

November 1 & 8, 2020

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.htelc.com

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Toys for Tots

The holiday season is approaching and we will once again be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. The collection box will be in the narthex as it has been in the past and toys can be dropped off during services or sanctuary time. All donations must be received by December 6th for timely delivery to the Marines. Thank you for your generosity.



Reconciling in Christ Meeting and Vote

We recently sent a letter in the mail with information about becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We will meet and vote over Zoom on November 22 at 11:00 AM. Look for the Zoom link in your email or htelc.com, or call 1-646-558-8656. Meeting ID is 833 6495 9650. Password is 1517.



Pop Up Pantry

Thank you so much for all your support through the past 17 weeks. We could not have come this far without you. We wanted to let you know that we are committed to keeping this outdoor pantry going each Wednesday through rain, snow and sleet. We are currently packing between 20-25 bags each week with a per bag cost of approximately \$15. These bags provide several meals or portions of meals.* In addition to the Elexio App or checks, you can also donate gift cards from Market Basket or Walmart which allows us to buy the products needed.

It's the time of year where when there are many wonderful groups/organization to donate to and we very much appreciate your continued support.

Thank you for your generosity

Paulette Sirois, Cristina Dolcino, Jules Moore and Mark Beliveau

**Wednesday morning a woman stopped to get some food and said, "Thank you so much for being here each week. My disabled father lives with me and I cannot leave him long enough to go to the indoor pantries and shop. I'm trying to feed my 2 families' for a total of 11 adults & children."*



Pastor Article: October 26, 2020

The week has arrived. Our first indoor worship service is this Sunday at 8:30am. All the precautions and guidelines to follow were given out last week and are available on the website (www.htelc.com) or call the Church Office to sign up. Remember, signing up is required.

One more thing. In order for these services to occur, we need help from all of you. Due to COVID-19, we can't assign Sunday morning volunteers like we have done in the past. Instead, we are asking you, if you are going to attend an indoor service, to look at the "jobs needed" on the Sign-up Genius and consider doing one of them. You will be given all you need to know prior to the service and no experience is necessary (except for "Counters." Experience is required.)

Remember, whether you are in the sanctuary on Sunday or at home in your living. The church is not a building. The church is a group of people assembled, in any way, place or time, to worship and receive the love of God revealed in Jesus. We are one people, not because of walls, but because of Christ. The One who knows no boundaries and breaks down all walls.



Lastly, New Hampshire and all of New England has done really well, overall, during this pandemic. Our numbers are consistently some of, if not the lowest, in all the country. That is because we have done our job. We keep distance from each other. We wear masks. We wash our hands. After 6 months of this, "pandemic fatigue" is very real and can set in. It is tempting to grow tired of it all and say "Forget it. I am going back to the way things were. I don't want to do this anymore." Resist that temptation. Keep going. Keep doing what you have been doing. I know it will be hard. We are headed into winter and it will be more difficult to be outside. Now is not the time to let up. Now is the time to find a little extra resolve and continue doing what we have been doing. It can be hard, but it is worth it.

Hope to see you in one way or another on Sunday.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim's article: October 29, 2020

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

My wife, Vicky, has the first two words tattooed on the inside of her left wrist. It was her second tattoo. She got it in a time in which she wanted to reassurance that the presence of God was with her and to help strengthen her faith. Over the years, it has taken on new meanings. It doesn't leave the old meaning behind, but rather adds to the depth of meaning. She was telling me the other day it is a continual reminder to stop and be still. Life is moving so fast, is so hectic and feels like there is always one more thing to do that she needs a literal reminder that it is okay and good to stop.

For me, I am thinking of a third meaning. As I have said before, we all seem to be living on edge. Anxiety is high. COVID fatigue is setting in. Schools are mainly virtual. It is getting darker earlier. The presidential election is next week. Thanksgiving plans are unknown and it appears that regular large gatherings are not going to happen like in the past. On top of that, we all have our own personal issues. Maybe a relationship is struggling. A boss or employees are annoying. Money is tight and bills are piling up. There could be any number of things going on.



So right now, stop. Close your eyes and breathe. Take a moment and pause. Be Still. Let your lungs fill up with fresh air and then exhale it out. Feel your face muscles relax and your shoulders drop. Do it again. Do it a third time.

Know that God is with you. Not in a far-off place looking down on you, but rather in an intimate and personal way. It is in a way that says God is part of the essence of your being. God is as real to you as the air you just breathed in. God is as vital to you as the food you eat and the water you drink.

Quiet your mind and body and hear these words from the creator of the universe who loves you with an energy and fire that is greater than a thousand burning suns.

"Be still and know that I am God."

