

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Indonesian Cooking Class

Indonesian Cooking Class returns this November 5th! 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.

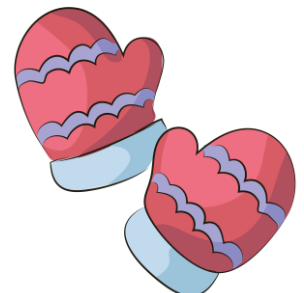


Thanksgiving Baskets and Mitten Tree

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.



Pastor Luther's Article: September 21, 2023

As we begin this new chapter in the life of Holy Trinity, your Council and I have been in prayerful conversation about what our priorities should be for the year ahead. This coming Sunday after the service, I encourage you to stay for an "Adult Forum" in which we will enlarge this conversation to include your voices, as we very much want to hear your ideas on this subject as well. Ultimately, of course, the real task is for us to discern **God's** will for our future. But such discernment can happen only if we all gather in prayer and share what is on our hearts and minds.

The upshot of the discussion your Council and I have had thus far is that our energies in 2024 should be focused in five areas:

- Enhancing Our Worship
- Experience Enriching Family and Youth Ministry
- Enlarging Adult Education Opportunities
- Extending Pastoral Care and Community Life
- Ensuring Financial Stability through Good Stewardship and New Member Recruitment



At our Adult Forum, I will briefly summarize our preliminary thoughts on these topics and then invite you to express your own ideas as we together develop a vision for the future. Your Council and I have scheduled a retreat at Camp Calumet for late October during which we will discuss what we have learned from our collective conversations with you.

I hasten to add that the above list of "priorities" for the coming year does not mean to exclude other important ministries of the church, such as, for example, our outreach and social justice ministries. These will remain central to who we are. Rather, the sense is that by focusing first on the five priorities listed above, we will create a foundation that will allow us over the long term to further grow our outreach efforts, both locally and beyond.

At any rate, the important point here is that we want to engage YOU in this conversation about priorities because YOU are the Church and the ministry of the Church is the ministry of ALL the baptized. I hope to see you on Sunday!

Pastor Luther's Article: October 5, 2023

Our "Celebration of New Ministry" this past Sunday afternoon was a splendid occasion all around and a day that Pat and I will not forget. There was a great spirit in the church and, as I said in one of my remarks, I can't wait to see what new and wonderful things God has in store for us as we move forward with this holy partnership! Thank you again to everyone who worked so hard to make it a special day.

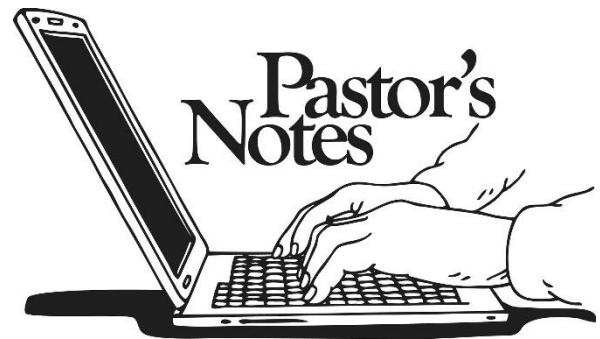
As I now sit down to make a list of all the possible new projects that we could embark upon, it is easy to get carried away with an ambitious enthusiasm. Each one of us, I'm sure, has his or her own "wish list" of new ministries to pursue or existing ministries to grow and improve. The list gets long really quickly, I've discovered!

Part of being a good steward, however, is learning to proceed deliberately and thoughtfully, making sure that we don't get out ahead of one another, and taking the time to listen and pray before we embark upon a new course of action. Eager as we are to "get going," taking on too much too quickly—before we've even gotten to know each other—is a recipe for disappointment, or worse.

So, as we get started in this great adventure of shared ministry, I would ask you to please be patient with your new Pastor, with our Council leadership, with your great staff, and with each other.

In this same vein, upon hearing about my new call as your Pastor, one of my Episcopal priest friends sent me a poster with these words on them:

**Spoiler Alert:
Ministry is messy.
The Church isn't perfect.
We are all a little crazy.
God is really good.
You are incredibly loved.**



This strikes me as such good advice that I've taped it to my office door. It's a call to humility, a call to laughter, and a call to trusting in God's goodness and love above all else. If you ever see me frustrated or overwhelmed or losing my patience, please just point me to the sign on the door. And I promise to do the same for you.

Property Team

Our long period of transition has come to an end with the return of Pastor Luther Ziegler as our full time minister. There is one important transition left for us to address– Property Team. Holy Trinity has been extremely fortunate to have Dave Mercer as the leader of the Property Team. Dave has help guide many volunteers in maintaining our building in good condition. Thank you for the members of our congregation who take part in Thursday Morning Group which perform tasks inside and outside of our church and help prepare our sanctuary for the various season of our church year as does our Altar Guild. In addition other members perform tasks that might otherwise require outside help. There are many members of Holy Trinity keeping us going. There are many volunteers to maintain our church.

Here is the hard part- transitioning Dave Mercer away from director of Property Team. He is a very tough person to replace. It maybe impossible to replace Dave with any single individual. How do we move forward in maintaining our property without Dave Mercer?



Here are some ideas of how this might occur.

- A. Any person stepping forward to help should be for a specific period of time.
- B. The various tasks need to be divided among different people. An example might be for one person to handle Thursday Morning Group, someone else might periodically inspect the property to see if everything is functioning as it should, and someone else might be able contact contractors to do tasks that need to be done.
- C. There needs to be a way that individuals might volunteer to do tasks on their own time schedules .
- D. IS IT TIME FOR HOLY TRINITY TO HIRE A PROPERTY MANAGER TO OVERSEE AND MAINTAIN OUR PROPERTY? Has our building and grounds become too complex to be handled by volunteers?

There maybe no magic answer and I sure there are other ideas of how to maintain our property.

It is an important topic and one that requires our thoughts, ideas and prayers. Each of us needs to think about how we maintain our beautiful Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. At some point in the future our congregation needs to come up with solutions.

Steven Bauer

Looking for "Green Christians"

Do you think and feel that stewardship of God's Creation, environmental justice, climate change and/or sustainability the like are important in the life of the Christian church? If so, then you likely are a "Green Christian" ... and our church needs you! The HTELC Council recently endorsed the formation of a "Creation Care Task Force" to study and explore the possibilities of our church becoming a "green church." If you would like to learn more about this possibility for service, please contact Glenn Oswald (603-507-7363 or glenncanoe@gmail.com). All confirmed members are encouraged to reply as soon as possible.

On September 19th, the Church Council concurred with the following proposal made by a church member:

- The Church Council endorses the formation of a "Creation Care Task Force" to study, explore and consider the requirements of and the options for HTELC to become a Caring for Creation Covenant congregation or a 'Green Church'. Resources will include those from the New England Synod Green Team, Lutherans Restoring Creation, Green Faith, Interfaith Power & Light and Earth Covenant International.
- This Task Force will be formed in consultation with Pastor Luther.
- In addition, it is requested that an HTELC Council member (or appointee) serves on this Task Force.
- Finally, it is proposed that the Council requests another church member to attend the New England Synod: Caring for Creation Gathering! Workshop with Glenn Oswald at Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, on Sat., Oct. 28 from 10AM to 3PM."



Tables of Eight

It's been a great hospitality ministry! Over the past 15+ years, members of Holy Trinity have gathered in Tables of Eight to share fellowship and enjoy more than 600 delicious meals. Friendships were formed or deepened, recipes were exchanged, and a good time was had by all! And now it's time to move on. Please watch for new fellowship and hospitality opportunities in the near future. In the meantime, if you are loathe to give up your Tables experiences, please feel free to form your own group and continue the tradition. Bon appetit!

Christian Sympathy / Get Well Soon to our former Pastors

Christian Sympathy to Rev. John Corgan, on the death of his wife, Marguerite Deborah Nye-Corgan, earlier in September. Rev. Corgan served our church as a Supply Pastor for over a dozen times from 2018-2021.



Get Well Soon to Rev. Donald Larsen, who suffered a really terrible fall and broke his hand. We wish him a swift and easy recovery.

If you wish to send either Pastor a card, please contact the Church Office for their addresses.

New Member Classes

For those of you who are new to the church and/or are interested in becoming a member of Holy Trinity, Pastor Luther will be offering a three-session "New Member Orientation" on the third Sundays of October, November and December, right after church. Those dates are October 15, November 19, and December 17. If you are interested in enrolling, please email or contact Mark in the Office.



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, Larry Sanders, 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.

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 & Charlie Dunican (friends of Bobbie Febbo), Scott Andrade (Bobbie Febbo's friend)

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, September 10:	59 (In-Person) + 34 (Online) = 93	Offering:	\$4,794.90
Sunday, September 17:	118 (In-Person) + 19 (Online) = 137	Offering:	\$11,305.40
Sunday, September 24:	107 (In-Person) + 25 (Online) = 133	Offering:	\$4,794.90
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.

Calendar at-a-glance

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

October 15, 11:00 AM: New Member Classes

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.