

March 19 & 26, and April 2, 9 & 16, 2023

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## President's Article

*"Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind", Nathaniel Hawthorne.*

Over the years, our Holy Trinity family has been blessed with wonderful and inspiring pastoral leadership. We're about to turn another page in our collective history, while we continue to honor the past and look with joy to the future. On Easter Sunday, Pastor Don Larsen will be joining us as a temporary, part-time interim pastor, while Pastor Luther returns to the summer congregation in Manchester by the Sea, Massachusetts. Pastor Larsen will be with us beginning Easter Sunday, and will be with us throughout the summer. During these summer weeks, he will be with us for Sunday worship, join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays, and be available for other pastoral concerns.



Some of you may remember Pastor Larsen from last year when he was with us during the month of August preaching on the book of Hebrews. Pastor Larsen has been active in ministry in a variety of roles, including congregation pastor, instructor of Biblical studies in Hartford Seminary and Harvard Divinity School, and has been involved with interfaith and synodical efforts. Prepare yourself for a lively summer at Holy Trinity. And stay tuned for word coming soon about the Fall and beyond!

## Operation Blessing

The manager in the food room of Operation Blessing told me they were low on the following items: juice, jam/jelly, sugar and canned pasta. In addition, they are in need of regular plastic bags that the supermarkets put your food in. Thank you all for thinking of others.



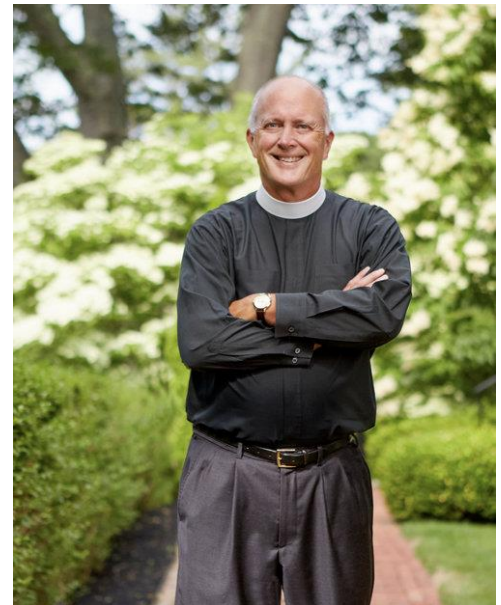
## **The Call Committee has recommended a Pastoral Candidate**

*The following letter was mailed and emailed to our congregation on March 28, 2023.*

Dear Holy Trinity Friends,

Over the past months, the Church Council together with the Call Committee have been praying, studying, and discussing how to best prepare for the next chapter of our congregational journey. We are all beginning to understand that we are living in a world that is not the same as our pre-pandemic world. Despite frequent references in the media to “getting back to normal” after the pandemic, we know the normal of years ago will not be returning. We have seen changes in our church, our nation, our world view, our neighborhoods, our work, and our play. Seeking out ways for our church to thrive in this new world that is still evolving is indeed challenging.

We believe we have a plan that will help us to best thrive in this new world, and meet the challenges it poses. Our plan doesn't look like a “typical” call, but one that we are convinced will provide Holy Trinity with a firm foundation for the future. The Call Committee has unanimously recommended that we call Pastor Luther Zeigler as a part-time, “three season” pastor. We believe most of you will join us in enthusiastically affirming that over the past year Pastor Luther has provided us with spiritual direction and growth to us individually and collectively. The model we are suggesting is having Pastor Luther with us on Sundays and Wednesdays as we have up until now, with additional time to expand his ministry to provide leadership in areas such as faith formation, worship, property use and management, and administration. He will meet regularly with a Mutual Ministry Team to ensure that both his needs and those of the Congregation are continually evaluated and met. Pastor Luther will be continuing his work with the summer congregation in Massachusetts, which includes summer Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Christmas Eve, and Easter services. We will be working to determine how best to maintain our worship schedule at HTELC when Pastor Luther cannot be with us. During the summer of 2023, Pastor Don Larsen will be with us on Sundays and Wednesdays. Next summer, Pastor Luther has said he could be with us for a mid-week eucharist service and work with us to design alternative worship formats.



