

October 15, 22 & 29, 2023

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Stewardship envelopes

Our pledge campaign has begun, and your packet was sent in the mail recently, including a pledge card. Please place your completed pledge card in with your offering, or hand into the Church Office. Extra pledge cards are found on the table near the bulletins. Spare Stewardship packets are available in the Church Office, if you never received yours.



Work Day at Holy Trinity

On Sunday, November 12, following the 9:30 service we will be having a work day at church. The goal will be to have indoor and outdoor projects that can be done by all ages and abilities. If you can come, please sign up using the QR Code (or ask Mark in the office) so that we can plan the projects. We will wrap up by 2:00 and lunch will be provided. Any questions, contact Scott Carson (SDC1338@gmail.com). There will be another Work Day on December 3.



Calumet's Walk the Walk this past summer was a success!

Their goal of 110,000 miles in 7 weeks was narrowly achieved, by just over 2,000 miles, for a total of 112,000+ miles. Thank you to Team Holy Trinity for helping out, they couldn't have achieved their goal without you!! Altogether, our team walked 2,286.89 miles, between 17 people. We hope more of you sign up next summer. It's a wonderful way to support our favorite Lutheran summer camp!



Pastor Luther's Article: October 15, 2022

My heart has been breaking this week as we watch horrific events of violence unfold in the Holy Land. Innocent civilians in Israel—men, women, and children—were brutally murdered, maimed, and taken hostage by a terrorist organization bent on evil. All people of good conscience should condemn such atrocities. We likewise should pray for the dead and injured and extend our hearts and hands to our Jewish brothers and sisters in their grief and horror. Frankly, I have been disappointed in how slow and equivocal our church leaders—both Lutheran and Episcopalian—have been to say these simple things. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, once put it in a different context, what the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ teaches us as Christians is that “it is with the innocent victim that God identifies, and it is in the company of such victims that God is always to be found.” That is where we should be too.

For this very same reason, we also should stand in solidarity with those Palestinian brothers and sisters who have nothing to do with Hamas, who find themselves caught in a bloody conflict not of their making, and who are often themselves the victims of oppressive violence by their neighbor. And especially we pray for the innocent civilians, including the millions of children, who now find themselves in harm's way as Israel prepares its response to this attack and the fighting on both sides inevitably escalates.

To be a Christian is to live with such contradiction because we claim an identity grounded in something that transcends political labels and national boundaries. This is no time for political sparring or jawboning. This is a time to pray for innocent victims—whether they be Jewish, Muslim, Christian, or otherwise. And it is time to pray that all those who hold political authority in this world do everything they possibly can to put an end to the madness.

"O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our



struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

President's Article

It's been a busy fall for all of us at Holy Trinity. Pastor Luther began his ministry with us in September, we celebrated his installation in early October, and sadly said good bye to several beloved members of the Holy Trinity family in September and October. During that same time, Council members guided by Pastor Luther began to cautiously identify priorities to shape this new ministry. At a recent Adult Forum discussion Pastor Luther shared the basic outline of priorities on which we believe we should focus in these first few months of this new ministry: enhancing worship, family and youth ministry, adult education, caring for others in our congregation, and stewardship and membership. And now, we are taking the next steps.

On Friday evening and Saturday, the Council and Pastor Luther will be gathering at Camp Calumet for a retreat intended to develop strategies to make these priorities a reality. We plan to discuss these questions:

- How can we provide ways to enhance our Sunday morning time together to grow our faith, our families, and our community?
- How do we create opportunities for hospitality within the church and for those outside the church?
- What does our vision look like in 6 months? In 12 months?



One day provides only brief amount of time to discuss all the areas we would like to discuss, or answer all the questions that are posed. But it's a beginning, and we will continue this work for a long time to come. We'll be writing more about our work in the upcoming Tidings. Please pray for us as we strive to learn God's pathway for our congregation, that we listen, have compassion, and take bold steps where appropriate.

Property Team

Many years ago, before we moved to New Hampshire, Martha and I and friends from Pittsburgh, PA paid a visit to the former pastor of our first Lutheran church in Pittsburgh. Our former pastor was a graduate of Thiel College in Greenville, PA and was on the faculty of the college at the time before moving on to the faculty at Gettysburg Theological Seminary. Knowing we were all big fans of the Thiel College Choir, he had invited us to visit Thiel and take in a concert by the choir. The venue for the event was, as I thought at the time,



Theiloff Center, or that was the name I recalled the pastor telling us years before our visit. Little did we know he was just setting us all up for a future laugh. As it happens, the venue was a large concert venue seating, perhaps, a thousand or so folks. The building was basically hemispherical in shape with a high, open ceiling not unlike our sanctuary. The ceiling featured a grid of large interlocking patterns which, on casual inspection, did not seem to quite line up with itself. The fact was that in the final construction of the building the uppermost section of the hemisphere was placed about 30 degrees out of position and the error was not noticed until it became impractical to correct it. So the facility who's official name was the Theil Center became playfully and unofficially known thereafter as the Thiel Off-Center. For nearly any performance attendee, the error was out of sight and out of mind and had no negative impact on the functionality of the venue. I imagine the facility manager was one of a few people that saw it, but for nearly everyone who saw it, it was just a scotoma, something that we see, but it does not register ... a blind spot.

As the Property Team leader for many years, I can attest to how difficult it is to walk into our building and just enjoy the surroundings without taking notice of things demanding attention ... things that are broken, cracked, scuffed, missing, non-functional, unsightly, unsafe, out of compliance, or whatever. With time, it becomes increasingly difficult to overlook property issues and just enjoy a service or gathering. I can't tell you how much I worried and fretted over the filthy, non-functional ceiling fan in the sanctuary! You may or may not have noticed that a new fan has now been installed and I can focus my mind on something else. And there is always something else. For me, at least, there are very few scotomas to put some of the property matters out of mind. If you cannot put some or most of these things out of mind, the ongoing reminders tend to weigh on a person. That is why, in part, it is time for me to move on. The congregation needs someone with a fresh and vigorous approach to lead the property team. Steve Bauer's recent Tidings article on the transition of the Property Team offers starting points to move forward. I hope all of you will offer your support and suggestions to Steve. *Dave Mercer, Property Team Leader (Pro tempore)*

Pastor Luther's Article: October 22, 2022

(Office Note: the Adult Forum mentioned in this article was recorded and posted to YouTube. Please visit htelc.com/adult-forums to watch this forum.)

After church this coming Sunday, I hope you will join me for an Adult Forum during which I will share some of my personal faith journey. Tongue firmly in cheek, I have tentatively entitled it "Why I am a 'Lutherpalian': How a fellow named after the Great Reformer, and who was baptized into the ELCA, ended up an Episcopal priest, only to return home and fall in love all over again with the Lutheran church."

I am a firm believer that sharing faith stories is an important aspect of building Christian community. I hope that by sharing a piece of my journey, we can begin to get to know one another on a deeper level.

I also want to use this discussion as an opportunity for us to explore together the rich possibilities of the Lutheran-Episcopal partnership we are embarking upon. In the course of reflecting on my own journey, I will share with you what I find compelling and beautiful about both traditions, and will invite you to offer your own perceptions of the similarities and differences between our two denominations.

It has been over two decades now that Lutherans and Episcopalians have been in "full communion," an agreement first ratified by the ELCA in 1999 and then approved by the Episcopal Church in 2000 at its General Convention. Entitled "Called to Common Mission," the work of living into the relationship is now carried forward by the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee.

In the introduction to "Called to Common Mission" there is an important statement about the spirit of this agreement: "Our churches have discovered afresh our unity in the gospel and our commitment to the mission to which God calls the church of Jesus Christ in every generation. ... Our search for a fuller expression of visible unity is for the sake of living and sharing the gospel. Unity and mission are at the heart of the church's life, reflecting an obedient response to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ."

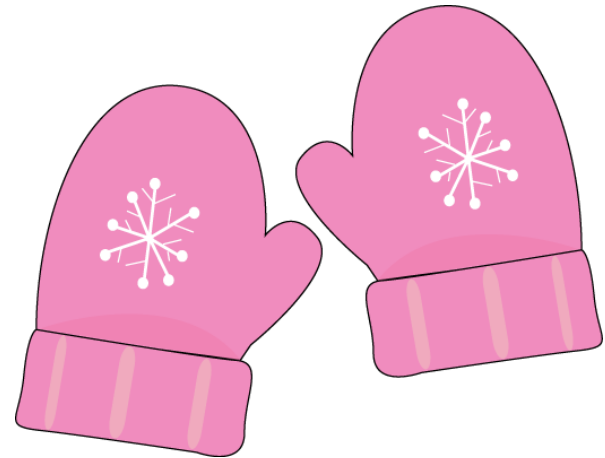


My hope and prayer is that our life together at Holy Trinity in the years to come will be a creative and vibrant example of such ecumenical partnership. I am convinced this is the future of the wider church: learning to find unity in difference and working together to build bridges among the different varieties of Christian community in our world.

Thanksgiving Baskets and Mitten Tree

Once again, HTELC will be assisting Operation Blessing with procuring items for Thanksgiving Baskets. Items can be placed in the Narthex and will be delivered to them to Operation Blessing. The items being requested are canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy (no glass jars, please), pie crust mix (no filling) and brownie mix. They are also asking for gift cards to Hannaford's, Market Basket and Aldi's. These are to be used to specifically purchase ready-made rolls and butter.

