

November 21, 28, and December 5, 2021

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Holden Vespers

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm during Advent (beginning Wednesday, December 1) for our beautiful Holden Vespers worship, with hymns written by Marty Haugen. This service will be led by Franklyn Vosburg. We anticipate these services will be on YouTube, either pre-recorded or livestreamed.



Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be as follows: 4:00 PM family service; 8:00 PM candlelight service. There will be *NO 10:30 PM service* this year. Pastor Brad Wolff will be presiding during these services. All are welcome!



Supply Pastor Schedule:

Dec. 12 - George Koch

Dec. 19 - Steve Wilco

Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) - Brad Wolff

Dec. 26 – George Koch

Pastoral Emergencies

As Holy Trinity moves through the transition toward a new Pastor, pastoral care is available for home or hospital visits, emotional support, and church ceremonies. Please contact Mark in the Church office and he will provide you with the Contact Pastor information during daytime and after work (emergencies) hours. Email office@htelc.com or call (603)436-1704

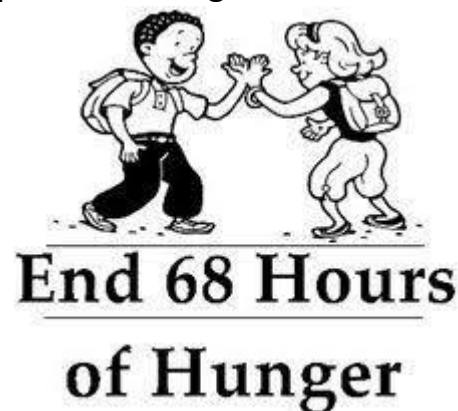


End 68 Hours of Hunger

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has a team that packs food for the program 'End 68 Hours of Hunger' for the Portsmouth schools. This program provides food for children in need that sustains them for the weekend when school is not in session. Kathy McKenna and Lauren Gianino are the Team Coordinators for our church. Our team is responsible for packing food bags for children on 7 Thursdays throughout the school year. We pack at the First United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave. Portsmouth and we meet at 6pm. Depending on the number of volunteers, it takes between 45 minutes to an hour to pack 70-90 bags.

End 68 HOH Scheduled Packing Dates for HTELC 2021-2022

- Dec. 16
- Jan. 27
- Mar. 10
- Apr. 14
- May 26



This school year we are welcoming back volunteers! If you are interested in joining our team please email us (mckenna.kathy.62@gmail.com) or Lauren Gianino(pglg813@comcast.net).

***Due to covid safety concerns we are requiring that all volunteers be vaccinated and masked. Let us know if you have any questions. Kathy McKenna & Lauren Gianino

Special Adult Forum on Sunday, December 19

We welcome the Supply Pastors who are visiting and ministering for us until the end of this year. On Sunday, December 19 Rev. Steven Wilco, Assistant to Bishop Hazelwood, will be visiting us at Holy Trinity as our Supply Pastor. Following the 9:30 service Rev. Wilco will be holding an adult forum on the Transition process that we have entered to prepare for the Call Process for our new Pastor. Rev. Wilco will share information about the months ahead as we discern, participate, and discuss our relationship and future vision for Holy Trinity! Please consider staying for this meeting to learn about the process ahead and our exciting times in the future.



Creation Care

More Than Recycling: What My Household & I Can Do

Becoming an advocate for Creation Care is not merely a factor of one or two elements. Just as it is with most matters of faith, it emerges and evolves in response to God's Love and Grace through a variety of means - personal, familial, church, community, and beyond. There is so much more each of us can do than recycle! This Creation Care article provides ideas for you and your family/ household to internalize Creation Care discipleship and response in the name of Christ.