This is certainly not a “normal” call, nor has it been a “normal” call process but these are not the “normal” times of before. We can say with certainty that the Synod has walked with us on

this journey and is supporting this effort 100%. Council and call committee are embracing this venture and believe it will provide an avenue to lead us to a new era of spiritual growth, love and service at Holy Trinity. The specifics of how this arrangement will evolve will change over time. It will require many of us here to become more involved on Committees and Teams. Pastor Luther will guide us, but we will need to do much of the work. We have all had many questions as we started this journey, as most likely do you. We will hold a meeting to answer questions on April 16 after worship. Pastor Luther will be worshipping with us at the service on the 16th and will join us for the discussion. On April 30 Pastor Steven Wilco from the NE Synod will be with us at the vote to call Pastor Luther Zeigler to Holy Trinity.

We look forward to being with you during Holy Week and at the meeting on April 16, and formal Call process on April 30. We will be providing more specific information in the coming weeks.

With Joy and Hope,  
Dick Topping, Chair Call Committee  
Judy Evans, President, Congregation Council

### **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! Cooking starts at 10:45. Eating starts at 12:00. Open to all ages and cooking skills.

Please sign up for our Indonesian cooking class! We will learn how to make nasi goreng (fried rice) and lumpia (springrolls). All cooking skill levels welcome. Also, we need some eaters to help us eat this yummy lunch.



We would like 15 cooks. These people should bring: a small cutting board and knife, for cutting up vegetables. Also, one salad OR dessert to share. We would like 15 additional eaters. These people should bring their appetites and some kind of beverage to share.

Sign-ups after worship beginning April 16. Or email Mark Donahue [office@htelc.com](mailto:office@htelc.com). All little kids (to accompany the 30 people mentioned above) also welcome: no signups necessary.

## Pastor Larsen's Article

Dear friends in Christ,

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to be invited to serve among you through August. I'm grateful for the warm welcome you gave me on Sunday, at last night's council meeting, and in today's Bible study. As an interim pastor during HTELC's transition to a called pastor, my role is simply to walk with you in Jesus' name for a brief period of time, celebrating Christ among you in Word and Sacrament, study and pray with the Wednesday morning Bible study group, attend council meetings, and offer pastoral support and care.

I will keep office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 am (after Bible study) until 2:30 pm. In addition, I will make pastoral visits on Wednesdays following office hours. I will also be available on most Sundays after worship.



My email address is <interimpastor@htelc.com>. If you have an urgent need to reach me, you can contact Mark Donohue, Ministry and Office Coordinator, at 603-436-1704 or <office@htelc.com> and he will make sure I receive your contact information in a timely way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to chat for any reason.

In my retirement, my wife and I joined Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA. We love our quirky congregation and our fine pastor! You may have heard that on Easter Sunday evening, the church building was consumed in a six-alarm fire. A little after 6:00 pm that evening, I received a call from my sister who had seen on local TV news that the church was on fire. Immediately, I went there and stood watch for several hours as the beautiful old building, our spiritual home, was destroyed.

This coming Sunday at HTELC, we welcome Hunter Farley into the body of Christ through Holy Baptism. Little Hunter is himself a living sign that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is not finished with us yet. I hope to see you again in worship this Sunday, and the Sundays to come during my stay here.

