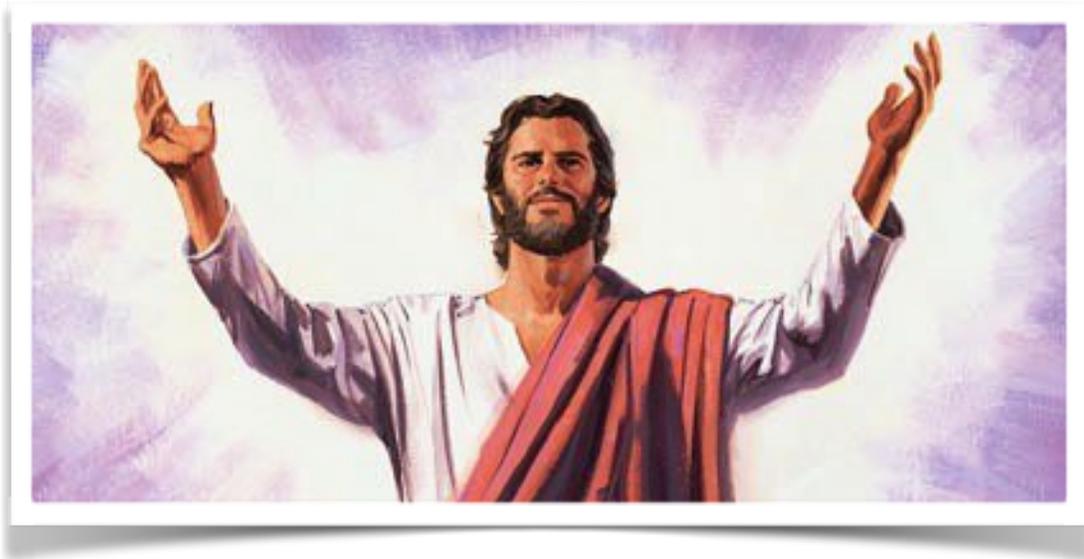


*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*  
*May 2015*  
*104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076*



Christ is Risen!

Father Matthew Thurman asks, When we celebrate the feast of Easter, do we simply approach it as recollecting an event that happened 2000 years ago? Is it simply the Church's version of celebrating an event, like we would celebrate a family birthday or anniversary? What is significant in celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ each year?

A place to start is to look at the New Testament readings that we have during the Paschal season. Throughout the year, the first reading we have in worship is a selection from one of the writings of the Apostles. They are typically letters written by the Apostles, coming almost exclusively from the letters of St. Paul. Starting at the Paschal Divine Liturgy, we "reboot" these readings and start with readings from the Acts of the Apostles. We continue these readings in Acts until the feast of Pentecost 50 days later.

Acts is unique among the apostolic writings in that it is not a letter, but rather the first book of Church history. It begins with the Apostles a few weeks after Christ's resurrection, describes the events of Christ's ascension, the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and continues with the spread of the Church throughout the known world. It begins with the Church as an obscure backwater movement with Judaism and ends with St. Paul's arrival in Rome, the very capital, at that time, of the known world.

What is telling in this book is the sense of urgency the Apostles have in sharing news of Christ's resurrection from the dead to those around them. Time and again, the Apostles preach about

Christ's resurrection to whatever crowds they find themselves in, without concern for their own personal safety. Sometimes those who hear the preaching respond negatively and harm the Apostles. (The story of St. Stephen the Protomartyr is one good example from Acts.) When the response from the crowd is positive, there is urgency in those who hear the news and concern for what they should do next. Why is there such a sense of urgency? If the Apostles were simply marking some sentimentality or joy of their lost friend and teacher no longer being dead, why is there this level of urgency involved? If Christ being risen from the dead is only about what happened to Christ, what urgency would there be for the rest of us?



The answer is that we are each connected to His resurrection personally. There is a radicalness to the message because it is saying something applies to all people, regardless of their background. When the crowd positively responds to the Apostles' preaching, they ask "What do we do next?", and the Apostles tell them every time, "Be baptized."

At the Easter Vigil, we sing "As many as have been

baptized into Christ have put on Christ." What the Church says here is that through baptism, we put on Christ's death and resurrection as our own. We are not simply marking the event of Christ being risen from the dead. Christ's death and resurrection are His triumph over death through resurrection. Through baptism, I acquire this triumph for myself: although I may live in a fallen world and am susceptible to sin, suffering, and death, I can ultimately overcome these forces through Christ.

The urgency in the Apostles' message is "What Jesus has done through His death and resurrection is available to you." The urgency in those hearing this message is "How can I acquire what Jesus has done for myself?" The response is "Be baptized." It is with these words that we see that Easter is no mere recollection of a past event, but rather the celebration of a promise that we all can participate in. Christ is risen!

Pastor Tom

## **Pastoral Care**

Contact information for

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena; 'Pastor Tom'

Office phone: 860-684-7571

Cell phone: 860-806-2440

Email address: [thomas.drobena@yale.edu](mailto:thomas.drobena@yale.edu)

Mailing address:

7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT

06076-1334

President Michael Welch

Cellphone: 860-982-3697

Email – [mikeswelch49@gmail.com](mailto:mikeswelch49@gmail.com)

Church – [htlc-church@att.net](mailto:htlc-church@att.net)

Website – [holytrinitystafford.org](http://holytrinitystafford.org)

Editor -Walter Kovaciny

Photography - Michael Welch

## **Members of the Council are:**

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena

President – Michael Welch

Vice-President – Leigh Maxa

Acting Treasurer – Sheila Welch

Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe

Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

Andrew Fisher

Cathy Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Patricia Marvonek

## **Service Teams**

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Tremblay

† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,  
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and  
Michael Welch

† Learning & Youth Group Team:

Rev. Thomas Drobena, Melissa Fisher, Nan  
Hayden, Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard  
Lichanec

## **Golden Rule Kids Club**

Beginning this May of 2015 we are introducing to the children of Holy Trinity the all new Golden Rule Kids Club.

Our first gathering will occur on Sunday, May 17th at 11:15 am, immediately following the service. We will meet downstairs and have pizza and beverages while we watch a 20 minute animated movie on our new T.V. in the social hall. This will be followed by a craft activity. The total time is scheduled for an hour.

We plan on making this an enjoyable time for the kids and parents are welcome to attend and share in the pizza as well.

We do not have a set schedule but will try to have this activity on a once a month basis to begin.

We are looking forward to doing this and will be in touch with parents beforehand. Hope to see you all there!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Len and Cathy Lichanec

Melissa Fisher

## **Our Condolences and Prayers**

go out to Pastor Dave Dalzell and to the family and friends of Sarah Dalzell, whom the LORD has called to her Eternal Home. Sarah died April 25, 2015. Father in heaven we ask that you would comfort Pastor Dave and all the family and friends of Sarah. We look to that great and notable day when we will be reunited at the great wedding feast. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

*He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces (Isa 25:8). They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels (Mal 3:17)*



**Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church**

Attn: Mrs. Barbara Bulick  
Emeritus  
1715 Ellington Rd. Room # 212  
South Windsor, CT 06074-2702

Ms. Shirley Kaba  
7 High St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1215

Attn: Ms. Barbara Kovaciny  
Evergreen Health Care Center  
205 Chestnut Hill Rd., Room # 1105  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

Mr. Paul C. Kovaciny  
242 East St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3823

Ms. Anna Mandak  
21 Old Monson Rd.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

Mrs. Tonia Marvonek  
Evergreen Health Care Center  
205 Chestnut Hill Rd.  
Stafford Springs Ct 06076-4005

**May Birthdays**

- 04 – Susan Pallanck
- 05 – Sarah Bauer
- 21 – Terry Hoss
- 28 – Richard ‘Rik’ Hayden

**Anniversaries**

- 05 – Christian & Barbara Kovaciny
- 14 – Michael & Sheila Welch
- 15 – Richard & Carol Mottes
- 25 – Bill & Claudia Sevcik

SAVE THE DATE

FREE FREE

**STAFFORD COMMUNITY**

**Vacation Bible School**

JULY 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 8 pm First United Methodist Church

Dinner \* Bible Stories \* Music \* Crafts \* Games \* Fun!

All area children **entering kindergarten - finishing grade 5** are welcome! ☺

\*\*\*\*\* **Looking for teachers and helpers** \*\*\*\*\*

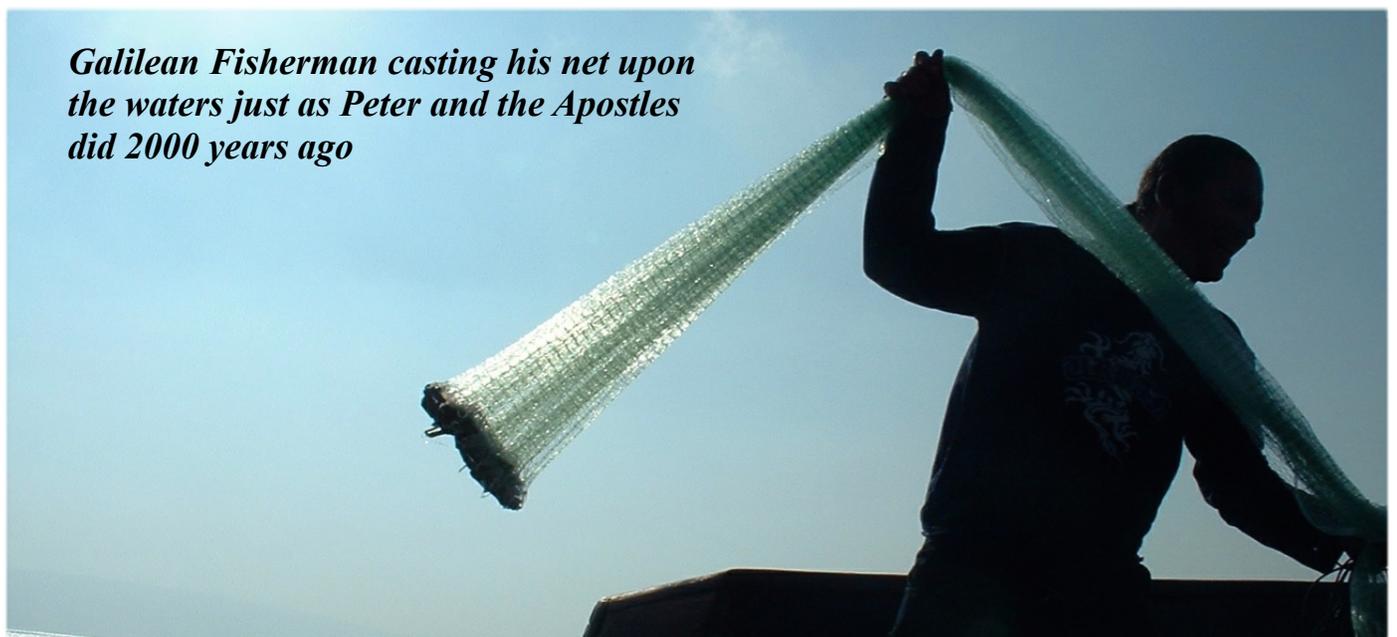
Everything is planned and organized for you... One meeting prior to VBS week.... Mostly you are with the children and helping them through the evening... If you've been involved, let me know if you would like to continue... If you're thinking of volunteering... Great! Come join in the fun... ☺

If you'd like to help or have any questions: contact Kathy Aborn NOW at 860-684-9484 or [abornk@yahoo.com](mailto:abornk@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. ☺

Sponsored by the Stafford Clergy Association

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>Philip &amp; James,</b> <i>Apostles</i> 7:30 p.m. Vespers	2
3 <b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	4 <b>Monica,</b> <i>Renewer of the Church</i>  (no service)	5 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	6  7:30 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b> at Lichanec Home	7	8	9 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Camp 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Safe Net
10 <b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	11	12 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	13	14 <b>Ascension of our Lord</b> 7:30 Holy Communion	15 <b>Matthias,</b> <i>Apostle</i> (transferred-no service)	16
17 <b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Golden Rule Kids Club	18	19 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	20  7:30 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b> at Lichanec Home	21	22 Deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter	23 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Safe Net  <b>Vigil of Pentecost</b> 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion
24 <b>The Day of Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	25	26 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27	28 WIC	29 <b>Juraj</b> <b>Tranovsky,</b> <i>Hymnwriter</i> (no service)	30
31 <b>The Holy Trinity</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>June 1</b> <b>The Visitation</b> (transferred)  7:30 p.m. Holy Communion					

*Galilean Fisherman casting his net upon the waters just as Peter and the Apostles did 2000 years ago*



## May – June Service Schedule

You'll notice the hymnals have changed. We will be using the Cranberry Hymnals up to the Advent season. These readings are from the Evangelical Lutheran worship on page #34 through 39, Series B.

Tellers                      Ushers                      Worships Assistants                      Reader

### May 3, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 8: 26 – 40; Psalm 22: 25 – 31; 1 John 4: 7 – 21; John 15: 1 – 8

Amelia Hinchliffe	Melissa Fisher	Stacy Fisher	Stacy Fisher
Sheila Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	

### May 10, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 10: 44 – 48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1 – 6; John 15: 9 – 17

Cathy Lichanec	Walter Kovaciny	Stacy Fisher	Ruth Boyles
Michael Welch	Debbie Lewis	Michael Welch	

### May 17, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventh Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 – 26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5: 9 – 13; John 17: 6 – 19

Amelia Hinchliffe	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Sheila Welch	Leonard Lichanec	Stacy Fisher	

### May 24, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red

Acts 2: 1 – 21; Psalm 104: 24 – 35; Romans 8: 22 – 27; John 15: 26 – 27; 16: 4b – 15

Cathy Lichanec	A Volunteer	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Debbie Lewis	

### May 31, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Holy Trinity – White

Isaiah 6 1 – 8; Psalm 29; Romans 8: 12 – 17; John 3: 1 – 17

Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny	Michael Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec	Debbie Lewis	Sheila Welch	

### June 7, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Body and Blood of Christ - White

Deuteronomy 8: 2 – 3; Psalm 147: 12 – 20; 1 Corinthians 10: 16 – 17; John 6: 51 – 58

Pat Marvonek	Melissa Fisher	Stacy Fisher	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	

### Altar Guild

**Set Up** – Andrew, Melissa and Stacy Fisher

**Remove** – Leigh Maxa

### Typist

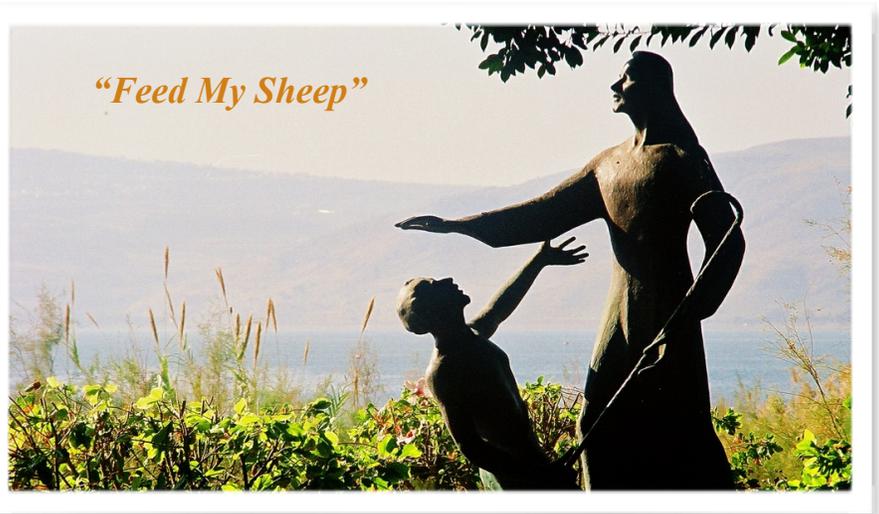
**May** – Stacy Fisher

**June** – Leigh Maxa

## Tour Of Faith - Tabgha

Tabgha is located on the north west shore of the Sea Of Galilee. This is the traditional place of the Loaves and Fishes and the restoration of Peter. It has been held in tradition since the fourth century. It was also known as Heptapegon “ the Place of the Seven Springs”. These springs run into the Galilee causing algae to grow making it a very plentiful area for fish. It has been a

favorite spot for fisherman for thousands of years. Archeology speaking there is a small Roman

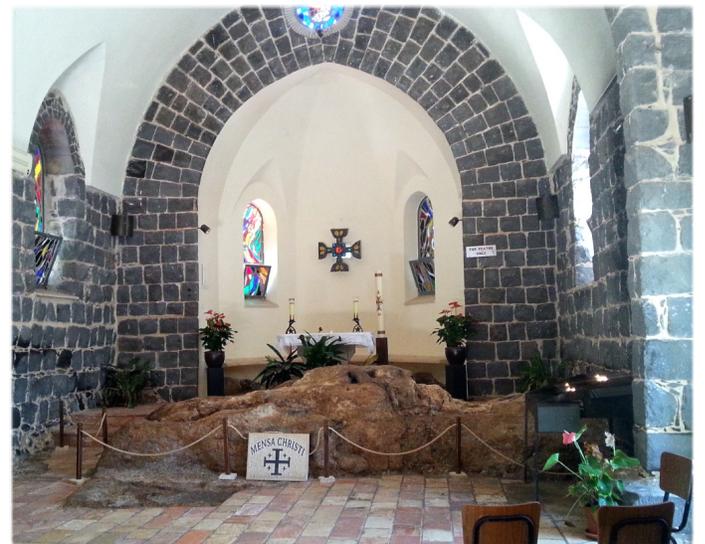


citadel at the head of the springs with the remains of a water pipe line. Just as today there was a cost for the water. There is also a rock outcrop on the shore with stairs carved into it. This is believed to be the spot where Jesus prepared breakfast for the Disciples. Upon this out cropping is built The Church Of The Primacy of Peter. Inside the church the altar sits on the rock also known as the LORDS Table “Mensa Christi”. This Church was built on the foundations of an

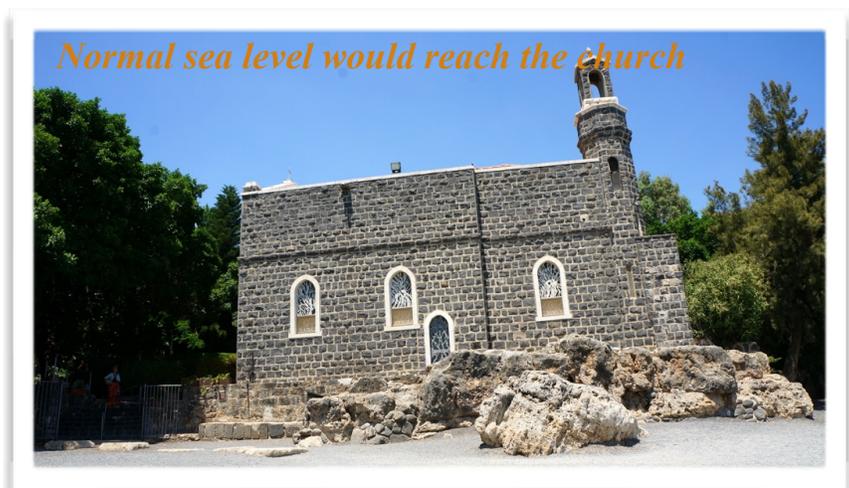
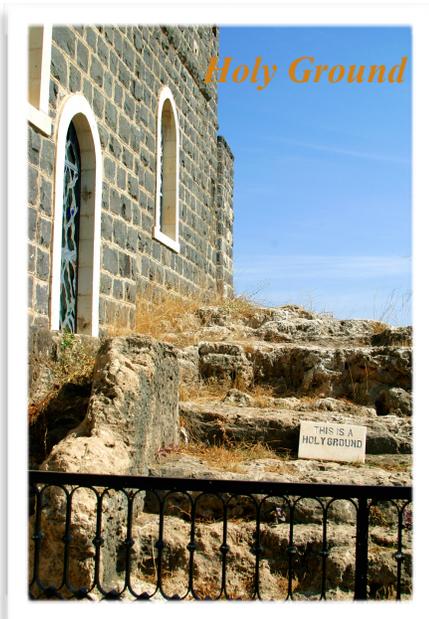


earlier church in the fourth century, which was destroyed in 1263AD. It was known as The Place of the Coals in ninth century. All these things point to the accuracy of the location of Tabgha.

The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus called to them and said cast your net on the other side and they caught so many large fish that they wondered how the net had not broke. Jesus was already preparing breakfast. Where he got the fish and bread was not questioned by the



Apostles, who had witnessed the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes just a short walk away. Jesus



asked Peter to bring the catch and he counted them and the number was 153. I believe, to a Jew 2000 years ago, that number had a significant meaning. Some say it represents the numeric value of the LORD in Hebrew, some say it represents “the sons of God” in both Greek and Aramaic. I believe it represents the Word of God. In Deuteronomy God commanded that the Torah (the first five books of our Bible) to be read in its completion before the people every seven years. Rabbinical writers of the time divided the scriptures into 153 readings a year much like our lectionary. To the Apostles this represented the Word of God. Jesus is the Word. Jesus asked Peter do you love me more than these? Some take it to mean the other Apostles. My opinion is that He was referring to the fish. Is your business more important than Me? I called you to be a fisher of men. When Peter said yes Lord you know I do, Jesus asked him three times do you love Me and after each affirmation by Peter he enjoined him to “feed My sheep”. The same number of times Peter denied Him.





Bishop Kucharek is presented the award by the Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White, President of LTSG, as the Rev. William Diehm looks on.

**GETTYSBURG, PENN (SZS)** — Tuesday night, the [Rev. Wilma S. Kucharek](#), Bishop of the Slovak Zion Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was distinguished with an alumni award from the [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg](#). The award was presented for *Service in Specialized Ministry*. Two additional awards were also presented for other honorees: one for *Service in Parish Ministry* and the other for *Celebrated Lifetime Ministry*.

The award was presented during a program in the seminary's Chapel of the Abiding Presence on April 28th, 2015 with a banquet preceding the presentation. The Rev. Susan McCarthy, President of the LTSG Alumni Council, opened the occasion with a welcome, followed by a greeting from the Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White, President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. The Rev. William Diehm toasted the honorees at the banquet and introduced them individually for the presentations. Some of the many statements received by the review committee for this award included: "People know she cares about them,

whether a lay person or a pastor—they know she is readily available." "She has regularly supported congregations in Slovakia in their mission projects, and individuals in their personal social need." Jerry Owen, Vice President of the Slovak Zion Synod wrote: "I know of no one more dedicated to her ministry than Bishop Kucharek." Following the presentation of her award, Bishop Kucharek recalled examples of how her seminary formation has informed her ministry over the years.

Bishop Kucharek received a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1982. She also earned her Master of Sacred Theology degree there, becoming notably only the third woman pastor in the Lutheran Church in America (predecessor body to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) to receive an STM. In addition to serving calls to congregations within the synod, Bishop Kucharek's service has included: Secretary of the Board of ELCA's Division for Global Mission, Chair of the Synod's Ecumenical and International Relations Committee, member of the National Council of Churches' Task Force for Korean Women, and as a member of the Board and Disaster Response Team of the American Red Cross. She has served on delegations to the Lutheran World Federation, North and South Korea, the Holy Land, Russia, and Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to her other duties, she serves on the Board of Trustees of Muhlenberg College and is the advisory bishop from the ELCA's Conference of Bishops to the Board of the Women of the ELCA. She was re-elected to a third term as Bishop of the Slovak Zion Synod in 2014 with 97% of the vote; an overwhelming vote of confidence in her ability and dedication to ministry.\*\*\* Coming Events \*\*\*

## May 2015

- 01 – Philip & James, Apostles Vespers – 7:30 p.m.**
- 06 & 20 – Bible Study at Lichanec home – 7:30 p.m.
- 09 & 23 – Safe Net distribution – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 09 – Saturday Camp – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
- 14 – Ascension of Our Lord, Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.**
- 17 – Golden Rule Kids Club – 11:15 a.m.**
- 22 – Deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter
- 23 – Vigil of Pentecost, Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.**
- 24 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.**

## June 2015

- 01 – The Visitation, Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
104 West Main St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Web site address

[www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org)

Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

Address Correction Requested

