

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

God's Work Our Hands

Our church is approaching a very busy season. We will be dedicating three Sundays in October to visits from service organizations that HTELC supports locally. In addition to Ministry Minutes, these representatives will be available after services to answer any questions. The scheduled speakers are:

October 2: Tammy Josslyn, Operation Blessing;

October 9: Jen Berry, End 68 Hours of Hunger;

October 16, Bret Hudson, Good News Garage.



On October 23, we have an off-site event scheduled at 1:00. Operation Blessing needs to get their warming building prepped for the winter season. This structure is used for homeless people to sleep when the temperature falls below 20F. The chores include vacuuming floors, cleaning windows, making up the beds and cleaning the Plexiglas partitions. There is also a coffee bar that will need to be set up. It is hoped that we will have enough help to complete this task in less than 2 hours. (As an aside, the Pats are on MNF that week!) A signup sheet at the welcoming table in the Narthex. Please help in any way that you can!

Faith Formation Teachers

Looking for teachers, so we can restart our children's programs. Interested? Contact Lara Scammon (dscammon@aol.com) or the church office.



President's Article

I imagine you all remember Pastor Larson discussing the New Testament book of Hebrews while he was with us for the 4 Sundays in August. Hebrews 11:1 says ..."faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." I was reminded of that verse this past Sunday when I talked about where we are in our journey to bring a new pastor to Holy Trinity. We are right now at a critical juncture in this journey. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been submitted to the Synod office in preparation for being posted on the website for review by rostered clergy in New England and around the country. In addition to Lutheran clergy, there are numerous Protestant denominations with which the ELCA is in communion. Clergy from those other Protestant denominations may also be interested in the position. The future of our search process is unknown, but we have "faith in the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."



At this point, let's pause for a moment thank the team members who have been working to get us to this point, and to pray for the Call Committee members as they lead the interview process. Those who worked on the first component of the journey, that is planning and executing transition activities in preparation to writing the MSP include: Dan Scammon, Rebecca Schrumm, Jessica Feeley, Jeff Morrison, Auderien Soeun, Cheryl Brigham, Byrl Short and Paul Karl as Council liaison. Take a moment to thank them when you see them. The MSP Writing Team utilized the data from all the transition activities to craft the document that we sent this week to the Synod office. The writers are Mark Beliveau, Dot Kasik, Linda Edwards, and Eileen Kackenmeister. They did a masterful job.

The Call Committee is convening now to begin the process of reviewing applications in preparation for interviews. The group will be led by Dick Topping and includes Dave Smith, Julie Moore, Tina Maiorino, Bobbi Febbo, and Stephanie Goupil, with Erlinde Beliveau as Council liaison. Their work must remain confidential so we will not be able to follow developments in their activities. We know from recent discussions that at the moment there are a number of churches in New England as well as several right here in New Hampshire searching for new pastoral leadership. We pray for the Call Committee in this important discernment process and that their minds will be open to the words of the Holy Spirit.

Church Office Article

Every Sunday morning, in the middle of Sunday Worship, our Liturgical Deacon reads the “Prayers of the People”. These prayers are for the earth, for creation, for our military and first responders, for our leaders, and for the congregation. Towards the end of the “Prayers of the People”, we pray for those seeking our help. In fact, in this Sunday’s prayers, we will be praying for the homeless:

“Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need. We pray especially for those whose names we say out loud or silently. God of Grace, hear our prayer.”



Last Sunday morning, I met a homeless man named Johnathan seeking help from our church. He arrived at our doors 15 minutes before worship began, looking for aid in the form of shelter, food, and help recovering a new credit card and driver’s license. I graciously agreed to help him, and suggested that he stay for our Worship service and I will help him out after the service ends. During Worship, Johnathan sat at the back of the Sanctuary, he received communion like the rest of us, and mingled with some of our members during fellowship and coffee hour.

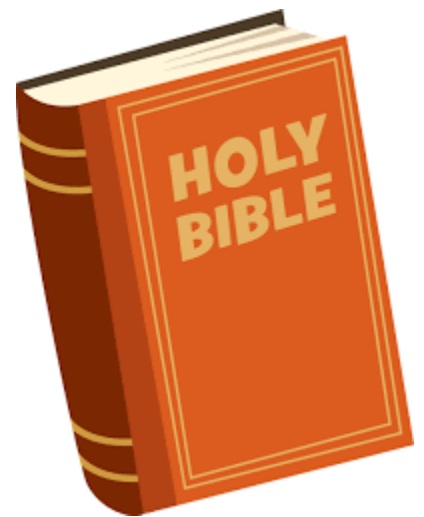
Once fellowship ended and the building was mostly empty, Johnathan called his bank (closed due to the Labor Day holiday), and I walked with him to Walmart to purchase a tent, sleeping bag, tarp, a nice button down shirt for a job interview, and a \$25 gift card for food. You should have seen his face light up when I purchased these items for him; a look of gratitude I don’t see when I help other homeless men who come to our doors.

Since his bank was closed, I invited him back to the church on Tuesday to call them. Fast forward to Tuesday, where Johnathan managed to get a hold of his bank, and they will be sending him a new credit card in the mail to Holy Trinity’s address. Johnathan also interviewed for a job at the D’Angelo’s nearby, but they could not accept him until he has a Photo ID. Thankfully, the manager agreed to give him a job once he has his photo ID.

Right now, all Johnathan can do is wait. He must wait for his credit card to come in the mail so he can buy food and a gym membership to take a shower. He must wait to receive a copy of his birth certificate for a Photo ID, for a simple job at D'Angelo's. He must wait for that job to provide him enough money to find a cheap place to live.

This brings me to the main point of my message to our Holy Trinity family. Johnathan is now living in a tent on our property, in the bushy area between our new highway sign and the old rotary circle. I assume Johnathan will be living on our property for at least a month or two. Outside groups such as AA and Sounds of Seacoast have been notified about his living situation on-site, and I have instructed Johnathan never to enter the church building unless I'm here in the office, with the notable exception being Sunday morning for Worship.

This man is not a threat to our church; just a man down on his luck. He is a gentle person who genuinely appreciates the small things we're doing for him. Johnathan grew up in rural Alabama with no nearby neighbors, and read scripture because he had no one else to talk to besides God. After a short conversation about his faith, I asked him if he currently has a Bible to read. He said yes, but what he really wants is a copy of the New International Version to read. As luck would have it, the church had one on our shelves with a large amount of dust on it; a Bible that I felt would be of better use in his hands than collecting more dust. When I gave the NIV Bible to him, he happily opened it up and thumbed through it.



Johnathan's story and his new relationship with Holy Trinity is a beautiful example of one of our church's guiding principles, one that you see as you enter our Gathering Area: "We are a welcoming congregation that practices hospitality."

This Sunday, when our Liturgical Deacon prays with us during the Prayers of the People, please pray for Johnathan and the other homeless in our area.

Property Team

Parking Lot and Driveway Maintenance: We have accepted a bid from Armor-Guard of Dover to complete maintenance work on our parking lot and driveways. We do not yet have a firm schedule for the work, but we anticipate the work will be done later in September or into October. The first phase of the project will involve cleaning and filling the larger cracks in the pavement. This phase will likely be done in one day, but could extend into a second day. The second phase will involve preparation for sealing (removing vegetation from the edges, any treatment of oil/gas stains) and the application of surface sealant. This phase will likely take two days and could extend into a third day. The final phase will be repainting of the various parking demarcation lines, handicap markings, and direction arrows. This phase will likely be done in a day. With the work taking four or so days to complete, there will be some impacts on access to the property and we will coordinate with the vendor to minimize these impacts. More information will be provided when the schedule becomes firm.



Skylight Windows in the Sanctuary: As mentioned in our last report, the skylight windows in the ceiling of the Sanctuary are not operating correctly. These windows are opened and closed remotely from a control switch in the sound system closet. This summer we noticed that the windows can be opened (fully or partially), but will not remain open (fully or partially.) A few seconds after being opened, the window motor controllers close the window. We have contacted the manufacturer (Velux) who suggested some possible reasons, but they could not resolve the problem. They suggested that the windows are well past their useful life. They do not have parts for these older windows and do not send out service personnel unless they have the parts to fix the problem. We have also contacted a local company that installs and services Velux skylight windows. They do not service older Velux windows such as ours. We will continue to seek a solution, but for now, the windows will remain closed. Questions to ponder. Do we really need skylights that open? Do we really need skylights at all?

It's Not Too Late to Start Confirmation Classes.

All grade 7 & up students who want to be confirmed may still sign up for confirmation classes and events although the first 2022-23 confirmation class was on September 11. Students will get their personal copy of the Here We Stand Student Book and an NRSV Bible. They and their parents will also receive Class & Event Plan Outlines for the coming school year. Students also sign-up for involvement in the life of our church and their respective communities. Parents are asked to periodically help as chaperones, drivers and class monitors. The 2022-23 confirmation classes and events are taught/led by the team of Pastor Luther, Lara Scammon and Glenn Oswald. Second and third year confirmation students who've had one or more years with Pastor Krick and who wish to be confirmed this year can be assured that their sessions with Pastor Krick are taken into account in determining their individual requirements.



Walk the Walk - Final Results

Thanks to our Congregation, Holy Trinity walked 6,463 miles between 35 members in order to help raise funds for Camp Calumet in July and August. Good job, Team Holy Trinity!

