

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2015

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

September comes for many as a welcome change of pace from our “summertime blues.” We all look forward to vacations and trips, to longer days and to time off from school, but if you’re anything like me, by the time September comes, you’re ready for it. Everyone’s back home and it’s good to see them. The new school year starts and both kids and parents ease back into their routines.

September is an interesting month for the church. In the Old Testament September was the beginning of the New Year. This was because tradition said that the world was created in the autumn, with the trees and plants in full bloom and ready for harvest. The Jewish calendar still celebrates *Rosh Hashanah*, the “head of the year,” around September. Orthodox Christians likewise count their year as beginning at this time of the harvest—the time of creation. September is host to another Old Testament festival as well, the Festival of Booths, or “Tabernacles.” This festival was celebrated in conjunction with the fall harvest, and still today, observant Jews will eat their meals in a booth or “tabernacle” built outside their home for 7 days to remember how their ancestors lived in tents in the wilderness when they left Egypt.

We as Christians, share so much in common with our ancestors in faith. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we acknowledge that we have been freed from slavery and the

bondage of sin. But we also acknowledge that we still are wandering, waiting to experience the fullness of the Promised Land, which is the Kingdom of God. But also, like the Israelites, we do not sojourn alone! In the wilderness God's presence dwelt in the midst of the Israelite camp in the Tabernacle. But knowing Jesus, we as Christians have a wonderful comfort. God's presence has come into the world to dwell—to tabernacle—among us, not in a temple woven by human hands, but in a temple of human flesh woven in the Virgin's womb without any human aid.

During the summer we heard the Bread of Life discourse from John's Gospel, in which Jesus compares Himself to the manna that the Israelites ate in the wilderness. This was bread that God provided from heaven to nourish them on their journey. Jesus now tells us that He is the True Bread, the Living Bread—the Bread to which that miraculous bread and even our daily bread points. And having given His life for us and having risen that He might live forevermore, He gives Himself when we gather as His church to those who ask Him, “Lord, give us this Bread always.”

As September begins, we come back to school, to work, and to worship, and it is my prayer that we see in the communities we return to a reminder of our need to assemble as God's people. We do so because we are journeying. We are wandering. And we dare not wander in this world alone. Trusting in our goal, in the Promise that awaits us at the end of our sojourn, we live together and long to be together. We strive to stay in the community in which God camps among us, and in which our Lord dwells to love us and to feed us with the heavenly bread of His own Self. May we long to gather in this community, knowing that our Lord longs to dwell in her midst.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom



The Feast Of The Tabernacles

By Michael S. Welch

The Feast of the Tabernacles is the third of three feasts that the Lord called Israel to come to the place, that the LORD had chosen, to worship Him. The Temple had not yet been built. The LORD *dwelt* in a very special tent, which was built by Moses who followed His very precise plan. It was called The Tabernacle of the LORD. It is where He dwelt amongst His people Israel. This feast day is mentioned throughout scripture, but its importance is often overlooked by many. It is also known by the names Sukkoth (Sukkot) and the Feast Of Booths. It is sometimes known as the Feast Of The Ingathering. The Feast is to be celebrated on the 15th day of the 7th month, which is Tishri, and it falls in the months of September and October. This was and is a joyous celebration to this day. The Israelites were instructed to build tents or booths made from tree branches to remind them of their time in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt and all that the Lord had done for them. The feast happens 5 days after the Day Of Atonement and lasts eight days, the first and last days being sabbath days where no work is to be performed. Days of rest. They were commanded by the Lord to sacrifice each day to the Lord. Duet. 16:16.

Many events in the Bible happened during this feast. Solomon's Temple was dedicated during the feast. (Kings 8:2.) Ezra called Israel together and proclaimed the Word of the Lord to the people and they repented. There was a great revival and they rebuilt the Temple of the Lord and rededicated it at this feast (Neh.8) . It was during this feast that Jesus said *"If anyone thirsts let them come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the scripture has said out of their heart will flow living waters"*(Jhn. 7:33-37).

I used to think the tradition of celebrating our Lord's birth on December 25, was a time chosen to co-opt the many pagan celebrations held at the winter solstice, but I learned from Pastor Tom that this is a myth that has been circulated for about 100 years. He explained to me that the date was chosen by the church in 336AD. This date was chosen by church leaders because the Gospel of Mark was the first book and is the basis of the lectionary. There is no nativity story in this Gospel, it begins with the baptism of Jesus and is read on January 1st. Feast days were 8 days long, so they subtracted and came up with December 24/25. I believe that it was too cold for shepherds to be in the pastures at night and that they would most likely be stabling their flocks in the many grottoes and caves in the area tending their fires for warmth. Why else would this feast day be one of only three where all the people were called to come and worship the Lord. We all believe in the importance of all the feasts as they relate to The Christ and that they are a foreshadowing of His coming. Passover foreshadowed our redemption and Pentecost and the Feast of weeks His ascension. It is my opinion that not only was He born during this feast, but also that He will return during this feast, which occurs just after The Day of Atonement. "And the Word became flesh and *dwelt* among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) The word "dwelt" means Tabernacle, or to dwell in a tent) Amen.

Pastoral Care

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President Michael Welch
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Members of the Council are:

President – Michael Welch
Vice-President – Leonard Lichanec
Treasurer – Sheila Welch
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa
Andrew Fisher
Cathy 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 Drobená, Melissa Fisher, Nan
Hayden, Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard
Lichanec

Shut-in Members

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

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

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 06076-3923

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

September Birthdays

07 – Pat Kovaciny
11 – Nan Hayden
12 – Pauline Valery
14 – Zachary VanDyk
15 – Stacy Fisher
15 – Luke Hoss
16 – George Pallanck
18 – Marc Verney
19 – Shirley Pufahl
21 – Julia Hlobikauer
23 – Amy VanDyk
30 – Donna Palacko

Anniversaries

01 – James & Diane Bulick
02 – William & Elizabeth Mottes
04 – Neil & Terry Hoss
09 – Gary & Cynthia Brown
13 – Adam & Jamie Murray
19 – Tim Mercier & Amelia Hinchliffe
28 – Bryan & Leigh Maxa
29 – James & Carol Schraffenberger

Golden Rule Kids Club

Greeting to the parents and young children of our church. The Learning and Youth Committee would like your participation in this activity. The tentative plans are to hold this activity on the 3rd Sunday after church. The breakdown of the 1-hour session will be close to what's listed here. The group gathers for 11:15 a.m. there would be a short lesson, about 15 minutes Craft time of 20 minutes Time to eat, about 20 minutes, the parents are welcome to join the group for lunch. Everyone go home at 12:15 p.m. Is this activity something that interests parents and their children?

Congratulations to the Bauer's, Sarah and Derek on the baptism of their twins Henry and Madelene on August 30, 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	2 7:30 p.m. Bible Study at Church	3	4	5
6 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	7	8 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	9	10	11	12 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Camp 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net
13 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Committee meeting	14 Holy Cross Day <i>(no service)</i>	15 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	16 7:30 p.m. Bible Study at Church	17	18	19
20 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Golden Rule Kid's Club	21 Deadline for submitting articles for the October newsletter	22 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	23 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	24 WIC	25	26 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net
27 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	28	29	30			



Sarah and Charlie opening gifts from her church family

September / October 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 #47 through #49, Series B.

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worship Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
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September 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 35: 4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2: 1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7: 24-37

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

September 13, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 116: 1-9; James 3: 1-12; Mark 8: 27-38

Patricia Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny	Stacy Fisher	Ruth Boyles
Sheila Welch	Debbie Lewis	Michael Welch	

September 20, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Jeremiah 11: 18-20; Psalm 54; James 3: 13 to 4: 3, 7-8a; Mark 9: 30-37

Michael Marvonek	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Michael Welch	Leonard Lichanec	Stacy Fisher	

September 27, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19: 7-14; James 5: 13 – 20; Mark 9: 38-50

Cathy Lichanec	Melissa Fisher	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny	Debbie Lewis	

October 4, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Genesis 2: 18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12 ; Mark 10: 2-16

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

Altar Guild

Set Up – Andrew, Melissa and Stacy Fisher

Remove – Leigh Maxa

Typist

September – Stacy Fisher

October – Leigh Maxa

Submitted by Walter Kovaciny

“Daily Guideposts 1992”.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

—James 5:16

Have you ever sat fuming in a doctor’s waiting room long past your appointment time? Or looked in vain for a tardy friend in a restaurant? Or paced the floor in an airport waiting for a flight, hours overdue? On such occasions, I’m sure one exasperated phrase keeps running through your mind: “What a waste of time!”

But what if I told you that we never have to waste time like that again?

I had a friend named Frank Laubach, one of the saintliest men I ever met. Frank was a missionary who became famous for his success in teaching illiterate people to read. But he also was a man who took literally the line in the Bible that says “pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17), and accomplished this by using what he called “fractional prayers.”

By that he meant that every day he used little blocks of time, which could have been frittered away otherwise, as prayer periods. While waiting for a bus, for example, instead of standing aimlessly at the bus stop, he filled those moments with prayer. He prayed for others gathered at the bus stop. He prayed that the purpose of the forthcoming bus ride might be blessed. In a taxi, slowly making its way through traffic, he spent the time thanking God for as many things as he could think of.

Frank estimated that his “fractional prayers” added up to a total of two or three hours daily. And when I made up my mind to follow his example, I found that the total duration of the short prayers that I offer during a day was quite similar.

What an easy and satisfactory way to keep from wasting time! I started this prayer practice by setting aside one day in the week to try it. I can assure you that I found it so good that I have never wanted to stop!

Keep me aware of all the little blocks of free time during my day, Lord, and let me learn to fill them with thoughts of You.

—Norman Vincent Peale

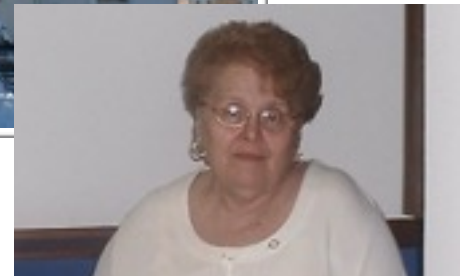
The McGurn Challenge

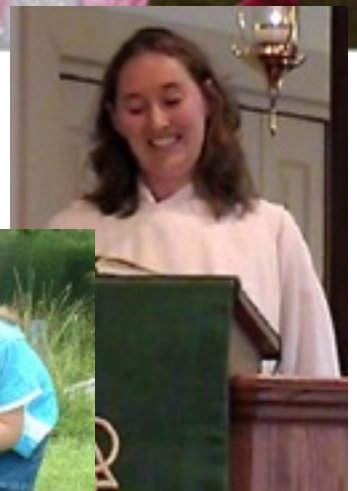
As of August 31, 2015 we have received 17 donations of \$100 or more totaling \$2,400. The Rev. Robert and Linda McGurn have made a matching \$50 donation for each \$100 increment, totaling \$1,200.

We as a congregation are so blessed to have them as members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Memory Lane

I ran across some old HTLC pictures the other day and I began to reminisce about what our church has meant to me over the years. Back when we were looking to the future, now our present. Is our present what we imagined it would be? Would we have done things differently? Do we regret not speaking up or not holding our tongue? What about all those twists and turns, hardships, times of illness, the passings of loved ones, along with all the joys of births and marriages, recoveries and victories. To whom did we turn to when those unexpected bumps in the road came upon us? It was to our Lord. We gathered together in His house with our brothers and sisters in Christ, our family, and we sought comfort, and we shared our joy with the Lord and each other. I have come to realize that we can not change the past, nor can we predict our future, but through Christ we are forgiven. Each day is a new day full of promise. It is a gift of the Lord, that's why it's called the Present.—Mike





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

September

2 & 16 – Bible Study at church – 7:30 p.m.

6 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.

12 – Saturday Camp – 11:00 a.m.

12 & 26 – Safe Net distribution

13 – Learning & Youth Committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.

20 – Golden Rule Kit's Club – 11:15 a.m.

21 – Deadline for submitting articles for the October newsletter

27 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St.

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Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion

Synod – ELCA