Grace and peace, Pastor Tim

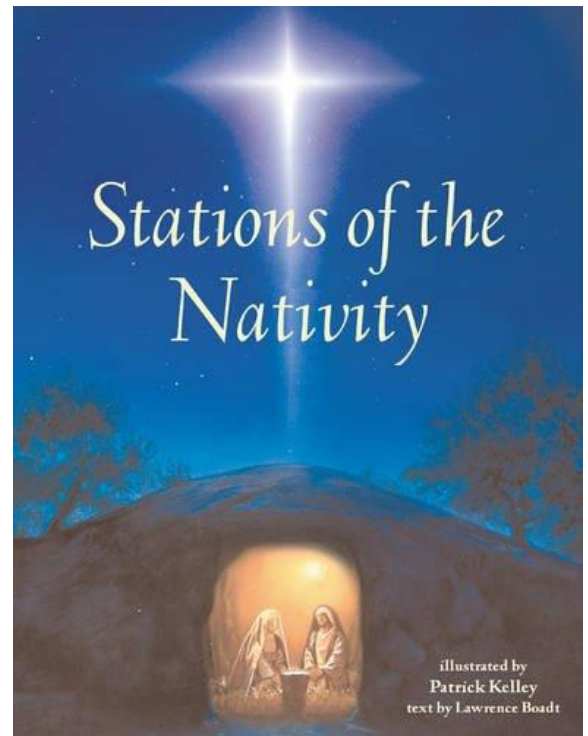
Stations of the Nativity

In response to Bishop Hazelwood's suggestions about celebrating Advent and Christmas during Covid 19 restrictions, we are excited about the possibility of making videos of the Stations of the Nativity for ourselves and for sharing with others. The recommended book is Stations of the Nativity by Patrick Kelley with text by Lawrence Boadt.

The overall presentation of texts and pictures is very well done. The format for each event/station is thoughtful, succinct, and complete. It includes a Reading, Meditation, Lesson, Prayer, and Psalm Verse. The fourteen pictures are incredibly beautiful, but here is where, we can add personal touches by pictures, collages, children's work, objects, places, songs, costumes, decorations, etc. Artistic interpretation is unrestricted. The goal is to participate in this church season by having fun and by sharing the gospel!

The Fourteen Stations:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Song of Mary
4. The Birth of John the Baptist
5. The Prophecy of Zachariah
6. Joseph's Dream
7. Joseph Takes Mary into His Home
8. The Journey to Bethlehem
9. The Birth of Jesus
10. The Announcement of the Angels
11. The Shepherds Share the Good News
12. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
13. The Blessing of Simeon
14. The Wise Men Come from the East



HTELC has purchased fourteen books to be used by whomever is interested in participating, and are available in the Church Office. Finally send your video to Mark in the office. If possible, it would be nice to have this online by the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th. The earlier your video is sent, the easier it is for Mark to post and share your work. If interested please contact me by email toppinghill@gmail.com, or phone (H) 207-363-5753 (C) 508-725-7121.

Blessings, Yvonne Topping

Pastor Tim's Article: November 2, 2020

We all know what tomorrow is here in the United States. It is election day. Before I get into any of that, I hope you have either taken the time to vote early or have a plan for voting tomorrow. It is a right that we, as citizens of the United States of America, have and should not take it for granted or think our voice and vote do not matter. It does. The democracy that America is supposed to stand on only functions properly if its people exercise the rights given to them. Please vote.

I have read in many places people of faith trying to calm the nerves of others by saying things like, "No matter who wins the election on Tuesday night (or in the weeks to follow) Jesus is still king." Or perhaps, "Remember our hope rests not in a President or in our government, but in Jesus." Here is one more, "It doesn't matter who wins, God is in control." At some level, they might contain some truth (although I really struggle with the last one), but honestly, they seem empty. If I were to say those things, I would be diminishing the moment we are in. Those clichés appear to say what happens in the election doesn't really matter. But I believe it does matter. I am willing to bet you also think it does. Whether you and I are voting for the same candidate or not, we both believe it matters, probably more so than in the past.

Perhaps that is the thing. When we feel the stakes are high, like now, we are more invested. We care more about the outcome. If our candidate wins, hubris takes shape in our lives and is acted on. If our candidate loses, we are more easily angered. We don't like being wrong. We want to be right and we try to find ways to explain what happened that prevented the outcome we were hoping for. We may become more negative and go into greater depths of despair when things don't go our way.

But the fruit of the *Spirit* is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Therefore, however the election turns out, whether we know on Tuesday night or two weeks from now, stop and breath. Don't react. It doesn't matter whether the candidate you support won or lost. Take a moment. Read this scripture about the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-26

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

Let the Fruit of the Spirit be what guides you in the coming days. This doesn't mean be passive or simply to "get over" the result, but it means to decide how you will process the result and act in the aftermath. Maybe a peaceful protest is in order. Maybe there will need to be demonstrations or marches. That is part of what makes this country what it is. But what the world doesn't need are winners who gloat and losers who are bitter. We need people who are passionate about what they believe, work to bring it into fruition (pun intended) but do so with grace, compassion and empathy and all those prior characteristics given in the Galatians reading.

Remember, the sun will rise again and the world is not coming to an end, despite how it might feel. Some things are in your control. Some things are not. When you stop and breathe, think about what is in your control (i.e. how you react) and how that can follow the Fruits of the Spirit.

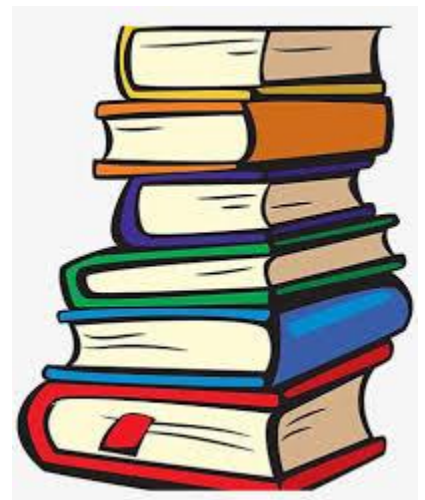
Because let's be honest, we all need more fruit in our diet.

BGLibrary

The BGLibrary is open and ready for your business. And what better time to search out a few good reads than now when you're probably spending more time at home than ever before? If you're coming to church to pick up communion supplies, detour into the library for a moment. If you're coming to a new session of indoor worship, detour to the library. Just remember keep socially distanced and to wash/sanitize before and after handling books.

On the "sanctuary wall" in the library are books from Barbara Galle's personal collection. You remember that Barbara was the Holy Trinity librarian who set us up in the present location. How fitting that now some of her favorite personal reads are in the same space!

We also have a display table in the narthex with books about social issues of today—social equality, systemic racism, fairness in government, mental health, etc. Pastor Tim challenges us every Sunday morning to think more deeply about how Christians should handle social issues. These reads are a good place to begin. On this same table you'll find copies of the Forum fourth Wednesday discussion series. October's choice is *The Elephant Whisperer* by Laurence Anthony. *Same Kind of Different As Me* is for November, and *Bear Town* is for December.



Dover Friendly Kitchen

Tuesday at the Dover Friendly Kitchen, our team of 9 volunteers made and served a take out hot meal of baked ham and pineapple, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and butter, tossed salad and homemade brownies, congo squares and cookies. We made 100 meals, and all were taken. We sent several containers of mashed potato, green beans, pineapple and cookies down to Crossroads in Portsmouth so our leftovers would be put to good use.

Our November DFK meal falls on the same date as the Dover City Thanksgiving Dinner for anyone who want to attend. Our part in this will be different. We are just asked to provide the fruit salad for the 120 to 150 guests who usually attend. Servers for this meal come from all the DFK participating churches but we are making the salad as our part. This will also be served in take out fashion. Our next actual meal is on December 22nd, the week of Christmas. It will be the baked ham dinner menu mentioned above. Besides the 9 volunteers needed, we are also asking for Christmas cookies from our congregation. Please contact either Bonnie Sanders or Jill Schock if you wish to participate in our Christmas DFK meal.



College Care Packages

This year we are sending packages of goodies to our college students at Thanksgiving instead of Christmas, to focus on all we are thankful for, even during this pandemic. Here's how you can help:

1. Send in your students' names and mailing address, whether they are away at school or living at home. Also include the date that their Thanksgiving break begins so we can get the packages out on time. Due by 11/12.
2. If you enjoy writing letters, contact us and we will give you a few students' names to write a letter to be included in the package. Due 11/17.
3. Donate individually wrapped goodies. We cannot accept homemade items this year. Put them in the donation box in the gathering area by 11/12.
4. Send info via email to pawoollett@comcast.net or call Pat Woollett at 603-942-7556. We are on a tight deadline this year!

Suggested Items for College Care Packages (individually packaged):

Candy, Gum, Mints, Cheez-Its, Crackers, Nuts, Peanut butter and crackers, Cheese and crackers, Breakfast bars, Cookies, Pretzels, Chex Mix, Trail Mix, Granola or granola bars, Rice Krispies Treats, Kettle Corn, Microwave popcorn, Summer sausage (small links), Cheddar Cheese (non-refrigerated, e.g. Pepperidge Farm) Jams/jellies in small jars, Tea, Hot Cocoa Envelopes

Property Team

The Property Team's Thursday group has operated reasonably well in these difficult times, though our numbers are at minimal levels. Grounds work is keeping up with most of the basics, but leaf removal and minimal mowing are using most of our available people each week. We have been able to get the air conditioners out and stored, and the tent has been taken down and moved to storage. Salt buckets and snow shovels have been taken out of storage and staged for use at three entry/exit door locations. We will be continuing to address remaining grounds work while the weather permits. We were able to complete the last of the outside painting work planned for this year.

As always, work has been done inside the building as well. There is an ongoing need to address cleaning matters outside the scope of our cleaning service, and an ongoing need to tidy things, address clutter, and support various building use matters. These things will become increasingly important and demanding now that we are beginning to transition back to normal building use. Things have gotten a bit disheveled during this long period of minimal building use.

We are fortunate to have a skilled volunteer to make our heating system ready each heating season. This work was completed in October. When you have an opportunity, thank Jim McKenna for all of his efforts.



Some progress has been made on the new fire alarm system. System hardware has been received and two of the new alarm panels have mounted on a wall in the basement work room. No wiring work has started, but this is progress.

The planned replacement of our main electrical distribution panel was delayed by schedule issues, but this work should complete in early November. This work will resolve some electrical breaker issues and also provide power surge protection for the building.

David Mercer, Property Team Leader