

March 20, 27, and April 3, 2021

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Holy Week Worship Services this year are as follows:

- Maundy Thursday, April 14: 7:00 PM Worship
- Good Friday, April 15: 7:00 PM Worship
- Easter Sunday, April 17: 9:30 AM Worship



Easter Breakfast

The council is excited to announce that our Annual Easter Breakfast will be returning on Easter April 17th after the 9:30 service. This is a "Potluck" breakfast where you can bring any breakfast or desert dish to share. The church will provide baked ham for all who attend. There will be a setup for tables, chairs, accessories on Saturday April 16th at 1:00pm. We will also need volunteers to help on Easter morning during the breakfast, but not during the actual Easter service. Many hands make the work light and fast.



Upcoming Adult Forums

The Transition Team will host three Adult Forums in the coming months. All three Adult Forums will be available to watch at htelc.com/adult-forums

These dates and events are:

- March 27: Present CAT to the Congregation
- May 1: Why Us workshop
- May 22: MSP workshop

Adult Forum

Reconciling in Christ celebration

Reconciling in Christ celebration has been officially rescheduled for Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 AM. The Sunday morning service will feature special liturgy and the dedication of an RIC pastoral stole. Stay following the service for a free concert by the New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus. A special offering will be split between Seacoast Outright (supporting LGBTQ+ youth) and Ascentria Care Alliance's Afghan Evacuee Resettlement Program (helping to support Afghan families we are welcoming to New Hampshire).



Pastor Luther's Article: March 17, 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

As Russia's unprovoked war on the Ukraine continues to escalate, and global tensions mount, it is easy to despair of the state of the world. And yet, we mustn't lose hope. While there may be no telling how long this war will go on, and how much suffering it will cause, we should also keep our eyes open for the glimpses of light that are emerging from the darkness.



Two small stories in particular captured my attention this past week. The first is the story of a school in Italy where all the teachers and students gathered to joyously welcome two Ukrainian refugee students on their first day at their new school. As Jesus put it, "the kingdom of God belongs to children such as these." Luke 18:16.

I also have been moved by the courageous faithfulness of Ukrainian Christians during this awful war. Apparently Psalm 31 in particular has become a cornerstone of their prayer life.

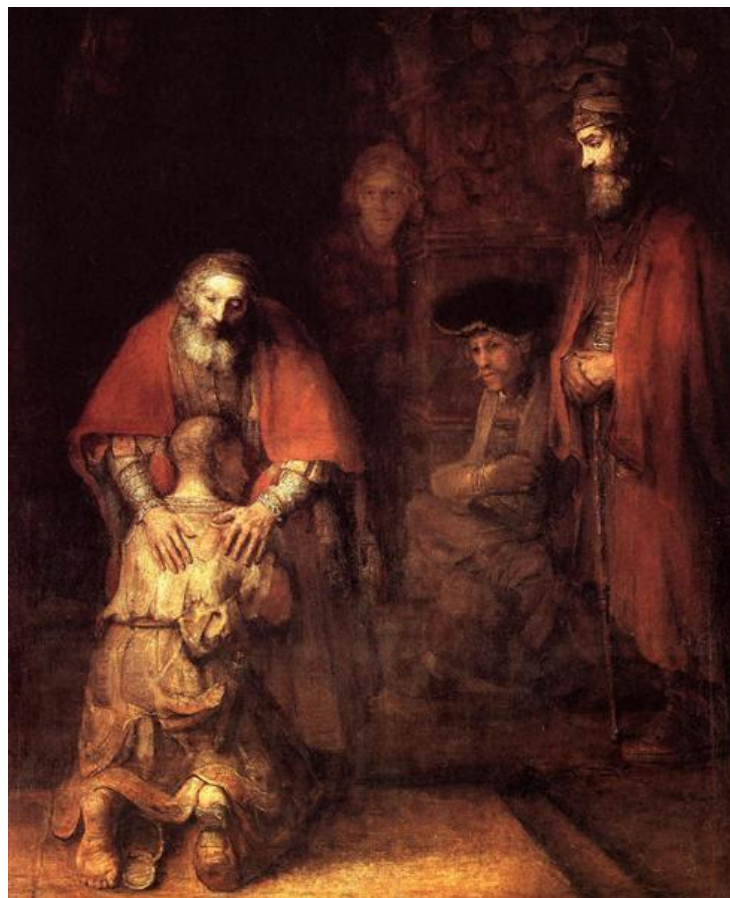
May our own faith be strengthened by these examples, and may the God whose peace passeth all understanding bring a speedy end to this tragic war.

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Luther

Pastor Luther's Article: March 24, 2022

One of my very favorite parables of Jesus is the "Parable of the Prodigal Son" from Luke's gospel. So endlessly rich in meaning, the parable has inspired many great works of art and literature. Among the greatest of these is Rembrandt's famous painting of the parable, a copy of which I keep on the wall of my office.

Rembrandt's painting focuses on the scene in the parable where the father joyously receives the younger (prodigal) son who returns home seeking his father's forgiveness after having squandered his early inheritance on dissolute living. Rembrandt beautifully captures both the tender mercy of the father's embrace of his younger, repentant son as well as the bitter gaze of the older, self-righteous brother watching from the darkened corner of the canvas, unable to accept the "unfairness" of the father's forgiving acceptance of the younger brother.



One of the central questions posed by the parable and the painting is: who are we in this story? Are we the repentant child, who makes mistakes but owns up to them and seeks forgiveness; or the resentful child, who feels entitled to what he or she has, is blind to his or her own failures, and can't quite accept that God's love transcends our own feeble conceptions of justice and extends to everyone who genuinely seeks it? And what about the father who loves so extravagantly and shows such mercy...can we possibly reflect this kind of love in our own treatment of each other?

The parable is an excellent lens through which to explore Christian themes of sin, repentance and forgiveness, and for that reason every third year it is appointed as our gospel text on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. I hope you can join us for worship this Sunday as we explore the parable's meaning for our lives.

In Christ,
Pastor Luther

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 Portsmouth schools. This program provides food for children in need that sustains 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 7 Thursdays throughout the 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, it takes between 45 minutes to an hour to pack 70-90 bags..

End 68 HOH Scheduled Packing Dates for HTELC 2022

- Apr. 14
- May 26



This school year we are welcoming back volunteers! If you are interested in joining our team, please email us (mckenna.kathy.62@gmail.com) or Lauren Gianino(pplg813@comcast.net). *****Due to covid safety concerns we are requiring that all volunteers be vaccinated and masked.**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Kathy McKenna & Lauren Gianino