

January 2, 9, 16, 2021

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## In Memory of Marie Edin

It is with a heavy heart that beloved member of Holy Trinity, Marie Edin, has passed away on December 30, 2021 at the age of 92.

Marie Edin was a charter member in 1957, and she attended the first ever worship service at Holy Trinity on June 14, 1959, when Rev. Dr Allison Linné was our Pastor. In her words, she remembers the details of that important day:

*"We arrived for church that morning to find the front doors to the church closed! One-by-one church members arrived for church. We all waited in the front of the building.*

*The door to the church opened and (Pastor) Dr. Linné came outside. He led the congregation in prayer. He then turned and opened the double doors to the church – pushing both doors back as far as they would go. The organist had started to play. She was playing the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation".*

*Dr. Linné started to walk very slowly into the church. The congregation followed. We were all singing, "The Church's One Foundation."\**

\*from Holy Trinity's 50th Anniversary book.

Marie was also known around our congregation as the Church Historian. During a 1991 celebration at Holy Trinity, she spoke about the history of our congregation. She was a valuable resource when we put together our church's 50th anniversary history book in 2007.

You can read Marie Edin's obituary on the next page. As of today, no services are planned, but the family hopes to have a memorial service in the spring. Please keep Marie's family in your prayers at this time.



## **Introducing our new Interim Pastors: Rev. Luther Zeigler and Rev. Elizabeth Nees**

### **Warm Greetings from our new Interim Pastor: Rev. Luther Zeigler**

I was absolutely delighted to accept your Council's invitation to serve as your part-time Interim Pastor for the next five months or so. I look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks.

Even though I am an Episcopal priest, my heritage is pure Lutheran. I come from a family of German-American, Lutheran farmers who for generations made their home in the little town of Newville, Pennsylvania. You will be the second Lutheran congregation for whom I have served as an interim pastor.

For almost a decade now, I have been the Minister of Emmanuel Church, an Episcopal summer chapel on Cape Ann on the North Shore of Massachusetts. In years past, I also served as the Episcopal Chaplain of Harvard University and as a school chaplain for three different Episcopal schools in the Washington, DC area. I have also been an affiliate priest with Episcopal parishes in Beverly Farms and Cambridge, MA, and before that, in College Park and Potomac, Maryland. I practiced law for 21 years in our Nation's Capital before my ordination to the priesthood. I hope you will not hold that against me. My wife (Pat) and I have been married for 41 years, and we have two adult daughters, both of whom are married. Between their two families, we are blessed with three grandchildren.

I am very thankful that the Holy Spirit led me to your wonderful community and I know that we will enjoy each other's company in the time ahead.

Blessings,  
Pastor Luther (Zeigler)



### **A welcome message from our new Interim Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Nees**

I was primarily raised in Evanston, Wyoming before moving to Colorado where I completed my undergraduate degree in Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Upon graduation, I participated in the Urban Servant Corps in Denver, Colorado. For that one year I lived in intentional Christian community with seven other young adults committed to a simple lifestyle and volunteering with and among the city's poor and marginalized people. In 2003 I served as a missionary in Cairo, Egypt (through the Young Adults in Global Mission program) where I worked with and among Sudanese refugees awaiting resettlement. Upon returning to the United States I worked at the ELCA Churchwide offices in Chicago for two years, recruiting young adults for global mission service. I then attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at



Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary), and was ordained in the fall of 2010. I have served congregations both small and large, urban and rural in Millville, NJ, Thousand Oaks, CA and am currently the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Needham, MA. I live with my spouse, two children (6 and 4) and our golden retriever in Harvard, MA. I enjoy hiking with my family, yoga, quilting, and creating stained glass.

I began my formal coaching education and path toward a credential in early 2020. To date, I have completed 128 classroom hours for the Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential through the International Coaching Federation (ICF). I have over 450 logged hours of coaching both individuals and groups. I especially find joy and energy working with congregations in transition or critical moments in their life together. At Holy Trinity, my primary role will be to work with the Transition Team to prepare and engage the congregation in discernment and transitional events.

Rev. Elizabeth Nees

### **Marie Edin's Obituary**

Marie Lilly Edin passed away on December 30th, 2021 at the age of 92 in Rochester after a long illness. She was born in Melrose Massachusetts and lived most of her life in Barrington NH. She was the daughter of the late Reuben and Martha (Johnson) Edin. She is also predeceased by her siblings Robert Edin, Corrine (Edin) Flint and Ronald Edin. She is survived by 2 nieces and 2 nephews: Lori (Edin) Richard and her husband Paul, Lisa Edin Browning, Carl Edin and his wife Suzanne, Eric Edin and his wife Debbie. She is also survived by 3 great nephews, Andrew, Adam and Nathaniel.



Marie loved her career retiring as Clerk of Strafford Superior Court. Marie was a devout member and historian of the Holy Trinity Church in Newington, of which her father was a founding member.

She was an avid skier, enjoyed big band music and ballroom dancing. Marie was very devoted to her family. She was always there to participate in celebrating her family's successes. She made sure to pass on a bit of Swedish heritage to her nieces and nephews. She enjoyed a good laugh and was always a good sport. Trips to the beach with Fresca and egg salad sandwiches, Canobie Lake park, getting her to drink the children's "special concoctions" are memories her nieces and nephews will never forget. Her laughter will live in us forever.

A service will be held to remember Marie in the spring.

## Transition Team Update

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK.

Three questions have been written on the white board outside of the kitchen. The Transition Team is collecting the answers to these questions. We ask all folks attending services at Holy Trinity to answer these three questions so that we can process the data and present it to the congregation. If you have not attended services in person, the three questions are as follows:

1. What Brought you here to Holy Trinity?
2. What Makes Holy Trinity right for you?
3. What will keep you coming back?



One last thing, the congregational assessment tool link has been sent to all those folks who have registered their email with the church. Please, please, please fill out the assessment and submit it as soon as possible. If you don't have email, and need a paper copy, please notify Mark Donahue at the church or one of the Transition Team members.

Thanks,

The Transition Team

### **Support to attend Sunday service and Wednesday Bible Study from home**

Please remember that Sunday services can be attended live through a link that is included in The Tidings on Thursday. Attending the service from your home may be an appropriate choice should you feel unsure about attending an in-person service given the current COVID infection rates. If you decide to attend in-person, consider wearing a mask, sit at least 3 feet away from other attendees, and know that doors may be open at times to provide air circulation. If you need support to attend church from your home computer or have questions or suggestions, please contact Mark in the Church office or Cristina, the Council President.

## Pastor Luther's Article: January 9, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for extending me such a warm welcome this past Sunday. I loved joining you for worship and I look forward to the months ahead.

Yesterday was my first full day in the office and I was given a helpful orientation by your friendly Office Coordinator, Mark Donahue. I also had my first meeting with your bible study group, who likewise warmly welcomed me into their midst. I'm already beginning to feel at home. I hope others of you will feel free to drop by on Wednesdays for a visit or schedule an appointment.



Today is the Feast of the Epiphany, that day on the liturgical calendar when we remember the story of the magi, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of the Christ Child. (The word 'epiphany' comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means appearance or manifestation.) The Epiphany season extends from now until Ash Wednesday, and its theme is light. I invite you to mark this day with this prayer:

*O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

I hope to see you this coming Sunday when we observe the Baptism of Christ.

Faithfully,

Pastor Luther

### Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are in your congregational mailbox for 2022 if you used them in the last year. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please notify the Church Office.

## Pastor Luther's Article: January 16, 2021

### A Reflection on Dr. King's Vision of the Church

Across our nation this weekend, millions of Americans will be celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King's name has become virtually synonymous with the major achievements of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, ranging from the Montgomery bus boycotts of 1955, which led to the integration of that city's public transportation system; to the dramatic demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, which exposed to the world the injustices of America's most racially segregated city; to the March on Washington in 1963, which galvanized a nation, and played a pivotal role in leading to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

It was King's methods, of course, as much as his outcomes, that were his real gift to us. While others advocated for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, King resolutely refused the temptation to strike back with force, using instead the power of words and the embodiment of nonviolent resistance to achieve seemingly impossible goals. Drawing on Gandhi and the gospels in equal measure, King demonstrated what the gospel's teaching about loving one's enemies really looks like, and the power such love has to transform even the darkest of hearts.

Yet, King was so much more than just a civil rights leader. People tend to forget that in the last three years of his life, the focus of his work shifted from racial injustice to economic injustice more broadly considered. His work in these years culminated in the "Poor Peoples Campaign," an ambitious effort to assemble a multiracial coalition of impoverished Americans to advocate for economic change. In these years, too, he became an outspoken critic of the Viet Nam war and of our national obsession with military power and spending.

As important as King's legacy is in all these areas—as a champion of racial equality, in solidarity with the poor, and in opposition to war-making—he also has much to teach the church about its mission. When I served as a chaplain in elementary and secondary schools years ago, I was always struck by how few of my students knew what King's vocation was. They could quote his "I have a dream" speech by heart, but only a handful of them would know that King's first and primary calling was as a minister of the gospel.

