

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

Resuming In-Person Worship Services

Beginning Sunday, November 1, 2020, we will resume indoor worship services on Sunday. We will have ONE service at 8:30 every Sunday. **You MUST sign up beforehand**, by calling the Church Office at (603) 436-1704. *(Please leave a voicemail if we don't answer)*

For more information, including how to safely social distance during worship, please see Pastor Tim's Article on page ?



Pledging Electronically

Did you know that you don't need to give electronically to make your pledge electronically? All you need is an Elexio account and your computer or the Elexio app. [These videos show you how](#) to either give through Elexio.com or through the Elexio App. Hard copy directions are also in the pledge packet you received in the mail. Any questions, please contact Scott Carson (sd1338@gmail.com).



Social Ministry

The most immediate need for the next few weeks is supplies for Thanksgiving baskets in November. Members of Holy Trinity can assist two ways. For those of you who choose to contribute monetarily, the options are the same as for your offering. The htelc.com website and Elexio app contain an option for Thanksgiving baskets. Additionally, you can mail your gift to Holy Trinity or drop it off at the church. If anyone prefers to donate food items, the following items are most helpful: Instant potatoes, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, canned pie fillings, piecrust and biscuit mixes, canned gravy or gravy mix, canned fruits or applesauce and cranberry sauce. You can leave these items in the church lobby when picking up your communion supplies.



Pastor Tim's article: October 15, 2020

Greetings!

By now you should have received your Stewardship packet. I simply want to highlight the two letters you should have found in there and provide links to them here, to provide another opportunity to provide consistent communication and highlight the addition of an indoor/in-person worship.

The first letter you should have read in the packet was in regards to your Estimate of Giving to Holy Trinity for 2021. Please read carefully the instructions and pray about the way you may continue your financial support of the ministry here, at Holy Trinity. If you haven't seen the letter yet, you can access it here.

The second letter is in regards to resuming the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Again, this means that we are a church that has a public statement that welcomes and affirms people and has a specific mention of people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Becoming a RIC church will require a congregational meeting and vote. During the pandemic, we are not able to meet, physically, the way we normally would for a congregational meeting. This does not mean we cannot proceed. We are in consultation with other churches, our own constitution and a lawyer to help develop a plan that would allow for us to have a congregational meeting and vote that still adhere to the guidelines of which we are bound. This will entail having the discussion portion of our meeting on zoom, while voting will be done by driving to church to cast a vote in-person, or allowing people to vote electronically (email or perhaps utilizing survey monkey). The final details of this all are still being worked out, but we are confident we can do it with integrity. In fact, we might be able to include more people than if we were to hold the meeting in the sanctuary. Hopefully, all goes smoothly, as we will most likely need to do it again in the coming months to approve a budget for 2021.



Third, this wasn't in the packet, but it is important information. We are adding an indoor/in-person worship beginning Nov. 1. We will be following strict safety protocols

and will require people to sign-up for it using Sign-up Genius. Look for instructions on how to attend the week of Oct. 25.

Lastly, things are hard right now. I mean, it is really difficult. Everyone seems to be on edge. We are annoyed quicker. Patience is thin. Frustration sets in immediately. Give yourself some grace. Give grace to others. All that we are dealing with is temporary. That doesn't mean it isn't hard, it just means that it won't last. It will end. Things will get better. A new day is coming. Light is on the horizon. We will get there together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: October 19, 2020

The time is almost here. Indoor/in-person worship is just under two weeks away. In order for it to be safe for everyone involved, there are some guidelines that we need you to know and to follow. Please read carefully.

- Masks are required. One will be supplied for you if you don't have one.
- If you are feeling ill, have a cough, fever, cold or flu symptoms, or been in contact with anyone with COVID-19...stay home.
- Please [sign-up using "Sign-up Genius"](#) or contact Mark in the office ahead of time (but "Sign-up Genius" is preferred and is available now).
- "Walk-ups" will not be allowed.
- When you arrive, a check-in will be required to match up who signed up with who showed up. We want to be diligent about who is here for the purposes of contact tracing.
- If you do contract Covid-19, or come into contact with someone who does, and were at one of our services, please contact us immediately so we can notify others. Your identity will remain anonymous.
- Please, no handshakes or hugs or other physical touching while in our building.
- Upon entering the building, please move directly to the sanctuary and have a seat. No gathering with friends. Sorry.

