

June 21 & 28, 2020

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

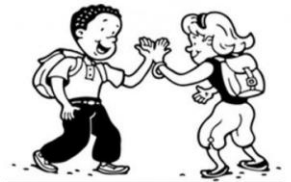
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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

End 68 Hours of Hunger Update

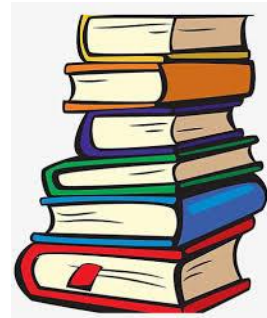
Due to the increased need during the pandemic End 68 Hours of Hunger is continuing to provide food bags for Portsmouth families throughout the summer months. Taking into account the safety of our Holy Trinity team members we made the decision to have only the team leaders and members of their households 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®**

Notes on the BGLibrary

The Library is open for business! When you sign up to sit in the sanctuary this week, visit the Library afterward for some interesting reading while social distancing. Our building will also be open for limited entrance during the new outdoor worship events. Check out displays about diversity and racism for serious study and find a novel for relaxation. Wear your mask and keep socially distanced and happy reading!



News from Camp Calumet

For those of you who don't yet know, Calumet -- the New England Synod's Outdoor Ministry located in Freedom, NH -- is having a one-day fundraising campaign on Sunday, June 28th. It will be an epic, 14-Hour event starting at 7 AM ... Facebook updates every hour on the hour ... ending with a fantastic Campfire beginning at 7:30 PM on Facebook Live. Everyone is invited to participate in any way they can. The goal is to hear from 2,650 donors on June 28th -- a very bold effort, for sure. But there are so many people who love Calumet. Will you consider being one of the 2,650 donors? Many hands make light work! Calumet is a place for all people ... a ministry center where Every Single One is reminded that God loves the heck out of them. Learn more about the June 28th one-day campaign by visiting www.calumet.org. Thank you! Boom Chicka Boom!"

Pastor Tim's Article: June 15, 2020

Welcome to another week! I just want to make you all aware of a couple new things going on.

First, if you missed worship yesterday, in place of Fellowship, Cristina Dolcino, the Council President, and I did a State of the Church Address. This was in place of our Semi- Annual meeting, which we were not able to hold. It is approximately 17 minutes long and addresses all things Holy Trinity and you can find it on our website www.htelc.com. If you have questions after watching it, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at pastortim@htelc.com or by calling the church office. I welcome all conversations. *(You can read a summary of the State of the Church address on Page ? of this issue of the Tidings.)*

Second, we now have Anti-Racist resources for kids and parents on our website. You can find them under the "Grow" tab, labeled "Anti-Racist Resources."

Lastly, I am sure most of you remember the old NBC slogan, "The More You Know." So much of our faith and life is learning. It is having the attitude that we don't know everything and there is always more to learn. It means challenging our old ways of thinking and opening ourselves up to new ideas and insights. This doesn't mean the new ideas or insights are always going to be correct, but we shouldn't always believe what we were first taught is correct either.

Perhaps here is another way of getting a similar idea across. I learned it while listening to the most recent podcast from Brene Brown. She said, when discussing the issue of race and racism, "It is not about whether you are a good person or not, it is about the idea that we all can become better people." I like to think I am a good person, but I hope I can be a better person. I think the same is true for you also.

May we pray for each other on our journey to become better people. More like the people God created us to be.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tim



President's Article

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).”

“On June 27, 2019, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted the following declaration as a statement addressed to people of African descent.” This document entitled, “Explanation of the declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” serves as an apology to people of African descent for ECLA’s “complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. “This apology goes on to state that the Lutheran church still needs to recognize the fact that slavery created and perpetuated racism through the falsehoods of racial inferiority and demonization of black people. For 246 years over 12 million people from Africa were enslaved, killed, tortured, and stolen from their native countries and put into slavery. “Although the practice of slavery was legal, it was morally and ethically wrong. The ELCA has defined racism as sin, but that acknowledgement requires examination of complicity in slavery.”This document goes further to explain historical figures and events related to Lutherans, slavery, and racism.



I feel part of this sin. I recognize my biased thoughts and the benefits I have been given and unearned, knowingly or unknowingly, because of my white skin. People of color, instead experience exclusion due to institutional (systemic) racism. Institutional racism is when resources, power, and opportunity are beneficial to white people at the exclusion to people of color (e.g., slavery, education, housing, healthcare.)The declaration from the ELCA continues with writing about the history of slavery and Lutheran’s involvement in it, the how and why today’s Lutherans are part of the apology, and where the Lutheran Church should go from here (link to declaration is below).

