

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

In Memory of Steve Bush

Beloved Member Steve Bush passed away a few weeks ago on January 18. At Holy Trinity, Steve was an active member of the Choir. As of now, no services are planned. To read his Obituary, please see page ?? of the Tidings.



The Season of Lent

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21, and lasting through all of Lent, Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM instead of its usual time. All are welcome to stay after Bible Study for a Soup Supper at 5:30 PM, and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM.



Updating our Church Prayer List

As you know, each week our Sunday bulletin contains on the inside pages a "prayer list" of people for whom we pray each week. One of the challenges of such a list is keeping it regularly updated. If your name (or someone in your family) is on the list currently and is no longer in need of prayer, please notify Mark in the office to remove it. Likewise, if you want your name to stay on the prayer list or be added to it, please let him know. We very much want our prayer list to be accurate! In the future, we are going to be more consistent in adhering to the rule that names will stay on the list for six weeks and then be removed unless a request is made to remain on the list. Thank you!



Pastor's Article: February 4, 2024

Tomorrow, February 2nd, is Candlemas, one of the "Lesser Festivals" on the Lutheran liturgical calendar. It commemorates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, a story reported by Luke in chapter 2, at verses 25-40.

At the time of Jesus' birth, Jewish tradition dictated that on the fortieth day after giving birth the parents would go to the temple to present their child to the Lord. Forty days from Christmas day brings us to February 2nd, which is why we celebrate Candlemas then.

What Luke reports is that when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple that day, the wise old man Simeon, moved by the Spirit, took the child into his arms, proclaiming: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."



These words of Simeon's, of course, quickly became known as the nunc dimittis, the beloved canticle of "Christ's light," that to this day is a cornerstone of evening prayer and compline. In some churches, special services are held on Candlemas in which this story of Luke is re-told and the church's candles for the year are blessed in a ceremony featuring the eternal light of Christ.

We don't bless our candles at Holy Trinity, but we certainly do try to live each day guided by the Light of Christ. I hope the light of our Savior burns brightly in your home and heart during these grey days of winter. And if it is not, or has been dimming of late, I invite you to go back and re-read the story of Simeon and Anna, and allow yourself to be drawn in by its luminous simplicity.

In Christ's radiance,
Pastor Luther

Baptized into Christ on February 11, 2024 is Lenora June Larson, daughter of Bruce & Elise Larson, granddaughter of Bill & Jill Larson.

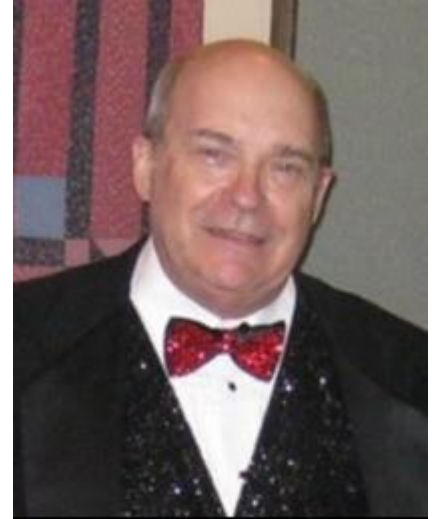
Baptized into Christ on February 18, 2024 is Elodie Grace Beliveau DeTurk, daughter of Monika & Paul DeTurk, granddaughter of Mark & Erlinde Beliveau.

In Memory of Steve Bush

Steven Jon Bush, 78, of Newington, passed away on January 18, 2024 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was the son of the late George and ValJean Bush who raised him in Downers Grove, Illinois. After high school he moved to Cheshire, Connecticut to attend Southern Connecticut State University where he received his BS and MS degrees.

He is survived by Carol, his wife of 56 years, his daughter, Heather (Ryan), and sons, Randall and Matthew (Rachel), his grandchildren, Conor, Brenna, and Ashlynn Loven, and Emma, Karianna and Etienne Bush. and Brady Evangelist. Also his brothers Arlan, Robert, Phillip and Sister-in-law Jean Bush. He is predeceased by his brother Douglas who also struggled with Parkinson's Disease.

Steve worked as a systems analyst for many years and retired from Liberty Mutual. He was also a homeschooling father and taught his children how to repair and maintain cars and most things in the home. Being a "computer guy", he taught them computer skills. He also taught them a work ethic, then how to have fun.



Steve loved to sing in the church choir and was a member of Amare Cantare, (to love to sing) a chamber ensemble of 24 voices here on the Seacoast.

Randall wanted to add some thoughts about his father: He was devoted and supportive of his family and provided many opportunities to build fond and loving memories. He loved to play catch, go for bike rides, walk, and play frisbee with the dogs. He was a great teacher and inspired others with his creativity and logic. Dad loved performing in choirs, it brought him great joy. Many thanks to those who sang with him helping him to find that joy. Dad also enjoyed going to church and pondering the many aspects of faith and religion. He found purpose in his work and had a diverse career with many opportunities to expand his skills.

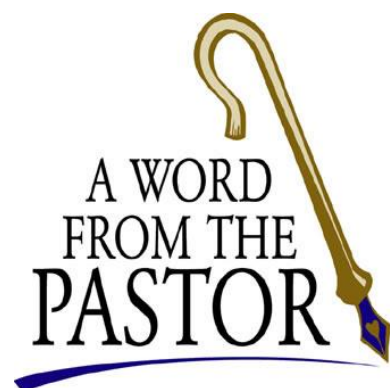
No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Steve's memory to: Cornerstone VNA, 178 Farmington Road, Rochester, NH 03867, or on-line at: cornerstonevna.org/donate

Pastor Luther's Article: February 11, 2024

The season of Lent begins with our observance of Ash Wednesday next week. Call me weird, but I love Lent. I've always been given to introspection and quiet reflection, and Lent just seems to give me permission to do what I already love to do.

Lent is a time of honest self-examination, an occasion to clear out the debris that is standing in the way of a deeper relationship with God. During Lent, we confess our foibles, ask ourselves what really matters in our lives, pray for God's guidance, connect more deeply with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and try to live more intentionally and faithfully.

At our Adult Forum this Sunday, I will offer some reflections on how we can all "live into Lent" more fully. In addition to some practical suggestions, I will also invite you to read with me over the coming weeks one of the great Lutheran spiritual classics, Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together. It is a short book (less than 100 pages), yet it is rich in theological insight and practical wisdom. In a nutshell, it is all about "Christian community," and what it means to share a "life together" in Christ. It is a perfect lens through which we can think about and discuss the nature of our own community here at Holy Trinity.



Written in 1938 just before the outbreak of World War II, the book describes the small, underground seminary community that Bonhoeffer led in Finkenwalde. The book reads like one of St. Paul's letters, giving advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and small groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words.

My suggestion is that we use our reading of Bonhoeffer's book to frame a series of three adult forums we will hold over the coming weeks in Lent on the topics of: (1) community life, (2) worship, and (3) service. In these forums, I hope we will spend 10-15 minutes summarizing Bonhoeffer's insights on these subjects, and then devote the remainder of our discussion to reflecting on how our Holy Trinity family lives into the values and practices he describes.

My hope is that these discussions will lead us to suggest new and creative ways in which we can further enhance our community connections, worshipping experience, and opportunities to serve each other and the community.

I hope you can join me in this journey.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Luther

Pastor Luther's Article: February 18, 2024

As I announced last Sunday, during this season of Lent we will be reading together Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together, a classic book on the nature of Christian community. Bonhoeffer also penned many prayers, some of which are collected in his Letters and Papers from Prison, an anthology of writings drawn from his two-year imprisonment by the Nazis before his execution on April 9, 1945.

This prayer, entitled "I Cannot Do It Alone," is an especially apt one for Lent:

God, I call to you early in the morning,
help me pray and collect my thoughts,
I cannot do so alone.
In me it is dark, but with you there is light.
I am lonely, but you do not abandon me.
I am faint-hearted, but from you comes my help.
I am restless, but with you is peace.
In me is bitterness, but with you is patience.
I do not understand your ways, but you know the right way for me.

May Bonhoeffer's prayer be ours also.

Operation Blessing

As many of you know Betty and I volunteer at OB on Fridays. Last week we noted that there were no toddler clothes. (2, 3, 4, and 5 toddler.) If you know of anyone who has young children, perhaps they have outgrown toddler clothes that are in good condition, please ask if they would donate these. You can bring them to Holy Trinity and place them in the green receptacles under the mailboxes. We can also always use children and adult clothes in good condition. The food we are specially asking for the month of February is pasta and sauce, and peanut butter. Thank you all for your kindness. – Betty Smith & Lois Laurence



BG Library

There are a lot of books in the BGLibrary. Our various sections include Autobiography, Christian Life and Service, Novels, International Ministry, Climate Care, and more.

Biography/Autobiography covers the stories of dozens of influential people and institutions. If your life is extraordinary, someone—maybe even you yourself—is going to write about you. If you're part of an organization that's changing the world, someone's going to write about it.



Holy Trinity here on the Seacoast is an institution that's changing lives, and the only book about us was written seventeen years ago. It's a great book—HTELC: A Look at 50 Years—prepared by a group of members, some still with us and others gone. It tells a great story, but a lot has been happening here over years that your Library Team feels should also be recorded.

We've experienced a lot: several different pastors; on-going partnership with Isinani, Tanzania; more trips to Guatemala; sharing with Imanuel Indonesian Congregation; companioning with immigrants; working with Operation Blessing and Crossroads House; and so much more.

Writing a sequel will take a long time and many voices. The Team is committed, and we're hoping you will be too. We'll be interviewing and collecting materials throughout this year. And we're inviting you to help. Our congregation is composed of many voices; a biography about Holy Trinity should be too. Watch for more news as the project progresses. Contact a Team member if you'd like to help.

Members: Dot Kasik, Pam Shaw, Linda Edwards, Judy Evans, and VJ Strehl.

The National Youth Gathering for ELCA youth is in New Orleans July 16th to 20th where the theme is "Created to be". This is for youth in 8th to 12th grade. The cost to register is \$425 with a \$150 deposit required. This does not include food, lodging or airfare to New Orleans. In our effort to support and encourage our youth to attend the gathering. The council is excited to announce we have allocated \$1,000 to offset expenses for each of our Holy Trinity youth within the age group to attend the gathering this year. It is expected this will be an annual program supporting and encouraging our youth to experience this wonderful gathering. We also look forward to supporting a confirmation youth camp in April. Call Tom Bernth with Questions.

A Letter from the family of Geri & Ernie Sieg

To friends at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Geri Sieg walked into the arms of Jesus on December 18. We wanted to acknowledge our parents' devotion to our Lord and to Holy Trinity and what an impact this congregation had on her and them. Geri and Ernie were long-time, faithful members at Holy Trinity. Mom continued to come to church after Dad's journey to heaven in 2008 though mobility for her was more difficult with each passing year, from cane to walker. Those of you who knew Mom remember that she wouldn't miss church—or anything else—other than being sick, which was rare. She drew strength from Jesus as well as the HT community. Both parents enjoyed singing and were faithful members of the choir,



and Mom continued to sing her alto part until a few years before she moved to North Carolina four years ago to be near her son Stu and family. Mom was consistently the last person to leave church each Sunday after she'd had conversation with everyone she could find. She loved people and always wanted to find out how others were doing, how their families were, and their latest news. Mom and Dad were friends of young people as well as their contemporaries, and they were comfortable sharing with all age levels. They became "adopted" parents and grandparents to several in this congregation, which gave Mom and Dad great joy to be part of others' families since their own children and grandchildren lived in other states. Mom enjoyed listening to and watching the Holy Trinity service on her phone after she left, and thank you for sending her the link each Sunday. Since Mom no longer had her car, this was church for her and helped her to feel a part of the community even from far away. Mom was a prayer warrior and always supported the Prayer Tree by interceding for others' needs as well as adding our family needs to those prayers. She firmly believed in the power of prayer to our Lord Jesus, and to her dying day she loved to pray and pass along prayer requests from her friends so that we would pray for those needs.

Thank you for loving on our parents, pouring your lives into theirs and allowing them to be a part of yours. They lived out their faith in word and deed, and anyone who knew them benefited from their joy and wisdom. One verse that comes to mind to describe their faith is from Nehemiah 8:10b: "The joy of the LORD is my strength."

With grateful hearts, The Sieg family

Prayer Concerns

Health Issues: Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Alice Peterson, Don Gindlesperger, Richard Anderson, Dave Smith, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Barbara Werdelin, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein, June Slipp. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot, Ian Connors.

Partners in Ministry: ELCA, New England Synod, Ismani Congregation in Tanzania, Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church, Ascentria Care Alliance, Camp Calumet, Operation Blessing, Crossroads, Dover Friendly Kitchen, Good News Garage, Seacoast Family Promise, Salvation Army, & Lutheran World Relief.

Friends: David Roth (Bonnie Sanders' brother), Erin Goodman (Jessica Feeley's friend), Róisín Ruane (April Murphy's friend), Richard Murray (Jessica Feeley's Brother-in-law), Cinda DeWerff & Dane Wilcox (Rich Wilcox's sister & brother).

Calendar at-a-glance

Sun. Feb. 18, 10:30 AM: Bonhoeffer's Life Together, Adult Forum Session 1

Sun. Feb. 25, 10:30 AM: Bonhoeffer's Life Together, Adult Forum Session 2

Sun. Mar. 3, 10:30 AM: Bonhoeffer's Life Together, Adult Forum Session 3

Sunday Worship, Sundays at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM (Lenten Time Change)

Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays during Lent at 6:30 PM

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

Monthly Attendance & Offering

Sunday, January 14: 110 (*In-Person*) + 15 (*Online*) = 125 **Offering:** \$4,904.00

Sunday, January 21: 91 (*In-Person*) + 33 (*Online*) = 124 **Offering:** \$6,665.68

Sunday, January 28: 100 (*In-Person*) + 56 (*Online*) = 156 **Offering:** \$8,658.00

Sunday, February 4: 101 (*In-Person*) + 18 (*Online*) = 119 **Offering:** \$11,026.35

Sunday, February 11: 109 (*In-Person*) + 26 (*Online*) = 135 **Offering:** \$4,014.00

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14: 50 (*In-Person*) + 23 (*Online*) = 73