

January 24 & 31 and February 7, 2020

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

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be on Feb. 17, with outdoor services at noon and 6:00 PM. We will also have a pre-recorded version of the noon service available in the mid-afternoon on our homepage: www.htelc.com

Please read Pastor Tim's article on Page 7 for further information about Ash Wednesday.



Calumet Update

Due to continued concerns around COVID-19, we unfortunately need to cancel this year's Women's Retreat in March. We have dates already set for March 2022 and hope that we will be able to meet again at Calumet then.

But Calumet is STILL OPEN. You can stay overnight at Calumet in their village cabins, a heated cabin by the lake or in a conference center room. You can enjoy the trails around the camp, some peace and quiet and a beautiful view of the lake. Some of these accommodations have a small fridge/microwave and they are doing take out food on a limited basis. The prices are reduced Sunday- Thursday. Contact Calumet directly if you are interested. Calumet.org or 603- 539- 4773.



Pop-Up Pantry

Drop food off at the church or make a donation through our website or app! Also, if you wish to get more involved and want to pack the bags of food, help set up or help take down, please email Paulette at pbsirois@gmail.com.



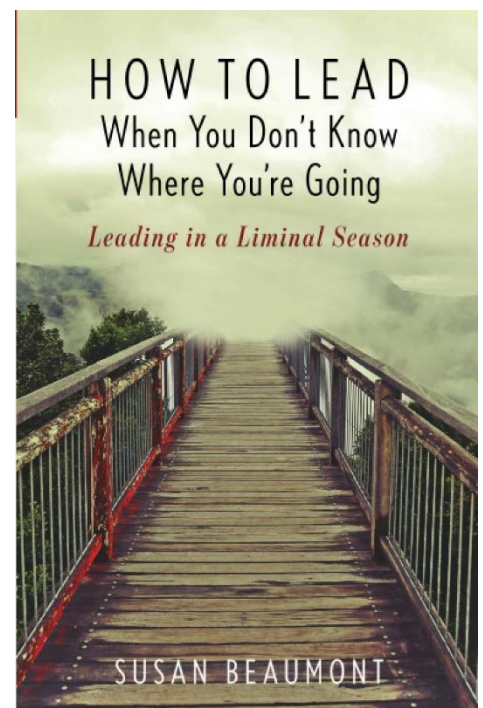
Pastor Tim's Article: January 25, 2020

We did it. Yesterday, we held our Annual Meeting. From my opinion, and from others who reached out to me, it was a success. We elected new council members (Welcome Erlinde Beliveau as Secretary and Kristen Crawford as Treasurer). We elected Joan and Steven Bauer to attend the Synod Assembly in June (it will be virtual). We approved a Spending Plan for the year 2021! We even watch a brief "State of the Church Address" made by Cristina Dolcino, the Council President and myself.

I wanted to briefly follow-up and provide you with the article and book that I spoke about during the "State of the Church Address."

The article "The Nuclear Family Was a Mistake" by David Brooks is from the March 2020 issue of The Atlantic. For some, it might be hard to read. It critiques a time that many people long for or want to return to. What I ask you to remember when reading it is that the point of the article is not to come to the conclusion or convince anyone that the time described was "bad." Rather, it is about coming to an understanding that the time described no longer exists. For us to have helpful and fruitful conversations about the future of the church, we need to better understand our place in the world and the context around us. For me, this article was eye opening and helped me better understand what people are nostalgic for and why that isn't coming back.

The book I referenced was "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: How to Lead in a Liminal Time" by Susan Beaumont. You can purchase it on Amazon.com. The point of the book is to help churches take their time in determining what the future will be like. It doesn't prescribe anything or say, "Do this and your problems will be solved." In fact, Beaumont steers clear of the easy and prescribed answer. She is solely interested in helping congregations navigate their way into a future that appears uncertain and what pitfalls are common and how to look out for them. For me, this book gives me permission to take a deep breath and to put fear in its proper place.



Currently, conversations regarding this article and book will be at the council level. At some point, we will engage everyone about what this means for us as a congregation, but we are not there yet. I am informing you about all of this because it is good to be open about conversations and potential future directions. Please don't feel the need to buy the book or read the article. That is not necessary. My writing here is meant to be informative. There will be no immediate or all-encompassing change in the near future. This is about beginning a conversation to better understand who we are and who we are called to be. The only thing that I am asking of all us to do right now is to pray. Pray for God's Spirit and wisdom to be with us and for all of us to be open to it.

Thanks for your prayers.

Pastor Tim

E-Giving at Holy Trinity

Dear E-Givers,

If you read through Holy Trinity's Spending Allocation Plan you might have noticed a \$3,800 line item for electronic giving and banking fees. Elexio charges us a fee based on the type of electronic donation: 3% for credit/debit cards and .75% for direct bank account deductions. To help reduce those fees and their impact on Holy Trinity's spending plan, we are asking you to consider the following:

>If you give by credit/debit cards, shift to a direct deduction from your bank account.

AND/OR

>Add an additional amount to your donation to cover the processing fees.

Elexio does not provide an option for this to be done automatically. Thank you for using electronic giving. It does help our church to better manage its finances. If you have any questions on how to make changes to your giving please contact Scott Carson or the Church Office.



Warm regards, Holy Trinity Finance Team

Immigration and Detention

Immigration, Detention, Refugees, Children-in-Captivity, Incarceration. The words encompass so much fear. Each word connects to a human story, a story of suffering and deprivation and distress. Their stories make us shutter. We want to do something. We want to help, and yet we feel helpless. What can we do? How do we get involved? Asking those questions puts us in the path to action. Before we can act we have to understand something about what we're dealing with. Let's explore just how scary those beginning words are:

- Over 50,000 children and adults currently languish in immigrant jails and prisons in the United States.
- Immigrants in incarceration lack access to court-appointed attorneys, phone calls, and speedy trials.
- Incarcerated immigrants are subject to medical neglect, sexual and physical assault, and human rights abuse.
- Private prisons, county or jails all profit off their misery.
(freedomforimmigrants.org)

We want change. We want healing. We want to make a difference. One person might not feel she can accomplish much, but many persons banded together can. So for those of us looking for information, looking for a group conversation to join, looking to get to work, the four organizations listed below are a great beginning.

Freedom for Immigrants (freedomforimmigrants.org)

works across borders to end immigration detention completely. There is a world-wide effort. Until immigrant detention is abolished, they work to end the isolation with visits, friendships, and connections.

Fundraising is an important part of this work. Detained immigrants sometimes have the opportunity to be released on a cash bond — which is like bail — while fighting their cases. Once bonded out, they are eight times more likely to win their immigration cases. But without the ability to pay a bond, many individuals



are forced to languish in detention, away from their loved ones and communities. You'll find a link on their website where you can contribute.

Every. Last. One. (everylastone.org) particularly caters to the plight of children caught up in migration and immigration problems. They work to connect children to their families, get them released from detention, and legally sponsored. Family advocacy, research, and education about current and past U.S. immigration policy are their goals. They partner with research centers, universities, and community and national civil rights organizations.

Never Again Action—N.H. (neveragainaction.nh.org) has a website and Facebook page where you can read stories and keep informed. They connect you to your politicians. Want to go to work? They give you the tools for signing petitions, writing postcards, joining letter-writing campaigns, and joining local car rallies. Action Network (actionnetwork.org) offers petitions to sign and letter-writing campaigns as well, plus they give information on both local and wider conversation groups to join and activities. So now let's get to work!

Pastor Tim's Article: January 28

This Sunday, January 31, is Reconciling in Christ Sunday. It is a day designated by Reconciling Works to celebrate people from all of life's experiences, especially those who have been presently and historically oppressed, denied and ignored by the church and the world. Since we became a RIC congregation in November, we want to acknowledge this during our worship service and have it serve as a reminder that our work is not done. While we did do some work to designate Holy Trinity is a place that actually means it when we say "All Are Welcome" we know there are many people and places where this is not true. Our work as a church is not just about making our own place one of love and acceptance for all people, but helping others to become places that do the same.

Also, even though becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation was a lot about what we are doing as a gathered community, it is also about what we are doing as individuals. As you went through our learning sessions, I hope you were made aware of some of

your own biases and misunderstandings about the LGBTQIA+ community and that those new learnings are now evident in your life. This may be in the language you use, the words you choose, the conversations you engage in, how you engage in them and the organizations that you support or participate in (and potentially not participate in anymore).

Lastly, becoming RIC is more than about ensuring the welcome of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is about ensuring all people are welcomed, wanted and affirmed. Several times Jo Whiting quoted the first verse and chorus during our RIC Team meetings, and I think it is worth sharing here now. This is the type of place we hope to be. Becoming RIC is only one step.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim



Pastor Tim's Article: February 1

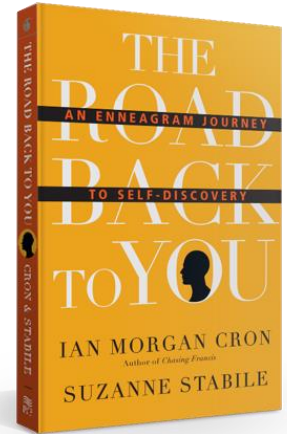
Batten down the hatches. Tune up the snow blower. Loosen up your back. Make sure you have your favorite snack or drink handy in the cupboard or fridge. It looks like we are about to get hit with a lot of snow and wind in the next 24 hours. I hope you all have a safe, warm place to be. Say an extra prayer for those who are not as fortunate. It is now February. It is an important month in the church because it is the time in which Lent begins. With Lent, there are some traditions and rituals that we look forward to every year, but due to the pandemic, they will have to look different. (Anyone else getting tired of hear that phrase?). Below lists what is coming up and how to participate.

Ash Wednesday – Think of Christmas Eve Everywhere. But instead of gathering around the seacoast, there will be two times to gather in our parking lot to receive the imposition of ashes. On Wednesday, Feb. 17th, we will gather in our parking lot at noon and 6pm. These will be brief 20-minute services that will entail confession and forgiveness, imposition of ashes and a brief sermon/message. If you are not able to make it to the parking lot for this in-person service, I will record a message and imposition of ashes service for you to watch from the comfort of your own home. Ashes will be available to pick up from church prior to Ash Wednesday and will be found next to the communion elements in the Narthex. Lastly, if you would like a personal visit from me on Ash Wednesday, please contact me directly and we can schedule a time for me to stop by. Please directly email me at pastortim@htelc.com.

Holden Evening Prayer – We will keep this tradition and do it in the form we did during Advent. It will be live streamed from our sanctuary every Wednesday during Lent. Slight time change. 6pm.

Lent Theme – Each year, we have done some type of theme or study during our Wednesday evenings. This will continue again. This year a former member, David Ronka, and I will be leading a 5-week session on the book “The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery.” Lent is about self-examination. The Enneagram (pronounced “any-a-gram”) is a tool to help you understand the box you are in for the purpose of being able to get out of that box. Each week, we will gather on zoom,

Wednesdays at 7pm and watch a 15-20 minute video of David and I introducing that week's ideas and then have a conversation about insights into what we are learning and assign reading for the coming week. To say that the Enneagram is a "personality test" is a disservice. Generally, personality tests simply "tell you who you are," kind of like giving you a "pat on the back." The Enneagram is designed more to understand, at a deeper level, how to be a more whole person than you already are. It actually can be a little uncomfortable. You can find the book at Barnes & Noble, or at Amazon.com.



Lent in a Bag – Faith Bygd, the Faith Formation Coordinator, is busy working to put together devotions for Lent. By the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, at the latest, you will be able to come to church and pick up your "Lent in a Bag." In the bag will be weekly devotions and activities for you to do with your family, someone else or by yourself. Please call (603) 436-1704 to let us know you would like "Lent in a Bag" to take home. (Delivery is an option also!)

That's it for now. I have hope that we might be back in the sanctuary for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as the vaccine is coming out, but no promises at this time. Just hope. Which really, isn't that all we ever really have. Hope. We don't know what the next day will bring. Tomorrow is never promised. It is only hoped for. We hope it will be a day in which we are one step closer to the end of the pandemic. But no matter what comes, we hope it will be a day in which there is a bit more peace. We hope it will be a day in which there is a bit more compassion. We hope it will be a day in which there is a bit more love. We hope.

***Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1***

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim