

The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

Fall Worship Schedule begins September 8

Fall Worship Schedule begins Sunday, September 8. On this Sunday, we will return to our 8:30 & 11:00 AM worship schedule.

We will continue the fun with “Something for Everyone on Every Sunday” beginning on our Sept. 8 Rally Day, when we go to two services. Sept. 8 & 22 will be for All Ages, including Adult Forum; September 15 is our Traveling Together Intergenerational activity; and September 29 will be for Fellowship. If you have an interest in planning with us, we are meeting at church at 5:00 pm on Monday, August 26. May the Lord bless you!



Baptism

Baptized into Christ on August 11, 2019 is Aurora Paula Rouleau, daughter of Matthew and Kelly Rouleau.



Stewardship

Stewardship is taking care of something that belongs to someone else. We all are stewards of many things in our lives. Ultimately we are all stewards of things that belong to God. Sometimes we are individually, or jointly with others, stewards of things we may not even be aware of. Much of stewardship is done by taking responsibility and doing whatever is needed. As members of Holy Trinity we all need to share responsibility for the many things we are stewards of, and to seek out opportunities to participate where we can. We don't need to be “experts” to pitch in.



Bob Hollister – Stewardship Committee

President's Article

Greetings everyone!!

I hope your summer has been healthy, safe, and full of enjoyment in whatever activity/ies you've been taking part in. And now there is change on the horizon, as college students are returning to school / campus (good luck and best wishes to those college freshman who will be passing into a whole new chapter in their life journey), and younger kids are gearing up for another year at elementary or high school levels. And let's not forget the teachers and other support staff involved in the educational process. To all, may the Lord bless you and guide you through the coming year as you face the various challenges that everyone will be faced with.



While summer typically sees a slower pace to our busy lives than during the rest of the year, there are activities at Holy Trinity that go on..... Dave Mercer and his Thursday Group continue getting together every week to take care of the many property maintenances that need to be kept up with, Church Council had their monthly meetings, a number of the congregation teams have been together for planning the coming fall/winter season, and the Alter Guild, choirs, musicians, and Pastor Tim work together to continue to insure we have opportunities to worship every week. Thanks be to God for those who provide for our worship services..... personally, for various reasons, I was unable to attend worship for a few consecutive weeks, and I sure missed it. I sometimes call it my weekly charge..... if I don't get that weekly spiritual 'fix', things just don't seem to be the same. So, thanks to everyone who keep our services going, especially during the summer months.

Probably the most visible event at Holy Trinity over the summer, beside worship service, was VBS. Several notes of thanks have been passed on to Heidi Morrison and her team of volunteers for organizing and staffing the recent VBS program, and I would like to add Congregational Council's thanks and appreciation to all for such a great job. It was a joyful, enriching ROAR! for all, and everyone on Council greatly appreciates the efforts and work done by everyone.

Please make a note on your calendar that Holy Trinity's return to the regular worship schedule of services will take place September 8th with Rally Day sandwiched between the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship services. Looking a little further down the calendar, God's Work Our Hands will be taking place October 6, when there will be a project between services and other projects for later in the day for anyone who would like to participate.



Lastly, as announced in an email blast this week from Pastor Tim, a Reconciling In Christ Team has been formed to openly enter into a process to determine whether Holy Trinity might become a Reconciled In Christ (RIC) congregation (***see pages 5-7 of this issue of the Tidings for the full email & letter***). The team has received Council's support to carry out various steps centering around education and open conversation about the topic, to determine if the congregation should decide to declare we are a RIC congregation. The process outlined is not time-specific, and everyone will be encouraged to be part of this process, to learn and understand what it all involves.

So, as we enter the last days of hot humid August weather (I think it's still referred to as "the dog days of August"?), stay cool, stay safe, and enjoy.

Peace and Understanding to all...
Dave Smith, Council President

Floor Cleaning on Tuesday 9/3

On Tuesday 9/3 our cleaning service will begin cleaning the stone floor in the Sanctuary. To support this work all of the chairs and other items on the floor will need to be moved and then replaced when the floor cleaning completes and the floor has dried. The property team will need some help with this project. We have never done this work before, so it will be a learning process for us all. We hope to get the floor cleaning done on Tuesday 9/3 at 9AM and have all items moved back into the sanctuary no later than Wednesday 9/4. If you can help with this effort, please let the office know or contact me by email ... dmgr@comcast.net ... or call me at 603 953-3855. Dave Mercer, Property Team Leader



CARINGCONNECTIONS

The mission of CaringConnections is to directly serve members and friends within the Holy Trinity family. Its overall objective is to bring God's gift of caring to those in the church who require and desire it. See the yellow brochure in the Gathering Area for a complete list of our outreach activities including health and spiritual life for members. Contact inchbyinch@live to discuss how we can help or leave your contact information with Mark in the office.

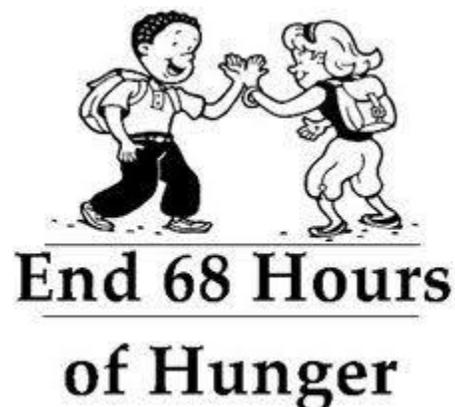


End 68 Hours of Hunger

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!!

If you are interested in ending hunger in a small way on a local level - consider joining our team in the fall. This past year, our volunteers were responsible for packing 663 bags of food! By spending 45 minutes each session over the course of 7 packing days, we were able to provide 4,641 meals to children in need from Portsmouth.

If you are interested in joining our team 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

Upcoming Conversations at Holy Trinity

Church office note:

the following was sent as an email and postal mailer on Wednesday, August 21.

Happy August everyone!

As we near Labor Day and the end of summer, it is also close to the time in which we will go back to two worship services. Please mark your calendars...

On Sunday, Sept. 8, we will have worship at 8:30am and 11:00am with Faith Formation activities in-between.

Remember, our goal is to have something for everybody on every Sunday. We do this through a rotation of faith forming opportunities.

First and third Sundays of the month are “Faith Learning Groups.” This means that we will separate based on age for our faith forming opportunities.

Second Sunday of the month is our “Traveling Together Sunday.” This means we will stay as one large group and have fun together, regardless of age.

Fourth Sunday of the month is “Fellowship Sunday.” There is nothing formal planned, except a bit more food and coffee as you are invited to simply enjoy each other’s company.

Fifth Sunday of the month is “Service Project Sunday.” We will participate in a service project as one large group.



For the month of September, we are adjusting the schedule. Sept. 8, is the second Sunday of the month, but since it is our first Sunday back to our fall schedule, we are going to treat it as our “First Sunday of the Month.” This means we will have Faith Learning Groups on that day.

The following letter is letting you know about the “Adult Forums” we will be hosting, during the Faith Learning Groups, on the first and third Sunday’s of the month. Hopefully, you already received it in the mail, but if not, you can read it here.

(see next page for the letter)

August 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the end of last summer, the following question was raised at a church council meeting. “Would it be okay if we put a rainbow flag at the entrance to the parking lot?” I responded, “I am in favor of it, but this is something that deserves to have a congregational conversation so people understand what it does and does not mean.”

Over the past year, several conversations at council meetings have taken place to determine the best way to proceed. A team was formed to further discern the next steps and to bring a proposal to council. At the August council meeting, the following was unanimously approved.

We, the Reconciling in Christ Team, recommend to the Church Council that Holy Trinity officially and openly enter into a process to determine whether it will join the New England Synod to become a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation – one that extends a specific welcome to LGBTQ+ people in our community and in the congregation itself who might wonder if they are truly welcomed and affirmed.

The goal of becoming a RIC congregation is to write a welcome statement that affirms a specific welcome to those who have traditionally, or otherwise, been excluded or have felt the need to question whether they are truly welcome and affirmed in the church.

The entire congregation is invited to participate in this process over the next several months. During Adult Forums (although they will be renamed “Forums” as our middle and high school youth will be invited to participate also) and after Wednesday evening worship, we will have various educational and conversation opportunities around the following topics.

- *What is a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) congregation and why is it important? What is the difference between being “welcoming” and “affirming”?*
- *What does the Bible say that is relevant to Holy Trinity’s interest in becoming a RIC congregation?*
- *What would it mean for Holy Trinity to become a RIC congregation and what are the benefits of becoming a RIC congregation?*
- *What is it like for people who identify as LGBTQ+ to be in a congregation that is RIC or one that is not?*
- *What do LGBTQ+ and other terms mean?*

- *Stories of people's journeys*
- *Other topics as needed.*
-

Our conversations will begin on Sunday, Sept. 8 (our first Sunday back to two services) and Wednesday, Sept. 11. (See below for the dates that we have currently designated for our conversations.) All people (middle school - adult) are invited to join us for this important dialogue. There is no set timeline, as we want to allow people time to process, reflect, pray and discuss as necessary.

There will be some who are excited by this prospect and will want to move quickly. There will be some who are apprehensive and will want to move slowly. I ask however you are feeling, pray for the Spirit to lead and for you, and all of us, to be open to wherever that might be.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tim and the Reconciling in Christ team

Matt Nania, Jo Whiting, Steve Bauer, Cristina Dolcino, John Corgan, Glenn Oswald

Dates for RIC conversations (subject to change to accommodate guest speakers and other events as needed)

- *Sept 8 & 11*
- *Sept 22 & 25*
- *Oct 13 & 16*
- *Oct 20 & 23*
- *Nov 3 & 6*
- *Nov 17 & 20*
- *Dec 8 & 11*
- *Dec 15 & 18 or Dec. 22*



More dates in January and beyond as needed.

I hope you have had a terrific summer and have been able to find ways to rest and be renewed. I also hope, that as summer ends, through your experience at Holy Trinity, the rest and renewal continues, just in a different way. In a way that grows your understanding of God's love for you and for your neighbor.

Thanks for all the ways you participate in our life together.

Pastor Tim

Prayer Concerns

Please include the following in your daily prayers:

Members & Attenders

Health Issues: Edna Di Nola, Leah Waldschlagel, Hazel Larson & Family, Mary Kuck, Tina Waterman, Robert & Sally Rindfleish, Susan Rindfleish, Emily Beliveau, Jackie Kohlhase, Franklyn Vosburg, Grover Marshall, Brendan Podszus, Jean Klein, Jerry Schock, Shirley Jackson, Sue Anderson, Margareta Claesson, Mark Beliveau, Bob Hollister. **Homebound:** Madeline Brandt, Marie Edin, Everett Nelson, Carol Saufley, Shirley Bauer, Edith Rowan. **Military:** Josh Bretz, Matthew Hanrahan, Brendan Podszus, Jacob Schankis, Jessica Chabot.

Friends

Hayden Connors (Jill Larson's great-nephew), Richard Marshall (Grover Marshall's brother), Eddie Towle (Barbara Galle's nephew), Holly Ferguson (Heidi Morrison's neighbor), Aimee Bucci (Dick & Yvonne Topping's daughter), Ray Kunsman (Karen Gerome's father), William Lewis (Phyllis Philbrick's brother-in-law), Robert Gjellstad (Jerry Schock's cousin), Matthew Hanrahan (Leslie Darling's son), Megan Zadig & Rachel Arrington Boal (daughters of Dave & Carol Arrington), Estelle Lewis (Paulette Sirois' sister), The Vocell Family (Jeremy & Krystal Small's friends), Jamie Stevens (Jill Larson's sister), Matthew Seeley (Elinor Young's niece's partner), Kari King (Stephanie Goupil's sister), Eileen Berube (Yvonne Topping's friend), Cinda DeWerff & Linda Aten (Rich Wilcox's sisters), Judy Sieg (Geri Sieg's daughter-in-law), Marion Viole (Joyce Rivore's friend).

Happy Anniversary

Rich and Martha Belanger, Mark and Erlinde Beliveau,
Jim and Kathy McKenna, Paul and Lauren Gianino, Paul and Angie Eide,
Dan and Lara Scammon, Richard and Pat Woollett, Julie Brewer and
spouse, Jason and Chris Miller, Jeff and Elena Pomroy, Jason and Beth Rice,
Rob Leatherbee and Margaret Tilton.



Happy Birthday

Tracy Barry, Shirley Bauer, Steven Bauer, Marianna Burwell, Elijah Bygd,
Erik Bygd, Bill Clapp, Hannah Crafts, Amy Ebeling, Cameron Eide,
Paul Eide, Serena Gerome, Judy Gessner, Don Gindlesperger, Emily Goupil,
Russ Hilliard, Edie Hudak, Alex Janakis, Peter Johnson, Tim Krick,
Mary Kuck, Sparky Larkin III, Abbe Laurence, Jace Marone, Sarah McEvoy,
Julie Mellor, Heidi Morrison, Grace Paradis, Joan Parseghian,
Scott Rindfleish, Bill Semrau, Yosua Siagian, Michelle Spoto, Ann Stephan,
Gerry Stone Jr., Rich Swiatocha, Sonia Talabessy, and John Waterman.

