

September 27, October 4 & 11, 2020

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

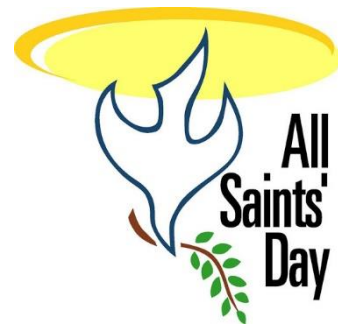
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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

All Saints Sunday

On November 1, we hold in remembrance those who have lived and died in the faith this past year. Please contact the church office with a name and photo of someone you would like remembered in the Prayer of the Church on Sunday, November 1.



Stewardship Packet

Next week you will receive your Stewardship Packet. In that packet is a letter from the Reconciling in Christ Team. It has been decided that it is appropriate and necessary to resume our conversation about becoming a RIC church. Through virtual and in-person meetings over the next few weeks, we will review where we were in the process and introduce the "Welcome Statement" and give you all an opportunity to add your thoughts. The hope is it culminates in a congregation vote on November 22! We hope you can join us as we continue the work of being a truly welcoming congregation.



Faith Formation Newsletter

We are so excited to be sending out a weekly Faith Formation Newsletter, beginning this week. Go to HTELC.com to enter your email address to the list, or call Mark at (603) 436-1704. For more information, please see Pastor Tim's Article on the next page



Pastor Tim's Article: October 1, 2020

Beloved,

This weekend we begin something new!

First, we will have a children's sermon during our zoom worship services! As you most likely know, we are partnering with Luther Crest Bible Camp to provide faith formation resources through their Bold Transformational Faith program. Each week, they will provide a recorded children's sermon that corresponds to one of the readings for the week. It will appear near the beginning of the worship and there will be a new one for each week.

Second, beginning this weekend, there will be a weekly Faith Formation e-Newsletter sent out. It will contain all kinds of ready to use material for anyone to use at home. The centerpiece of it will be a 10-minute video, again produced by Luther Crest that will contain a song, skit and Bible lesson. To ensure that you receive this great resource, go out our homepage, www.htelc.com, and sign up!



I know people are tired of virtual learning. If you are an adult with young kids at home, I can only imagine the struggle that occurs with trying to work and ensure they are learning. The last thing you want is something that you need to figure out and explain. Our hope is that all of the resources in the email are ready to use with little or no prep. In it you will find...

- Bible verse of the week to read and memorize
- Blessing of the week
- Video from Luther Crest
- Family Faith Formation Activity of the Month
- Links to other resources, article and videos you may find helpful

Ideally, faith formation is best practiced in the home. Churches have not always done a good job of helping adults teach faith in the home to younger generations. Perhaps the pandemic will help us return to some basic tenants or practices of our faith.

Don't worry, when we are able to return to gathering our kids together, we will. Faith formation is not solely accomplished in the home or at the church. It is not one or the other, but instead it is both/and.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

Social Ministry

Hello to the Holy Trinity congregation. My name is Jessica Feeley and I have accepted Pastor Tim's request to chair this committee. I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make the efforts of this committee a success. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who so graciously donated to help keep the SM obligations paid. Bless you all!

I am in the process of "getting my feet wet" regarding the activities of SM.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has not only caused us to worship via Zoom, but has curtailed other events. God's Work/Our Hands activities were not possible to safely arrange. The Pop-up Pantry has been something I would call an unfortunate success. Our neighbors continue to need our help in these uncertain times. While this pantry continues, we must also look forward to the holidays which are quickly approaching. As soon as the plans for collecting canned goods and donations for Thanksgiving Baskets, they will be announced.



I plan to schedule a committee meeting, via zoom, in the near future with SM committee members.

Pastor Tim's Article: October 8, 2020

Siblings in Christ,

At a specially called church council meeting on Monday, October 5th, it was approved to add an in-person/indoor worship beginning on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020

Here is some basic information for you to know.

- **We will continue a zoom worship** for those who are unable or uncomfortable attending. Times of both services are still to be determined.
- Safety guidelines and protocols will be **required** and not simply “recommended.” Specifics of those guidelines will be released the week prior to Sunday, Nov. 1. Please expect the need to sign-up to attend. It will be limited seating and not “first come, first serve.”
- Council reserves the right to cancel this worship if we decide it becomes unsafe to continue gathering in this way.
- This is not a return to “worship as it was before.” This will be a shortened and abbreviated service with no congregational singing. We are investigating ways to offer communion safely.



Our decision to add an indoor/in-person worship was not taken lightly. We based our decision on several factors.

- New Hampshire and our surrounding states are doing a good job of following guidelines to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We are one of the healthiest areas in the country.
- The results of our survey sent out 2 weeks ago showed 56% of responders would attend an in-person/indoor worship and 88% agreed that it was okay for the church to offer this type of service. (We received 104 total responses)
- We have the ability to follow state recommended guidelines for places of worship to provide a safe environment.

Honestly, I have mixed feelings about it. Part of me doesn't like “splitting up” the community that we have formed online during this time. While there are times in which I am tired of online worship, I enjoy us all having the ability to gather at one time, even

if that is virtually. Inevitably, to an extent, we will become two separate worshipping communities. At the same time, I do long for some semblance of “normalcy.” I miss seeing people “in-person” and gathering physically in the sanctuary. This will allow for that.

There were a couple of reasons to make All Saints Sunday our first Sunday back in the sanctuary. One, it gives us time to put together the guidelines to follow and get the building ready. Perhaps more importantly, the purpose of All Saints Sunday is to remember those who have died this past year. By last count, this pandemic has taken the lives of over 210,000 people in the US and over 1 million globally. Therefore, while it is a joyful experience to return to the sanctuary, let us not forget the reason why we had to leave, and may need to once again. This “Holy Day” will allow us to acknowledge the loss of life that has occurred and ask God to welcome them all into the everlasting arms of rest and peace.

Lastly, I want remind us all that we are not “opening up.” We never “closed.” All we did was move our worship, and any type of in-person gathering, online or virtual. We were always “open for business.” In fact, I think you could argue we have been more active these last 6 months than in any time since I have been here. Thank you for the ways we have continued to be church when we haven’t been able to be in the building.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

BG Library

Holy Trinity’s Barbara Galle Library has a new collection through the generosity of the Galle family. Several dozen books from Barbara’s personal shelves were recently donated. They’re grouped together, clearly marked, easy to find. The collection includes the entire works of the British writer Susan Howatch, Barbara’s favorite. Come check them out. There are enough books to keep even the most voracious reader busy till the end of COVID!--



Property Team

Usually, the earliest indication we have of the coming season is our snow plow service contractor sending the contract for the coming year. I have not seen the contract yet, so the early leaf fall this year is our first harbinger of what is coming. I didn't get any input from the dead elm tree! It is down and, by the time you read this, gone.

The leaf removal activities, late season grounds work, and fall cleanup are always solid reminders of other seasonal tasks on our routine list of work to do. Soon we will be removing and storing the window air conditioners, draining and putting away hoses, striking and storing the tent, putting our snow blower back in service, preparing our mowers for winter storage, breaking out salt buckets and shovels, and other matters I have probably forgotten. Martha and I are not going to Florida this winter season, so I have to say I am not really looking forward to the preparations and a long winter in New Hampshire. I will probably have to learn again what goes on at Holy Trinity in the January to April period!



All that said, I anticipate a busy time between now and the end of the year. Work to install the new fire alarm system will begin soon. The new system has been approved by the Town of Newington and equipment procurement is in progress. Equipment installation will begin as the equipment becomes available. One of the first things to be done will be installation of smoke detectors in the sanctuary. That work will require an aerial lift of some sort to allow access to the ceiling areas. I also anticipate temporary removal of some of the wood trim in the sanctuary to facilitate routing of sensor wiring. Some of you may recall we did this same thing to route sound system cables a few years ago. There will be quite a bit of work going on throughout the building as work on the fire alarm system progresses. I am hopeful that this work can be completed in November. I have been working with the fire alarm system contractor and the electrician who will be installing a new main electrical distribution panel and power surge protection. The new electrical panel and the new fire alarm panel will be located in close proximity on the same wall in the basement work room, so the work requires close coordination. At this point, installation of the the new electrical panel is tentatively

scheduled for Friday, October 16, so electrical power will be unavailable for all or most of the day.

Where it is reasonable to do so, the Property Team will take on some tasks to support the fire alarm system work. We have already relocated a wall-mounted cabinet unit in the basement work room to free up wall space for the new fire panel and electrical distribution panel. Another example is the temporary removal of some wood trim in the sanctuary. Another possibility is pulling a new electrical power cable from the basement work room to the overhead area in the vicinity of the administrative office door. The need for this cable arises because the Town of Newington required one component of the new fire alarm system to be relocated from the basement work room to a wall beside the entrance to the office area. The property team did a similar cable pull a few years ago to support a new printer installation, so we know how to do it. An electrician would make the cable connection to the distribution panel. It should be noted that Property Team resources (people) are stretched very thin these days, so these support tasks will be pursued only to the extent we have the resources.

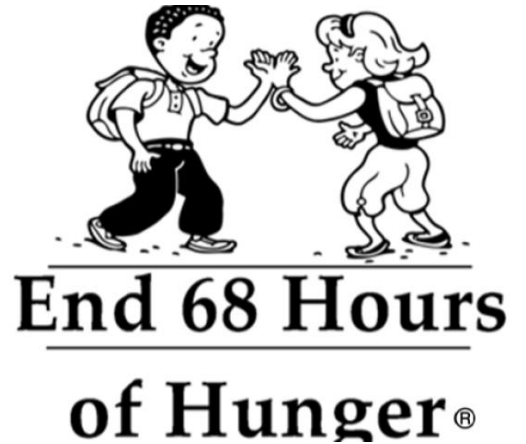


For Property Team planning purposes, I wish I had a crystal ball to tell me when we would likely be moving back into the building, because there is quite a bit of work needed to put the building back in order. Over these many months the building use has been significantly restricted, a lot of clutter has arisen in various places in the building. This will need to be dealt with (items returned to storage, disposed of, whatever). Also, time will tell if the fire alarm panel work introduces any additional work to get us back to normal. We will need to be flexible as the work on the new fire alarm system proceeds. This work has to have priority since a functional fire alarm system is required to allow us to return to full, normal building use.

Dave Mercer, Property Team Leader

End 68 Hours of Hunger

The pandemic has affected all of us in many different ways. The need for food for many of the students in Portsmouth never ended this summer and the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program rose to the occasion by providing supplemental food. However, the safety of our Team members was utmost important, so we decided to limit the packing group to the Team Leaders and their families. After much discussion, Lauren and I decided to continue with this decision and limit our packing group to our two families for this school year.



We want to thank our Holy Trinity Family for their continued support and prayers as we help those families most in need. When the pandemic situation improves, we will then reach out and ask for volunteers. Thank you for understanding.

Kathy McKenna and Lauren Gianino