

August 30 & September 6, 2020

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Online Worship is now available LIVE on Facebook Live.

If you haven't been able to worship with us on Zoom on Sunday mornings, we're now able to stream the Online Worship on Sunday mornings to our Facebook Page. No Zoom download client needed. You'll be able to see and hear Pastor, as well as the Worship Slides, but you won't be able to see or interact with those participating on Zoom.

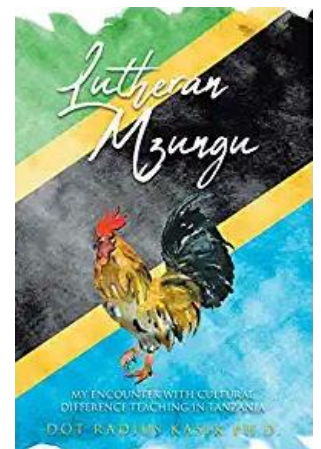


We're working on streaming the Online Worship from Zoom to our website, for those of you who cannot access Zoom or Facebook. Go to our Facebook page on Sundays at 9:30AM to attend: www.facebook.com/holytrinityevangelicallutheranchurch

Alternatively, the pre-recorded videos of our Sunday Online Worship are posted to our webpage every Monday. Just go to www.htelc.com/online-worship-services.

Lutheran Mzungu

Our own Dot Kasik has published a book titled, "Lutheran Mzungu". The book tells the story of how Holy Trinity and Isimani Lutheran in Tanzania became partnered through Bega Kwa Bega, then develops into Russ Hilliard's and Dot's experiences the year they taught at Tumaini Lutheran University. Order the book on Amazon.com by searching for "Lutheran Mzungu"



Pastor Tim's Article: 8/20/2020

To my siblings in Christ,

As you know, there is a lot going on in the world. Honestly, it seems like most of us are on edge. Schools are announcing how they are going to teach students in the fall. This can cause so many emotions in administrators, teachers, parents, school staff and students. One person might be pleased and confident with the decisions, while another has several choice words for those same decisions. We are gearing up for not just an election season, but a Presidential election season. The one thing everyone seems to agree on is that this is an important election that will have affects for decades to come. Therefore, people seem to be nervous, scared, excited, or anxious about what may or may not happen. Finally, you have the situations that are specific to you. You might have job insecurity.

You might be in an unhealthy relationship.

Depression could be a regular part of your day. I don't know what it is, but I am willing to bet, at some level you wish something could be going differently or better.



With all of the proceeding, this is what I ask of you.

Be kind. Be kind to yourself. Be kind to one

another. Be kind to the people you love. Be kind to the people you struggle with and who struggle with you. Be kind because everyone is fighting a battle that you know nothing about.

We already put enough pressure and stress on ourselves and criticize ourselves that we don't need each other to help us out in that department. What we need is for each other to model kindness, forgiveness and empathy.

You don't have to agree with someone to be kind to them. You don't even have to like someone to be kind to them. Remember, Jesus doesn't say to "like" everyone, as if you are going to be best friends with everyone you meet. Jesus says to love everyone. The way we express love is not dependent on whether we get along with someone or share common interests. Love is rooted in recognizing the common worth and value that each and every person inherently has within them because they are created in the image of God, even if we feel we have a hard time seeing that image ourselves. Remember, they might have a hard time seeing that same image of God when looking at us!

You have heard me say, the three most important rules when interpreting scripture is, "Context. Context. Context." I just ran across another quote by American author Henry James, who wrote at the turn of the 19th Century. He says, "Three things in life are important. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind." Seems like words that God could have written.

Be Kind.

Pastor Tim

CaringConnections

Hi Everyone,

Hard to believe that September is just around the corner already! If you're like me you have found ways to adapt to how things are now. You probably have new routines and maybe trying new things! I have been crocheting a lot. I have realized why I always loved it; it's about the quiet, solitude and time to reflect! So although times are different and can be difficult I appreciate the fact that I have found different things to do, that I always loved but never made time for! Hopefully you are also able to find joy in new things you are doing or old things you have rediscovered!

I wanted to remind you that CaringConnections is still here! Sure things are quiet now but if there is someone with a need, meals, visits, communion, a comfort/prayer shawl, a note or call please let me know. All of these things are possible but like most everything they will be a little different. If you need something please let me/us know!



I know we have college students who may have returned to campus or maybe are doing online studies! We want to make sure that regardless of where they are, we know so we can reach out to them too!

My hope for everyone is that you are well, busy and find joy in the little things!

Cheryl

Pastor Tim's Article: August 24, 2020

To my family in Christ,

In worship on Zoom yesterday, you saw a video with Knute Ogren, the Development Director at Camp Calumet. (If want to see it, go to our website, www.htelc.com, to watch the worship. Knute begins at the 6:30 mark.) In it, he talked about Reach the Beach. In the past, 72 people ran in support of Calumet, along with hundreds of volunteers and participated in a Ragnar race here in New Hampshire. If you don't know what that means, just know that a lot of people run a long time and raise a lot of money for Calumet. In fact, they raise northwards of \$100,000 each year! Unfortunately, Reach the Beach has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Therefore, Calumet has tried to be creative to try and raise that money and so they are doing their own version of Reach the Beach.

There are 3 ways you can help. First and foremost, hold Calumet in your prayers. Calumet holds a special place in the hearts and faith development of so many people. Pray for the camp to remain in a place of financial security so their work will continue for generations to come. Second, be a runner! They are looking for 200 runners to run whatever distance they want at whatever time they want during the weekend of Sept. 18-19. They are asking for a \$100 donation to participate. THE CHURCH WILL PAY THIS! Third, be a donor or sponsor of a runner. Each runner is asked to find 5 sponsors to make a donation of any amount to Calumet. If all you can do is \$5, that is great as that counts as being a sponsor. No gift is to small and no gift is to large.



If you choose the second or third option (runner or sponsor), please email me at pastortim@htelc.com. I will then send out the information you need to sign up to run or to sponsor a runner. Currently, we have 5 runners (do the math in your head, but that means are looking for 25 sponsors) and 2 sponsors (again, due the math in your head, but that means we are looking for 23 more sponsors).

This should be a great time as there are some ideas brewing about how can we be a little creative with our runs so it has more of a community feel. Thanks for all the ways you have supported Calumet in the past and will continue to do in the future. It makes a difference. Boom! Chicka! Boom! (If you didn't know, this is a Calumet thing.)

Pastor Tim's Article: August 31, 2020

What's up y'all?

(How do you like my new greeting? I thought I would try a new one each week on Tidings. Enjoy!)

The weekend coming up is Labor Day. As you know, it signifies the unofficial end to summer. Schools are starting, the days are starting to feel shorter and vacations are over. Because of everything going on, this weekend might have a different feel to it. Schools are starting, but depending on where you live and what district your child attends, they might be going to the actual school building or they might be starting school from your dining room table. The days are still getting shorter, but you may not have been able to take a vacation this year.

I don't know your situation, but I have a feeling, you could use a rest. I think this is the intention of Labor Day. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the work one has done and to take a break from it. I don't know about you, but I feel that I could use a rest.



Our faith has a word for taking a rest from work also. It is called sabbath. The first chapter of Genesis stresses this. On the seventh day, God rested.

I don't have any profound words, but I know sometimes, we need permission to rest. Our society values and rewards hard work. There is nothing wrong with hard work. It is needed, but it is not the only thing that is needed. Rest is needed also. If we don't stop and rest, we would not be able to continue to do the important work that we are called to do.

This Labor Day weekend I hope you find time to rest. You get to determine what it looks like to rest. For some, it might mean working on a project that they find to be life-giving. For others, it might mean sitting down and reading a book and a beverage next to them. Who knows, the point is to find something that restores your soul and helps you breathe a little easier.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Confirmation

I owe you all a huge apology. While Holy Trinity has done a lot of good things to adapt during the ever-changing circumstances that have been brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, I have failed miserably in one area. That specific area is confirmation. I have no excuses that are worth your time or are legitimate. I have simply let you down and I apologize. I understand if you are frustrated or angry about it and I can only ask for your forgiveness. I am sorry.

Despite the current situation we are living in, faith formation for confirmation-aged youth has always difficult. Churches for decades have tried to come up with something that is “new and improved” to keep our kids in the church and faith, only to see the majority of them leave once they have the opportunity to choose for themselves. There are many theories and opinions on why this occurs but part of my prevailing theory is that as a Church we focus too much on head knowledge (are they able to repeat and recall basic information about the Bible and Jesus) but not actually ask them or demonstrate ways to practice the faith. There is a scene from the TV show “Big Bang Theory” in which Sheldon insists that he has learned how to swim. Leonard reminds him that he only learned on the internet and floor and has never actually gone swimming. I believe this similar to what we do. We insist our youth, and all of us, know basic facts without ever understanding how to put it into proper practice in our lives.



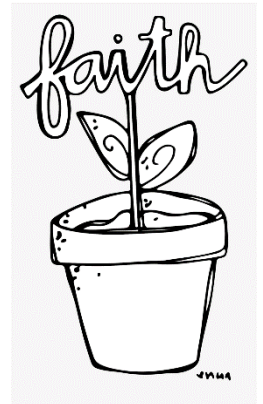
I also understand there are other issues that faith, church and confirmation pose for individuals and families. Time is a major constraint. We all have so many activities and options to participate so that we cannot always attend “class” or make it to worship (even when worship has been online the last several months). Therefore, one thing I would like to change this year is the ability to put more of the “learning and practicing” in your own hands to do on your own time. Then when we gather (whether physically or on zoom) it will be more of a “debrief” than it is teaching.

I would like to structure confirmation on what are called the “6 Marks of Discipleship.” The idea is that people who become/are disciples of Jesus do 6 things on a regular basis. They are: Pray, Worship, Read and learn about scripture, Serve the church and the world, Give to those in need, and Encourage one another. Every month, each confirmation youth will be asked to practice each of the “6 Marks.” They will have the opportunity and will be empowered to practice it when they would like and, in some instances, how they would like. Parents are

asked to oversee that it is being practiced and to help where asked and designated. We will meet every month, either on zoom or at church to talk about questions and to share experiences.

What I hope to accomplish is to support the youth to learn about and practice their faith by developing habits that can continue throughout life that will continue long after they reach their point in life where church and faith is their choice and not one that is chosen for them by family.

Lastly, some youth are planning on being confirmed or affirming their baptism this fall (students in 9th grade and older). That is still possible. This is what I ask. The youth needs to participate in confirmation for September and October and then complete a “Faith Statement” like youth of the previous years have done. I will give this to them when we first meet. What the confirmation service will look like is still to be determined, but in keeping with tradition here at Holy Trinity, it will be around Reformation Sunday, October 25th.



I would like to meet, in person at church, outside and under the tent on September 13th at 6pm. Each youth and an adult should plan on attending. At this meeting, I hope to cover expectations, again apologize for the lack of communication and opportunities for confirmation and ensure we are on the same page moving forward.

If you would like a sneak peek at a great resource we will be using for the “Read and Learn about Scripture” “Mark of Discipleship”, go to www.bibleproject.com. They have terrific videos that will provide much of our content. They are good for people of all ages.

Please let me know that you will be able to join us on Sept. 13th at 6pm. You can email me at pastortim@htelc.com

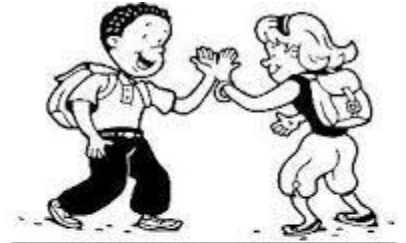
Have a great day,

Pastor Tim

End 68 Hours of Hunger

Due to the increased need during the pandemic End 68 Hours of Hunger is continuing to provide food bags for Portsmouth families throughout the summer months. Taking into account the safety of our Holy Trinity team members we made the decision to have only the team leaders and members of their households do the monthly packing. We hope to be able to resume packing as a team in the fall if and when it is safe to do so.

Lauren Gianino and Kathy McKenna



End 68 Hours of Hunger

Operation Blessing

From the desk of Tammy Josyln, Director:

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for you! Thank you for joining us as we walk alongside those who are going through difficult times during this unprecedented season.

We are putting out a call for a need that we have and we wanted to give you the opportunity to help. We are in need of new and/or gently used fall-winter clothing for men/women, boys/girls, all ages and sizes.

We are coming into the cooler season and soon into winter. If you are able to help please call us at 603-430-8561 or email at admin@theobnh.org.

We receive donations from Wednesday – Friday.

What we do would be impossible without you. Thank you!

In His love and service,
Tammy



