

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Marie Edin has been laid to rest

On Wednesday, May 18, Marie Edin was laid to rest at Pine Grove Cemetery in Barrington, NH. Pastor Luther was there to preside over the private burial. Eric Edin, Marie's nephew, wrote to the Church, *"We had to laugh when a big gust of wind came through when Pastor Luther committed Marie's body to the earth. We talked about how Marie was always pleasant, kind, supportive, and happy. I can't imagine growing up without my Aunt Marie. She was truly loved and I miss her terribly. Your church was very important to Marie."*



In Memory of former member, Jill Kammermeyer

Holy Trinity is sad to announce that former member Jill Kammermeyer passed away on Friday, May 20. She is survived by her husband, Bob Hochstetler. Bob & Jill left Holy Trinity in the late 90's or early 2000's to move to South Carolina. If you knew Bob & Jill and wish to send a sympathy card, please write to:
4192 Spring Island, Oaktie, SC 29909



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 Mark Donahue, who will report our total miles to Camp Calumet. Registration has begun and you can sign up here: <https://www.vancoevents.com/BFXR>



President's Article

The other day I was asked when we would be starting the summer worship schedule at Holy Trinity. I paused for a moment to think about how to respond. Actually, we've been on what we used to call "summer schedule" since we returned to in-person worship as the pandemic waned. This summer we will continue with our usual summer activities. We will continue to have worship services every Sunday at 9:30, with communion offered every week. The format of the service will continue to alternate between traditional and contemporary. If we have volunteers, we will have a coffee hour after the service. Vacation Bible School will be held in 4 consecutive Wednesdays in July and August, Bible Study will continue to be held weekly, and the semi-annual meeting and church picnic will take place on June 12. But what makes this summer differ from other summers is that we don't have a full time or part time pastor. However, the plan that the council and the worship committee have put together will hopefully result in a summer that will provide for rich, meaningful worship.

Pastor George Koch will officiate at many of the May, June and July services, and other Pastors will officiate for all Sundays in August, and several in June and July. At some of our summer worship services, individuals from our congregation as well as from outside of our congregation will be providing a temple talk in lieu of the traditional sermon on topics such as the Indonesian experience, Christian life in Tanzania, and the Afghan resettlement program. We are blessed at Holy Trinity with several members and friends who have attended the School of Lay Ministry (SLM) sponsored by the NE Synod. "The School of Lay Ministry is designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement, and life-long learning." (<https://nelutherans.org/faithinaction/schooloflayministry>) The individuals who have completed this program have volunteered to share their insights and learning with us as we go through this transition phase at Holy Trinity. This Sunday, May 29, Jill Schock will be the first of the SLM graduates to offer a "Temple Talk" in lieu of the traditional sermon. On July 17, several of the SLM graduates will work together to participate in the worship service and offer the message. We are a community rich with blessings, and we hope you will join us as we move through these summer months.



If you're interested in learning more about the School of Lay Ministry, talk to Yvonne and Dick Topping, Jill and Jerry Schock, or Ade Monareh, or check the web site cited above.

New England Synod News - Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church

Our very own member, Dot Kasik, wrote a wonderful piece about Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church for the New England Synod's eNews. This article was originally published by the ELCA New England Synod. You can read that piece below, in full.

Immanuel Indonesian Lutheran and Holy Trinity Lutheran, Together

2006 - This afternoon I pull into a crowded church parking lot. Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church at Newington's Holy Trinity Lutheran is celebrating the arrival of their new leader, Esther Tulung, coming to Imanuel straight from Indonesia. As I exit my car, scents of spicy satay engulf me; these Indonesians know how to eat! Everyone— especially Indonesians—know food brings people together. It's what Jesus himself teaches us in the Eucharist meal. Food pleases, food connects, food heals. But first, before we eat, the worship service. I find a seat in the crowded sanctuary. The Indonesian words escape me, but I easily follow the familiar Lutheran liturgy. I understand nothing; I understand everything. Esther prays; I pray. Still, it's hard to concentrate when strong satay wafts in from the gathering area. My friend Tommy says the prayers of the church. I hear "Calumet" and I smile at shared Calumet memories with Imanuel.