Meditation & Prayer

Saunter. "What?" you ask. The word "saunter" implies more than "a leisurely stroll". It is derived from a French word, "santren", meaning "to muse, to wonder." Although the origin of this word is unclear, some say it comes from "sainte terre", French for "holy earth". When I saunter, I quietly, meditatively and slowly walk with all senses and heart open to the Earth around me, allowing God's voice to be heard. For a change of setting, set out on a saunter in one of the land trusts and conservancies noted below.



If reading is a spiritual practice you prefer, I highly recommend any titles from H. Paul Santmire. For starters, try **Before Nature: A Christian Spirituality**¹ and **Behold the Lilies: Jesus and the Contemplation of Nature - A Primer**². Santmire, a well-respected Lutheran theologian, personally invites readers into a theological/spiritual journey and a prayerful/contemplative knowledge of the Triune God, in which practitioners are inducted into a bountiful relationship with the cosmic ministry of Christ and the Spirit uniting all of nature in a single vision of hope and anticipation. In these books Santmire continues the pursuit of a theology bound up with nature and its condition, especially the fragility and fervent expectation of nature's redemption.

Find a Psalm you like that includes multiple “nature” items. Then gather others in your family/household and tell them they’re going to “make a video in their mind” by imagining video pictures based on the words you read to them with their eyes closed. Slowly read the Psalm and ask each to describe their video after you’re finished reading (this especially works well with younger children). Another of my favorite Psalm activities is to slowly read Psalm 104 - another Biblical account of creation - while listening to Aaron Copland’s musical composition **Appalachian Spring**. Both follow similar story lines, that is, following spring water in the mountains as it grows into a river and finally in the ocean, providing life for plants, animals and humans along the way.

You can also google “nature as a key to Christian spirituality” and find many choices for reading, listening and viewing.

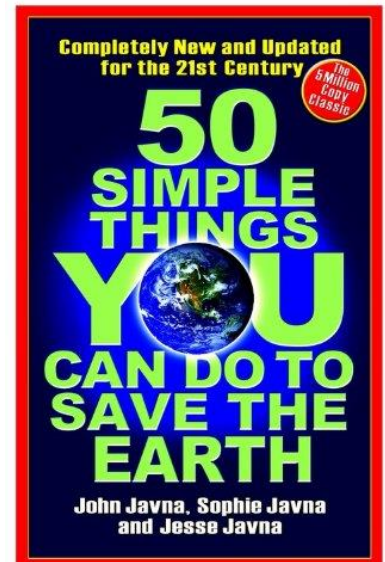
Home Stewardship

Although recycling is on the decline,³ we still can accomplish much at home by reusing, repurposing and reducing plastic, metal, and glass waste. Be creative and have fun!

There are many other consumer actions your household can take, such as those described in three HTELC Library books, **50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth**, **Green Living** and **The Green Consumer**.

Don’t forget about buying in bulk (food and household products). The higher expenses of natural foods may be reduced by cooperating with neighbors and friends. Here are some outlets in our area:

- Dover Natural Foods, Dover
- Market & Cafe at Emery Farm, Durham
- Summit Natural Foods, Exeter
- Hampton Natural Foods, Hampton
- New Morning Natural Foods, Kennebunk
- Golden Harvest Produce Market, Kittery
- Rising Tide Natural Foods, Kittery
- The Spice & Tea Exchange, Portsmouth
- Whole Foods Market, Newington.



Filleries are also not to be forgotten. Here you buy household products, but the products are put into your own reusable containers. The distributors in our area are:

- We Fill Good, Kittery
- The Refill Station, Portsmouth
- Leave No Trace Refillery, Portsmouth & Seacoast (only shop online with delivery).

Also to be considered are efficient appliances (Energy Star) and home solar energy, often with incentives or rebates. See the vendors and your energy providers for the details.

Together in Play, Advocacy and Volunteering

There's something uniquely exciting about experiencing nature in community. Regardless of who you are, there are many groups and opportunities in our area for outdoor recreation ("play"), environmental advocacy and conservation volunteering. Most of the following offer at least two of those experience types and all of them provide online information.

