

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*June 2017*  
*104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076*



Pride is a universal human problem. Everyone suffers from it to some degree. When we have exalted ourselves in pride, God does not want to punish us and bring us low but rather to forgive and restore us. He says again and again in Scripture, humble yourselves, and I will exalt you. This gives us hope and encouragement. **God takes pleasure in our efforts to humble ourselves, and he loves to bless and exalt the humble.** For just as pride is the root of all sin, so “humility is the root, mother, nurse, foundation, and bond of all virtue,” as John Chrysostom once remarked.

Admittedly, humility and the humbling of oneself is out of fashion in today’s world and seems unappealing to most of us. However, as Jonathan Edwards said, “We must view humility as one of the most essential things that characterizes true Christianity.” Our perspective on humility can be radically changed if we will ponder and meditate on the greatest example of humility in history: Jesus Christ. By the very act of leaving heaven, coming to earth, and taking the form of man, he demonstrated an unfathomable humbling of himself. Throughout his life on earth, Jesus demonstrated a spirit of profound humility, saying that he came “not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28). On his last night with the disciples, he took a towel and basin and washed their dirty feet (John 13:1–11), instructing them

to follow his example of servanthood with one another (John 13:12–17). Andrew Murray captures it well, “Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature; the Eternal Love humbling itself, clothing itself in the garb of meekness and gentleness, to win and serve and save us.”

The apostle Paul may well have been thinking of this very scene in the Upper Room when he urged the believers in Philippi: *Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:5–8).*

Paul is here encouraging ordinary believers in a local church, who apparently have some measure of sinful pride in their hearts and relationships, to reflect on and adopt the attitude and actions of Jesus their Lord and follow his example of humility. The consequences of such an attitude may give us pause. Humbling ourselves could be costly in the workplace, in the community, or in other ways. However, that is a shortsighted, worldly perspective. For the passage continues:

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9–11).*

In Jesus we have the “example of all examples”: those who humble themselves will be exalted! And this is meant to guide our lives in this world. If we will take care of humbling ourselves, we can trust God to take care of exalting us.

How do we gain the mind of Christ and humble ourselves? To put on the mind of Christ, we will need to make a firm decision to ponder, understand, and adopt Jesus’ way of thinking; his values and attitudes must become ours. His strong emphasis on humility and meekness and his example of it must take hold of our thinking, our desires and our conduct. We must admire his humility and want it for ourselves. For this to happen, we need to earnestly and regularly pray for the Holy Spirit to change our hearts, for it is impossible to do it in our own strength. We will also need to understand what Jesus meant when he called men and women to humble themselves. The Greek word Jesus and the apostles used, *tapeinos*, conveys the idea of having a right view of ourselves before God and others. If pride is an exalted sense of who we are in relation to God and others, humility is having a realistic sense of who we are before God and others. We must not think too highly (or too lowly) of ourselves. Rather, we must be honest and realistic about who and what we are.

Pastor Thomas



This photograph of what is known as the western wall, was taken just after the Jewish Sabbath had ended on the Ninth of A'v. This is a very special day commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples. Jewish tradition holds that both temples were destroyed on the same day. This wall was a retaining wall that allowed Herod the Great build a 32 acre platform upon Mt. Moriah, that would hold the temple and all the necessary buildings upon what is known as the temple mount. It is the most holy place for the Jewish People. Up until the 1967 Jews were not permitted by the Jordanian Government to go to the wall and pray. What you are viewing now is about 10% of this wall and it is about one third the height of Jesus's time. There are another 18 courses of stone below what you see now. Below there is a Youtube link to a video that will take you thru a tunnel down to the actual pavement that Jesus walked on. I will be taking you thirty feet or more below what you see now and we will walk the length of the wall to the Antonio Fortress, upon some of the pavement that Christ walked upon.

Enjoy,  
Mike Welch

[https://youtu.be/fzq\\_IJ154VY](https://youtu.be/fzq_IJ154VY)

## **Pastoral Care**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1334  
Office Phone-860-684-7571  
Church – [htlc-church@att.net](mailto:htlc-church@att.net)  
Website – [htlcstafford.org](http://htlcstafford.org)

Pastor Tom will be on sabbatical.  
During this time, he will return messages left to his phone (860-806-2440) and email as quickly as possible.

**In the event of an immediate need or emergency,** you may contact Pastor Ryan or Pastor Kathleen Mills (Holy Trinity Trumbull) at (203) 903-8352, or the synod office at (860) 482-6100.

If you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail mail,

his address during this time is:

Revd. Thomas S. Drobena  
Selwyn College, Cambridge University  
Grange Rd  
Cambridge CB3 9DQ  
United Kingdom

## **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 Lutheran Church**

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

## **Absence**

Attention: All lay assistants, ushers and readers. Please let Walter Kovaciny know as

soon as you know you have conflicting plans with a Sunday service. It's easier to find a substitute prior to typing the Service Schedule than the Sunday you're scheduled for. 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

### Folding Chairs for Sale

HTLC has some old folding chairs for sale. These are the chairs that were in use before the Men's Club purchased the tan folding chairs we're presently using. The chairs are the dark brown chairs stacked on the chair dolly at the end of the hallway downstairs. If you are interested in purchasing any of the chairs, please talk to Walter Kovaciny. The council decided rather than setting a specific price, the interested person can make an offer.

### Ecumenical Opportunities



#### STAFFORD'S ECUMENICAL PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We will be meeting on the **SECOND TUESDAY, June 13** of the month from **6:00 - 7:30 pm** at the Stafford Public Library. 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!** 😊

**CHRISTIAN MUSIC Festival SATURDAY JUNE 17**

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**  
12 p.m. to 5 p.m. • LIVE MUSIC

**CHRISTIAN ROCK • GOSPEL • PRAISE**  
FOOD • BEVERAGES • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

**Hyde Park, Stafford Springs**

[www.fumcstafford.org](http://www.fumcstafford.org)  
Sponsored by:  
First United Methodist Church  
Stafford Springs, CT

**WALK FOR MAKE-A-WISH**

### Baccalaureate Service

The Baccalaureate Service for the class of 2017 will be at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## Vacation Bible School

The VBS will be held Sunday, July 16 to Thursday, July 20 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. using Fellowship Hall, Rooms 204 and 202 at First United Methodist Church again this year. Hopefully mail will be coming soon pertaining to VBS.

## Newsletter

The next newsletter will be the July / August issue for the summer. If anyone is making plans for our church during the summer, please get the information to Walter Kovaciny prior to the June 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting so it can be noted in the calendar pages that council reviews.

## Slovak Zion Assembly

The Slovak Zion Synod Council approved the plans for the next Assembly of the Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA. We will depart New Orleans at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2018 aboard the Carnival Triumph, returning to New Orleans at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Scheduled stop are in Cozumel (Mexico) and Progreso (Mexico).

Registration opened May 15<sup>th</sup>, giving participants plenty of time to meet registration deadlines. Registration for this assembly is open until November 15, 2017, at which all personal information must be registered and all balances paid in full. Following standard procedure, all voting members and visitors seeking to attend this Synod sailing are required to book their reservation through the Synod.

The starting price of the rooms are:

Interior is \$595.00

Ocean view is \$745.00

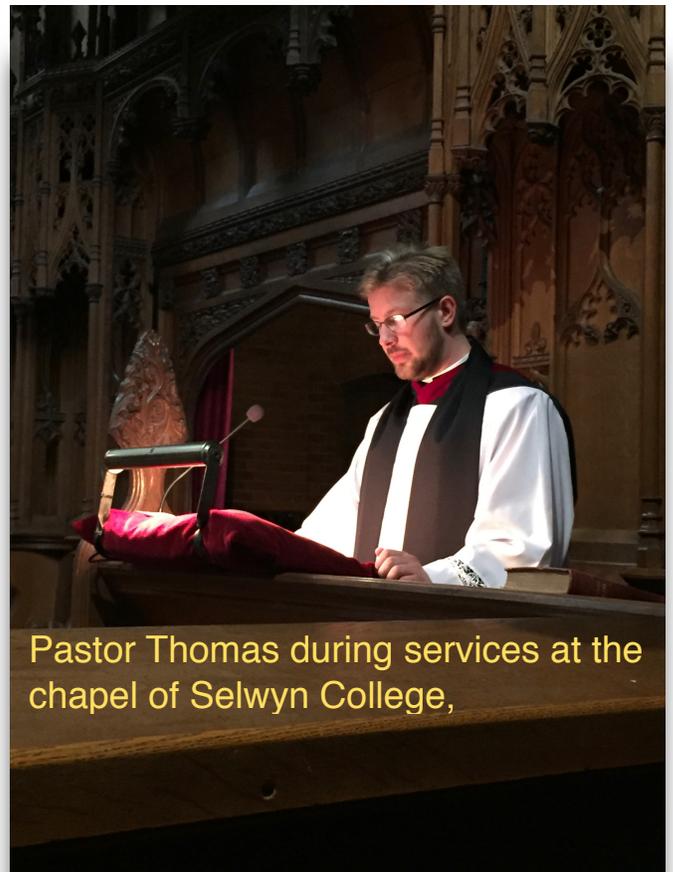
Balcony is \$795.00

Please register as soon as possible to take advantage of the least expensive registration costs, as rates will go up as we approach the assembly.

- beginning July 15, 2017, registration cost will go up by an additional \$50.00
- beginning September 15, 2017, registration cost will go up again by an additional \$50.00

So being registered by July 15<sup>th</sup> is a large cost savings for you. Being registered by July 15, 2017 will also make Joshua Drobena job dealing with Carnival much easier.

For questions, please contact the Assembly Registrar, Sheila Welch, toll free at 855-SZS-ELCA, 855-797-3522 extension 2.



Pastor Thomas during services at the chapel of Selwyn College,

## June *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

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

## June / July Service Schedule

These readings are from Series A and can be found in the front of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Tellers                      Ushers                      Worships Assistants                      Reader

### **June 4, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red**

Numbers 11: 24 – 30; Psalm 104: 24 – 34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b – 13; John 20: 19 – 23  
Amelia Hinchliffe    Walter Kovaciny                      Leigh Maxa                      Daniel Lichanec  
Mike Marvonek    Pat Marvonek

### **June 11, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Holy Trinity – White**

Genesis 1: 1 to 2: 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11 – 13; Matthew 28: 16 – 20  
Michael Welch    Walter Kovaciny                      Sheila Welch                      Daniel Lichanec  
Sheila Welch    Cathy Lichanec

### **June 18, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Body of Blood Christ – Green**

Exodus 19: 2 – 8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5: 1 – 8; Matthew 9: 35 to 10: 8 [9 – 23]  
Cathy Lichanec    Daniel Lichanec                      Cathy Lichanec                      Steve Marvonek  
Leonard Lichanec    Leonard Lichanec

### **June 25, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Pentecost – Green**

Jeremiah 20: 7–13; Psalm 69: 7–10 [11 – 15] 16 – 18; Romans 6: 1b – 11; Matthew 10: 24 – 39  
Melissa Fisher    Rick Bednar                      Cathy Lichanec                      Daniel Lichanec  
Walter Kovaciny    Walter Kovaciny

### **July 2, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Green**

Jeremiah 28: 5 – 9; Psalm 89: 1 – 4, 15 – 18; Romans 6: 12 – 23; Matthew 10: 40 – 42  
Amelia Hinchliffe    Walter Kovaciny                      Leigh Maxa                      Daniel Lichanec  
Mike Marvonek    Pat Marvonek

### **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. It's much easier to find a replacement (when available) 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; or send me an email at [walterkovaciny@cox.net](mailto:walterkovaciny@cox.net) or send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally.

## Upcoming Events

### June

- 04 – Learning & Youth Committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 04 & 18 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.
- 11 – Church Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 12 – Deadline for submitting news for the July / August newsletter
- 14 & 28 – Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
- 13 – Stafford’s Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry – 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- 17 – Christian Music Festival at Hyde Park, Stafford Springs – Noon to 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Baccalaureate Service for the class of 2017 at United Methodist Church – 7:00 p.m.
- 29 – Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.

### July

- 16 – 20 Vacation Bible School at United Methodist Church – 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Web site address [www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org)

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA





