

May 30 & June 6, 2021

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Summer Worship Schedule Begins June 13.

Beginning Sunday, June 13th, we will begin holding one worship service at 9:30 AM, held outside, under the tent and the surrounding area. This service will include congregational singing, and the return of the Children's Sermon. Zoom worship service will end with the final service being held on Sunday, June 6th. Wednesday Evening Worship will resume on June 16 at 6:00 PM.



Both Wednesday and Sunday Worship will be live streamed, and available to watch any time after Worship ends, on htelc.com.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Our Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 13, after the 9:30 AM worship. Pastor Tim and Church Council President Cristina Dolcino will provide a video summary of where we are.



Tables of Eight

Time for Dinner! With vaccine availability, the COVID rates down, and so many of us hungering for social interaction, we think it's time to return to Tables of Eight. We will use the same groupings that were planned for 2020, modified to add those who might want to join now and to accommodate those who might not yet want to participate. So— please contact Jo Whiting (tidewatch9@comcast.net) or Mark Donahue (in the church office) to be added to or dropped from the 2020 Tables of Eight groupings; no need to do anything if you are already assigned to a group and wish to stay there. A new list will be sent out in June with the updated groupings for 2021. Bon appetite!



Pastor Tim's Article: May 27, 2021

This weekend is the unofficial start to summer. It is Memorial Day. Boats will be put in. Grills will be turned on. Beers and other drinks will be poured and many people will get sunburned. I hope you have a great weekend!

We all know that this weekend wasn't started so we could all take an extra day off and kick back to relax. Instead, we have this day to remember the sacrifices that many have made in service to the country. Each year, on social media, I see the following quote. (This year I saw it from Heidi Morrison.) It says the following.

Armed Forces Day is for those still in uniform.

Veterans Day is for those who have hung up their uniform.

Memorial Day is for those who never made it out of their uniform.

I think it is good to be reminded of the distinction. Frequently, it seems we have a tendency to wrap them all up together and honor the people who have served in the military (past and present) whenever we have a patriotic holiday. But there are differences between them and to not remember or distinguish each can lead to minimizing, even though it is done unintentionally.



I am extremely grateful to live in the country I do. I wake up every day not worried about basic necessities that many in the world do. I have fundamental rights that I can and do exercise. Additionally, in my life, I am safe, fall asleep easy and wake up with opportunities in front of me. I am grateful.

Much of the reason that I am able to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities I do, is due to the sacrifice of those individuals who "never made it out of uniform." Starting with the Revolutionary War and continuing through other wars and conflicts I have learned about, and through those of which I will never know, there are countless people who have died to make my life possible. Again, I am grateful.

Along with the feeling of gratitude, like all of you, there is another emotion inside. That is one of sadness. It is for all the lives lost, all the men and women who did not return to

their families and did not get to fulfill the dreams for the rest of their lives. Also, it is for the family and friends of those who have died and grieve differently than I, in a more personal way.

But I also grieve because when we remember victims of war. It serves as a reminder that God's kingdom is not a reality among us and too often we have chosen ways that take us further from it, rather than moving toward it. While we can have conversations about whether a war or violence is "just" or not, I don't think it is ever God's desire or hope for the world. Jesus speaks of loving your enemy and praying for those who persecute you. The early church grew exponentially because they were known for a different way of life that might be best embodied in the Sermon on the Mount, of which part of the teaching is "Blessed are the peacemakers, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

I also think about God's future and what heaven will be like, when it comes fully to earth. I don't think war or violence will ever be part of it. Whatever divisions we have created between people will be no more, and all will be one. I continually am reminded of Ephesians 2:14.

"For he (Christ) is our peace; in his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

So, this Memorial Day, when you are enjoying an extra-long weekend, at some point, say the following prayer.

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the people of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders, and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. – adapted from the ELW prayer for the Armed Forces.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: June 1, 2021

June 13th is quickly approaching! Why am I excited about June 13th? Because, on June 13th, we will move to our summer worship schedule and have it outdoors! It is marking another step toward the end of the pandemic! Here is what you need to know.

Time: 9:30am

Where: Under the tent and in and around the fenced in area at the church

When: Every Sunday from June 13th until Labor Day

Why: So we can worship together and SING!

Masks: Optional

In case of weather, we will move worship into the sanctuary. If this is the case, masks are required. Additionally, beginning on June 13th, we will resume FELLOWSHIP after worship!

Now, in order to pull this off, we need some extra help each Sunday. This is where you all come in. Below is a list of job descriptions that will need to be filled. Nothing is difficult, we just need people willing to help. Remember, these won't just be needed on Sunday, June 13th, but for every Sunday.



Greeters: Greet people as they come to worship and ensure they pick up a bulletin and communion.

Help Set-up: Arrive by 9am to help set up the sound system and chairs for people who are not able to bring their own.

Help Clean-up: Help take down the sound system and put away chairs for people who were not able to bring their own.

Fellowship Host: Make coffee, set everything up and clean everything up for Fellowship. We would like at least two people for every Sunday.

Treat Bringers: 5-6 people to bring some type of treat for Fellowship. One person will need to bring a gluten free treat.

There are lots of ways to help and get many people involved. None of the jobs are very complicated, and if you are not sure about something, ask. There will always be someone to help. Each week, the Monday Tidings will have a sign-up genius link for all that is needed. You don't have to sign up for the same job every week, but perhaps you can sign-up 2-3 times throughout the summer.

I think this is going to be a fun summer at Holy Trinity. It will be good to be able to gather more and more people together and be in the same physical space.

Thanks for all you do to make us who we are.

Pastor Tim

Immigration Companionship

Companionship Claudine is a joy! She's moving ahead in her journey to become documented. As she often tells me, "When I have a job and my own apartment, I'll feel like a real person again." She's attained the first step by securing a CNA position at Dover Rehab. Later this week she meets with a real estate agent to view a couple of downtown Dover apartments, so she's close to her second step as well.

But her success has brought her a new problem—she needs transportation to her job at night. Dover buses don't run in late evening and we don't want her walking alone after dark.



The Kasiks are putting together a list of volunteer drivers.

Driving requires picking her up at her host home at 10:45 PM and dropping her at her work place. Can you help? Once a week? Once every other week? If this is something you can do, contact the Kasiks, and we'll get you into the schedule.

Ten Reasons Why Lutherans Care for All Creation

Many of us are concerned - to say the least - about the state and future of our environment. And well we should because the “Earth is the Lord’s and its fullness thereof, it is the right thing to do and fuller understandings of Judeo/Christian and other theologies are achieved when faith and religious texts are viewed from their environmental origins.

Some in our congregation have taken individual steps to reduce their carbon footprints (reduce, repurpose, reuse and recycle), donate to environmental stewardship and even take action. But what can we do as a Christian congregation? How and to where does God call us?



This is the first of articles this summer to help us as a congregation discern these matters. (1)

Lutherans care for creation for many reasons, including:

- 1. Theology:** We affirm God as Creator of all. We have an incarnation theology that cherishes the continuing presence of God in, with, and under all reality. We see redemption as the restoration of creation, as “new creation.” We see the future straining toward the fulfillment of creation.
- 2. Cross and Resurrection:** The Gospel leads us to see God in solidarity with the human situation in all its pain and agony, especially the most vulnerable—humans and non-humans. A theology of the cross gives us solidarity with “creation groaning in travail” and stresses that God redeems all Creation. Our affirmation of resurrection offers hope for new life in this world.
- 3. Worship and Sacraments:** We affirm that the material is a vehicle of the divine and that Christ is present in such ordinary elements of life as grapes and grain—the basis for our delight in and reverence for Creation. Our worship invites us into transforming encounters with God deep in the flesh and in the world. We are called to worship God with Creation.

4. Ecclesiology: Our human vocation is “to serve and to preserve” Earth. We believe that the church exists for the sake of the world. We do not have an escapist theology. We are called to continual reformation in response to the needs and crises of this life. When Luther was asked what he would do if the world would end tomorrow, he apparently replied, “Plant a tree.”

5. Ethics: We have an ethic of faith-active-in-love for neighbors and for all Creation. Liberated from a legalism that enslaves, we are freed to address new situations, such as the ecological state of the world. We do so not to dominate but as servants to our human and non-human neighbors. We do so not out of fear or guilt or arrogance but joyfully out of grace, love, and gratitude.

6. Social Ministry: With a heritage back to the Reformation, Lutherans have a history of social service to the poor, the elderly, the sick, the oppressed, the marginalized—through hospitals, homes for the elderly, social ministry agencies, Lutheran Immigration Service, and Lutheran World Relief. We extend that service to healing our Earth community.

7. Advocacy: We ELCA Lutherans have relevant social statements: “Caring for Creation” and “Sustainable Livelihood for All.” We have a staff person in environmental/hunger advocacy in Washington and Lutheran Public Policy offices in many states.

8. Scholarship and Education: Many Lutheran scholars have written and spoken on ecology—in theology, ethics, biblical study, and social commentary. Colleges and seminaries of the ELCA have environmental ministry courses that prepare Lutherans for leadership in church and world; many continuing education events for clergy and laity highlight Creation care.

9. Caring for Creation across the church: Several synods with Creation-care committees have declared themselves to be Care-For-Creation Synods. Many Lutheran congregations incorporate Earth-care commitment in their life and mission—worship, education, building and grounds, discipleship at home and work, and public ministry. Lutheran camps have brought environmental concerns to many people. The ELCA headquarters has a Green Team that works to model environmental action. The ELCA offers grants for environmental projects. (2)

10. Organizations for Earthkeeping: Lutherans have led in the Green Congregation Program, the Green Seminary Initiative, the Web of Creation, promoting Creation-care,

and worshipping throughout the church year with resources from and Lutherans Restoring Creation(1) and others.

Lutherans are in a critical position to listen to the cry of the poor along with the cry of Earth and to take leadership in addressing these critical issues of our day. In whatever context you may be serving and living out the Gospel, you're encouraged to participate in this endeavor.

Our Church Council is considering if and what our congregation is called to do regarding Creation-care. As it was with the Reconciling in Christ process, HTELC may likely undergo a period of study, prayer, and conversation before any decisions are made. Comments are welcome and may be sent to Glenn at glenncanoe@gmail.com

Glenn Oswald

(1) The title and body of this article (between the asterisks) is from the Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) website with minimal editing. LRC is an organization affiliated with the ELCA.

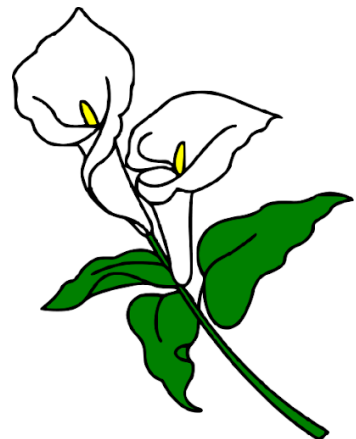
(2) There's a bounty of faith-based environmental initiatives that can be found on the internet, including LRC, GreenFaith, Creation Justice Ministries, and programs of many Christian denominations and religions.

In Memory of Madeline Brandt

Longtime member Madeline Brandt has passed away on Tuesday, May 18, at the age of 92. Please keep Madeline's family in your prayers as they say goodbye.

In Memory of Herbert Haake

Lynne Clement's Uncle, and recent member of Holy Trinity, Herbert Haake has passed away last Thursday. There will be a private ceremony for Herbert in June. Please keep Lynne and the rest of the Clement family in your prayers at this time.



President's Article: May 2021

Growing up as the oldest of five children, I was eager to leave home when it was time to go to college. While college was only 45 minutes away from home, I remember the first time I returned after about a month of being away. My father picked me up and I started thinking about the things I missed about home. Interactions with my siblings, our yard, my mother's food, my high school friends, my bed... I was looking forward to the things I missed while at college. As we got closer to my hometown, I thought about the things I would do. This return home was enjoyable, but my experiences didn't happen the ways I envisioned. I won't say it was disappointing or insignificant, just different from what I remembered and had created in my heart and mind while driving home.



“Returning home” in my early 20's feels a little like returning back inside Holy Trinity for service. I have attended two in person services. It was wonderful to hear music, enjoy the light shining through the stained glass, see familiar faces, join in to laugh with others, and reflect upon the sermons. Sure, there were things that felt a little different than a year ago, yet I felt enriched, comforted, and lifted up. I may not be alone in the way I anticipate how I will encounter my memories and experiences. As I maneuver through recent and ongoing shifts related to COVID and other guidelines, I am trying to keep in mind that my memories are just that, memories. I appreciate and value them for the purpose they serve. What I know may not fit into my small slice of the world right now given all the changes and unknown outcomes. In time, and after some perspective, I believe these experiences and memories will gain their own significance.

Backyard Wednesdays

Instead of doing 5 nights over one week, we are going to do 5 nights over 5 weeks. The dates will be July 14, 21, 28 and Aug. 4,11 (all Wednesdays). We are combining VBS with our Wednesday evening worship those weeks and are going to call it Backyard Wednesdays! This will be an intergenerational evening consisting of dinner, all ages worship, and VBS (open to all ages). You are welcome to participate in the whole two hours or only a portion. We are looking for volunteers to help facilitate the 5 evenings.

Dover Friendly Kitchen

Thank you to everyone who answered the call for help for Dover Friendly Kitchen this week. We have enough volunteers, and reached our goal of 360 cookies. Our next date is Tuesday, June 22, and we will need a few extra helping hands while Bonnie and Lara are away. Please contact Jill Schock or the Church Office if you would like to volunteer a few hours of your day to help.

(Photos taken by Jessica Feeley on Tuesday, May 25, before the guests arrived)