We will be collecting for the Mitten Tree during the four (4) weeks immediately preceding Advent. The "Tree" will be in the Narthex from November 6 -26. All sizes of mittens, gloves, hats and socks are greatly appreciated. To this I will add Gisela Wemple's yearly reminder that adult sized work gloves are always needed. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

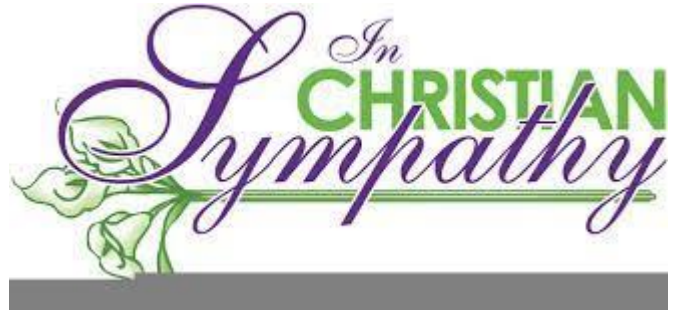


Help for Imanuel Indonesian Congregation

The Immanuel Indonesian Congregation has been without a Pastor since last March when the Pastor's Visa expired. To bring her back, on a Ministry Visa, the congregation needs to provide proof of available housing, and a fund of at least \$25,000 for her housing needs. The congregation has housing and pledges from its members of \$15,000. Their request to Holy Trinity was to provide a pledge of \$10,000 so they can begin the process of obtaining the Visa. There was a meeting between a group from Imanuel and Holy Trinity to discuss the request as well as what the plan was once the Pastor arrived. It was the conclusion at the meeting to recommend that the Holy Trinity Church Council make a pledge to the Imanuel Congregation in the amount of \$10,000 to be funded by a part of the "Not Designated" fund. This request was discussed by the Church Council at their monthly meeting on October 10th. A motion was made and passed unanimously to provide the pledge letter in the amount of \$10,000. Having a Pastor will help the Imanuel Congregation, as we at Holy Trinity are well aware.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Linnea Richardson and Denise Burbank. Linnea's husband Craig Richardson passed away yesterday afternoon. We offer our hearts and prayers to Linnea and Denise as they say goodbye to their loved one.



Thank you from Jean Klein

Words cannot express how overwhelmed I was with all your expressions of love for my birthday. I appreciate every good wish, visit, birthday card and the fabulous serenade of Happy Birthday from the church service. Many thanks to all. Jean Klein

Indonesian Cooking Class returns this November 5!

The class we held last Spring was successful, we decided to do it again. This time, we're calling it the "Noodle Cooking Class". For this event, we will have 8 people learn how to make an Indonesian Chicken Noodle Meatball Soup, and 8 others will learn how to make a Taiwanese Rice Noodle Meal. Additionally, if you don't feel like cooking but still want to eat, we will allow up to 15 eaters for a nice meal after the cooking class has finished. Sign-ups in the Gathering Area

All Saints Day

We hold in remembrance those who have lived and died in the faith this past year. Please contact the church office if you have a name you would like remembered in the Prayer of the Church on Sunday, November 5.



Honoring our Veterans

On November 12, Holy Trinity will honor our veterans who are on Active Duty or retired from service. If you or a loved one has served in the military, please contact the Church Office so we can recognize you in the bulletin. Thank you for your service.



Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Pastor Linn Opderbecke, Alice Peterson, Bob Hollister, Don Gindlesperger, Steve Bush, Joyce Rivoire, Richard Anderson, Dave Smith, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Geri Seig, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson. **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, Ian Conners

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), Carol Dumican (friend of Bobbie Febbo), Scott Andrade (Bobbie Febbo's friend), Phil Cahners (Bobbie Febbo's son-in-law), David Roth (Bonnie Sanders' brother).

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, October 1: (9:30)	45 (In-Person) + 27 (Online) = 72	Offering:	\$4,109.85
Installation Service (4:00):	140 (In-Person) + 41 (Online) = 181	Offering:	\$992
Offering from the Installation Service will go to support the Pastor's Discretionary fund.			
Sunday, October 8:	78 (In-Person) + 22 (Online) = 100	Offering:	\$9,729.20
Sunday, October 15:	74 (In-Person) + 62 (Online) = 136	Offering:	\$3,844.56
Sunday, October 22:	100 (In-Person) + 29 (Online) = 129	Offering:	\$4,523.30

Calendar at-a-glance

- November 5, 9:30 AM:** All Saint Day, worship
- November 5, 11:00 AM:** Indonesian Cooking Classes
- November 11, 2:00 PM:** Celebration of Life for Grover Marshall
- November 12, 11:00 AM:** Congregational Work Day
- November 19, 11:00 AM:** New Member Class #2

- 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.