

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2017

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last week, I experienced a sad and strange first. A young woman named Dawn was hit by a car and killed; her ex-boyfriend, the driver, was arrested for the crime. What connects me to this tragedy is the brief but important role I was blessed to play in her life. Dawn is the first person to die that I baptized. This “first” has led me to reflect this week on baptism, and I invite you in this message to do the same.

Dawn came to me while I was vacancy pastor in Trumbull and asked to be baptized. In the course of our preparation meetings, we discussed many things. One of them- a tangent- was how in the early centuries of the church, when adult baptisms were the norm, baptismal fonts were large stone pools, often in the shape of a cross, that one would step down into to be baptized. Stepping down into the baptismal pool would have felt like stepping down into one’s grave. It is there that the Old Adam, our old sinful nature, is drowned, and when we emerge from the waters, we are reborn. These movements adorning the Sacrament of Baptism help us to perceive our involvement in the Paschal mystery of Jesus’ own dying and rising. Very often, I sometimes feel, when a baby is baptized in the small bowl of water that sits in our beautiful

baptismal fonts, we are caught up in the “cute” factor, and don’t fully appreciate the mystical reality that in that water we die and are brought to new Life.



To my surprise, Dawn asked me, “Well... can we do that?” We built a temporary baptismal pool out of concrete blocks in the entryway to the church, in the shape of a cross, and processed out as a congregation to the place of baptism. The two deacons helped her into the pool, and when we stood up, having been washed in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, she was anointed and put on the same white alb that assisting ministers wear—the symbol of being clothed with Christ and mark of all the baptized.

When word came to me of Dawn’s death, I couldn’t help but think of the conversations we had about her death. Not the unexpected death that would kill her body two years later, but the death of sin that would take place in the waters of Baptism—the death that would make her truly alive and give her eternal life. It is an awe-filling thing to know personally that someone is with Christ in heaven because I was there to pour water on her head when Christ washed away her sins.

How do we consider baptism? I can’t think of a single person among us who doesn’t like baptisms. But what is baptism? Luther writes in the Small Catechism, “Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.” Baptism means “that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Your baptism changes everything.

Luther found such great solace in his baptism, he invoked it against his enemies, against spats of depression, against assails of the devil. When he felt inadequate to a task set before him, or feared that God could not love a sinner like him, he would say, “*Baptizatus sum!*” “I am baptized!” Baptism was for him both comfort and strength, as we pray it may be for us.

It’s easy to think on baptism as a family ritual—something to “get done” and an excuse to have a party. But having our children baptized is not something we do for grandma and grandpa, or for my spouse. In fact, baptism is not something we do at all! Rather it is the gift of God, which the church eagerly gives to all who wish to be joined to Christ forever.

It's easy to think on baptism as an initiation ritual—the way to church membership, or a naming ritual. But it is so much more. In baptism we are truly joined to Christ. We truly share in Christ's death and resurrection in a wonderful mystery made sure by God's own promise concerning it. And being adopted as God's daughters and sons, we have the assurance that we will inherit with Christ life everlasting.

Baptism is a matter of life and death. When those we see baptized are often babies who will live another 70, 80, 90 years, we may well lose sight of that. But baptism is not an insurance policy either. It is the beginning of life in Christ—a life that will be realized and assumed into the bliss of God's heavenly presence we know not when. But for those of us who love Jesus, let us hurry to be joined to be joined to Him. And we who are already joined to Christ let us take seriously that our eternal life has already begun. We are joined to Christ and freed from our sins so that just as Christ was raised from the dead we too might live a new life.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Tom

Jordan River Baptisms. This picture was taken from the Israeli side of the Jordan River across to the Jordanian side. While no-one knows for sure where Jesus was baptized, it most likely was



some where in this area. The Jordan River is the border between the Kingdom of Jordan and Israel. It is not so wide and deep as one would expect.

For those of you receiving this newsletter electronically **click on the link below** to watch a short video of baptisms in the Jordan River not far from where our Lord was baptized.

<https://youtu.be/CsjNXkxPo9Q>

Pastoral Care

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1334
Office Phone-860-684-7571
Church – htlc-church@att.net
Website – 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.

It you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail mail,
his address during this time is:
Rev. Thomas S. Droben
Selwyn College, Cambridge University
Grange Rd
Cambridge CB3 9DQ
United Kingdom

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Droben
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 Droben, 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

The Prayer of Protection

“The light of God surrounds me, the love of God enfolds me, the power of God protects me, the presence of God watches over me. Wherever I am, God is!”

Corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary lists in the September newsletter

The birthday listing for Caleb Tremblay was omitted, the date was September 13

The anniversary for Bryan and Leigh Maxa had the incorrect date. The correct date is September 28.

October

Birthdays

- 01 – Bryan Maxa
- 14 – Owen R. Baarck
- 16 – Trystan Fleming
- 19 – Jonathan ‘Jon’ Hayden
- 20 – Andrew Fisher
- 21 – Craig Fisher
- 26 – Cheryl Verney
- 28 – Barbara Bulick

Anniversaries

- 02 – Paul & Patricia Kovaciny
- 04 – Marc & Cheryl Verney
- 05 – Jevon & Jenny Baarck
- 05 – Craig & Stacy Fisher
- 05 – Emil & Evelyn Kucko ~Happy

71st

Annual Harvest Sale

Our Annual Harvest Sale is right around the corner. The Day & Date is Saturday, October 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Setup is Friday, October 13th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Everyone’s help and participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Leigh Maxa or Cathy Lichanec.

Social Hour

When you read the calendar you’ll notice the Social Hour is now once a month, on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Forth century Byzantine Baptismal. Bet She’an Israel



October – November Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants Reader

October 1, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4, 25 – 32; Psalm 25: 1 – 9; Philippians 2: 1 – 13; Matthew 21: 23 – 32

Amelia Hinchliffe

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Mike Marvonek

Pat Marvonek

October 8, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 5: 1 – 7; Psalm 80: 7 – 15; Philippians 3: 4b – 14; Matthew 21: 33 – 46

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Sheila Welch

Cathy Lichanec

October 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 25: 1 – 9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4: 1 – 9; Matthew 22: 1 – 14

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

October 22, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 45: 1 – 7; Psalm 96: 1 – 9 [10 – 13]; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10; Matthew 22: 15 – 22

Melissa Fisher

Rick Bednar

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichance

Walter Kovaciny

Walter Kovaciny

October 29, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – Reformation Sunday – Red

Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34; Psalm 46; Romans 3: 19 – 28; John 8: 31 – 36

Walter Kovaciny

Rick Bednar

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Mike Marvonek

Walter Kovaciny

November 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – All Saints Sunday – White

Revelation 7: 9 – 17; Psalm 34: 1 – 10, 22; 1 John 3: 1 – 3; Matthew 5: 1 – 12

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.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
104 West Main St.

October *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Committee meeting 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	2	3 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	4 Luther Movie 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7 Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Missionary
8 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting	9 Deadline for submitting articles / information for the November newsletter	10 <i>Pastor's Sabbatical Begins</i>	11	12	13 Harvest Sale Setup 3p.m. to 6 p.m.	14 Annual Harvest Sale 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
15 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	16	17 Ignatius, Bishop	18 Luke, Evangelist 7:30 p.m. Vespers	19	20	21
22 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	23 James, Brother of the Lord & Martyr	24	25	26	27	28 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 Reformation Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Web site address

www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested

Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

