

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

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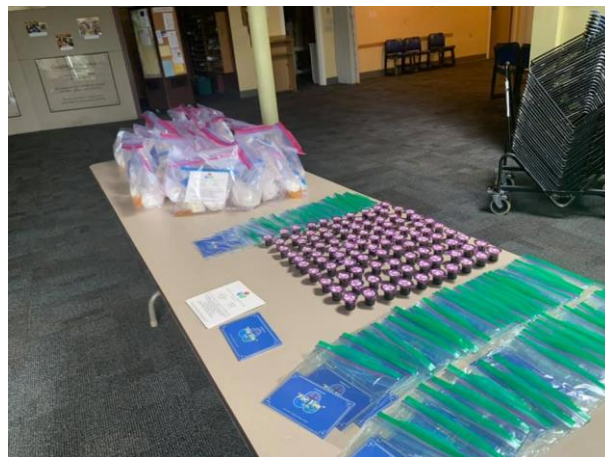
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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Communion at Home

The communion elements are ready and set out. Starting now, you can come and pick them up. Please wear a mask in the building and follow other guidelines posted as you walk in.

If you need communion to be delivered, please call the Church Office at (603) 436-1704, and we will arrange for someone to deliver at-home communion for you.



Outdoor Gatherings

We had our first outdoor gathering on Tuesday, July 7 and it went really well. 20 people came together, listened to some music, talk about scripture, shared joys and concerns and prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Outdoor gatherings happen every Tuesday at 7pm & a gathering geared more for children every Wednesday at 11am. Call the church office to RSVP. We are only allowing those who sign up to come, with a 25 person maximum attendance.



For more information, please read Pastor Tim's article for July 6, 2020.

Pastor Tim's Article: June 25, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is officially here! It may not feel like it though. One reason why I know it is here is because I have installed 4 window units in my house and none of them fell to their death! Other than that, I may not even notice. Some of the traditional markers of summer didn't occur, or occurred months ago. My kids have been home from school since March. We went to one service at the same time also. Camps are not occurring like in the past either. Such a strange time.

While it has been frustrating, I also have enjoyed some things during this time. Even though we aren't in the building together, I "see" you all at one time during one service on Sundays. In an odd way, it feels more like one community. Also, I have enjoyed being less busy during the evenings. When Vicky and I get home from work, we have not had to rush out again to get one of our kids to a rehearsal or practice. This means that we have had a lot more family dinners together, which we love even if the kids are impartial to it. 😊

My question to you is, while I am sure this has been a frustrating time for you in many ways, what have you enjoyed? Perhaps a different way of looking at it, even if it is a bit cliché is to ask, "What is the silver lining that you have discovered during the pandemic?" This is not to minimize or diminish how it has been hard, but what good has come from it?



It is easy to let our negative emotions have the greatest power within us. They seem to course through our veins at times. If we don't counteract them in any way, their power only grows. So name them, but then name a positive thing that you have noticed lately and give thanks.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in every circumstance for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: June 29, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

If you missed worship yesterday on zoom, you missed hearing about an exciting opportunity! We have been working with Luther Crest Bible Camp, based out of Alexandria, MN, to provide fantastic faith formation opportunities for people of all ages. I was fortunate enough to interview their Program Director Jena Vandebroek, about their Bold Transformational Faith Program. Below is a synopsis of it. (You can also view the conversation on our website.)

1. July Experience – This replaces what has been their residential camp. Youth (elementary – high school) register for one day a week in July. On their registered day, they have a zoom call, in the morning with their counselor and “cabin.” Then, the middle part of the day, they have time for one of several of the activities they learn about that morning. Finally, they conclude their day with another zoom call with their “cabin group.” There will also be videos with various activities available to them throughout the month.

2. Family and Adult Bible Study – Monday-Thursday evening. Every evening through July there will be opportunities for Bible Study with your family or to participate one geared just for adults. Specific days are for specific age groups. Check their website to more details. Luthercrest.org

3. Daycamp/VBS – The first two weeks in August, Luther Crest will be offering weeklong “virtual” daycamps/VBS programs. We are going to encourage families that have done VBS through Holy Trinity in the past to register for one of these weeks. You will be provided with videos, crafts, songs, etc.. to have a great week of VBS at home. If we are able to, we will have a gathering outdoors at church to celebrate your week.



All of this is new and experimental. Some of it might go smoothly and fabulously. Other parts might sink terribly. The best part though, is there is no risk to you or us. Luther Crest is offering all of this free! We only have to be willing to try. Go to www.luthercrest.org to find out more.

Don't forget, there will be other faith formation opportunities this summer as well. Also, next week, I will start doing a read-aloud of the book, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis. There is a lot going on. I hope you and your family will take advantage of it. Also, please share with your friend and neighbors. Everyone is welcome.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: July 6, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The following message from me is a mostly repeat, with minor changes. Not because I am lazy, although that can be true at times, but rather the information you received last week is very similar to what I want to tell you again. We are resuming the practice of communion practice and starting Mid-week Outdoor Gatherings.

Communion:

We will begin with receiving communion this Sunday, July 12th. The elements to use can be picked up from our building beginning Monday, July 6th, during regular church hours. They will be available in the narthex, right when you walk in. When picking the elements up, there will be two options. One, you may pick up a prepackaged grape juice/wafer cup (looks like a coffee creamer). They will be set out and you can take as many as are needed for you and your family for the coming Sunday worship (please only take enough for one worship). Two, there are bags of ingredients to make you own communion bread at home with directions in the bag. Here is the video from the Small family on how to make the communion bread. Enjoy! (If you make the bread, you will need to supply your own wine/grape juice for communion.)



By picking up the communion elements from church, it allows us to still “distribute” them to you, as we would during a Sunday morning worship, just in a different way. If you are not able to come to church to pick them up, we can deliver them to you. Please email Mark at office@htelc.com if you would like them delivered.

There is a third option. If neither of the above ways work for you (it doesn't matter the reason) you may always supply the bread and wine/grape juice yourself. It doesn't need to be a special type, (but, here is a fun fact, Welch's grape juice was originally made to be a non-alcoholic replacement for wine in communion!)

Weekly Outdoor Gatherings:

These will begin next week! There are 2 options for you to choose.

- **Tuesday at 7pm:** This will consist of music played and sung for you, a conversation over the past Sunday's sermon or the coming week's Gospel lesson and prayers, specifically ending with the Lord's prayer. Approximately 30 minutes long.
- **Wednesday at 11am:** This will consist of a camp song taught to the kids, physically distant from one another, a children's sermon and prayers and concluding with the Lord's prayers. (Approximately 30 minutes long.)

A few items to note

- Sign-up through “Sign-up Genius” is required and we will have you sign-in again when you arrive in case contact tracing is needed in the future. (Or, call the Church Office to sign up)
- 25-person limit for each gathering. No walk-ups allowed.
- Masks are required.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Bathrooms will be available, but you will be asked to wipe down anything you touch. Clorox wipes/disinfectants are in the bathrooms.
- Please maintain physical distance of 6’ between non-family members.
- We will be gathering under the tent in the fenced off area. Please enter through the gate on the right as you face the building.
- Please bring your own chair/blanket if possible. If you are not able to, there will be a place to indicate you need a chair on the sign-up and one will be provided for you.

Lastly, this is all experimental and subject to change. Everything we are doing is the first time we are doing it. It most likely will feel awkward. When you take communion during the worship service on zoom, it may not feel the same way as when we do it on Sunday morning. That is to be expected. Remember, it is not the way it makes you feel that makes communion “work.” The feeling we get, often times, can be associated or enhanced with the circumstances that we are accustomed to, i.e. being in the sanctuary, being with other people. Communion “works” because God promises to be present in bread and wine when the words of God’s promises are spoken, despite the circumstances we are in. God’s promises remain unchanged. Trust God’s promises that are spoken and allow that to guide you in your feeling of love and forgiveness.

As always, thank you. Holy Trinity is a resilient and alive, whether or not we are meeting, physically, in our building. Thank you for the ways you are making that happen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

CaringConnections

It seems so long since we were all together! Everything seems so different now! The things that we once took for granted maybe we are no longer able to do. For some it may be easy to maneuver down this new path but for others it might be a little more challenging. There are at least 2 constants in these times; we are in this together and CaringConnections is here for you. Sure we might not be able to do home visits like we once did but with creativity we can still 'visit' but maybe in a different way! Maybe it means a phone visitation or a drive by stop and wave! Maybe just a periodic note would brighten your day! Where there is a will, there is a way!



This month the team was able to fulfill a request for meals to be delivered. That was done successfully while being mindful of social distancing and the safety of all involved. Our EPrayer team has received numerous prayer requests. No prayer request is too small! There is such power in prayer! These are just a few ways that CaringConnections is still here serving the needs of our congregation.

If there is some way that we can help you please let us know through email at brighamca.cc@gmail.com! Times are different but we are still here for you!



'To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.' (Audrey Hepburn)

Pop-Up Pantry

The Pop-up Pantry is up and running. Thanks to everyone who donated items. It will be out every Wednesday for 24 hours. We will let you know if it is utilized.



In Memory of Sue Anderson

Holy Trinity member Sue Anderson passed away on Monday, June 29, 2020. Sue passed away at home, surrounded by her loved ones, including her husband, Richard Anderson. Sue and Rich recently celebrated 62 years of marriage, and have both been active members at Holy Trinity since 2004.

There will be no memorial service for Sue. We ask that you please keep her husband Rich and the rest of the Anderson family in your prayers.



Social Ministry Fund Drive

I first walked through the doors of Holy Trinity over a decade ago. I have learned that we are a very diverse congregation in every way you can think of. We have a wide variety of opinions, backgrounds, and life experiences. This is one of our greatest strengths. I have also learned that everyone is willing to help not only the church but also others. The vast majority of people/families have in the past or are actively performing some function for the church and local charities.

We are also a generous congregation. Forty-six people/families contributed to the Fund Drive. We raised \$14,951, which increased Social Ministry's budget by 45%. As a church, we will now be donating \$48,301 to charitable organizations this year. A big thank you goes out to the Social Ministry team for the time and effort they put in to make this Fund Drive a success. Please share this news with others. I am sure that there are people who would like to be involved with a church like ours that actively helps the local community.

A special thank you to Ron Indorf who has served the church in many capacities over many years and is stepping down as Head of Social Ministry. Ron plans to stay active in the church.

I am pleased to announce that Jessica Feeley has agreed to take over as Head of Social Ministry. Just as we all came together to make the Fund Raising Drive successful, let us all support Jessica and help her make our Social Ministry efforts a continued success.



Thank you all for your generosity.

Paul Karl

Council Liaison to Social Ministry