

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

22 Fox Run Road * Newington, NH 03801 * 603-436-1704

office@htelc.com

Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Yard Signs from Holy Trinity

Everyone is out for walks and we thought what a great opportunity to say something encouraging to people. Therefore, we are having Yard Signs (or window signs) printed up. If you want one all you have to do is email Mark at office@htelc.com and let him know which one you want. They are free to all, as three anonymous people from the congregation already donated the funds. When we get them in, Pastor Tim will personally deliver it and put it in your yard and take a socially distanced selfie with you (if you want)!



Math Tutor help from Devorah Dwight

I am happy to tutor in math topics to any student at HTELC that is 7th-12th grade. I have been tutoring, specializing in mathematics for the past 15 years. I offer math tutoring for students pre-algebra through pre-calculus, online using Facetime or Zoom. If a student has a question with homework, they can take a pic and text it to my number and we can work thru it together. My specialty is in individual tutoring, helping students understand their subjects by adding to their strategy base and building confidence in their work and in themselves. I use many sample problems and apply math concepts to real-world situations. I utilize techniques to assist students in retaining their math facts to solidify their learning. I have a BSEE and MSEE and have spent many years applying math to real life problems. When a student says "When will I ever use this?" I can tell them. I offer this gratis to my HTELC family. You can view comments from other students on my website below but don't sign on and schedule there because of the charges. Just text me on the number below or email me and we can schedule a time. - Devorah Dwight

<https://www.wyzant.com/Tutors/DevsGotMath> (978) 504-1651

A Message from Pastor Tim: May 24, 2020

As the days get longer and the temperature gets warmer, I hope you are able to enjoy time outside. While we are not able to go to our usual places, our backyards, gardens, firepits and sidewalks are not forbidden. From my experience, there is nothing like some fresh air and warm sun on my face (along with a cold beverage) to lift my spirits. There are few things I want to share with you.

I want to let you know some thoughts of mine and council's about worship this summer. We do not want to set a "tentative" date for returning to our building for worship. There is simply too much unknown. We are going to revisit this topic each month. I believe we will continue with Zoom being our primary worship throughout the summer. As you will see from Bishop Hazelwoods video, there are simply too many risks to try and return quickly. When we return, we want to reduce the potential spread of the virus as much as we can. We are looking into having several small outdoor worship gatherings throughout the summer. This is not to replace what we are doing, but to add onto what we are doing. Please look for those details in the coming month.

Also, I want to refrain from using the language of "re-opening" the church. We never closed. We simply moved worship online. Also, when we are able to resume worship in the building, it won't be with everyone who was there before. There will be many people who won't be able to join us. To say we are "open" infers that it is "business as usual." This won't be the case I believe it is better to view a return to our sanctuary as if we are only

adding another worship service to what we are doing, as if we were adding a Saturday evening worship or a Wednesday night worship. We are making accommodations for people who are not able to attend worship in the way we are currently providing it. It will work for some. It will not work for others. By doing this, I think it does legitimize what we are currently doing, knowing it will need to continue, in some form, even when worship in the building does resume.



Lastly, the synod office is coming up with guidelines on how to proceed with communion. We understand that this is an important part of our faith. Communion is a sacrament and it sustains us in our life of faith. I like to refer to it as, "trail food for the journey." When the Bishop originally asked us to fast from communion, the thought was this would only last several weeks. Now that it is going on longer, we need to figure out how to distribute communion, not just safely, but for all to participate in it. Communion should unite us, not be something that only some have access to and others don't. When that occurs, it becomes another sign of division. It becomes another way to distinguish between the "have's" and the "have not's." All the pastors in the synod are participating in guided conversations to help the synod staff develop recommendations for churches. In the meantime, we will continue to fast from it, relying on the Word of God to solely be our "trail food."

As always, thank you. Thank you for your faith, your presence and your love. Your love for Holy Trinity and your love for your neighbor.

What you do matters, even if it doesn't feel like it.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's Article: May 28, 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Captain's Log, Stardate 5.28.2020. "Everything appears to be the same. In fact, I am not even sure if I have the correct stardate anymore. Everyday just runs together. Nothing seems to change and nothing seems to be different."

That is not a real quote from Captain Kirk or Captain Piccard, but instead is just a common sentiment that many of us are feeling. It is easy to lose track of the days as there seems to be very little that anchors us. What we typically do, that defines a day, we are no longer able to do. Kids have not been in school, so Monday and Friday don't feel like Monday and Friday. Saturday afternoon trips to the grocery store n



ow occur at 7am on Tuesday because that is when they have had extra hours for seniors. So those days feel different. And then we have Sundays. We don't have a time to get out of the house to get to church on time. All we have to do is make it in front of a screen. Then when it's over we can't stop for lunch on the way home at a favorite restaurant. Sundays feel are totally messed up!

I get it. We are looking forward to things returning to normal so our old habits and patterns can resume. That is not necessarily bad, but I want to suggest something. Don't think about "when it will return to normal." As we all know, in many ways, what "was" is not what "will be." Instead of longing for the past (not forgetting) start creating the future. That will look different for all of us, but it is something that we have say in and have a lot of control over.

Ask yourself, what are new traditions or activities or events can help you mark the day or pass the time? What did you used to do one day and now you find yourself doing it on another day?

I don't believe God made us to be creatures that are passive in our world, sitting around waiting for things to happen around us. Rather, we have intelligence and emotions and strength and compassion that are to be used to create the word in the way that God dreams it to be. We might have been on one path, but that is not the only way to live. We get to discover new ways of living and being in the world. This week, as you decide what you are going to do each day, ask yourself this, "What might God have me do that is different from what I did before?"

May we be surprised at the way God works in and through us for the sake of our neighbor and the world.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tim

President's Article

"You've never done this before. Give yourself grace." and maybe some more...

In reading this week's Tidings I learned about the lawn/window signs that three church members have generously made for the congregation. One of the sayings stood out to me: *"You've never done this before. Give yourself grace."* At that same moment I was also yearning for a couple of pieces of chocolate after a long day. Does this mean I have a "pass" to eat more than two? I mean this IS my first pandemic after all. I continued thinking about the word grace. Maybe grace means something different now?

My basic definition of the word "grace" is that it stands for God's unconditional love. We know that grace is a gift from God and we don't need to do anything for it. I didn't need to "do anything" last Sunday as I listened to the stories of members' baptisms, appreciated the joy expressed by children as they welcomed me to church, and enjoyed the blended voices of the choir. I continue to be thankful to everyone who has shared their gifts during our services, prayed for others, attended church, and called members to see how they were doing.

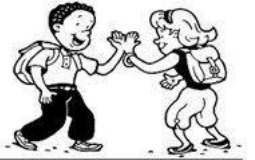
Like you, I'll continue moving forward trying to keep myself and others safe. I think I'll also start to move through uncharted territory with a little more gusto as I accept grace for all the ways God is making us "new" during the pandemic. Maybe I'll stretch myself and learn a new interest? Could one of my most favorite habits slide over to an alternative now that I realize it's okay to do things differently?

When I live and make decisions during "normal" times, I typically do so with a mix of anxiety, negotiation, and excitement. I fret about the what-ifs, balance the pros and cons, and often feel energized with the surprises and new discoveries that might take place. I know that whatever happens from my decisions or actions, I will try to do my best to learn or use the gifts God instilled in me. The unconditional love I know God gives to me, as Grace, will help me move through these times of uncertainty (with chocolate or no chocolate!).



End 68 Hours of Hunger

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with our team that packs food for the program 'End 68 Hours of Hunger' for the city of Portsmouth!! We have had a very successful year thanks to the help of many! On Thursday, April 23rd we met for the last time for the 2019 -2020 school year. The pandemic presented new challenges at the end of the school year. Not only was the need still great, but because of social distancing, the last few packing's were done by a very small group.



**End 68 Hours
of Hunger**

Thanks to a great team of volunteers from Holy Trinity, we were responsible for packing 550 bags of food this school year! By spending 45 minutes each session over the course of 6 packing days, we were able to provide 3850 meals to children in need from Portsmouth. This is a wonderful example of how the work of a few can help stop hunger on a local level. The pandemic has caused a need that continues throughout the summer. However, due to the high risk of our team of volunteers – we have decided not to commit as a Team.

If any individual would like to volunteer – please contact one of us and we will put you in touch with the organizers 'End 68 Hours of Hunger' Portsmouth. If you are interested in joining our team in the fall, please email myself (mckenna.kathy.62@gmail.com) or Lauren Gianino(pglg813@comcast.net). We always welcome new participants!! Have a wonderful summer!

Thank you,

Kathy McKenna & Lauren Gianino