

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## In Memory of Gisela Wemple

Our sister Gisela Wemple died at home on Sunday, August 6, after a brief illness. She passed from this life with the support of prayer and the loving presence of her family. We join them in giving thanks for this wonderful woman, commending her into the hands of a loving and faithful God.

Gisela was a very active member of our congregation. She served on the Property Team and helped clean around our building every Thursday morning. Gisela was also known as an exceptional baker for the Thursday group. She served our congregation on Sundays as a Lector, wrote Get Well cards on behalf of our church, and attended Bible Study every Wednesday.

A Celebration of Life Service for Gisela Wemple will be held on Saturday, October 7 at 2:00 PM. All who knew Gisela are welcome to attend. For those who wish to read Gisela's obituary, you can read it on Page 4 of this issue of the Tidings.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Pastor Larsen

## In Memory of Grover Marshall

Brother-in-Christ and longtime member of Holy Trinity Grover Marshall passed away last week on July 30. Grover was 93 years old and is survived by his wife, Linda Marshall. Grover has served our congregation in the past as an organist.

A Celebration of Life will be held in fall. We will notify the congregation when the Celebration of Life has been scheduled.

Please keep the Marshall family in your prayers at this time.



## President's Article

It seems that every year, the change from summer to the start of fall takes me by surprise. As kids of all ages get ready to return to their studies, teachers meet their new students to begin another year of study, and a myriad of fall and winter activities start up, the Congregation Council has begun to prepare for our busy upcoming year. Pastor Luther joined us for our August meeting to lead us in discussions about planning for the fall and priorities for the next year. It is truly a “work in progress” as these

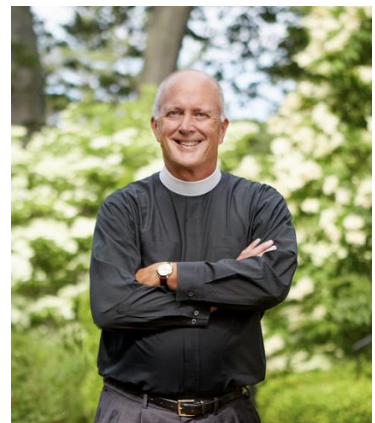
discussions are ongoing and will guide us as we work with Pastor Luther to address things to enhance our worship experience, plan adult forums and youth faith formation, hold new member classes, implement “God’s Work, Our Hands” during these next months.



Highlights for the near future include our farewell on August 27 to Pastor Don whom we are blessed to have known, a welcome back to Pastor Rafaella Mueller on September 3 and 10, and a welcome back to Pastor Luther on September 17. On October 1, we have planned for the installation of Pastor Luther at a “Celebration of New Ministry”. Many community members, leaders of other religious groups, those who have lead worship with us over the years, representatives from the New England Synod of the ELCA, as well as representatives from Episcopal Diocese along with Holy Trinity members and friends are invited to attend to mark the beginning of a new ministry. Please plan to join this festive event on Sunday, October 1 at 4PM followed by an informal reception.

### Pastor Luther's Installation Service

Pastor Luther's Installation Service will be on Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 PM for a “Celebration of New Ministry” as we formally install Pastor Luther Zeigler as our 12<sup>th</sup> Pastor. We will have two choir rehearsals for the installation service, on Sunday, Sept. 17 and Sunday, Sept. 24, both at 1:30 PM. All are welcome to join the Installation choir.



## Immigration Support Blog

Since its very beginnings, Holy Trinity has involved itself with welcoming immigrants and studying immigration issues. Most recently, members have worked with Ascentria Care Alliance to companion the Khyber family from Afghanistan as they become familiarized with American ways. We did this through a team effort, working with multiple congregations and organizations throughout the Seacoast. The Khybers have now obtained subsidized housing in Portsmouth and are setting out on their own.

Prior to getting acquainted with the Khybers, Holy Trinity worked in collaboration with Temple Israel in Portsmouth to companion Claudine Bertille from Cambodia. Claudine arrived in the States several years ago, eventually ending up in Rockingham County and finding temporary housing with a Dover family. In her home country, Claudine worked as a para-legal, but with English as her third (!) language and with Cambodians practicing the English legal system, finding employment here in her field was impossible. Instead, she found herself various jobs working in nursing homes throughout the area as a nursing assistant.



Several in our congregation had the opportunity to meet Claudine when she worshipped with us just after COVID was under control enough for us to meet in person for services. Before that, she joined us regularly by zoom. Holy Trinity and Temple Israel both contributed monthly to a food budget for Claudine so that she could help with finances for the generous folks who gave her housing. Another thing she needed was transportation to and from her job, and to avoid her having to rely on public transportation, a dozen folks from Holy Trinity created a schedule and drove her to and from work in Dover.

When requests went out for traveling nursing assistants in the Dartmouth area, she bravely hopped on a bus and took herself to apply for a job that paid more. She found temporary accommodation near work there.

After only a couple of months in Dartmouth, a fellow Cambodian refugee who had settled in Las Vegas promised her a good job and invited her to share her apartment. The next thing we knew, our brave Claudine flew herself out to Las Vegas to start yet another new life!

Another year has gone by already. Not only is she working full time, but she's moved herself into her own apartment and enrolled herself in a nursing school program. I spoke with her by phone several weeks ago; she told me joyfully that her daughter in France was coming for a visit. She also has a date with a judge to begin the asylum process. We don't know Claudine's story before becoming an immigrant. Those of us who "companioned" her were encouraged never to ask why she made the decision to leave her home in Cambodia for a country half-way across the world to start anew, because any variances in the story might harm her chances for

asylum. We know the circumstances must have been dire; she left an aging mother, an older daughter, and several grandchildren behind, fully knowing she might never see them again. This we know: Claudine is a brave, brave woman. Those of us who are privileged to know her feel gifted. She is a woman of prayer and deep faith, and she has taught us much about what it means to be an immigrant.

–Dot Kasik

### **Obituary for Gisela Wemple**

Gisela Wemple, 83, of Portsmouth, NH, died at home surrounded by family on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Gisela was born in August, 1939 in Glogau, Germany, to Helmuth and Margot Kluetz. At age 12 she immigrated with her father, step-mother, and siblings to a farm in Pottersville, NJ, where she developed a lifelong love of plants and the outdoors. Gisela attended Hackettstown High School, Drew University, and Mountainside School of Nursing. She is survived by her sister, Barbara of Newton, MA, her children, Kristina of O'Fallon, IL, Helaine of Portsmouth, NH, John of Barrington, RI, and seven grandchildren. Gisela was predeceased by her husband, Stuart H. Wemple and brother, George. Gisela enjoyed gardening, the arts, religion and faith, volunteering, daily walks, and spending time with family and friends. Gisela will be missed deeply, but her spirit rests within us all.



*Posted online on August 09, 2023*

*Published in Portsmouth Herald/Foster's Daily*

*Democrat/Seacoast Sunday, Portsmouth Herald/Foster's Daily Democrat/Seacoast Sunday*

## Property Team

Martha and I have been away this past week. On returning home Sunday evening we were surprised to see more than seven inches of water in our garden rain gauge! That's a lot, and I have not been into church yet to see if we had any water in the basement. For whatever reason, I have yet to see water on the basement floor this summer. Given all the rain this season, I would have expected to see some water intrusion. Perhaps something has changed below grade around our foundation and water hasn't risen to the known entry point about half way up the basement wall. Time will tell.

Last week when I was in Ohio and anticipating a small-ish Thursday Morning Group, my weekly email to the group recommended we cancel our regular Thursday gathering for the week. Much to my surprise, the Thursday folks had a better idea and went ahead with things. We even had some new faces to lend a hand. Thank you Dick and Yvonne Topping and thanks to the regulars who chose to ignore my offering of a day off. You are all the best! "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". Who said that?



Since my last report, Portsmouth Sign Company completed a routine inspection of our new sign on the Spaulding Turnpike side of our property. They found no problems with bulbs, no indications of electrical issues, and no indications of water intrusion. They removed the lifting lugs at the top of the sign per my request and sealed the bolt holes. This should have been done when the sign was initially installed. They found and repaired a damaged (bent) track at the top of the sign which was preventing one of the sign panels from seating properly in its track and could have allowed water entry for some extreme weather conditions such as wind-blown rain or snow. They also observed a grouping of bubbles within the material for one of sign panels. These bubbles do not appear to show up when the sign is lit at night and is likely to be a stable condition that will not worsen with time. At this point, I do not plan to pursue any relief within the warranty provisions. We can continue to monitor the situation in future inspections and pursue warranty provisions if the situation begins to impact functionality.

In my Tidings article for June I provided information of potential projects to be funded from the \$15,000 approved for such projects at the last congregational meeting. Projects included:

1. Steeple refurbishment

2. Staining of the exposed wood trim around the main entry and the soffit area around the outside of the sanctuary
3. Replacement of the ceiling fan in the sanctuary
4. Repair/replacement of the skylight windows in the sanctuary
5. Repair/replacement of up to three exterior fire doors

Since that time, I have been actively seeking bids for item 3, the ceiling fan replacement, but have yet to obtain any acceptable bids. To date, potential bidders have been unrealistically low, did not show up to evaluate the job, or have not replied at all. It is a small, but complex job, and bidders do not seem to be excited by the prospect of working on it. They seem interested at first ... just a fan replacement ... but the fan being 40 feet above the floor and 30 feet above a large hanging chandelier seems to put them off a bit! Wimps!

Regarding item 4, I have decided not to pursue this work at this time. We can work around the issue (spurious closure). The potential vendors to work this job (including Velux, the window manufacturer) have little or no interest in resolving the problem with the existing windows and consider the windows to be beyond their expected useful lifetime. Also, parts for these windows are difficult to find. I am convinced that the problem involves a malfunction in the control unit, and will continue to seek a replacement unit.

Regarding item 5, I requested the Newington Fire Department to come in and check out all of our fire doors. They pointed out to me that the problematical doors were, in fact, not fire doors, but emergency exit doors. Of course, these doors still have to open properly, but the closure requirements were less restrictive than fire doors. I have also had a contractor come in to work on the problem doors so that they can be opened, closed and latched. The fire department does a complete walk-through of the building annually to check on all of the fire safety features. The next walk-through is scheduled for August 24. Unless the fire department has additional issues with our doors, I will conclude we do not need to consider major door repair or replacement at this time.

All that said, it now appears that we only need to pursue items 1, 2, and 3. I am inclined to accept a bid for \$7200 to complete items 1 and 2, and will recommend to council that we proceed with this work promptly while the weather remains amenable to outside work. My best guess is that item 3 can be completed for something in the range of \$1500-\$2000, although I have yet to receive a realistic bid for the work. I will continue seeking bids for this work which can be done later in the year if need be since the work will be done indoors. The total for these three items will be well below the \$15,000 approved.

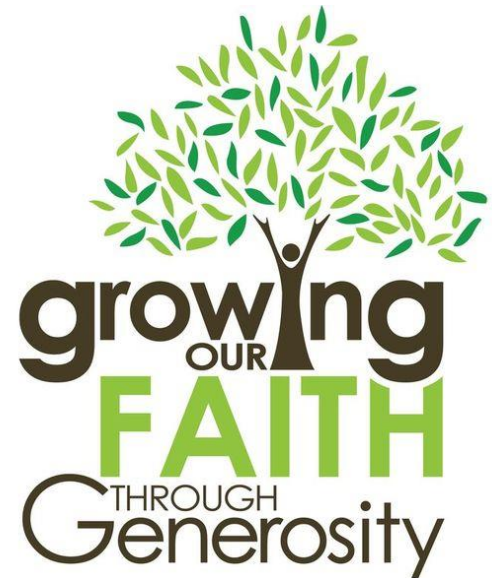
Dave Mercer, Property Team Leader (pro-tempore)

## Stewardship

I have been writing about Time and Talent Ministries here at Holy Trinity for several editions of the Tidings in the last several weeks. These little articles were meant to intrigue your curiosity about what is happening here at Holy Trinity. There is so much more that is happening that I don't know about.

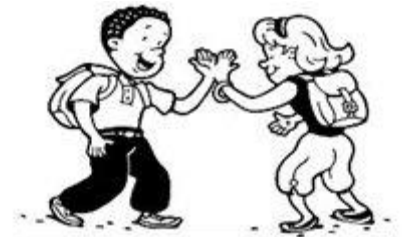
In the Bible Study group, we have just done a study of the Sermon on the Mount. It ends with the words relating to being Hearers and Doers of Jesus' words. Matthew, as the writer, states that Jesus taught with Authority and not as the scribes.

Mark Donahue will soon publish a pamphlet that will give a paragraph about each function of our time and talent opportunities. In addition, you can look at Holy Trinity's website at: <https://www.htelc.com/time-and-talent>.



## End 68 Hours of Hunger

Our *End 68 Hours of Hunger* team comprised of Kathy McKenna and Lauren Gianino have retired, effective end of 22/23 school year. They took over from Leslie Carson in 2016. HTLC has been involved with Ending 68 Hours since 2011. The need has decreased to about 45 bags with sporadic two volunteers from 2016, when there were 6-8 volunteers packing about 95 bags per month. She needs someone to take responsibility for the program.



**End 68 Hours  
of Hunger**

## Baptized...

Baptized into Christ on August 20, 2023 was Roy David Alan Rouleau, son of Matthew and Kelly Rouleau.



# 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, Shirley Jackson, Dick Topping. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, 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:** Dave Bly (Sue Althof's brother), Cinda DeWerff (Rich Wilcox's sister), Kathy Wyrick (Linda Marshall's friend), Jacquelynn & Richard Murray (Jessica Feeley's sister and brother-in-law), Rich Conway & Karin Otero (Lois Laurence's friends).

*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](mailto:office@htelc.com).*

## Monthly Attendance & Offering

<b>Sunday, July 30:</b>	76 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 24 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 100	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,102.50
<b>Sunday, August 6:</b>	52 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 21 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 73	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,510.05
<b>Sunday, August 13:</b>	71 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 27 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 98	<b>Offering:</b>	\$3,454.82
<b>Sunday, August 20:</b>	75 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 43 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 118	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,453.40

## Calendar at-a-glance

**September 17, 9:30 AM:** Pastor Luther returns to Holy Trinity

**October 1, 4:00 PM:** Pastor Luther's Installation Service

**October 7, 2:00 PM:** Celebration of Life for Gisela Wemple

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

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

**Property Team,** Thursdays at 9:00 AM until *about* noon.