The service ends. We file out, shake Esther's hand, and head for the food. In 2007 Imanuel Indonesian officially became a member of the New England Synod. A year earlier, representatives from a group of Indonesian Christians who'd been worshipping every Sunday in a member's apartment appeared at Holy Trinity, to meet with then pastor Linn Opderbecke to explore the possibilities of renting space in our facility for Sunday worship. Arrangements were quickly made through our Council and congregation and within weeks, a weekly Sunday afternoon service was established. The "rent" is that we share upkeep and maintenance.

In the beginning, Imanuel wasn't a Lutheran congregation. Because of their close relationship with the Netherlands, Reformed Christian is Indonesia's dominant denomination. Our combined leadership soon agreed that becoming members of the New England Synod would give Imanuel great benefit, so processes were set in motion to make that happen. I was personally privileged to be asked to be a representative between our two congregations.



The process would take a year, during which time monthly informational meetings would be held at our Synod offices. By this time, Imanuel's first fulltime pastor had arrived from Jakarta. This was Pastor Robert Waworuntu, arriving first alone, then eventually joined by wife Fera (also an ordained pastor in the Christian Reformed Church), son Robbie and daughter Pam.

Throughout 2006, month by month, Pastors Waworuntu and Opderbecke, Imanuel's Church Council and I gathered with a Synod advisor to pray, learn and talk over obstacles and successes. Our sessions always began with prayer and month by month, Imanuel folks communicated to us what was happening to their friends and family back in Indonesia. In primarily Muslim Indonesia, Christians are often persecuted. We heard about church burnings, beatings, job losses, bank accounts mysteriously disappearing, extortion, physical torture, sometimes even murder. We prayed; we wept.

Our sessions included the joys of life as well—births, engagements announced, weddings and graduations celebrated in absentia by friends and family separated by oceans. And we ate! Imanuel members always brought food. (It was at one of those monthly sessions where I was introduced to my absolute favorite: wonderfully sweet pandan cake.) In 2007 our Indonesian congregation officially became Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church. Of course, we celebrated with food. Imanuel rented a local banquet hall in Portsmouth and hired caterers. The two congregations came together for a night of feasting, toasting, dancing, praying, singing, and rejoicing. Since then, Imanuel and Holy Trinity each hold separate worship services on Sunday, but almost all our other activities are shared. Confirmation classes are co-taught and both groups are confirmed at the same service on Reformation. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, other holidays and holy days, congregational picnics and social events are shared. Vacation Bible School is combined. One year an Imanuel member taught Indonesian language classes for HT folks. We attend each other's weddings, baptisms and other family celebrations. We've shared a book group and Tables of Eight (random groups matched for home suppers). And yes, we've shared cooking lessons!

Some Imanuel members have shared their immigration experiences publicly throughout the Seacoast, at churches, social gatherings, political and other organizational meetings. Without naming names—that must be left only to the individuals—I can tell some of what they've endured. One friend made the decision to leave his country after he was beaten literally to within an inch of his life simply because he is Christian and "looks Chinese." Another friend made her decision after she was threatened on a bus ride by a man with a knife in her ribs on one side and another afflicting cigarette burns on the other, demanding that she remove the cross from around her neck. A motorcycle was rear-ended because the bike bore a Christian symbol. A young woman was refused employment when the agency discovered she was Christian. I listen, I feel sadness, and I am unable to understand how cruel we humans can be.

Through hearing their stories and walking side by side with them in their adopted country, Holy Trinity learns about immigration, its challenges and difficulties. Imanuel learns about Americanism and Lutheran history. Over the years together we've sought legal help from synod and from lawyers in our own congregation. We've been made aware of the hard work it takes to change cultures.

The worship service is over and the party for Esther is well underway. It will continue through the afternoon and into the evening, but I have another meeting I need to attend, so I begin to excuse myself. As I say goodbye a huge, foil-wrapped package is pressed into my hands. I know I'll be eating well tonight! I am reminded that even our holiest moments include food. Food equals culture shared. Food equals love.