- Appalachian Mountain Club - NH and ME Chapters
- Sierra Club - NH and ME Groups
- Meet-Up Groups - join online
- Great Bay Coalition
- Audubon Society - VT Centers in VT, ME and CT
- New Hampshire Rivers Council
- Maine Rivers
- Gay Outdoors
- Land Trusts & Conservancies - Of the 117 in NH and ME, these are in our area: Southeast Land Trust of NH, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Howfirma Trust, York Land Trust, Kittery Land Trust, Great Works Regional Land Trust, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Individuals and families can also join and support the likes of the

- Appalachian Mountain Club (national)
- Sierra Club (national)
- Wilderness Society
- Environmental Defense Fund
- National Resources Defense Council
- Ocean Conservancy

- Greenpeace
- EarthJustice

At HTELC

At church, we regularly experience the intersection of nature and faith in worship. Not a worship service goes by without bonds to nature in scripture, prayers and/or hymns. Nature imagery is also used in faith formation and Bible study to clarify our faith, grace, love and Christian community.

In the coming months our church will form a “Green Team” to explore if and how HTELC can become a “green church.” More information will be in the next and final Creation Care article. Until then, please contact this article’s author (below) if you or a family member have interest in this “Green Team.”

Faith-Based Resources for Individuals and Households

There are a variety of books in our HTELC Library. The following resources are only available online and are a great start for you and yours to discover more about creation care.

Lutherans Restoring

Creation. <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/> LRC is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. They cultivate a community of dedicated stewards of the earth, proclaiming God’s promise of hope and healing for all and offer good resources for individuals and households on their website.

Web of Creation. <https://www.webofcreation.org/> The Web of Creation is maintained by the Lutheran School of Theology/Chicago, is a Christian ecumenical organization and provides environmental resources for people of faith.

Earth Ministry. <https://earthministry.org/> Earth Ministry's website provides extensive resources for all although its work focuses on the Pacific Northwest. Of special interest to individuals and households is that they show the depth of creation care through their faith-based values.

Evangelical Environmental Network. <https://creationcare.org/> The EEN seeks to equip, inspire, disciple, and mobilize God's people in their effort to care for God's creation.

Interfaith Power and Light. <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/> IP&L mobilizes religious responses to global warming in 39 states, including New England. They focus on tangible



results, putting our faith into action through the promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.

Closing Encouragement

Each of us enter into new understandings and spiritual journeys through different routes. Mine were through unexpected, intersecting encounters in/with meditation, worship, nature, social action, reading, Christian community, teachers, clergy, peers, and outdoor recreation. In my youth, family vacations included new discoveries of God's Creation. As a young adult my awareness of environmental justice grew and deepened especially through a mentor who used nature as a tool to reveal the Gospel. Through the years and experiences since then, I'm increasingly compelled to act and advocate for justice and the preservation of God's first gift to us, Creation. I encourage each HTELC participant to absorb God's Creation by any path so as to be more-fully engaged with the Love and Grace of Christ.

Glenn Oswald

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1 Augsburg Fortress (2014) 2 Cascade Books (2017). This book is available in the HTELC Library.
3 More-and-more municipalities are not able to truly recycle waste anymore, largely because there's no market for it, it's too expensive and/or China is not accepting recyclable waste.

Tanzania Scholarship

Looking for that perfect present? For many years Holy Trinity has been providing life-changing scholarships for students in our partner community of Isimani, Tanzania. These scholarships enable these students to improve their lives and the lives of their community. The average cost for a year's education is \$450; any tax-deductible contribution is valued. Send your donation to the church office or offering plate. For more information, contact Helen Goransson or Kurt Kasik.



Lutheran Forum Magazine

We made the cover of a magazine! Lutheran Forum visited our church a few months ago and took photos of our Stained Glass Window for an article in their Summer 2021 issue. The article is short, but a good read. You can read the article in our Church Library.

