

Showing kindness means considering the perspectives of others before forming an opinion, nurturing patience for things we cannot rush, holding close God's love as we are guided in different ways, and reaching out to others to engage for support, laughter, and fellowship.

Stewardship 2021

It is the time of year to determine the level of our financial and personal involvement in the life of Holy Trinity. While stewardship does involve money, it is more about our investment in the life of the church. What activities we participate in, how we share our life with others who are shut-in or other needs. How do we make Holy Trinity a vibrant part of the community? We have many ways to help – the Pop-up Pantry, the Dover Friendly Kitchen, End 68 Hours of Hunger, and you can even initiate your own passion for service. As the banners in the front of the church state "God's Work-Our Hands."



Thoughts on the Columbarium

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee..." John Donne, Meditation 17, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions

This tiny devotion reminds me that we should all be aware that our time on earth is short and that we should make plans for when we are no longer here. I once heard a representative from the ELCA Foundation talk about what to do with our wealth before and after death. He urged us to consider ways to help fund our "Passions for Ministry" after our death, while still having use of that wealth while we are still living. The key was planning for our time here, now, and also for the time after we are gone.

I, too, would urge you to plan for the time after you are gone by considering obtaining a niche in our Columbarium. The time to do it is now, because the bell will toll for thee.

Some of our more recent members, the last five years or so, may be unaware that we have a Columbarium in the chapel next door to the Pastor's office. Take a look, it is a very beautiful and peaceful place.

Dave Arrington



The New Hampshire Community Loan Fund

The New Hampshire Community Loan Fund turns investments into loans and education to create opportunity and transform lives statewide. We collaborate with a wide range of donors and investors, and with business, nonprofit and government partners, to provide the financing and support people need to have affordable homes, quality jobs, and child care, and to become financially independent. It's all about neighbors helping neighbors! Established in 1983, the Community Loan Fund was one of the first Community Development Financial Institutions in the nation, and has received industry awards and recognition for social impact, financial strength and performance.



We are a 501 (c)3 nonprofit, certified by the US Treasury. Our ROC-NH program provides loans, education and technical support to build long-term value and security for residents of manufactured-home communities. We also provide real, fixed rate mortgages for owners of manufactured homes who live in ROCs or on the land that they own. Our multi-Family Housing initiative supports nonprofit organizations that buy, develop and manage affordable rental housing. Since our inception we have created and preserved over 10,500 units of affordable housing throughout NH. Our Child Care initiative provides loans, training and assistance to child care centers. To date we have created or preserved over 4,500 child care/school spaces. Our Business Builder program provides loans and education to support the growth and resilience of small businesses and their ability to provide quality jobs, with a special focus on local food systems from farmer to grocer. To date we have created or preserved over 3,900 jobs in the state of NH.