

April 23, 30, and May 7, 2023

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Holy Trinity unanimously votes to call Pastor Luther as our permanent pastor!

For those of you who were unable to be with us on Sunday, April 30, I want to share with you the good news that those members present on Sunday morning voted unanimously to call Pastor Luther as our next permanent pastor. His term of office will begin in September 2023. As you are aware, this plan is not typical of what we've known in the past. We will have to be creative and thoughtful as we confront the future. But we know we have been led to this point in our church journey, and we will not walk alone as we go forward.



Please join me in welcoming Pastor Luther as he walks with us on this journey. And please take moment to thank the members of the Transition Team, the MSP Writing Team, the Call Committee, the New England Synod, and the Council for their work leading us on this journey. Pray for insight and wisdom as we join together with Pastor Luther to do the Lord's work as we approach the future.

Pastor Luther's Book of Sermons

"God with Us", written by Pastor Luther Zeigler, is available to borrow in the Church Library. This is a written collection of his sermons preached at Emmanuel Church from 2012-2019. Currently, we have only one copy, and it's not sold on Amazon. If you wish to purchase your own copy, please let the church office know, and we will try to get copies for you.

Faith Lutheran Church

On Easter Sunday, Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA suffered a devastating fire that burned down most of the building. Bishop James Hazelwood worshiped with the congregation last Sunday, and wrote an update, which you can read below. To help support Faith Lutheran, please go to Holy Trinity's giving page and select "Faith Lutheran Church Cambridge" in the dropdown menu OR give a check in our Sunday Offering and write in the memo "Faith Lutheran Donation".

New England Synod eNews

April 17, 2023

Dear New England Synod,

On Sunday, I worshipped with the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA. You will recall that this congregation suffered a devastating fire to its building, on 311 Broadway, late last Sunday evening. Thankfully no one was in the building then and no one was injured. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. However, the 100-year-old building suffered significant damage, that required six engine companies to respond to control and end the fire. Last Tuesday, the church's steeple was removed to prevent further damage. However, the cross which stood atop that steeple now stands inside the sanctuary where the congregation will worship for the foreseeable future.



Pastor Robin Lutjohann and the congregation have received many blessings, with an outpouring of prayers, donations and the offering of the nearby Pentecostal Tabernacle for worship. On Sunday, the congregation's pastor welcomed Faith Lutheran to worship in their space on Sunday mornings (the Pentecostal congregation worships at 4 pm on Sundays) and provided a love offering of \$5,000. Earlier in the week, Faith Lutheran's shared feeding ministry operated out of the nearby synagogue, with which they have partnered in that ministry for 20 years. Then on Wednesday, the local mosque welcomed the congregation for its weekly prayer service, where they broke bread together in fellowship. All of this is a testimony to how God's Holy Spirit works to bring about hope and healing in this loss.

What can you do? While the congregation has significant support and is fully insured, there are high additional costs to their recovery. If you would like to support them in their efforts, I invite you to join me in contributing via the church's Go Fund Me page. The link is here.

Fortunately, the congregation has wise and experienced architects, attorneys and finance people. They are indeed one of our small but mighty congregations. They have also received support and advice from nearby congregations which have experienced similar events. That shared wisdom exemplifies the fruits of a collaboration that Faith has engaged in for many years.

During worship, I offered the prayers of this whole synod for the people of Faith Lutheran, who are clearly people of faith. Again and again, I was impressed with their resilience. The worship opened with Hymn 652, Built on a Rock, which contains the opening stanza: "Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling."

I invite you to continue praying for this congregation as they walk through a long, challenging road ahead.

Sincerely,
Bishop James Hazelwood
Faith Lutheran, Cambridge

Hello from Geri Seig

Hello Friends of Holy Trinity,

I want you to know how much I appreciate all of the cards I have received from you. It means so much to me. I now live in North Carolina, just a couple of miles from my son. I enjoy seeing him and my other family members. I also want to thank you for the great send-off I received when I left NH. I was so busy with moving and resettling a few times due to falls and rehab, I did not have time to write. I appreciate having such great Christian friends. I have not forgotten any of you. I will always remember your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Former Pastor's Article: June 1999

In the spring, Holy Trinity's church office uncovered documents of old Tidings newsletters in our basement. While Pastor Luther is away, and unable to write articles for us, Holy Trinity would like to share several enlightening articles from the Tidings, written by Pastor Dave Snyder (Pastor from 1989 to 1997) and Pastor Paul Lindstrom (interim Pastor from 1997 to 2000). We plan on having a Former Pastor's Article in the Tidings every other week.

Among the greatest lines from Tennessee Williams is this one:
'The future is called perhaps.'

What lies ahead for Holy Trinity? What is God calling us as a congregation to be about? The answers are at the heart of what the Vision Committee is about. But its not the Vision Committee that provides the answers to those questions. Its the congregation, you the people of Holy Trinity that together need to discern what we believe God would have us be about as we seek to carry on Christ's work in this community.

Some of us think about Holy Trinity's future the way we think about marketing---living in the conviction that if we advertise, have a good product (i.e. the right pastor) and invest our energy in recruitment, we can continue to grow and Holy Trinity's place in the future will be assured.

Still others of us think about Holy Trinity's future the way my old neighbor thought about investments---don't taken any risks, because you might end up losing. (Sadly, he didn't end up winning either, and when he died, his once considerable nest egg was pretty depleted.)

We can learn another way to think about Holy Trinity's future from Abraham, who heard those fateful words from God: "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." Abraham went, he overcame his fears, and he was willing to make a new beginning even at his advanced age." "Give us faith to go out with good courage", we pray, "not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us." Every time I pray that prayer, I think of Abraham. It's one of my favorite prayers and can be found at the close of the service of Evening Prayer in our Lutheran Book of Worship. Holy Trinity's future is clear in the mind of God, but none of us knows it yet. And like



Abraham, we can only move out in faith that God is leading us. The process the Vision Committee is leading us into is based on the premise that all of us are in a relationship with a God who is ever more ready to communicate with us than we are to listen.

It is a process that seeks to discern God's will for our parish. At the very heart of the Christian faith lies one fundamental question: How can we understand and live the will of God? This desire, this longing to seek to do God's will, is what will be our focus as a parish this summer as we prepare to call a pastor. We can never be sure that we have truly and fully comprehended God will, but we can make it our prayer and then trust that the Holy Spirit will lead.

PTL (Paul Lindstrom)

Faith Formation

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

Faith Formation needs your input for planning Vacation Bible School. Please complete the Google Form survey by May 28th. (Paper copies are available at church.)

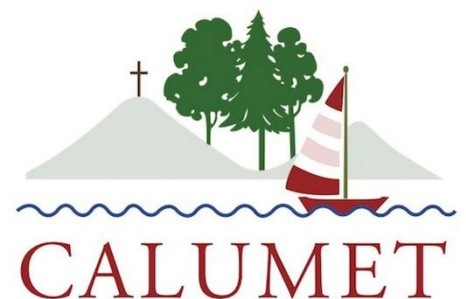
The Faith Formation Team met earlier this month and welcomed some new members - there's room for more! The purpose was to begin brainstorming and sharing for the 2023-24 program year, including children's experiences, confirmation program and adult forum. No plans will be made without input from our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



Tanzanian Update from Rev. Livingstone Msungu

Iringa Lutheran is our partner church in Tanzania. Pastor Livingston Mzungu—who we pray for every Sunday—heads the congregation. Pastor’s wife, Saporah, is a practicing midwife. Their son Bethany just turned three years old. “During his time so far in Iringa Pastor Msungu has enlarged the girls’ sewing school and hired a professional teacher. He also opened a carpentry school for boys and a children’s library. - Dot Kasik

(Photos provided by Rev. Lingstone Msungu)



Baptized into Christ on April 16, 2023 is Hunter Robert Farley, son of Tara & Keith Farley.

Baptized into Christ on April 23, 2023 is Harrison James Brosseau, son of George and Heather Brosseau.

Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, Alice Peterson, Bob Hollister, Don Gindlesperger, Steve Bush, Joyce Rivoire, Richard Anderson, Yvonne Topping, Dave Smith, Larry Sanders, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Geri Seig, Rani Marcus, Grover Marshall, Shirley Jackson, Julie Moore, Dick Topping.

Homebound: Carol Saufley, Edith Rowan, Barbara Werdelin, Ron Evers, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Matthew Hanrahan, Brendan Podszus, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot.

Friends: 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), Norman Young (Heidi Morrison's father), Richard King (Fred King's brother), Bonnie Bly (Sue Althof's sister-in-law), Donald Seidel (Sue Althof's cousin), Judy Bly King (Sue Althof's sister), Denny King (Sue Althof's brother-in-law).

Prayers will be listed for at least 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.

Monthly Attendance & Offering

Sunday, April 2:	115 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 31 (<i>Online</i>) = 146	Offering:	\$6,874.50
Sunday, April 9:	180 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 58 (<i>Online</i>) = 238	Offering:	\$4,621.90
Sunday, April 16:	101 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 28 (<i>Online</i>) = 129	Offering:	\$6,537.40
Sunday, April 23:	67 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 63 (<i>Online</i>) = 130	Offering:	\$9,463.97
Sunday, April 30:	100 (<i>In-Person</i>) + 27 (<i>Online</i>) = 127	Offering:	\$3,948.45

Calendar at-a-glance

Sun. May 7: Indonesian Cooking Class (10:30 AM)

Sun. May 28: 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.