

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship

Please note the upcoming schedule for Holy Week 2023. Further details to come shortly.

Palm Sunday, April 2 (*Worship at 9:30 AM*)

Maundy Thursday, April 6 (*Worship at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM*)

Good Friday, April 7 (*Worship at 7:00 PM*),

Holy Saturday, April 8 (*Online reflection on [htelc.com](http://htelc.com) – no in-person service*)

Easter Sunday, April 9 (*Worship at 9:30 AM*), *Easter Breakfast to Follow.*



## Easter Breakfast

The council is excited to announce that our Annual Easter Breakfast will be returning on Easter April 9th after the 9:30 service. This is a "Potluck" breakfast where you can bring any breakfast or dessert dish to share. The church will provide baked ham for all who attend. The ovens will be in use that morning, so please bring a dish that is already heated or doesn't need to be warm. There will be a setup for tables, chairs, accessories on Saturday April 8th 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. Speak to Tom Bernth if you're interested in helping.



## Pastor's Article: March 9, 2023

So, how is your Lent going? Now that we are almost at the half-way point, it seems like an appropriate time to check in regarding our collective progress (or lack thereof!) The question that keeps ringing in my ears this season is a big and challenging one: Am I living the life God desires for me?

Anyone who has listened to me preach more than a few times knows that one of my favorite Christian writers is Frederick Buechner, who just passed away last year. One of his books that I always keep by my side is a collection of daily meditations for the year entitled, *Listening to Your Life*. In writing about Lent, Buechner re-frames the Lenten task of self-examination in some provocative ways. Consider these questions during Lent, he suggests:

“If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?”

These are daunting questions to ask indeed. As I think about them, I'm not entirely sure I like all my answers. The good news of our faith, however, is that we're not alone in answering these questions. God in Christ takes all of our meager and misshapen efforts at “self-improvement” and, through the mystery and gift of grace, makes something new, wonderful, and unexpected of us. This is what we call resurrection. It is the joy of Easter that awaits us on the other side of Lent.

So, for now, think deeply about who, and whose, you are. And then, as we look ahead toward Easter, let us rejoice that Christ's love for us is so profound that He already has plans to make something marvelous of whatever life we have to offer.



## Property Team

From time-to-time I find it necessary to remind everyone what the Property Team is and how it works. For whatever reason the congregation has generally adopted or accepted the view that the Thursday Morning Group and the Property Team are one in the same ... just different labels. I imagine this view persists regardless of my occasional crusades to clarify the point because the Thursday Morning Group is the most visible of the overall components of the Property Team. It is also true that the Thursday Morning Group in its earlier days was substantially larger than today and would have been even more visible working on various property projects on Thursday Morning and at other times as well. This past history probably also contributes to the label confusion. The problem with the label today is that it does not serve us well in as much as it fails to recognize significant and valuable property work done by property volunteers that provide their service primarily, and even exclusively, at other days and times as best suits their individual preferences and availabilities.

Property Team is the proper and appropriate label for what our overall body of property volunteers do. The Thursday Morning Group is what it is ... a subset of property volunteers that choose to do their volunteer work primarily, but not exclusively, on Thursday mornings. The Thursday Morning Group is an important and vital part of the Property Team, but the Property Team has a much broader scope. When you give it some thought, it is clear that the Thursday Morning Group must limit its scope to work that is amenable to the short period of time when they are gathered each Thursday. Often projects such as painting and others cannot be completed in a couple of hours and can be disruptive to church activities if left in a partially completed state. Some basic property tasks can take days, not hours, to complete. A few years ago, the Property Team took on the task of getting the exposed aggregate floor in the sanctuary cleaned. Even using a professional cleaning service to do the cleaning work, a significant team of property volunteers was needed to move the chairs in the sanctuary. The work was done over a period of about three days, during which time the sanctuary and gathering areas were not available for normal use. This is just one example of a Property Team task that would have been impractical for the Thursday Morning Group to tackle. Other examples include the removal of the old organ and related rearrangement of the sanctuary, reconfiguration of the Wiggle Room and creation of a new conference room, oversight of the parking lot maintenance work, and oversight of the installation of the new



church sign. These days it is also not unusual to have more tasks to do than can reasonably be done by the Thursday Morning Group alone. Also, some property tasks, such as maintenance of the heating system, require specialty experience that the Thursday Morning Group does not typically have available. That's where the balance of available property volunteers step in to do their thing, on their schedule, as time permits. Property volunteers may work individually or in teams or groups as the needs of a given task may dictate.

The point of this whole discussion is not to resolve some fine point regarding a team description or terminology. The more important message is that the various property related tasks needed to keep our building and grounds operational, safe, and presentable require a wide range of volunteers, sometimes working in conjunction with professional outside service providers. The needs vary with the seasons, but there is always something to be addressed. We are not a standing team with regular team meetings or the typical trappings of a team. Everyone involved in this effort is part of the Property Team. The number of volunteers who self-identify with this team effort today is smaller than it has been in many years. If you are such a volunteer, I personally offer my thanks to you on behalf of the congregation. If you are not involved with the Property Team, but may be interested in helping in some manner, I would be interested in discussing possibilities with you. David Mercer, Property Team Leader (pro tempore).

### **Operation Blessing**

Operation Blessing is in need of plastic bags for clients to put in the clothes they are taking home. The kind that are needed are just the simple one use bags from the grocery stores. Won't you please place them in the green buckets under the mailboxes. We still are collecting mustards, mayo and catsup and ground coffee, tea, and peanut butter and jelly. Thank you.



## **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 6 Thursdays and 1 Wednesday throughout the school year.

Our next packing date is Thursday, April 13. 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 around 45 minutes to pack 50-60 bags.

### ***End 68 HOH Scheduled Packing Dates for HTELC 2022-2023***

Apr. 13

June 1

We welcome all volunteers! If you are interested in joining our team, please email us. Let us know if you have any questions.

Kathy McKenna & Lauren Gianino



## **Bell Choir interest**

Holy Trinity is looking to start up our Bell Choir for the first time in years, and we would like to know who is interested in joining. We are looking both for new members to join us and experienced members to return. If you have an interest in joining the Bell Choir, please speak to Heidi Morrison or Dot Kasik, or let the Church Office know.

## **Indonesian Cooking Class in May**

We are planning some opportunities for fellowship between the Holy Trinity 9:30 community and the Imanuel Indonesian 2:00 congregation during 2023. Our first event... do you like cooking? If so, please come to cooking class after 9:30 Worship on May 7 (tentative date)! Open to all ages and cooking skills. We will learn to cook Indonesian nasi goreng (fried rice) and lumpia (springrolls) from our fellow parishoners. We will all help with the chopping, rolling, frying and then sit down to enjoy the lunch we have cooked. Details are under discussion, more information coming soon.

## Prayer Concerns

**Health Issues:** Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, Alice Peterson, Sarah Meier, Bob & Judy Hollister, Don Gindlesperger, Steve Bush, Joyce Rivoire, Richard Anderson, Yvonne Topping, Dave Smith, Larry Sanders, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Jean Klein, Joe Lugalla, Geri Seig, Rani Marcus, Grover Marshall.

**Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Edith Rowan, Barbara Werdelin, Ron Evers, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom.

**Military:** Josh Bretz, Matthew Hanrahan, Brendan Podszus, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot.

**Friends:** Katy and Sherry (Shirley Jackson's daughter and sister), Linda Smith and Bill Hutchins (Jill Larson's friends), Casey Lavoie (Stephanie Goupil's friend), Danielle Elwanger & family (Bobbie Febbo's granddaughter), Lynn Geraci (Jill & Jerry Schock's friend), Robert Gjellstad (Jerry Schock's cousin), Helaine Wemple (Gisela Wemple's daughter).

*Prayers will be listed for 6 weeks unless told otherwise. If you would like a prayer concern listed in the bulletin, please fill out a Prayer Request at the Usher's table or contact the Church Office at [office@htelc.com](mailto:office@htelc.com).*

## Monthly Attendance & Offering

<b>Sunday, February 5:</b>	86 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 35 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 121	<b>Offering:</b>	\$6,345.45
<b>Sunday, February 12:</b>	85 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 25 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 110	<b>Offering:</b>	\$12,764.90
<b>Sunday, February 19:</b>	87 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 11 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 98	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,248.40
<b>Wednesday, February 22:</b>	29 ( <i>12:00pm</i> ) + 30 ( <i>7:00PM</i> ) = 59		
<b>Sunday, February 26:</b>	81 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 29 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 110	<b>Offering:</b>	\$3,842.92

## Calendar at-a-glance

<b>Sun. April 2:</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>Thurs. April 6:</b>	Maundy Thursday (worship at 7:00 PM)
<b>Fri. April 7:</b>	Good Friday (worship at 7:00 PM)
<b>Sat. April 7:</b>	Holy Saturday reflection ( <i>online only</i> )
<b>Sun. April 9:</b>	Easter Sunday 9:30 AM. Easter breakfast to follow.
<b>Sun. April 23:</b>	RIC Celebration Sunday

**Sunday Worship,** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Confirmation Class,** Sundays after Worship.

**Lenten Book Discussion,** Sundays after Worship (during Lent).

**Wednesday Bible Study,** Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

**Property Team,** Thursdays at 8:00 AM until noon.