My former students can be forgiven perhaps for not knowing about King's identity as a pastor because, when you think about it, nearly all the iconic moments in King's life story played out on a public stage rather than within the confines of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church or some other church sanctuary. The images that we most remember are of King on the steps



of the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963, or sitting pensively in a Birmingham jail, or being arrested in Montgomery during the bus boycotts, or marching with other freedom fighters in Selma, or sitting at LBJ's side in the White House as the President signed the landmark civil rights legislation of 1964. So few of the really memorable photographs of King are in the pulpit or within the four walls of a church building.

This is no accident, I think. For one of King's core teachings is that the church is not a building, or some event that takes place on a Sunday morning. Rather, the church is you and me—the Body of Christ at work in the world. King puts it bluntly in his autobiography when he writes: "It is my conviction that any religion that professes concern for the souls of men [and women] and is not equally concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them, and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion only waiting for the day to be buried." King reminds us that our vitality as Christ's church depends upon our willingness to engage meaningfully and consistently with the world and its problems. To be sure, we gather in church on Sundays to immerse ourselves in the Word that defines us and in the sacraments that feed us; but the real work of the Church happens on the other six days of the week. Let it be so with us at Holy Trinity.

## Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting

Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 23rd following a short fellowship after the 9:30 service. At this meeting our 2021 Annual Ministry Allocation Plan will be reviewed and the 2022 Ministry Allocation Plan will be presented. In addition, an update will be presented about the work done with the Church membership and our Church Constitution. Following a discussion, votes will be taken regarding this work along with the acceptance of new Church Council members, our 2022 Ministry Allocation Plan, and who will be the representatives for the ECLA Assembly in August. In addition, an update will be given about the Transition Team's work with time allotted to ask questions.



As always, we will hold an **adult forum on Sunday, January 16th** following the 9:30am service. Digital and printed information about the topics will be available at this meeting and your participation is strongly welcomed.

At this time the Church Council is planning for an in-person Annual Meeting (last year's Annual meeting was on Zoom). Should the weather be severe the "snowdate" for our Annual meeting will be on the following Sunday, January 30th.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the Council President Cristina or Mark in the Church Office. You can also email Cristina at [foggdrive@yahoo.com](mailto:foggdrive@yahoo.com)

## New England Synod Assembly June 9-11, 2022

Warm days, cool nights, and sunshine for more than 10 hours. Doesn't that sound nice in January? Well, now add some very friendly Lutherans, engaging faith speakers, and good coffee and you have attendance at the New England Synod Assembly on June 9-11<sup>th</sup> in Worcester, MA. The Church Council is looking for two interested members to attend! These two individuals will represent Holy Trinity and have the opportunity to learn about the projects and workings of the Synod. The decision of whether the 2022 Collaborate Assembly will be held in person or online has not yet been decided, but your consideration can still happen! Why not take the opportunity to engage with other New England Synod members and grow in faith within our larger church community. Driving expenses, hotel stay, and the conference fee will be paid by Holy Trinity. If you are interested, curious, or have questions about serving in this interesting way, please let Mark know in the Church office.



**COLLABORATE**  
for Christ's sake  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022

### RIC Celebration

**Coming: Sunday, January 30....**

**FINALLY!** It's been almost a year since Holy Trinity voted overwhelmingly to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church.\* \* The pandemic has interfered with so many important aspects of all our lives—including a proper celebration of our significant decision to be a welcoming congregation. And not just to say it but to be it—to LGBTQ+ folks as well as all who are marginalized, all who are seeking, all who are looking for a place of warmth and sharing and belonging.



Even now we would not be comfortable having a huge blowout celebration. But it's time to recognize this milestone in our congregation's life.

So please.... **mark your calendars for Sunday, January 30.** A celebration service at 9:30 will include special language signifying our RIC commitment as well as the dedication of an RIC stole for our pastor. After a brief break (for coffee, of course!) we will continue our celebration with a very special event: **a concert by the New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus.**

As a tangible sign of our RIC commitment, there will be an opportunity on the 30th to make a donation. Donation proceeds will be split between Seacoast Outright, a support organization



for LGBTQ+ youth, and Ascentria Care Alliance's Afghan Evacuee Resettlement Program, which will support the Afghan family that Holy Trinity is participating in welcoming to our community. A special donation envelope will be provided. Please be generous!

\* \* Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program has been a public way for Lutheran faith communities to name, celebrate, and advocate for marginalized people (including those of all sexual orientations) in their worship area. The program is made up of congregations (including several in New Hampshire); synods (the New England Synod is one); colleges; seminaries; outdoor ministries (Camp Calumet is one); and other Lutheran organizations. As part of Holy Trinity's journey to become RIC, we spent a year studying, questioning, and praying to be prepared to vote on our own Welcoming Statement. In November of 2020 the congregation voted overwhelmingly to adopt this Statement:

**At Holy Trinity, we welcome and affirm everyone—because God welcomes and affirms everyone—**

**regardless of age, race, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other life circumstance.**

**You are welcome. Your family, children, friends, spouses, and partners are welcome.**

**You are welcome, whether you are a believer, a doubter, or a seeker. Your diversity and uniqueness are welcomed and affirmed into the full life of Holy Trinity.**

**You are wanted here.**

### **Social Ministry**

Thank you to everyone who donated items to Toys for Tots. We also need to thank Joan Bauer for again spearheading this effort on behalf of Holy Trinity. It is also that time of year for the Tree Full of Mittens. A tree will be in the Narthex and clothes pins will be available. I am hoping that we will have plenty of warm mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and even socks to distribute in our local area. The tree will remain up until February 20. Items will be distributed on Monday, February 21. Thank you so much for your anticipated generosity.



## President's Article

What a difference a month makes for all that goes on in a church. God sure knows how to make things happen! It has been nice and appreciated to have such caring supply pastors for the last weeks of 2021. Holy Trinity was able to reconnect and reflect upon memorable past church events and friendships with these supply pastors. We waited and our amazing Creator supported the work of Pastor Steve Wilco, Associate to Bishop Hazelwood, who offered us two part-time Interim Pastors right before Christmas. Now that we're in 2022, I hope you agree that it's comforting to have Pastor Luther with us for Sunday services. He is eager to get to know us so please connect with him over a coffee, phone call, or at Bible Study on Wednesdays. Our other Interim Pastor is Pastor Elizabeth Nees. Her role is to work with the Transition Team to provide support to plan and present the events that will help Holy Trinity discern, gain understanding, and prepare for the Call of our next Pastor.



Yes, we could have the Call of our new pastor in 6-9 months! YOU can be a helpful part of that by completing the CAT (The Congregational Assessment Tool). The CAT is a critical piece of information that will be used for the Call process. The Transition Team wants all voices to be heard. It's anonymous, a click away to start, and when you finish you may feel a little more connected to Holy Trinity after months of COVID. The email containing the CAT link was sent out on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from Mark in the office. It takes 20-30 minutes to complete, yet your involvement will help shape Holy Trinity's future.

As the practice for many years, we will hold an Adult Forum in the sanctuary this Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> shortly following the 9:30am service to prepare for our Annual Congregational meeting on the 23rd. At this meeting, the Ministry Allocation Plan (budget) will be presented along with other church initiatives that may require the process of a membership vote at the Annual meeting. A Zoom link will be provided on [htelc.com](http://htelc.com) for individuals who want to attend from home. Several options will be available to ask questions (e.g., chat, email, phone call) during the meeting. If you are unable to participate online or in-person on the 16<sup>th</sup> but still have a question for the Council, please contact the Church office and someone will respond to you.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> following our 9:30 service. This meeting will be offered in-person (with COVID guidelines) and as a Zoom meeting. A Zoom link will be provided for those wanting to attend/sign-in, ask questions, or vote from home. These processes will be similar to those used for our Annual Congregational meeting last January. As usual, an Annual Congregational Meeting packet (which includes Ministry reports, the proposed Mutual Ministry Plan, and other agenda items) will be emailed

in The Tidings on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Paper copies will be available in the church on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> should you want to pick one up. If you would like to receive a mailed copy please notify Mark, in the Church office by Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

If the weather is inclement and unsafe to travel on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent out from the Church office by 6:00pm on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> to notify you of the meeting's postponement due to inclement weather. The Congregational Meeting is unable to take place on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> because of our long-awaited Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Celebration and Concert!

What a blessed month January will be!

Cristina

Council President

### **News from Our BGLibrary**

It's time for our annual Weeds Sale! Your BGLibrary Team will be culling the shelves this month. Watch for a display table in the narthex—you might find your favorite book. Sales are transacted with voluntary contributions only, and the money the library earns will go to Isimani scholarship funds.

Our library continues to be popular. Throughout 2020 and 2021, even when we weren't able to worship in person, never a week went by without books being checked out. While the Team expected those books to be mostly fiction, thinking readers wanted a COVID-19 diversion, more books were from our Social Conflict shelves. In lieu of diversion, readers wanted information about the problems and solutions in social trends.

You might expect that the books that find their way to the weeds' table are old and no longer interesting—therefore, neglected. On the contrary, many are still popular. The reasons still relevant books are weeded out? Our library is too small to keep a large collection, and the Counsel honors our readership with a generous library budget, which makes it possible for the Library Team to keep purchasing new stuff, even most of the requests from loyal readers.

You may remember that over the last few years weeds' earnings have gone to support the children's library in Isimani. This year earnings will go instead to the Isimani scholarship program.

