

November 27, December 4 & 11, 2022

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Call Committee Update: December 11, 2022

Thank you for faithfully praying for the Call Committee every week. Now would be a good time for a quick update.

About a month and a half ago we were provided by the NE Synod with the resume of a candidate that the Synod felt matched our needs. The Call Committee interviewed the candidate and we agreed that it looked like a good match. We then started reviewing the candidate's qualifications, sermons and items written by the candidate. As we were getting ready to conduct a follow-up interview, we got word that the candidate had accepted a call to another congregation.



We get one resume at a time from the NE Synod to evaluate. However, any candidate can interview in any and all synods across the country at the same time, and apparently, that's what happened.

So we are back to square one. We're hoping to get another recommendation from our Synod of a candidate that is a good match with HTELC, but we're told it won't happen until next month at the earliest. An issue we are facing is that there are many more churches currently looking for pastors than there are pastors available.

This gives us more opportunity to appreciate Pastor Luther, who has been a fantastic interim Pastor. Keep praying that God sends the right candidate to us and we will wait on Him for that to happen.

Offering Envelopes are available for 2023.

If you had an envelope for 2022, your new envelopes can be found in your congregational mailbox. Additional offering envelopes are available – please speak with the Church Office if you do not have an envelope and would like one.

Pastor Luther's Article: December 1, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

It can be a challenge to maintain hope in a world as dark as ours, as we witness the tragic war in Ukraine drag on, watch innocent people across America continue to fall victim to our national love affair with guns, and remember that some countries have been plagued by violent conflict for a very long time (e.g., Afghanistan, Yemen, Mali, Haiti, Myanmar, Venezuela, Honduras, to name a few). Where is the good news in all this, I want to ask myself?

And yet, when I start to feel such despair overtake me, I remind myself that the Christian faith was born into a world every bit as violent as ours. Indeed, in an important respect the whole point of the Incarnation, of God coming into our world, was precisely to confront humanity's violent ways so that we might be saved from ourselves. And the fact of the matter is that God did not allow the darkness to extinguish the light then, and He will not now. This is the conviction of Advent.

This theological truth is beautifully captured by the writer Madeleine L'Engle in her poem "First Coming." I always go back to it during the season of Advent and I commend it to your prayers.



First Coming

by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and
great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin
and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

President's Article

Just one week ago today, many of us gathered with family or friends to celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving, intended as a time to give thanks for many blessings – not only food, but for family, friends, wonders of God's creation, health, and a long list of various items that may be particularly significant in each of our lives. In this time of Advent which is the start of the new church year as we await the coming of Christ Jesus, I am deeply thankful for our church family, and the many groups and individuals who are the cornerstone of our mission: Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the Lord. I ask you to join me in thanking and praying for these teams and individuals:

- Worship Team, including altar guild workers, musicians, and worship assistants who support Sunday worship, midweek worship in Advent and Lent, and many special services;
- Fellowship Team, supporting ways our church family can come together to know one another;
- Faith Formation Team, developing and implementing ways for children and adults to grow deeper in their faith;
- Library Team, providing resources to guide us on our faith journey;
- Caring Connections that provides services for our church family as we strive to stay healthy, and caring support when we are in need;
- Social Ministry, supporting social justice and financial support to those in need working with domestic and international partners;
- Property Team, who work tirelessly to maintain our building and property, and prepare our sanctuary for special services and seasons;
- Stewardship Team, helping us use our gifts and talents in a meaningful way;
- Call Committee, currently leading our search for a new pastor.
- Church Council, providing for the coordination of all the above;
- Additionally, there are ad hoc groups who convene for special tasks such as the Nominating Team and the Audit Team.
- And of course, there are individuals who work in a myriad of ways to support our mission, including those who work in the church office: counters, financial experts, and of course, Mark who makes all things happen. We give thanks to Pastor Luther who has graciously shared his faith, expertise and spiritual presence with us since January.



Please give thanks and pray for our brother and sisters. And please prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts in one of these many ways in which we work together to serve the Lord.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us on Saturday, December 24 for a wonderful Christmas Eve Worship Service. We will have two worship services:

- **At 4:00 PM, we will have a Family worship service.** This is a fantastic service to bring young children, as they are encouraged to participate during the entire service. We likely will have glow sticks for the children, instead of candles.
- **At 8:00 PM, we will have our Candlelight Eucharistic service.** All are welcome to hear the good news on this Christmas Eve night.

The 8:00 PM service will be livestreamed at 8:00 PM, or available to watch anytime afterwards. Our 4:00 PM service will be recorded and uploaded to our webpage on Christmas Day, December 25.

Social Ministry Team Report

The Social Ministry Team has entered the busiest “crunch time” of the year. During October we heard from speakers representing four of the local ministries that HTELC financially supports. The month ended with an off-site group activity, preparing the Operation Blessing Warming Station for cold weather use. In just one hour ten volunteers vacuumed, cleaned, set up beds and repaired Covid-required plexiglass barriers, in preparation for when the nighttime temperatures drop below 20F.



Thanks to the generosity of our members, there were 157 items on the tree. (Some items are obviously pairs!) Mittens: 21, Gloves 47, Hat and mitten sets 2, Hat and scarf sets 2, Scarves 10, Socks 25 and Hats 50. These items will be delivered this week.

HTELC donated generously to Operation Blessing’s Thanksgiving Basket. The final tally amounted to 197 pounds of food items in addition to the gift cards to Hannaford’s and Market Basket. The Mitten Tree was heavily decorated in the Narthex. 157 items were collected and will be distributed this week. Toys for Tots is in full swing. Toys will be collected Sunday for delivery to the USMC. With the resumption of in-person dining, Dover Friendly Kitchen continues to serve our neighbors with a hot meal and fellowship. The SM Team would also like to thank those HTELC members who have chosen to continue their generous monetary donations. We will soon be announcing which ministries will be receiving additional disbursements from our church.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Social Ministry Team,

Jessica Feeley

CaringConnections

College packages are done and in the mail. This year we did 22 packages. Thank you to everyone who had a role in making this possible and making it so successful.



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 6 Thursdays and 1 Wednesday throughout the school year.

Our next packing date is Thursday, December 15th. 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 around 45 minutes to pack 50-60 bags.

End 68 HOH Scheduled Packing Dates for HTELC 2022-2023

- Dec. 15
- Jan. 26
- Mar. 9
- Apr. 13
- June 1

We welcome all volunteers!

If you are interested in joining our team please email us (mckenna.kathy.62@gmail.com) or Lauren Gianino(pglg813@comcast.net). Let us know if you have any questions. Kathy McKenna & Lauren Gianino



Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, Alice Peterson, George Parseghian, Sarah Meier, Judy Hollister, Don Gindlesperger, Steve Bush, Joyce Rivoire, Richard Anderson, Yvonne Topping, Dave Smith, Larry Sanders, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Linda Swiatocha. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Edith Rowan, Barbara Werdelin, Ron Evers, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Matthew Hanrahan, Brendan Podszus, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot.

Friends: Martha LaPerle (Betty King's friend), Cinda DeWerff (Rich Wilcox's sister), Sage Pirnie (Jessica Feeley's friend's grandchild), Anita Creager (Jill & Jerry Schock's friend), Susan Fischer (Lois Kfoury's cousin), Katy and Sherry (Shirley Jackson's daughter and sister), Linda Smith and Bill Hutchins (Jill Larson's friends), Geri Sieg (former member of Holy Trinity), Casey Lavoie (Stephanie Goupil's friend), Monica Amundson (Julie Moore's friend), Danielle Elwanger & family (Bobbie Febbo's granddaughter) Linda Aten (Rich Wilcox's sister).

Prayers will be listed for 6 weeks unless told otherwise. If you would like a prayer concern listed in the bulletin, please fill out a Prayer Request at the Usher's table or contact the Church Office at office@htelc.com.

Monthly Attendance & Offering

Sunday, November 6:	87 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 23 (<i>Online</i>) = 110	Offering:	\$10,575.40
Sunday, November 13:	99 (<i>In-Person</i>) + No Online = 99	Offering:	\$4,771.95
Sunday, November 20:	94 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 16 (<i>Online</i>) = 110	Offering:	\$6,337.85
Sunday, November 27:	74 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 26 (<i>Online</i>) = 100	Offering:	\$4,688.95

Calendar at-a-glance

Christmas Eve Worship, December 24.

4:00 PM Family Service

8:00 PM Eucharistic Service

A Service of Lessons and Carols (no Communion), December 25 at 9:30 AM

A Service of Lessons and Carols (with Communion), January 1 at 9:30 AM

Confirmation Class, Sundays after Worship.

Wednesday Bible Study, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM during Advent.

Soup and Supper, Wednesdays at 6:00 PM during Advent.

Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM during Advent

Property Team, Thursdays at 8:00 AM until noon.