

May 1, 8, & 15, 2022

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

In Memory of Len Small

It is with a heavy heart that beloved member of Holy Trinity, Len Small, passed away in the early hours of Sunday morning. Len was surrounded by family in his final moments of life. He would have been 99 in August.

Len proudly served for our country in World War II. He was also a very active member of our congregation, participating in Bible Study and Property Team, even into his early 90s. Len was a skilled craftsman, using his talent to build many things for our church; chances are you've seen his work!



On Sunday, May 15 at 6PM, everyone is welcome to celebrate the life of Len Small. There will be no service, just an informal gathering with drinks and food.

Please keep the entire Small family in your prayers as they say goodbye to their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Baptism

Baptized into Christ on April 24, 2022 is Mac David Rouleau, son of Matthew and Kelly Rouleau.



Pastor Luther's Article: April 28, 2022

This coming Sunday, we will have an abbreviated (though joyful!) worship service, so as to allow time for an hour-long congregational conversation entitled "Why Us?" This exercise is a crucial part of our transition team's efforts to discern what our collective hopes and dreams are for Holy Trinity as we move toward calling a new pastor.

As you will remember, earlier in the year, the Transition Team asked everyone in the congregation to answer three simple questions: (1) What brought you here? (2) What makes Holy Trinity right for you? and (3) What will keep you coming back? Last Sunday, at church, we distributed the collated (and slightly edited) responses we received. *(You can watch the full video of the Adult Forum at www.htelc.com/adult-forums)*



In addition, as part of my homily this week, I hope to offer some of my own reflections on what I have experienced here as your interim pastor, and what I see as some of your many gifts, as well as some "growing edges." I then will facilitate a conversation in which I invite you to share your own assessment of what you have read and heard, and what your hopes are for Holy Trinity's future.

This will be one more opportunity to share directly with the Transition Team what you think is important for pastoral candidates to know about this church. Please come and let us know why Holy Trinity matters to you and where you think God is calling us!

In Christ,
Pastor Luther

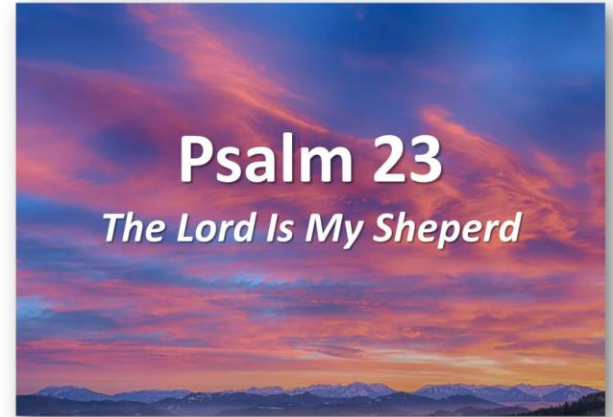
MSP Workshop Adult Forum

MSP Workshop Adult Forum will be held on May 22 after worship. This adult forum will help our congregation write a new Ministry Site Profile for our future Pastor to find. We will be recording this adult forum, in case you aren't able to attend. Visit www.htelc.com/adult-forums after May 22 for the full video.

Pastor Luther's Article: May 5, 2022

This coming Sunday is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because our gospel text on the fourth Sunday of Eastertide is always drawn from the tenth chapter of John's gospel where Jesus assures his disciples that he is (then, now, and always) our Good Shepherd. On this Sunday we also always hear the Twenty-Third Psalm, that most beloved of psalms.

Psalm 23 is, of course, frequently associated with funerals, no doubt because of its profound promise that "yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." Because of its power, the psalm has been set to music in many memorable ways, including the hymn, The King of Love My Shepherd Is, which we will sing as our "Hymn of the Day" this Sunday.



There is, however, another beautiful musical paraphrase of the psalm that is near and dear to the hearts of Episcopalians, and that is Isaac Watts' hymn, My Shepherd Will Supply My Need. That particular hymn was unforgettably seared into my consciousness when I heard it sung some two decades ago at the National Prayer Service in Washington, D.C., following the September 11, 2001 tragedy. When the nation gathered on September 14th in Washington's National Cathedral to mourn, and cry, and pray, what moved our hearts was not the presence of all the living American Presidents and other dignitaries; nor Billy Graham's sermon; nor the eloquent prayers said by the bishops, deans, and other clergy gathered that day. Rather the moment that rendered everyone speechless was when the little boy and girl choristers of the Cathedral took to the chancel steps, and sung Isaac Watt's gorgeous anthem in their pure and innocent voices.

I can't promise that we will sing Isaac Watts' hymn this well on Sunday, but it will be among our communion hymns.

I hope to see you on Sunday, my second to last service with you. I wish I could stay longer!

In Christ,
Pastor Luther

Council President's Article

"A Summer Like No Other....."

After several years of learning to deal with different worship experiences – zoom, streaming, outside in parks, outside under the tent, inside socially distancing wearing masks celebrating communion with little plastic cups, and now more like what we remember from 2019 – our summer of 2022 promises even more change! The Church Council and the Worship Team have been working hard to plan a summer worship experience that will be enriching and enlightening. One of the realities of 2022 is that “supply” pastors are currently in short “supply.” Pastor Luther’s last Sunday with us May 15, so our “summer” season will start on May 22. The plan that the Lord has been guiding us to includes a rich variety of familiar and not-so-familiar worship experiences. We will continue summer Sunday worship at 9:30 every week. There will be traditional services lead by clergy we know and those whom we don’t know. Some Sundays the traditional sermon will be presented by a guest, some of whom we know, some who are new to us. The guest speakers will present a variety of topics: theological perspectives, outreach locally and outreach in distant lands, Christian living, and other pertinent topics. A schedule will be published as dates are established. Summer plans also include some other traditional events. The semi-annual meeting is scheduled for June 12, followed by the church picnic. Vacation Bible School will be held in a format similar to last year on 4 Wednesdays midsummer. Please plan to join your Holy Trinity family and friends at these events.

