

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## Congratulations to Pastor Livingstone Msugnu

*(the following is an email sent to the Church Office. Please excuse any spelling or grammar mistakes, as English is not Pastor Msungu's first language)*

Hello.....i great you in the name of Jesus Christ our seivour, How thing was going, its my hope that we are ok. To our side we are good. greatings to all we are praying for you daily . greatings to all. we Love you. the photo of My Son BETHANY LIVINGSTONE and my Wife SPORAH



## The BGLibrary Is Open!

When you sign up to sit in the sanctuary, walk through the Library as you leave, and check out the new offerings. Before you leave a midweek outdoor service, come inside and look around. New books include "White Fragility" and "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" Above all, remember to observe safe pandemic practice: wear your mask, use sanitizer, observe social distance. Keep our Library safe for all.



## Pastor Tim's Article: July 13, 2020

It is now the Middle of July. At the beginning of the pandemic, it seemed like time moved so slowly as we adjusted to everything. While nothing feels “back to normal,” time has picked up again and it is just speeding on by.

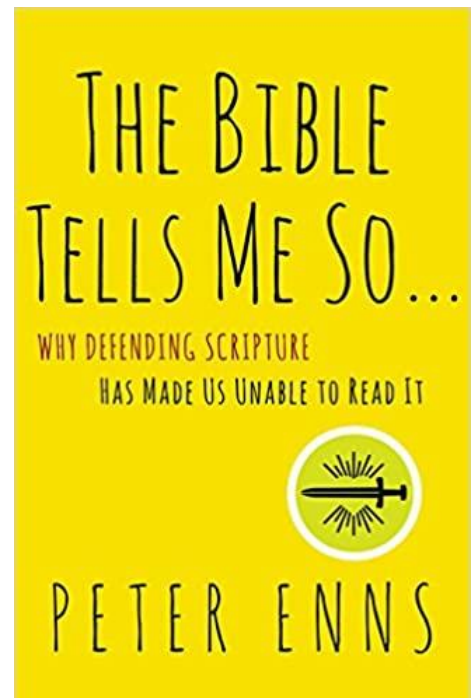
Have you ever been confused by reading the Bible? What about all the violence that seems to take place in the Old Testament? Do you have questions in your head that you have never voiced but have wanted a place to talk and learn. Join Pastor Tim as he leads us through a video series from Peter Enns, author of the book, "The Bible Tells Me So." This book has been instrumental in Pastor Tim's evolving understanding of the Bible and what he believes what it is and is not. To learn more about Peter Enns and the book, go to his website, [www.peteenns.com](http://www.peteenns.com)

This past Sunday, during our zoom worship, we participated in communion for the first time since mid-March. I know it wasn't ideal. I view it as manna in wilderness. We are like the Israelites, wandering, hungry and lost, before they arrived in the promised land. During this time, they cried out to God to feed them and they were provided with manna, a white flaky substance they found on the ground each morning. It wasn't what they were used to nor was it what they wanted, but it did the job. The way we are receiving communion now, may not be what we are used to, it may not be the way you would like to receive it, but it does the job. Remember, communion “works” not because of how it is done, but because when God speaks God's promises happen. It “works” because God says it “works.” It is solely dependent on God, not on us.

That being said, it might have felt awkward, doing it this way for the first time. I will admit there are some bugs to be figured out, but overall, I was pleased with it and heard from others that felt the same. For the time being, communion will not be something we do weekly, but once or twice a month, probably along the lines of the first and third Sunday or second and fourth Sundays. Perhaps this was how it was when you were a kid. Look for more information on this in the next week.

If for whatever reason, you are not able to participate in communion this way, (i.e. can't get on zoom, etc...) please contact the church office and let me know. We can begin making home visits for communion following socially distancing guidelines.

There have been some questions about why we are approaching communion this way, when some churches have opted for small services, either at the church or at people's homes. Simply put, I feel this is the way we can be the most inclusive of our community. While not everyone has access to our zoom worship, it is the way that involves the greatest number of people. There are many people who have



commented to me they would not be willing to attend a gathering at someone's house or at the church, even if it was held outside. I will be the first to admit there is no one "right way" to do this. There is only the way that seems to be most appropriate for each church. Thank you for your patience as we all try and figure things out which we have never had to think about before.

If you are missing being at our church building and seeing your sisters and brothers in Christ, I encourage you to sign-up for one of our two Outdoor Weekly Gatherings. They are Tuesday at 7pm and Wednesday at 11am. While the Wednesday morning gathering is designed to be more "kid friendly" that does not mean it is only for kids. Both gatherings are open to people of all ages. (Tuesday evening has the music of Jon Koekler and Jonathan Bock.). If those times don't work for you, please let the church office know. If needed, we can add a third gathering.



I hope to see you in some form or another over the summer. Besides the ways mentioned before, remember there are lots of other opportunities to gather. Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage (BYOB^2) are just two of them. But most of all, remember that your faith is not fully lived by the way you participate in our community, but through the way you participate in life away from us. Find a way to volunteer, an organization to donate money to or do a random act of kindness. In the end, this is what the world needs. This is done not in the church building, but when you leave the building. The pandemic won't stop that.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tim

## Pastor Tim's Article: July 16, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write this Tidings article from my dining room table. Not because COVID-19 is keeping me at home, but rather, our building suffered a power surge from a recent storm on Monday afternoon. We didn't lose power, but a few pieces of electronic equipment were fried as a result. Specifically, we will need a little work done to our fire alarm system and out internet hardware.

Why I bring this up, is because the repair, for the fire alarm system, is not as simple as replacing an electrical board and then we are back in business. We have an older system and new boards are not made for it anymore. Therefore, we are presented with a decision, do we try and scavenge for old parts, hoping there is someone else who, rather than throw their old system away when they upgraded, decided to donate it. Or do we upgrade the portion of the system which was damaged knowing it will need to be done eventually. The first (salvage) option is cheaper and quicker. But while it solves the immediate problem, it doesn't take care of the larger issue, that we weren't even aware of, and that is portions of our fire alarm system are out-of-date and need to be replaced. The second option (update), is more costly, takes a bit more time and leaves us a little vulnerable in the short term, but ensures our safety in the future.



I think churches are in a similar situation right now as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. As we are exiled from our building and needing to figure out how to be the church during this time, certain ways that we have grown accustomed to and relied upon are being exposed as out-of-date or potentially even broken. Some we knew about, others have caught us off guard. As we discern when we return to the building, we will have to make decisions, like the one we were faced with for the fire alarm system. Do we continue with parts that are outdated or learned that they are broken? Do we go for a short-term fix that will work immediately, but might leave us vulnerable for the future? Or are we willing to take calculated risks, that might leave us exposed and vulnerable short term, but will provide long term security for our future.

I want you to know, I am not thinking of anything specific as I write this. All I want to do is have you thinking about the question. Together we will move into the future and decide what it looks like for Holy Trinity. Perhaps, that is the most exciting thing of all, while there is a lot of unknown, that does not mean we are passively moving forward into the future. God, through the power of the Holy Spirit is beside us, behind us and in front of us, leading the way. With God, we have some say in what the future of Holy Trinity looks like. Some will be new, some will be old, together it will be good.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

p.s. – If you are wondering what we decided to do about the fire alarm, we tried to salvage replacement parts, but there were none to be found, so we will have to upgrade. Sometimes, the decision is made for you!

## President's Article

There is a common saying when in nature that people should “Leave No Trace.” This means when you are in nature, especially in places that are fragile, you act in ways that don’t change the environment. You leave no evidence you were there. While good in principle, this is not really possible. No matter how hard we try to “leave only footprints and take only pictures,” our presence on the trail, on the water, along the road etc. still causes some degree of change to the environment.



As Pastor mentioned during last Sunday’s sermon (Matthew; 13:1-9, 19-23- the parable of the sower), “we live in a world where we are consuming things to help US out.” He also told us we can choose to live in a world where we can be “producers serving creation.” We all possess an amazing potential to love people and use things to promote more love, healing, growth, acceptance, etc. Jesus tells us in this parable that we are to be producers; people who produce love that is kind, non-judgmental, patient, and generous. How do we each produce these kinds of love and “live it” in our World? Some may offer their time, others their knowledge, while others their generosity – it’s wonderful that our list can go on. All these offerings are sorely needed today.

I think that “leaving no trace” is important if you are talking about litter in the woods, but we can also leave our traces of love everyday with the people we interact with as we do our best to produce Jesus’s love.

## Faith Formation Team

Hi Holy Trinity Families!

We are so excited to be partnering with Luther Crest's Bold Transformational Faith Day Camp. This is going to be an awesome opportunity to share with your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren or those that are children at heart.



This will be a virtual event that will be done at home. This 4-day program will consist of a daily video focusing on a bible lesson, activities to get the kids outside, along with worship and an arts & craft project, it will surely be a well-rounded faith formation experience!

Each family has the option of signing-up for August 3-6th or 10th-13th. All materials will be provided by HTELC and can be picked-up at the church next week. Please email me, [faith@htelc.com](mailto:faith@htelc.com), with the names and ages of the kids along with a good email for the adult who will be facilitating the day camp.

Thank You,  
Faith Bygd, Faith Formation Coordinator

## Social Ministry Team

The Church Council made a very difficult decision to cut the budget in all areas possible by 25% in order to present a balanced budget to the congregation to approve for 2020. The proposed budget was approved.

The goal of the Fund Drive was to replace the 25% cut from last year's budget and also raise another 15% for a total increase of 40%. This was done to meet the unprecedented increase in needs of charities due to Covid-19.

It gives me great joy to inform the congregation that as of 7/13/20, the Fund Drive has met and exceeded its goal! The drive has raised \$16,940 which increases the Social Ministry budget by 51%! This year Social Ministry will send out \$50,290!



The Social Ministry funds normally go out periodically during the year since the funds are received from you in that fashion. The bulk of the funds raised in this drive have already gone out and the remainder will go out shortly.

None of us knows how Covid-19 will play out going forward. We do not know when the increased needs of charities will go back to "normal" levels. We do know charities will always have a need. The Social Ministry team is, at any time, happy to receive your contributions and continue the work of the church. No amount is too small. You may designate a specific mission or give to our Social Ministry Fund in general. Either way your money will be distributed in a timely manner.

I am truly humbled by your generosity and honored to serve on the Council of Holy Trinity.

Sincerely thank you,  
Paul Karl, Council Liaison to Social Ministry

## Pop-Up Pantry

Our new ministry, The Pop-Up Pantry, has been available outside the church for three weeks and we continue to have more participants and improve! Thank you for the donations that we always find waiting for us in the morning when we set up. A donation list has been attached to help guide your shopping. Thank you to Paulette Sirois who has also acquired produce from a local farm for the pantry. She has helped with the taking down of the pantry. If anyone is interested in participating in ways other than through donations please contact Mark in the church office or Cristina at [foggdrive@yahoo.com](mailto:foggdrive@yahoo.com).

*(See the next page for what is best to donate.)*

**Holy Trinity Pop-Up Pantry  
Donation list**

**Thank you! Tak! Merci! Danke! Gracias! Takk! Grazie! Terima Kasih!**

**Drop off at church or call office to confirm if you are concerned about Mark or Pastor being there.**

**FRUITS**

**100% juice or no sugar added**

- Canned fruits in cans and individual cups  
(Apple sauce, pineapple, pears, fruit cocktail, etc.)

**VEGETABLES**

**Low sodium or no salt added, no sugar added**

- Canned vegetables in cans  
(corn, carrots, peas, etc.)
- Spaghetti sauce in CANS, please

**WHOLE GRAINS**

**First ingredient whole grain, no sugar added**

- Cereals – regular box size (12oz) because larger boxes don't fit in bags/container
- Brown or wild rice
- Quinoa
- Oatmeal
- Pasta

**PROTEIN**

**Low sodium or no salt added, no sugar added**

- Canned chicken/tuna/stew
- Canned beans (refried beans, soup beans)
- Nuts
- Peanut butter
- Dried beans

**OTHER ITEMS**

**Low sodium or no salt added, no sugar added**

- Soups
- Broths
- Flour – whole grain white
- Toothbrush/ Toothpaste/Dental floss
- Soap