Peace,  
Pastor Don

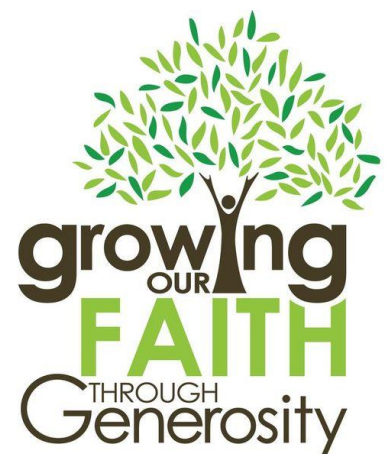
## Property Team

Late in 2021 I let it be known that I would like to retire from my position as leader of the Property Team. A replacement has yet to be found. About a year or so ago I was asked to put together a listing of the various duties for the Property Team to serve as guidance for the next team leader. Over the years I have tried to characterize what the team does, but not in the detail needed to shed meaningful light on the nature and scope of things. I sent the first detailed task description to council in May 2022 and I have just updated the document. I know it is not a particularly effective tool to recruit a replacement because it certainly has the potential to discourage potential candidates. There is a lot to take care of for sure, and these days our numbers force us to let some things slide. We have some wonderful and dedicated property volunteers, but I no longer have the time or energy to do all the things an effective team leader needs to be doing. It is time for a change. Perhaps one of you readers will be inspired to step forward with fresh insights and energy for the team. *Dave Mercer*



## Stewardship

Stewardship is the act of caring for or managing something. We in the “Church” tend to see stewardship as the act of giving money, which is caring for the Church. In a larger sense, stewardship is the caring for all aspects of our Worship and our Church. There are many areas which seem to get short shift in our caring. One major area, whose careers always need more help is the Altar Guild. It isn’t terribly demanding, but it requires someone to be there and helping for each service of Holy Communion. Another area is the preparation and set up of our coffee after services on Sunday. If you are able, please offer your assistance to the person, on Sunday, that you see doing this. That person may not be the head of the committee for that function, but I’m sure they can put you in touch with that person.





## Faith Formation

This coming weekend, April 14-16, our confirmation class and two leaders will attend the "Confircamp" retreat at Camp Calumet with several other New England ELCA congregations. There will be 5 hours of confirmation class time focusing on the theme of "The General Epistles," lead by our leaders, Lara Scammon and Glenn Oswald. Our youth will also be involved in recreation, games, worship, fantastic meals, and more led by the Calumet staff.



Periodically this Spring, Lara Scammon will lead some Sunday morning faith experiences for grades K-6.

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in planning VBS on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7pm.

The Faith Formation Team met earlier this week and welcomed some new members - there's room for more! The purpose was to begin brainstorming and sharing for the 2023-24 program year, including children's experiences, confirmation program and adult forum. No plans will be made without input from our new, called pastor.

## Camp Calumet Summer Resident Camp

It's not too early to register for a Summer Resident Camp experience! Registration is done online. To learn more about the programs and to register, go online to <https://www.calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp>

And... "scholarship" funds available from HTELC to help your family afford the expense of Calumet summer camp. See Lara Scammon to request a "scholarship."

## Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated in June. If you know someone from Holy Trinity who will graduate from High School, College, Grad School, or another school this year and would like to be recognized, please speak with the Church Office or Helen Goransson.

## 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, Shirley Jackson **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:** 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), Frank & Lucille Febbo (Bobbie Febbo's cousins), Mark and Janet Febbo (Bobbie Febbo's cousins).

*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, March 5:</b>	64 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 31 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 95	<b>Offering:</b>	\$16,944.85
<b>Sunday, March 12:</b>	72 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 29 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 101	<b>Offering:</b>	\$10,345.90
<b>Sunday, March 19:</b>	86 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 21 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 107	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,103.40
<b>Sunday, March 26:</b>	94 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 23 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 117	<b>Offering:</b>	\$5,786.10
<b>Sunday, April 2:</b>	115 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 31 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 146	<b>Offering:</b>	\$6,874.50

## Calendar at-a-glance

<b>Sun. April 23:</b>	RIC Sunday (9:30 AM Worship)
<b>Sun. April 30:</b>	Congregational Vote, after worship (10:30 AM)
<b>Wed. May 3:</b>	Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)
<b>Sun. May 7:</b>	Indonesian Cooking Class (10:30 AM)
<b>Sun. May 28:</b>	Confirmation Sunday (9:30 AM Worship)

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

**Confirmation Class,** Sundays after Worship.

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

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