

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

June 2016

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 0607



The other day I saw a sign that captured my attention—and deeply concerned me. It said—“Don’t go to church. Be the church.” Now, despite the element of truth (God’s people *are* the church), there are all kinds of things wrong with this statement. But behind the words is obviously someone’s disappointment (and possibly disillusionment) with organized Christianity. And although I’d guess that many Christians would reject this false choice, their attitude to Sunday gatherings of the church may reveal a similar apathy.

To fight such apathy, we all need a biblical perspective on what is taking place on Sunday—a perspective that can transform our attitude toward “going to church.” And it’s this perspective that the writer of Hebrews gives us when he describes the ongoing worship service we join when we gather to worship each Sunday.

The writer of Hebrews teaches us about the Old Testament Church at Mount Sinai with the New Testament Church at Mount Zion. After their deliverance from Egypt, God gathered his people and made a covenant with them. He constituted them as a nation, his very own people. There, at

Mount Sinai, the scene itself is frightening—fire, darkness, gloom. There the emphasis was that the children of Israel, though unworthy, were in the terrifying presence of God's power.

Here, at Mount Zion, is a gleaming city, the New Jerusalem, the place where God dwells with his covenant people.

At Mount Sinai the sounds are frightening—whirlwind, trumpet blast, unutterable words.

At Mount Zion is the sound of exuberant and celebratory praise.

At Mount Sinai was a solemn gathering filled with fear.

Here at Mount Zion is a joyful assembly of those whose names are forever written in the Lamb's book of life.

There at Mount Sinai was a picture of the unapproachability of God's holy presence. But here at Mount Zion is a picture of full access into the presence of God through the mediator Jesus Christ.

Now think about your church. Think about the people with whom you serve, live, and worship. Have you fully grasped just what your local church is and what it's doing on a Sunday morning?

Your local church is one authentic, visible manifestation of the entire people of God for all time. It is a part of the heavenly throng that even now is worshiping before the throne of God. And we get to be part of that!

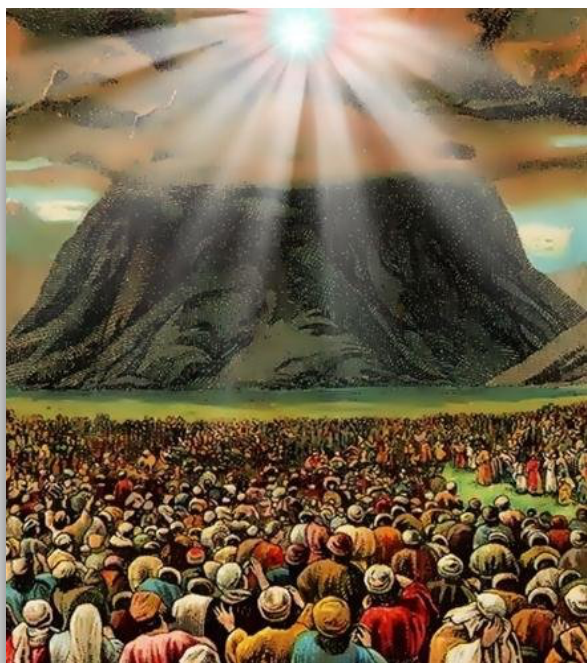
Think about this gathering, which includes angels and saints, the invisible hosts of heaven to whom we join our songs of praise! And when we worship, we join them before the throne of God.



We come to Jesus. He is there, our mediator, whose sprinkled blood cleanses us from sin. So when you come to Holy Trinity this upcoming Sunday, when you enter and the music begins, what are we more aware of?

Are we listening to the organist practice, or to the choir sing? Are we noticing the missed cob web on the ceiling, or who's coming in late or who's talking with whom? Are we noticing the music? Does it wow us? Do you wish there was a different style of music, or does the routine bore us? Or do we perceive something beyond all this? Do we consider the miraculous and awesome thing that is taking place in your presence?

Your church is an authentic manifestation of the entire people of God that right now is worshiping before the throne of God. That is the reality of new covenant worship. And when we begin to wrap our minds around that, there springs to mind a thousand reasons to rejoice, to praise, and to sing; and to renounce flippancy, self-display, selfishness, superficiality, sloppiness, and thoughtlessness.



Before the God who is a consuming fire, we don't shuffle in casually. We don't demand our artistic preferences. We don't *merely* gather with our friends. We don't merely sing together. As the people of God, we enter into the very presence of God.

Encountering God in this way is the very nature of the church. By definition, to *be* the church is to gather in God's presence and to worship God together. And when we begin singing, we join the glorious worship that takes place unceasingly before the throne of God.

This is true regardless of how we feel, who leads worship, what songs we sing, or how we think worship went. There is something incredible happening on Sunday morning!

Be the church *and* go to church. Something eternal is **going on in there**. Don't miss it! This summer remember these words from the book of Hebrews (10:25):

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day of the Lord drawing near."

Pastor Tom

Visible By Michael Welch

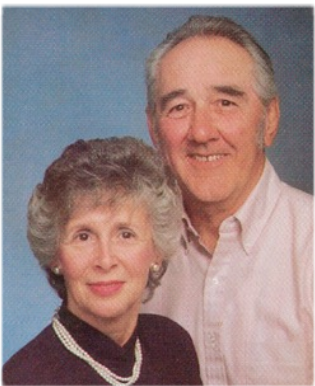
Last month I wrote about the **Invisible**. Those memories of friends, which have faded from view over time. Those people who have shown kindness and guidance, who have made a difference in our lives. As I began to look back many people came to mind. Some are no longer with us and I wished that I had taken the time to share with them about what they meant to me. We all have game changers in our lives and they might not even know that the life they have lived has made a difference to someone in a very special way that not only effects you or I, but generations to come. Why not give someone a call or send a note and let them know. This is just a few of the many who have made a difference in my life.



As a young long haired hippy(yes I did Have Hair), I was introduced to Jim Kana at a church picnic. This wasn't my church at the time it was Sheila's church, and I was being the dutiful husband. I met Jim while standing in line to buy a ticket to get a hotdog. We were worlds apart, but he stuck out his hand and flashed a toothless grin with the stub of a cigar in the corner of his mouth and said in a gravelly voice "were playing horse shoes. your on my team kid!" In short he let me play in all the reindeer games. From my view he was bold, He was kind and when he sang he just put it all out there, he made everyone else sound good. His kind heart won my heart and triggered my involvement in Holy Trinity. I miss him.



Margaret Lajda was another welcoming voice in my life. We had a constant banter going on and she would express her love for me by punching me in the arm (hard) as I returned to my seat from the communion rail. She was cheerful. She was fun and man Oh man she could cook!



Steve and Tony Marvonek, their love for one another was all ways evident to me. The way he treated her was a fine example for a young couple like Sheila and I. I have always respected him for the loyalty he has, and the love he shows Tony. If there is a fight to be had, you want him on your side.



Martin Kovaciny was a man of commitment going so far as to put a mortgage on his house along with others to renovate the church building.

Glen Kovaciny was grace under fire. We attended bible study and served on council together. He always had a joke to tell. He was a man of integrity. I remember visiting him the day or two before he passed away. He greeted us with a smile and told a couple of jokes. It seemed to me that he was more concerned about us than his own situation. One of our group said I want to pray for you but I don't know how. He smiled and said why don't we sit quietly a while and we will figure it out together. Then we prayed. The way he conducted him self was an example for me. While I have tried to follow it, I admit I have fallen short far to often.



Rick and Nan Hayden have been part of our lives for many years. Serving on council and in the Bible Study group for over a decade. At a time in our lives when our children were scattered, they saw to it that we did not spend those holidays alone. They opened their home to us and treated us like family. We feasted, played cards and partook of the best homemade pear wine ever. I don't think I could ever express what it has meant to us. Over the years we spent in the study of scriptures Rick offered many insides that changed the way I looked at things.



Lenny and Cathy have been part of our lives for years. Cathy is an instigator and Lenny is the kind of friend that you can call at 3am and will, and has, come to our rescue. One time we were traveling and they came to our aid when a heating pipe burst. Lenny is a servant leader. They our true friends and have been one of our greatest encouragers.

In spite of the passage of time and all the disagreements, heart ache, and loss, along with all the laughter and joy we remain united in one body with Christ, forever changed. I love you all.

Pastoral Care

Contact information for
Rev. Thomas S. Drobená; ‘Pastor Tom’
Office phone: 860-684-7571
Email address: thomas.drobená@yale.edu
Mailing address:
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT
06076-1334

Contact President Andrew Fisher
Cellphone: 860-930-2845
Email – acffbúusiness@gmail.com
Church – htlc-church@att.net
Website – holytrinitystafford.org

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená
President – Andrew Fisher
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny
Treasurer – Catherine Lichanec
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Melissa Fisher
Leonard Lichanec
Michael Marvonek
Patricia Marvonek

Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

Service Teams

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Maxa
† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and
Michael Welch
† Learning & Youth Group Team:
Rev. Thomas Drobená, Melissa Fisher,
Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members

Attn: Mr. Harold Barton
Fox Hill Center
1253 Hartford Tpke. Room #49A
Vernon, CT 06066-4560

Attn: Mrs. Barbara Bulick
Brookdale
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 # 1101
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

Mr. Paul C. Kovaciny
242 East St.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3923

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

Mrs. Tonia Marvonek
Evergreen Health Care Center
201 Chestnut Hill Rd., Rm. # 2107
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

Next Issue

As noted in the June calendar the next issue of this newsletter will be for July and August 2016. If anyone has any plans that include the life of our church, please note the submittal deadline of June 20, 2016. Thanks

June Birthdays

11 – Elizabeth Murray
15 – Cathy Lichanec
17 – Gary P. Brown
17 – Casandra ‘Cassie’ Tremblay
19 – Hannah VanDyk
26 – Barbara Hoffman

28 – Dianne Pallo

Anniversaries

03 – Bob & Judy Titus
06 – Al & Amy VanDyk
22 – Leonard & Cathy Lichanec

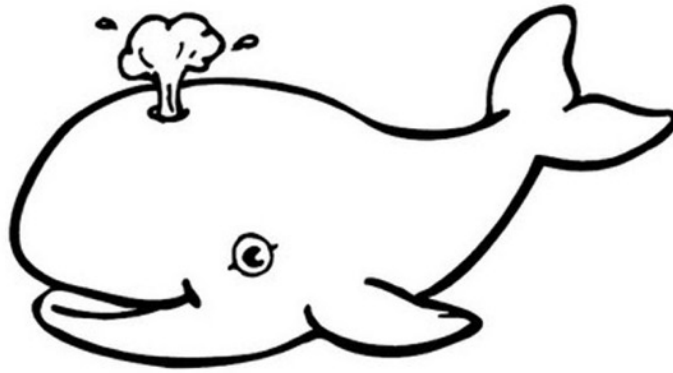
STAFFORD’S ECUMENICAL PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

We will be meeting on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month from **6:00-7:30 pm** at the Stafford Public Library. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, June 14, 2016.**

We welcome individuals who would like to attend and knit, crochet, or quilt these much needed prayer shawls. (We'll even teach you to knit or crochet!) Join in a ministry that brings God's grace, peace, comfort, love, joy, and hope to those in need. If you cannot make the meeting but want to make prayer shawls at home, we'll even pick them up. If you or your pastor knows of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, we'll arrange for one to be picked up. Please contact Kathy Aborn at 860-684-9484 for information or pick up arrangements. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Stafford Community
Vacation Bible School

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Jonah, A Whale of a Tale

Join us for Vacation Bible School July 17-21 from 5:30-8:00PM

At the **First United Methodist Church**, Stafford Springs, CT

Children who are **entering** kindergarten through 6th grade **this Fall** are welcome to attend.

Register your child before June 15th, and receive a small token of our appreciation. Early registration helps us plan meals, crafts and other supplies. Registration forms are available at the First United Methodist Church office or by calling 860/265-1800 and requesting one be mailed to you.

If you are interested in volunteering, we need good people to help with games, music, crafts, teaching, and decorating. Many helpers make lite work!! **Please contact: Andrea Broer at 860/265-1800 or andrea@lincon.com.** Thank you!

June / July Service Schedule

With the new church season starting, the reading for the next year are from Series C. These readings are from page 34 to 39 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Tellers

Ushers

Worships Assistants

Reader

June 5, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Pentecost – Green

1 Kings 17: 17 – 24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1: 11 – 24; Luke 7: 11 – 17

Amelia Hinchliffe

Melissa Fisher

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Walter Kovaciny

June 12, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11: 26 to 12: 10, 13 – 15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2: 15 – 21; Luke 7: 36 to 8: 3

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Ruth Boyles

Sheila Welch

Cathy Lichanec

June 19, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 65: 1 – 9; Psalm 22: 19 – 28; Galatians 3: 23 – 29; Luke 8: 26 – 39

Leonard Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Steve Marvonek

Walter Kovaciny

Leonard Lichanec

June 26, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

1 Kings 19: 15 – 16, 19 – 21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5: 1, 13 – 25; Luke 9: 51 – 62

Cathy Lichanec

Melissa Fisher

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

July 3, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 66: 10 – 14; Psalm 66: 1 – 9; Galatians 6: [1 – 6] 7 – 16; Luke 10: 1 – 11, 16 – 20

Amelia Hinchliffe

Melissa Fisher

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Walter Kovaciny

Attention all Lay Assistants and Volunteers that help with services

This includes Council Members, (Tellers), Ushers, Worship Assistants and Readers.

Please let me know dates and days of when you aren't available to serve in your position.

June *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 The Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning and Youth Committee meeting	6	7 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	8	9	10	11 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
12 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	13	14 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	15	16	17	18
19 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	20 Deadline for submitting articles for the July and August newsletters	21 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	22	23 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. WIC	24	25 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
26 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	27	28	29	30		

***** Coming Events *****

June

5 – Learning and Youth Committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.

7 – Pastor Tom's day off

12 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.

14 – Pastor's day off

11 & 25 – Safe Net Distribution – 8:45 to 12:45 a.m.

20 – Deadline for submitting articles for the July & August newsletters. The next newsletter will be for two (2) months.

21 & 28 – Pastor's Day off

October

15 – Annual Harvest Sale. Is anyone making items or growing fruit and/or vegetables for the Harvest Sale?

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

Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