In Pastor Tim’s recent online services, he has been using the white board to help us understand about terms related to racism and how the gospel is pertinent as we move through these challenging times. In last Sunday’s gospel reading, Mathew 9:35-10:8, Jesus reminds us we are to go out, be with, and show compassion to the helpless and harassed. The helpless and harassed who may be:

- lonely and spiritually yearning while at home due to the pandemic.
- working through unemployment and the many factors related to job insecurity or loss.
- exhausted after a lifetime of policies, laws, and biases due to an imbalance of power.

The scripture, this ECLA document, and Pastor's sermons and writings encourages and challenges us to reflect upon how people of color are significantly marginalized because of overt (intentional) and implicit (implied, unexpressed) characteristics. Pastor is offering for us to better understand the terms and societal factors of racism, reminding us to "go out and be the church" in whatever ways possible. Holy Trinity's members have opportunities to practice and support anti-racism through the ministries of Seacoast Promise, Gather, 68 Hours of Hunger, Dover Friendly Kitchen, or Holy Trinity's new Pop-Up Pantry. Jesus calls us to be compassionate and the ECLA calls us to engage in anti-racism and racial justice that promotes economic equity. We can all pray for each other as our growing understanding and knowledge creates stronger words and actions for all are one in Christ Jesus.



I understand some members might disagree with much of what we are learning. If you have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Tim to discuss these ideas further. We can only learn through conversation.

Stewardship Team

Stewardship derives from the word "steward". A steward is one who oversees or cares for something or someone. Therefore stewardship is the act of caring. We tend to think of stewardship, as it relates to the church, as giving money. It is necessary that we give to the church; however; stewardship is much broader than giving money. It is the "End 68 Hours of Hunger" program. It is the Thursday morning work group who care for our church building. It is our Pastor as he cares for us when we are in distress or when he preaches the gospel. It is us when we wear our facemasks or physically distance ourselves to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. It is us as we act for others in our jobs or professions. I urge us to think of all the ways we act as stewards.

In the Gospel lesson from last Sunday, Jesus sent the twelve apostles to the lost ones of Israel. He told them to heal the sick, raise the dead, cure leprosy, and cast out demons. Can we do any less?



Social Ministry Team

Thanks so much to all of you who have been able to contribute to our special campaign to raise funds for organizations which are struggling to meet the extraordinary needs of people who are suffering because of the pandemic and resulting economic hardship. As I write this, total contributions to date have been \$13,461. Terrific!!

The Church Council has requested that the first \$5,000 go to the New England Synod as a special gift, since we reduced our commitment to the Synod by that amount in this year's budget. All of the remaining funds contributed are going to local organizations, along with a cover letter from Social Ministry explaining that Holy Trinity had a special drive for these funds.

Specifically, this week, the gifts received so far will be distributed as follows: Crossroads House, \$2,000; Operation Blessing, \$2,500; Salvation Army, \$1,500; Seacoast Family Promise, \$750; Dover Friendly Kitchen, \$1,000; and End 68 Hours of Hunger, \$711. Again, all of these gifts are a result of your generosity during these trying times, and are over and above the budgeted amounts for this year for these and other organizations.

We ask that anyone still intending to contribute do so by June 30, clearly marking the gift for SOCIAL MINISTRY. We will report again in early July as to the total funds received, and the distribution of those additional funds.



Thank you again for your willingness to help so many people in dire need during these difficult times.

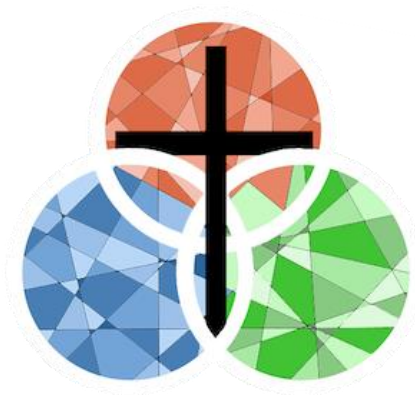
Ron Indorf for the Social Ministry Team

State of the Church Address – June 14, 2020

(Church Office note: this is a typed outline of what Pastor Tim & Cristina Dolcino shared on June 14, 2020 via Online Worship)

Good Morning and hello, I'm Cristina Dolcino, your Church Council president. I would like to share with you some financial highlights, which are especially significant during this time of worshipping online.

