

May 3, 10, & 17, 2020

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## In Memory of Andrew Beals

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the untimely passing of former member, Andrew Beals. Andrew passed away suddenly on April 30 from what appears to be a heart attack while out on a jog. Andrew & his wife Kathy were former members of Holy Trinity, currently living in Vermont. Recently, they have been worshipping with us online on Sundays and participating in other online activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please keep Kathy & the rest of the Beals family in your prayers during this tragic time in their lives.



## Graduating Seniors

If you have or know of a child who is graduating from High school or College, we want to recognize them! Please email Mark at the Church Office with their name(s), and we'll make sure to celebrate them in June.



## Congratulations Pastor George Koch, and family

Pastor George Koch is proud to announce that his son, George III and daughter-in-law PaDeu delivered a 7lb baby girl named Zoe at the end of April!



## Pastor Tim's Article – "May 3, 2020"

This will not last forever. A time will come when you will leave your house and be able to go to a movie, or attend a sporting event, or go to a friend's house for dinner and drinks. We will be able to gather together again, physically.

It does raise questions though about what will need to change when the time comes when we can gather, physically, again. I do not believe it will be like we hit a "pause" button in the middle of March and now we pick up and resume exactly what we were doing by hitting the "play" button. Changes will have to be made. Adaptations will need to be figured out. (Council will be working on specifics of the adaptations in the near future.) This will not be a fast process, but one that is slow and gradual.

We need to realize our goal should not be to get back to where we were. For too long, this has been the idea expressed in society and the church. We long for days of nostalgia and we reminisce for that past. Churches have done this before and it will be tempting to do it again. We will want to go back to the church as it was in February, before this hit. But we can't and shouldn't go back. The world is not the same as it was, and therefore we shouldn't be the same as we were. In fact, there may be some of us who will never be able to return to the church building, or perhaps during this time, have figured out a way to live a meaningful faith without the church building. Things are different. We will be different.

Here is what I ask you to do. Pause and breathe. We don't need to figure this out in the next 2 weeks. The Church (capital "C") is not going to disappear. Although, the church (lower case "c") that is the manifestation of the capital "C" Church, is going to change. The truth was that it was already going to change before the pandemic hit. What the pandemic is doing is forcing (or helping) us to ask some questions that we haven't asked yet.

Hearing this might cause several different reactions in you. You may not like change and it causes you anxiety. You may like the church from February or the church of the past,



and you are grieving its loss. That is understandable and a legitimate feeling. Perhaps, you may be excited about what is to come and can't wait for it to get here. It can't get here soon enough. This is reasonable also.

I don't know what you are thinking or feeling, but when you stop to pause and breathe, I ask that you try to simply notice how you feel about all of this. What emotions and questions arise? Don't try and answer or solve any of them, just notice them. We can't deal with what we are feeling if we don't know what we are feeling.

We will want to rush to get some answers and restore order. Right now, may we understand that it is chaotic, will most likely remain chaotic for a while, and ask that God is present with us and will lead us through this time.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tim

### **Pastor Tim's Article – "May 10, 2020"**

Sisters and Brothers,

One of my favorite hymns is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." I would assume, if you are like me, you have a hard time hearing or reading the title and not automatically start singing it in your head. There are several things about it that I love.

First, it is written in a key that is comfortable for me to sing. It isn't too high, nor is it too low. I feel no matter where the notes go, I am able to hit them ('hit' being a loose term).

Secondly, I like that it is a sing-able tune. You know what I mean.

We judge whether a hymn is sing-able the first time we sing any new hymn. "A Mighty Fortress" is written in a way that is easy to follow and remember. As you are singing it, you feel like you can naturally determine where the next note is going.

A MIGHTY  
FORTRESS  
IS OUR GOD,

Lastly, I love the lyrics. They are powerful and direct. I can understand what Luther is saying without having to read between the lines and find a deeper meaning. My favorite line comes at the end of the fourth verse. It says, “Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse. Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.” (Could you read that without singing?). There are times when I sing that and I can’t make it through. Even though, whenever I have sung them, they are only lines in a hymn, I fear the day when any one of them will become a reality in my life. A lump rises in my throat and my eyes water and I am forced to stop singing. It doesn’t always happen, but it is not uncommon.

Right now, during this pandemic, I know of people who have already lost or are afraid of losing their house, goods, honor, child, or spouse. These are real fears being experienced by real people. These aren’t just lines in a hymn, they are realities of a hurting world, whether it is in the middle of a global pandemic or not.

Are you in the middle of these fears right now? Have you lost a loved one during this time (doesn’t have to be from COVID-19)? Are you worried about paying your rent or mortgage this month, or do you wonder if you will be able to buy enough groceries and pay your bills because your hours at work have been reduced or you lost your job? Is your retirement in doubt because of the decrease in the stock market? Are you afraid?

I don’t know when this will all end and what life will be like when we return to normal, whatever normal will be. But I do trust this. In the end, God wins. Ultimately, all will be restored and renewed. All will be made new. The last line in “A Mighty Fortress” is, “...the Kingdom’s ours forever.” (I bet you sang that again, didn’t you?)

This is our hope. We are not guaranteed life will be all unicorns and rainbows when we follow Christ. Rather, we are guaranteed that God will be with us and in the end, the pain will cease, the sick will be healed and the captive will be released. Until then, we rely on the hope that it brings us. The hope that God has not abandoned us but a God who is close. A God that does leave us on our own, but a God that says to us, do not be afraid, but come to me, I will be your “Mighty Fortress.”

## Pastor Tim's Article – May 17, 2020

Sisters and Brother in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you...now more than ever! Another week has passed and we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whatever you are feeling or have felt in regards to everything going on, know that you are not alone in those feelings. You might have days in which you feel strong and can handle how long this will last. You might have days in which you don't think you can't take one more day. My family and I have felt them all also and each day can bring different feelings and multiple feelings in our home. Wherever you are at, it is okay.

Church council met this week and I wanted to give you an update on our discussion. The main portion of our conversation was around the topic of "When can we resume worship in our building?" In all honestly, we don't have an answer for it. CDC guidelines still do not recommend us gathering in larger groups and even when it will be allowed, churches are one of the more unsafe places to gather. We are in a confined space with poor air circulation in which singing and appropriate touching is common place among all generations, including with many people who would be labeled as the "at-risk" demographic. Therefore, our promise to you is this. When it is safe and we can provide a space that reduces the risks of spreading the disease as much as possible, we will gather together, physically, as soon as we can. In the meantime, we will continue to provide opportunities for worship, Bible study and other ways to connect to the best of our ability. In addition, we also realize, due to the nature of our space, there will be some people that will not be able to return to the sanctuary. We promise to those people, we will continue to develop ways to provide you with worship experiences and connections to all of us. We will do all of the preceding through the use of technology and experimentation.



What we ask for in return is patience, graciousness and openness to new ways of worshipping and connecting. Honestly, I don't know if we will ever return to what was before the COVID-19 pandemic, or as Bishop Hazelwood as come to call it "January

Church.” Thank you for all the ways you have already demonstrated those qualities to me and everyone in our community. It matters.

I hope with the sun lasting longer in the day and the temperatures creeping higher, you are reminded that, just like winter, this will not last forever. A new day is coming and we will enter into it together.

Your Pastor,  
Tim Krick

### **Sit In Our Sanctuary**

It is hard to be away from a place that has such meaning in our lives. While the church isn't dependent on a building, the physical space of the sanctuary provides comfort and solace during times of chaos and distress. The word "sanctuary" means "a place of refuge and protection." Even though we can't gather in our sanctuary for worship, we want to provide the opportunity for individuals or families to be in the sanctuary and absorb its presence.

You can sign up for a 30 minute segment to sit in the sanctuary. You may sign-up for 2 segments back to back if you would desire more time. When you come, you will find precautions and guidelines that need to be followed so we can ensure a safe facility for all who want to utilize this space. Please call the Church Office at (603) 436-1704 to schedule a time to sit in the sanctuary.

Out of respect and safety for others, please follow these guidelines.



## 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](mailto: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)!

**You've never  
done this before.  
Give yourself  
grace.**



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**Be well.  
You are loved.**



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**We all have  
gifts to share.  
Thanks for  
sharing yours.**



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