

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

2020 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 26 between our services. In preparation for our Annual Meeting, we will meet between services on Sunday, January 19 to discuss the 2020 Budget. Annual Meeting team reports are due to the Church Office by Sunday, January 19.



Upcoming Reconciling in Christ Forums

Please find below a list of all upcoming forums for RIC. If you've missed a forum, you can find a DVD of each forum in the Church Library, under the Prayer Shawls. Some of these dates are tentative and are subject to change.

- Sun. 1/12 & Wed. 1/15: Rev. Amanda Nelson educates us on what the terms LGBTQIA and other new language means.
- Sun. 2/16 & Wed 2/19: Dr Skip Small will be here to present "A Pediatrician's understanding of LGBTQ."



President's Article

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Greetings everyone..... I hope you're all enjoying this Holiday season as we move on to the day of the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For most of us, this can be a great, joyous time of the year, but for others, not so good. We pray that the Holy Spirit might make its presence known and give them comfort, so they too, can enjoy this peace that comes upon us at this time.

Here at Holy Trinity, activities have ramping up as we approach Christmas Day. The sanctuary is looking festive with the Chrismon decorated tree, wall and ceiling banners. Two weeks ago, a big wonderful pile of toys were donated to the Toys for Tots drive, thanks to the generosity of all of you. Last Sunday we had over a dozen of our children present a wonderful Christmas Pageant under the direction of Leslie Darling and Lara Scammon. A big THANK YOU to Leslie and Lara, the children and all those involved in helping to put the program together.



While things may be getting more and more hectic for many of us with Christmas Eve / Christmas Day next week quickly approaching, I'd ask that you note your calendar and keep in mind the Annual Meeting that will take place January 26th between services. A discussion of the proposed budget will take place the week before (January 19th) at adult forum.

As Christmas approaches, and we move into another new calendar year, I wish each and every one of you, and everyone in your family, a blessed and joyous Christmas and a new year of good health, joy, and contentment.

Blessings and Peace,

Dave Smith
Council President

Operation Blessing

A Big Thank You to all who donated food to Operation Blessing for their Thanksgiving Baskets. According to Tammy Joslyn, the Executive Director, our donations weighed in at about 1500 pounds. OB prepared about 350 Baskets for those in need. It was amazing to see the different organizations who were dropping off food to go into the baskets. Many people from workplaces were assisting during the drop off process. It was heartwarming to see so many people come together so that all were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Our congregation has either been preparing baskets or has been donating to other organizations for them to distribute for many years and I think that this year you really all donated to make it the best year ever. Thank you again for your generosity.

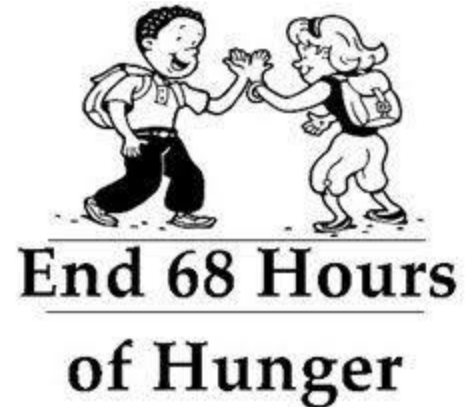
Toys for Tots. Although we only had a short window of time between collecting food and toys, you all did a great job in making a Merry Christmas for many children. Last Sunday we dropped off about 115 gifts and 3 gift cards to the Fox Run Mall collection site. Thank you so much for your help.



End 68 Hours of Hunger

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has a team that packs food for the program 'End 68 Hours of Hunger' for the city of Portsmouth!! This program is designed to provide food for children in need that would sustain them for the weekend when school is not in session. Kathy McKenna and Lauren Gianino are the Team Coordinators for our church.

Our team is responsible for packing food bags for children on 5 more Thursdays this school year. We pack at the First United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave. Portsmouth and we meet at 6pm. Depending on the number of volunteers, the packing process takes between 40 minutes to an hour - but rarely a full hour.



Our next packing date is this Thursday, Feb 3. The dates our team is responsible for are:

- Thursday, February 6th
- Thursday, March 19th
- Thursday, April 23rd
- Thursday, June 11th

Last year our group packed 663 bags of food! If you are interested in joining our team please email myself (mckenna.kathy.62@gmail.com) or Lauren Gianino(pglg813@comcast.net). If you know of someone who would like to join our team....please have them contact us!! This is such an unique volunteer opportunity as you can make a huge impact on our local community in under an hour!! We always welcome new participants!!

Property Team

It's because those are two of the chores that the ladies in the Thursday Group tend to. It's also the reason that the outdoor gardens and indoor plants always look healthy, watered, and weeded. And the glass doors rarely have fingerprints and smudges. The Thursday Group ladies also change the baptismal font water weekly to prevent bacteria; scrub crayon marks off the children's tables in the sanctuary; remove wax drippings from the sanctuary chairs after candlelight services. They clean ovens and kitchen cabinets and drawers. They wash all the windows, inside and out, every spring and fall. Not just the sanctuary windows, but the windows in the offices, Sunday School classrooms, and bathrooms. They sometimes tackle big projects, such as cleaning out the attic storage, painting, and taking home all the tablecloths to wash and iron.

To sum it up, they work behind the scenes to keep our church building and grounds clean and tidy. This past summer Erica Nania joined the group on a part time basis. If you've ever thought that you'd like to be an active part in the life of our church, consider joining the Thursday Group. Like Erica, if you aren't available every week, come when you can. There's always something to do. Talk to Gisela Wemple or Pat Woollett for more information on this very important volunteer opportunity.



BGLibrary New Years' Resolutions

1. File cards from borrowed books and re-shelve returned books in a timely manner.
2. Keep displays current.
3. Order new books as HT members request (Yes, request! We have the funds).
4. Order DVDs by request (Again, we have the funds).
5. Glean "weeds" (old books)
6. Sell weeds. Donate left-overs to downtown book box.
7. Use weeds' funds for Tanzanian kids' library.
8. Invite HT readers to make suggestions for improvement and growth. What don't you see that you'd like to see? Solicit ideas.
9. Use bulletin board to share ideas.
10. Keep "What's Pastor Tim Reading" poster up to date.
11. Create an interactive "love thy neighbor" space.
12. Start a reading group. Watch bulletin announcements for details.



Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to the family of Everett Nelson. Holy Trinity has recently learned that longtime member Everett Nelson passed away in July of 2016, surrounded by family, in his home state of Minnesota. Everett passed away three days after his 103rd birthday. According to his obituary, this birthday was a goal he was determined to achieve.



CaringConnections

To Everyone on the CaringConnections Team....

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all that you do ALL year to make this team so very successful and run so smoothly!

Thank you for bringing caring, compassion and support to the members of the congregation!

Thank you for taking the time out of what can be a very busy life to provide all that you do to the members of the congregation but also to one another on the team!



Thank you for each and every one of you for seeing the need and stepping up to help fulfill that need!

Thank you for caring!

Thank you for being YOU! You ALL do make an important difference on this team and to our church community!

Wishing the the whole team of CaringConnections and the whole congregation a blessed, health and joyous 2020!

Forever grateful!

Cheryl

DrivingDaisies

DrivingDaisies is much more than giving a ride to church on Sunday for someone who, without it, probably wouldn't be able to go! It's about the interaction! It's about helping someone to be a part of the church community! It's about bringing joy to someone! Its about maybe building a friendship or enriching a friendship! It's about helping to make someone know that they matter!

We currently have 2 people that we provide rides for: 1 in Hampton and 1 in Portsmouth. The Hampton person goes 2 Sundays a month that we have been able to work out a schedule for. We REALLY would love some additional drivers who would be willing to drive the Portsmouth person. You would not be expected to drive every Sunday but it would be great to have a few more people so we could have a rotating schedule! This person prefers to go to the 11am service. If you are willing to be a driver for this person please let Cheryl know at brighamca.cc@gmail.com or (603)997-9695.

If you would like to be a member of this team or you know someone who might need a ride please let Cheryl know. In bringing joy to someone, you will also bring joy to yourself!

'Remember this Sunday is the 3rd Sunday and therefore blood pressure check is available after each service!'