- Linda Edwards, our treasurer, has reported that we **were** \$4,000 ahead of our overall budget at the end of May. This is without receiving a Payroll Protection Plan loan through the stimulus bill. THANK YOU for your generosity. We also want to thank Barry Philbrick, Linda Edwards, and Dan Scammon, all of whom provide different services related to our financials.
- We are grateful also that more members have shifted to online giving through the church's Elexio site. This has been helpful for our counters during the pandemic.
- In May, the "Serve the Load" committee initiated a campaign to raise additional funds to make up the difference between our 2019 and 2020 budget for social ministry. One role of the Social Ministry committee is to allocate funds to local and international organizations. During this campaign we achieved to date \$13,464. This amazing amount of money is now being distributed to the Synod and Seacoast organizations. We are providing important support given the increased demands of these groups and the decrease of donations to non-profit because of COVID-19. Some of the local organizations we support include; Operation Blessing, Salvation Army, Crossroads, and Dover Friendly Kitchen. We also want to thank Ron Indorf for his years of service as chairperson and as a member of the Social Ministry Committee.



Now I would like to tell you about our ministries. Remarkably, we have continued most of our vital ministries while not being allowed to be in the building.

- Pastor and Faith Bygd, our Faith Education director, are developing an online VBS program for families to enjoy together this summer. We hope many children will participate.
- The number of members attending Wednesday Bible Study has increased along with Wednesday evening's BYOB² (Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage) discussion.

- In addition, Sunday School lessons and videos continue to be available on our website each week.
- The chairperson of Serve the Lord, Cheryl Brigham, runs the Shepherds and Flock ministry. This important ministry makes phone calls regularly to members as a check-in, to see if they may need something, and to chat. Contact Cheryl if you would like to get involved.
- If you've been able to attend Sunday service online, you have probably noticed new and more people than ever who are involved in assisting our worship. We are appreciative to all the people who have welcomed us to church, led us in prayers, and read the readings or gospel. We have also enjoyed the stories people have shared about their baptism, communion, what faith means to them, and what is special about Holy Trinity.
- Our Virtual choir has been a joy to watch blossom this spring as new voices participate from far and wide to lead us singing different songs together.
- Last Sunday we honored 10 high school and college graduates and awarded 3 scholarships for the Faith and Service Award. Congratulations to each one of them!
- Thank you to Helen Goransson for her continued effort in organizing this special recognition.
- Confirmation classes has suffered the most during the pandemic. Please accept our apologies and as restrictions change, classes will begin again.

What the future holds

- We don't know when we will resume worship indoors
- We are putting together plans for outdoor gatherings under the tent
- We are getting bids to improve the technology in the sanctuary. We know even when we return inside, we have many members who will not be able to join us. We want to add screens and video cameras to reduce bulletins and have a high-quality streaming option for people (more than an iPad on Facebook live).
- It will be good. The church is not dependent on a building, but on the gathered community. We will continue to gather

Pop-Up Pantry

As announced during worship this month, we are starting a Pop-Up Pantry. With unemployment high and many people struggling to make ends meet, we want to help ease burdens as we are able. Our location, next to Walmart, and with government subsidized housing nearby, provides us a great location.

In a brief explanation, one day a week, for a 24 hour period, we will leave food outside, in tubs to protect the food from the weather. People may come and take what they need, no questions asked. We will not have the tubs of food staffed, as people are more likely to utilize them with limited interaction. They will be available overnight as similar pantries have been shown to be accessed more during that time.

We will need help in 3 different ways. Set up, take down and food donation. Anyone can donate food and you don't need to sign-up. All you need to do is drop it off at church during office hours (Mon-Thurs. 8:30-4pm). Once we have a sufficient amount of food, we will send out a sign-up genius for people to volunteer to set-up and take-down. If we have enough food and this is utilized frequently, we can do this a second time during the week.



Items we are looking for are...canned fruit and vegetables without added sugar, proteins such as nuts and grains like rice, personal care items, and paper goods go fast. Kid-friendly non-perishables, crayons, and inexpensive party favor items are great for Summer...school supplies for August!

This idea stems from "Little Free Pantry." You can find out more about it here. www.littlefreepantry.org. If that sounds familiar, it should because it is a take on Free Little Libraries that are all over the place.

Thanks to Cristina Dolcino for coming up with this idea and her and Mike Gass for cleaning out the "old intern's office" to be used as storage.