

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

Pastor's article

To the Holy Trinity Family,

How are you holding up? We have a lot of people in different situations in our congregation. Some of you are still going to work, like any other week. Some of you are working from home. Some have had vacations cut short. Some have had loss of income or potential job loss. Some are confined to their home and can't even go to the store.

Whatever your situation, you are loved and God is with you, and so is your Holy Trinity Family (even if we aren't together in the same physical space. Remember to give yourself and everyone else a little extra grace during this time as we are all just figuring this out.



I wanted to give you all an update on how we are handling everything at church and what you can expect from us in the coming weeks.

- Worship, both Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, will continue online while all building related activities will remain suspended until further notice. We will consult CDC guidelines to help us determine when it is safe to resume use of the building.
- We will have Holy Week services online. Holy Week & Easter services will not be held in our building. They will be broadcast online. Maundy

Thursday & Good Friday services will be pre-recorded and available to watch on Thursday, April 9. Easter Sunday will be held via ZOOM meeting online at 9:30 AM, or available to watch in the afternoon on our homepage.

- We will still order Easter Lilies to give you the opportunity to honor or remember someone in your life. Look for more information to come.
- We want to recruit “Shepherds.” They will have the responsibility to call 4-5 people from the congregation once a week to check-in. Please email Cheryl Bringham at bringhamca.cc@gmail.com if you are willing to be a “Shepherd.”
- New content for home devotions and videos are constantly being added to the church website. It is under the tab “Virtual Church.”
- Thank you for continuing to give. You can mail in your offering, text, use the Elexio app on your phone or give directly through our website, www.htelc.com/giving-online. (We had a great response last week. THANK YOU!)
- The best place to find up-to-date information is our website, www.htelc.com. All Zoom links for worship and any other meetings will be found there.
- Lastly, be aware of other non-profit, service-oriented organizations, local businesses and neighbors who need help at this time.

I have had questions about finding a way to do communion during this time. Bishop Hazelwood, for various reasons, has asked all churches in our synod to fast from that sacrament during this time. Don't worry, even though communion is something we usually do every week, its “power” doesn't wear off over time, as if we had a “communion gauge”

on our bodies that is now reading “low.” God's forgiveness doesn't “go low.”

Remember, we are not using the word “closed” during this time. The church is not closed. The building might be, but the church never closes. This is because the church is wherever you are. God and us are not dependent on the building. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit breathing new life into us, which happens anywhere and everywhere. May you experience the Holy Spirit in new and unexpected ways d
Thanks for your work, your presence and your love.

Thank you, from the Galle Family

The entire Galle family is grateful for the many expressions of sympathy and support during the recent passing of our beloved mom and nana. She was truly a remarkable woman in every way. She absolutely loved the people of this church. Thank you all.

From Portsmouth End 68 Hours of Hunger

We are having a little difficulty getting some foods that we normally use that are limited right now - like canned vegetables, chicken breast, canned pasta, peanut butter (no glass) and soup. We do have mostly what we need to cover the next 2 weeks and we are still going to try to order what we can from the stores, but if you could help by picking up a couple of items when you are doing your own shopping, that would be appreciated. The First United Methodist Church office, 129 Miller Ave., Portsmouth is open 9 am - 2 pm Tuesday - Friday to accept donations. Donations can also be dropped off Thursday nights when there are packing teams in the building. Please remember to follow social distancing rules.



CaringConnections

Hi... These certainly are uncertain, anxiety producing times. We have a sweet little (kind of big) 8 month old dog, Dexter. Dexter doesn't know anything about Corona virus or social distancing so he is ALWAYS willing to give loads of hugs and kisses. Or go for a ride or walk with me! But not everyone has a Dexter to have that interaction with!

During these challenging times I would invite my whole CaringConnections team to reach out to those church members we normally provide services to but also to one another. I don't think you need to be homebound to feel isolated. So maybe email each other! Or send a note to one another! Maybe text! Facebook message or video with one another! Just reach out to one another to let each other know we are all in this together!



I would suggest that through this confusing stressful time we all, as a community, reach out to one another with an expression of caring and a virtual hug because not everyone has a Dexter like I do!

Thoughts, prayers and a hope that everyone stays well!
Cheryl and Dexter

Dover Friendly Kitchen

Pam Shaw brought us each a beautiful mask she had made. There were eight of us: Jill Schock, Lara Scammon, Hannah Morris (who brought us cookies), Jeff Morrison, Rich Swiatocha, his friend Jen Parks, Pam and me. We were gloved, as we usually are. We made 56 take out meals of our usual baked ham hot meal, but instead of salad, we gave out bags of veggies and ranch dressing for dipping. 51 meals were taken and the five left over, as well as a small amount of potatoes, green beans and a few slices of ham, went home with volunteers so as not to waste the food. Unfortunately, My Friend's Place is not accepting prepared food at this time, so that was not an option. We remained in the kitchen, for the most part, with a few of us ferrying the meals to the serving table at the top of the entrance stairs. The guests had been advised to enter one at a time to receive a meal from Marguerite, the DFK



Coordinator. She has decided to be on the front line for these meals that happen twice a week and are provided by many of the churches of the Dover area. In this way, she protects us from exposure to the guests. We had fun together, and wish our church could have heard the beautiful rendition of the Doxology after our prayer to bless the food that we served. I want to give special thanks to Jill and Lara for helping me figure out what we would need to do take out and how much. I also want to thank Marguerite for ordering the take out containers and plastic ware and for shopping, as she always does, for the potatoes, green beans, pineapple, bread, butter, and the bottled flavored water to go with our ham, veggies and cookies.

A light in the darkness ...

As I have been watching the news about the Corona virus and learned that people in Europe and also here in the USA have shown appreciation for their healthcare workers by going out on their balconies applauding and singing every evening at 8PM, I was thinking of a way to show gratitude in our neighborhood and was inspired to ask friends and family to put a light in their window at 8PM every night and let it burn for 1 hour or so. I have put one of my electric Christmas candles in the window.



Even in the darkest valleys a small light can be a powerful reminder of healing hope and that we all can join together to give that hope and appreciation for our healthcare workers"

Margareta Claesson

Decorate our Easter Tree

Missing your drive to Holy Trinity? Well, you now have an excuse to go and add some color and joy to the outside of Church. To the right of the front door is a cute little tree yearning for some words of prayer, hope, and rejoicing. There's a bin of plastic eggs with strings attached and pieces of paper inside. All you need to do is write or draw on one piece of paper your thoughts for Holy Week. Fold up your paper, put it inside the egg, and hang the egg on the tree. Just think how lovely our Church will look when we return all together? Gloves, colors, and pens are all there, but you are welcome to bring your paper or egg from home!



Please consider taking a spring drive, spend some time outside of Church, and share your Easter drawings or words of praise!

