

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter
May 2016
104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 0607



Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life. Save me, for I am yours. ~ Psalm 119, 89-94

The Feast of Pentecost is one of the most important celebrations in the Old Testament. The Lord had led His people Israel out of Egypt, out of slavery into freedom. Fresh in their memories were the wonderful acts with which God had delivered them: the plagues, the death of the first born, the Passover meal, the deliverance through the waters of the Red Sea. Now they were camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. What was next?

Seven weeks into their wandering, the Lord spoke to His chosen people. As a newly liberated people, they received God's law, which He would inscribe on stone tablets. This was the day of Pentecost (meaning "fiftieth day"). In the days of the Temple, this day also celebrated the first harvest of the year, when the first fruits of the fields were dedicated to the Lord.

We, living in the Church Age, remember the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, only a few weeks ago. We too remember the mighty acts by which He has led us out of slavery to sin, and into freedom in Christ: The wounds, the death of the Father's Only-Begotten, the gift of the Lord's Supper, the deliverance and new birth through the waters of the Baptismal Font. Now we share in Christ's resurrection and have the promise of eternal life. What next?

Like the Israelites before us, we must follow God's law so that we will not fall back into sin and become slaves again. The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the founding of the Church on earth, when newly redeemed Christians were given the law—this time not written on tablets of stone, but on tablets of flesh: human hearts. It also commemorates for us the first great harvest of the Church, when Peter and the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, brought into the barn of the Church a harvest of 3000 newly baptized Christians—men and women in whom God planted a seed, and who grew to maturity. All this was possible not because of the disciples own strength or wisdom or ability, but because of God's own Spirit who was given to them and by whom they allowed themselves to be changed to see the world with new eyes and to be able to speak to the world with a new voice.

God has saved us by delivering us from our sins! He rose from the dead to give to us eternal life! It is out of appreciation of love that we follow Him, and we know His law is good because it will keep us from losing the freedom He won for us. During this festival, as we conclude our 50-day-long Easter celebration, we will explore how empowered by the Holy Spirit we can show our gratitude to the Lord for the freedom He has given us. We will share the fruits of the Spirit which are God's gifts to us.

May God bless you and help you to appreciate His gifts to you. May we rejoice in the law He gives, that we might enjoy the freedom He has won for us!

Pastor Tom



Invisible By Michael Welch

I am blessed to be in possession of three beautiful paintings. They are hanging in our home and painted by a very well know artist. One is actually signed to the Welch family. They were painted by my grandfather. The one that was signed I had to buy. I had to buy it because he wanted to teach me a lesson. At the time I had recently started a business as a professional photographer and I had explained to him that I had done my first wedding for nothing in order to put together an album that I could use as a portfolio to show to prospective clients. The principle he was teaching me is this, that if I think my work is worth nothing, then everyone else would think it is worth nothing. He also said that supporting charitable works is important, but do it with the income that your business produces, otherwise there will be no business, no income and you will be unable to support the causes that are important to you.



The painting that I paid for is the most precious to me, not because of its monetary value, not even its artistic composition, but because of the lesson it taught me. My Grandfather was a very generous man and it would have been very easy for him to just give me the painting, but my character and principles by which I lived were more important to him. We all have artifacts that we have acquired over the years that serve to remind us of the past events that were so meaningful in our lives. Their monetary value has long since faded: a worn photo; a vase; a lamp; a flower pressed between the leaves of a book; or a piece of jewelry, but somehow they disappear from view. They are right in front of us

in plain sight, but we do not see them. They have become invisible. Then we have a guest and they say what a beautiful painting and it is as if we ourselves are seeing it for the first time and the history, emotions and the events surrounding it all come to life once again.

Is this not what happens with our relationships with family, friends and members of our congregations? Do we sometimes become invisible to one another? Then some life transition occurs. A baptism, and we think I remember when the father was baptized, or I remember the church picnic, when so and so caught that huge bass. I remember the encouragement given to me by his wife before she passed. Over time these relationships tend to fade like paintings on a wall until they are rekindled by the events in our lives.

This happens because we become comfortable in our daily routine until it is disrupted by some life altering event, and then what that person has done for us is brought to the light. The event is reborn in our hearts.

Does this not happen with our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Has He become invisible in our own lives as the crucifix hanging over our beds. Are we so comfortable in our own lives that He disappears until some life altering event, which causes us to remember what He has done for us in the past. We are reminded of His Faithfulness and His love and He is reborn in our lives.

Just as we should not take for granted the love of Christ, let us think about the sweetness of our lives and all those who we have laughed and cried with, and those who have nourished us along the way. Let us not wait for that life altering event to rekindle those memories. Let us share them and the love of Christ while we are still able. Let us not remain invisible. I have a challenge for you all. Over the coming month share with those you encounter something that they had done for you over the years and how much it meant to you. In doing so we may rediscover the value of our lives and transform the invisible to the visible.

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, May 10, 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!**

Pastoral Care

Contact information for
Rev. Thomas S. Drobena; ‘Pastor Tom’
Office phone: 860-684-7571
Email address: thomas.drobena@yale.edu
Mailing address:
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT
06076-1334
Church – htlc-church@att.net
Website – holytrinitystafford.org

Members of the Council are:

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

(Non-Council position)
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 Drobena, Melissa Fisher,
Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity

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

Harvest Sale

During announcements on Sunday, April 30, 2016 co-chairs Leigh Maxa and Cathy Lichanec announced that this year’s event will be held Saturday, October 15th. Hopefully everyone will be able to help as in the past. More information will be forthcoming.

The following poem was copied off the internet. With scanning through the different thoughts I read a comment that one day a year isn't enough to Thank our Mother's for everything they do for us. Does anyone have a story or poem they can share with us?

Do What I Can't

© Debbie Leads more by Debbie Leads

Published on December 2007

Make sure to call mama on Mother's Day
Her birthday and the rest
You know she's sitting by the phone
Wishing you all the best

She doesn't want to bother you
So she waits for YOU to phone.
She has so much free time now.
Most of it spent alone.

She knows you are very busy now,
With work and kids and wife
She helps you out whenever she can
She is the one who gave your life.

The years go by, so fast they fly
The years just never stop
She has joined the local church and
At local thrift stores she shops.

Luckily you have an organized wife
Who sends the cards you sign
You moved away for job prospects
Not because you wanted to leave her behind.

She quietly lives her life
Puttering around the yard
Thinking of ways she could help you
And cherishing your beautiful cards.

Whenever you think of her,
Please, listen and take the time

Because I would give everything I have
For just five minutes with mine.

May Birthdays

05 – Sarah Bauer
07 – Madeline E. Bauer
07 – Henry R. 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

Prayers

Just in case you're wondering who to include in your prayers, here are a few suggestions:

† Our minister, Pastor Tom as he recovers from kidney stones.

† Our shut-in members.

† Our church and members of the congregation, both active and inactive.

† Slovak Zion Synod and Bishop Wilma Kucharek

† The Learning and Youth Committee as discussions continue with offering Christian Education that will fit our needs.

† The Council of our church that takes care of the business aspects of our church.

May *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning and Youth Committee meeting	2	3 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	4	5	6	7
8 Ascension of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	9	10 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	11	12	13	14 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
15 The Day of Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion ** Wear Red today **	16 Deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter	17 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	18	19	20	21
22 The Holy Trinity 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	23	24 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	25	26 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. WIC	27	28 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 The Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	30	31 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>				

Attention all Lay Assistants and Volunteers that help with services

Please let me know dates and days of when you aren't available to serve in your position. It's much easier to find a replacement prior to typing the Monthly Service Schedule rather than finding a replacement after the schedule is typed or you just don't show up.

You can hand me a piece of paper when we see each other at church; send me an email at walterkovaciny@cox.net Send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally.

Thanks to everyone for their assistance with this. Walter Kovaciny, part of the newsletter team.

May / June 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
<p>May 1, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White Acts 16: 9 – 15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21: 10; 22 to 22: 5; John 14: 23 – 29</p>			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Melissa Fisher	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny		
<p>May 8, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Ascension of Our Lord – Easter White Acts 1: 1 – 11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Luke 24: 44 – 53</p>			
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Ruth Boyles
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		
<p>May 15, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red Acts 21: 1 – 21; Psalm 104: 24 – 34, 35b; Romans 8: 14 – 17; John 14: 8 – 17 [25 – 27]</p>			
Leonard Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Walter Kovaciny	Leonard Lichanec		
<p>May 22, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Holy Trinity – White Proverbs 8: 1 – 4, 22 – 31; Psalm 8; Romans 5: 1 – 5; John 16: 12 – 15</p>			
Cathy Lichanec	Melissa Fisher	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny		
<p>May 29, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Pentecost – Green 1 Kings 8: 22 – 23; Psalm 96: 1 – 9; Galatians 1: 1 – 12; Luke 7: 1 – 10</p>			
Walter Kovaciny	Rick Bednar	Cathy Lichanec	Michael Welch
Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny		
<p>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</p>			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Melissa Fisher	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		

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

March

- 8 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 14 & 28 – Safe Net Distribution – 8:45 to 12:45 a.m.
- 16 – Deadline for submitting articles for the May newsletter.

October

- 15 – Annual 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