- Pick up a bulletin and communion from a table when entering the sanctuary. (You will take these with you when the service is over.)
- 6' physical distance will be required for seating, except between members of the same family.
- There will be no congregational signing or a physical touching during Passing of the Peace.
- Offering plates will not be passed, but there will be a centrally located plate in the Narthex for people to leave an offering.
- Restrooms will be available before, during and after the service, but please wipe down after use.
- There will be no nursery, or other child care services available.
- People will be dismissed from the sanctuary and directed to use specific doors.
- There will be no fellowship time at the conclusion of the service.



Perhaps it might seem like we are being over-the-top. Maybe, but as the saying goes, “We would rather be safe than sorry.” Thanks for following these guidelines.

Not only do we need people to follow those guidelines, but we need several other jobs filled in order to have these services. If you are willing, please indicate on the [“Sign-up Genius”](#) that you would like to help and what you are willing to do. Prior to the service, you will be contacted about the specific responsibilities of what you signed up for.

Greeters – Stand in usual position just inside the main doors. Welcome people and check them in as they arrive. Ensure that everyone has a mask, is wearing it and provide a mask if needed.

Ushers – Stand near the entrance to the sanctuary behind a table with bulletins and communion elements on it. Welcome people to worship and ask them to pick up (please do not hand out) what is needed for the service.

Cleaners – After the service, we would like a couple of people to wipe down high touch areas, such as doorknobs and tables with bulletins and elements.

Counters – After each service, we need two experienced counters to count and record the offering.

Singers/musicians – While we will not have congregational signing, we will have music and a soloist, (who will be positioned far from others and wear a mask while signing). If you would like to be a soloist, or have another musical gift you would like to share, please contact Pastor Tim.

Lastly, our first service back in the sanctuary, as you know, is Nov. 1. That Sunday is All Saints Sunday. It is a day in which we remember those from our community who have died this past year. If you have a loved one who has died, please email Mark in the church office (office@htelc.com) with their name and picture if you would like their memory to be included in the service. Also, we will not only remember all those from our own community, but all those who have died around the world from the pandemic that caused us to leave our building in the first place. Therefore, while there will be excitement about being some of us being back together in the same physical space, it will be tempered with a heaviness with the reminder of why we had to leave the building to begin with. As of now, over 220,000 people in the US and over 1.1 million people worldwide have died from the coronavirus. We will pray for God to welcome them all into God's arms and for God to be with all of us as we continue to work our way through this pandemic.

Thanks for all you are doing and have done to keep everyone safe and healthy in our little neck of the woods. I am grateful the people of New England seem to be taking this more seriously than any other place in the US. It is because of this that we feel gathering in our building is even possible.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: October 22, 2020

Sometimes it is hard to think about what to say each week. Do I write something devotional, informative, funny, serious, etc...Most of the time, I write whatever comes to my mind that would be important for you all to know about or be aware of here at Holy Trinity. Sometimes that leads me to feel I am being repetitive. But, let's be honest, we generally need to hear things more than once. So below is a recap of what is coming up. There is A LOT coming up!

- This Sunday is Reformation Sunday. We are hoping to do a big Virtual Choir of "A Mighty Fortress." Please join us by letting Mark know you would like to participate and he will get you the directions.
- This Sunday is Confirmation Sunday. This year, we have one young adult who will Affirm their Baptism, my youngest son, Micah Krick. We will record the service on Saturday and show it during worship on Sunday.
- This Sunday is also "Pledge Sunday." Last week, you should have received your Stewardship Packets in the mail. The goal is to return your Estimate of Giving Cards for 2021 back to church by this Sunday. Please mail them, drop them off or make your pledge online. Obviously, we will accept any all pledges after this Sunday. 😊
- Sunday, Nov. 1, we will add an indoor/in-person worship to accompany our zoom worship. We will have a worship in our sanctuary at 8:30 (you need to sign up using the link here as there is limited seating) and Zoom worship will be at 9:30am.
- Sunday, Nov. 1 is also All Saints Sunday. We will remember those from our community who have died this past year along with all of the people who have died from COVID-19 globally. If you have a loved one who has died this past year and would like to have them included in our worship, please email a picture and their name to Mark in the office at office@htelc.com
- Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2pm, we have scheduled a congregational meeting to vote on our new Statement of Welcome and Affirmation. When we accept this statement as a congregation it will designate us as a Reconciling in Christ



congregation, meaning we are a church that has a public statement that specifically mentions the welcoming and affirmation of people who identify as LGBTQIA+. (If you haven't seen the statement yet, it will be mailed out to everyone with specifics for the meeting in the next week or two.)

I think that is enough for now. Like I said, it is A LOT.

Thanks for all the ways you are part of our faith community. We are better because of it.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim