

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

22 Fox Run Road * Newington, NH 03801 * 603-436-1704

office@htelc.com

Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Our Phone Lines are back on!

Great news! After two weeks of our phone lines being down, the Church Office phone is back up. Feel free to call us again at (603) 436-1704 with anything you need from the Church.

Pop-Up Pantry

Our new ministry of a “Pop-Up Pantry” is in its fifth week and is gaining more and more interest. We are setting up the Pantry in front of the church along the road which makes it easy for cars to stop on Thursdays. We found that making bags for people to “grab and go” is working out well. Last week 10 out of 15 bags were taken over an 8 hour period. This is a lot of food and wonderful support for our seacoast community who are in need! In addition to the nonperishable food, produce has also been donated by HT home gardeners and the local Heron Pond Farm.

Thank you to ALL the food donations that have been brought to church. Please find the list of food for you to consider purchasing when you go shopping. If you are interested in getting involved with this ministry in any way please contact Cristina (foggdrive@yahoo.com) or leave a message at church Pastor Tim or Mark.

We are excited to see how this increasingly important ministry will evolve as the needs change in our area.



Pastor Tim's Article: July 30, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As soon as I finish this letter to you for the Tiding's I am headed home and will begin vacation! So, I will keep it brief. As most of you know, we have started receiving communion again. Not every week, but we will be doing it on the first and third Sundays of the month while worship remains online.

We know there are some people who are not able to access worship through zoom, and therefore do not have access to communion. This is a similar problem to when we had worship and communion in the building and not everyone was able to attend. To enable everyone to have access to the sacraments (specifically communion) we will start doing home communion visits again. Our communion visitors will use the elements that we provide from church and visit people who do not have access to our online worship. If this is you, and you would like to receive communion, please contact the church office and we will make arrangements for you to receive communion. No one should be left out of receiving God's love and forgiveness in this way. We will resume communion on the Sunday I return, Aug. 17th and then begin receiving communion on the first and third Sundays of every month.



As always, thank you for the ways you have continued to adapt to worshipping in this new way. I wish I could say when we will be back in our sanctuary. Honestly, to even have a “hoped for” date seems misleading as numbers and information seem to constantly be in flux. I encourage you to sign up for the Weekly Outdoor Gatherings, as you are able and are comfortable. Kids and adults are welcome at either one, even though each does have its own, unique feel. People have said how much they have appreciated being back on our property and seeing each other. Plus, each Tuesday evening I start off with a killer joke. Just ask anyone who has been there! :)

Thanks for your patience during this time of exile from our building. Have a great day and “see” you again in a couple of weeks.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Property Team

This continues to be an unusual and challenging year for the property team.

The virus issue has limited our volunteer participation through most of this year's outdoor growing season, but we have been able to keep up with most of the outside work. In recent weeks many of our regular volunteers have begun to come back on a regular basis and our outside work accomplishments are returning to normal.

When you have an opportunity to drop by the church, please take note. We have managed to keep up with the routine mowing and trimming, the gardens and plantings, shrubs, tree trimming and pruning. A tree and selected bushes have been removed. Extensive clearing of brush and other growth has been completed on the property perimeter. A big job, removal of a large, dead elm tree near our entry driveway, remains. We hope to hire a tree removal professional for that one before winter. Each year some inevitable cracks appear in our parking lot and driveways, and the ubiquitous weed growth appears through the cracks. We plan to get these cracks cleaned and sealed before winter.

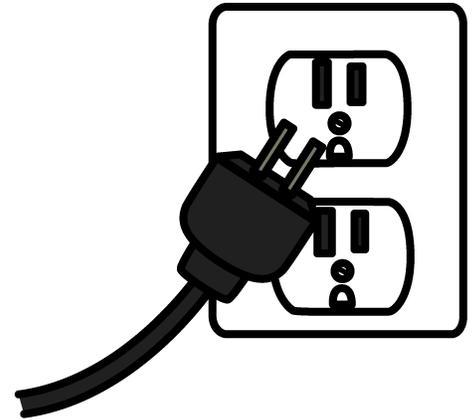


If you are one of those Holy Trinity folks who sometimes need to carry trash bags out to our trash bins beside the storage shed, I hope you have noticed it is much easier to lift the heavy lids of the trash bins. You can thank Bob Hollister, Stuart and Gisela Wimple for installing hydraulic lift cylinders on the lids and adding reinforcement to the edges of the lids. We have experienced some growing pains with the lifters, but they generally work well. We will get the kinks worked out.

Given the limited use of our building facilities, property team work inside the building has also been limited, but recent storm power-surge issues experienced at the church in July have introduced some new challenges. We are actively working with several contractors with a goal of replacing our existing fire alarm system that was damaged in the July storm and for which replacement parts are no longer available. This work will be ongoing into the fall. We have also been involved directly and indirectly in various ways supporting resolutions to other storm surge related equipment damage at the church and supporting an insurance claim for this damage.

We have recently been working with two different electricians to resolve questions and issues concerning our main electrical control panel in the basement that provides electrical power to all parts of the building. In July two circuit breakers in this electrical panel were found to have failed significantly and were replaced. It is unlikely that this problem was caused by the storm, but it was discovered as part of our evaluation of storm damage to components powered from this panel. These circuit breakers impacted lighting and wall outlets in the basement, but also several outlets in the conference room and one in the kitchen. Both of our refrigerators lost power for several days. It appears that one of these refrigerators is no longer useable.

Evaluation of the breaker panel also identified some form and fit issues with circuit breakers in the panel that need to be resolved at some point. None of these panel issues are related to the July storm, but we have investigated adding surge protection to this breaker panel to minimize the possibility of similar power surge problems in the future. This could involve replacement of, or significant modifications to, the existing panel.



As part of our ongoing work to resolve concerns identified by the Newington fire department last year, we have been working to provide steps at three emergency exit door locations. As is often the case for our older building, these projects sometimes lead to additional issues that we would not have known about had we not been pursuing unrelated work. In this particular case we have discovered quite a bit of rotten, water-damaged wood near ground level in the vicinity of the wiggle room emergency exit door. We are working to resolve this issue. As I am fond of saying because it's so true in the area of property matters, "The Beat Goes On." There is always something to do even if we don't know what it is yet!

Dave Mercer, Property Team Leader