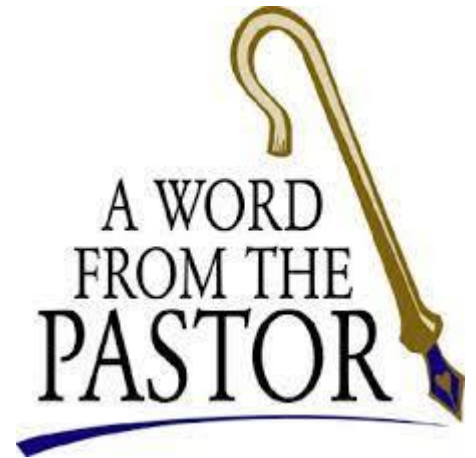


Meanwhile, the Call Committee and the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) Team are getting ready to prepare the document that will be sent to the Synod to attract pastoral candidates to our church. On May 22, we will hold a workshop to begin writing our MSP document. Please plan to attend worship on May 15 to bid Pastor Luther farewell and thank him for his leadership during these past months. His presence has been a blessing to us. Please continue to pray for God’s guidance as we move through these next steps in the transition process.

Pastor Luther's Article: May 12, 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that the time has come for us to part ways. I am so grateful that you invited me to accompany you on this interim journey. In particular, I give thanks for our Sunday worshipping community and the talented musicians and singers who made our time together so joyful; for our faithful Wednesday bible study group; for the leadership of your Council and Transition Team during this interim period; for the unfailing help and good cheer of Mark Donahue in the office; for the gracious support of your Altar Guild and Worship Committee; and for everyone else in this church who touched my life in ways both large and small. I hope to see you this Sunday for one final opportunity to worship together.



In the meantime, let me leave you with this prayer:

O God, you have bound us together for a time as pastor and people to work for the advancement of your reign on earth in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the holy ties that have bound us these several months. We thank you for giving us the resilience to worship in creative ways as we emerge from this pandemic; for the opportunity to love and serve one another and our wider world; and for your guidance and wisdom as we prepare for the next chapter in our community life. We thank you also for the unexpected joys and hidden blessings that each day has brought. But especially we thank you for your never-failing presence through it all, and for the deeper knowledge we have gained of you and each other. Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with those who stay; and grant that all of us, drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in and through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

May God bless you and keep you,
Pastor Luther

Proposed New Constitution Draft for Congregational Review

Toward the end of 2021, we undertook a review and revision of our Constitution. At the end of November, a task force led by Russ Hilliard and Mark Beliveau completed revisions to the constitution reflecting changes that are required by the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Additional changes to the proposed constitution reflect current ways in which we do business, such as allowing for electronic voting. The proposed constitution has been reviewed and approved by the Council, and will be reviewed and voted on by the congregation at the semi-annual meeting on June 12.



Two documents are available for you to access and review prior to the meeting. One is a brief memo prepared by Russ briefly describing changes that you will find in the second document which is the proposed constitution. Copies are available in the Church Office.

Bike and Build

Bike and Build will arrive on Monday, June 6, and will use our facilities until Sunday, June 12. During this time, our building will become busier than usual. If you see them, please greet them and introduce yourself. Bike & Build is a non-profit organization where college-aged students from around the United States bike in a summer-long cross-country journey to raise awareness for affordable housing. For more information on their journey, please go to <https://bikeandbuild.org/routes/nus>



Bike & Build

Summer Camp at Calumet

Summer Camp at Calumet is happening this year. Holy Trinity will be offering small scholarships. The money allocated in the budget will be divided equally among those going to camp. If you are planning to send your child, please let Mark Donahue know to add your child's name to our list. It will be helpful for us to know by mid-June. Camp Calumet also offers scholarships, if money is tight. Information about Camp Calumet's summer resident camp is found at <https://www.calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp>.



Pop-Up Pantry will be closing May 11

Last week the PUP committee met and decided we would be closing the pantry on May 11. Lots of reasons; reduced visitors, loss of free food supply, inability to fully fund and our belief that this was a temporary ministry. It was Pastor Tim's idea on how he felt our church could help those in need during the pandemic. With the help of food and monetary donations from you and food donations from Gather, we were able to be out there every Wednesday beginning on July 8, 2020!



Since then, we have distributed 2,072 bags during 95 straight weeks! We became like the post office, neither rain nor sleet nor snow....! We would like to thank Rick Sirois, Cody Cartnick and Tom Casey; non-church members who picked up and delivered all our orders with Gather. They were deemed our "Mighty Militia" by Jules! Big thank you's also go to Mark Donahue for taking down our set up each week through the above mentioned weather!

It is with the utmost gratitude that we say a resounding **Thank You for Being There for Us!** Blessings, The PUP Team (*Mark Beliveau, Cristina Dolcino, Eileen Kackenmeister, Jules Moore, Nina Opderbecke and Paulette Sirois*)

Camp Calumet: Walk the Walk 2022

Camp Calumet will have its annual fundraiser "Walk the Walk" again in the summer 2022. It will be the same event as 2021, where you will have to sign up at Calumet's webpage, donate \$25, and report your July & August miles to Holy Trinity's team captain (and Office Coordinator): Mark Donahue. He will in turn, combine all of our congregation's miles and report it to Camp Calumet. If you're interested, please talk to Mark. Registration begins on May 15, and you can learn more info at calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk

