

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*

## *May 2021 Newsletter*



**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

When Jesus rose from the dead, scars stretched across his palms. For forty days, Jesus appeared to his disciples. But more than that, he let them touch him and ate with them to show them that it was really him and not a ghost or a hallucination. And after forty days had ended, Jesus ascended into heaven *bodily*. Even his scars, now glorified, have been taken up into Heaven. When God became human, he united himself to our nature for good. In Jesus, God is, was, and will always be united to us. Why did God do this? Why is it so important that Christ forever has united to humanity?

Saint Ignatius pastored the Church in Antioch that Paul founded. Ignatius and his friend Polycarp were disciples of the Apostle John. In a letter to the Church at Ephesus, Ignatius wrote, “There is one Physician who is possessed both of flesh and spirit; both made and not made; God existing in flesh; true life in death; both of Mary and of God; first passible and then impassible: Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ignatius penned one of the most beautiful sentences ever written while being escorted to his execution in Rome. In a letter sent before his arrival, he tells the Roman Christians to let him die. He explains: “Let me receive the pure light, for when I arrive in Heaven, I will be a human being.”

What in the world does he mean that he will “be a human being?” Is he not a human already? Ignatius assures the saints in Rome that though in the eyes of the world he will die, he will in fact be more alive than ever. At the resurrection he will not just be a spirit, he will not be less human—in fact, he will be more human.

Because of sin’s grasp on us, death now corrupts our bodies and spoils our souls. God became fully human and to show us what it means to be human. In his body of flesh, he started a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). He is the first fruits of the dead (Col 1:18). In the resurrection, we will follow our first fruits as the full harvest. We will become incorrupt and immortal (1 Cor 15:53).

Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven is perhaps a mostly overlooked or under appreciated teaching of our faith. Yet it matters that Christ remains human even after his ascent into heaven *because we follow him as humans*. Our future is not as ghosts, or some wispy beings on clouds. At the resurrection, we will all become fully human, because we will be fully alive. We will be freed from those things that hold us back—not only the sickness and pain and weaknesses of body, but those of our mind and spirit. Our hearts and minds and wills will no longer resist God or try to assert ourselves over our fellows. We will become what Christ is in his glorified body. We will be the way God always intended. I suspect Ignatius had something like this in mind. He writes “the glory of God is the human being fully alive.

The fact that Jesus kept his body after his resurrection, ascended into Heaven with his body, and will return to raise us so that “we will be made like he is” (1 John 3:2) reassures us that his incarnation and birth was more than just a rescue mission. Jesus came to die for us, but also to unite us to himself forever. During this Easter season we celebrate, in a way, the fulfillment of Christmas. We see that Jesus, having defeated sin, death, and the devil, delights still to be Emmanuel: God-with-us. And knowing that we will share in God’s own life in Heaven, we are able to begin to live a new life of love and holiness already now. We are freed from sin and death and the fear of them so that we can live no longer for self or out of fear, but joyfully for God and for one another.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

## **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 (860-806-2440)  
Email [tsd33@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tsd33@cam.ac.uk)

## **Members of the Council are:**

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena  
President – Andrew Fisher  
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny  
Treasurer – Sheila Welch  
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  
† Hospitality Committee: Amelia Hinchliffe  
and Jennifer Welch  
† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,  
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and  
Michael Welch  
† Learning & Youth Group Team:  
Rev. Thomas Drobena, Melissa Fisher, Cathy  
& Leonard Lichanec

## **Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

Attn: Barbara Bulick  
The Ivy at Ellington  
123 West Road Apt 115  
Ellington. CT 06029-5730

Attn: Ms. Shirley Kaba  
Douglas Manor  
103 North Rd.  
Windham, CT 06280  
Ms. Anna Mandak

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

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

Mr. George Pallanck  
4 Park St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1381

## **Bible Study**

During Easter we will resume Bible Study on Thursdays. Please see the calendar for dates and times. To join by zoom use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5080143417> or dial 1-929-436-2866. Use the meeting ID: 508 014 3417. We will be reading the Epistles of Saint Peter.

## **April**

### **Birthdays**

04 – Jevon Baarck  
06 – James Bulick  
22 – Ruth Kaiser  
28 – Sheila Welch

### **Anniversaries**

27 – Adam & Cassandra Tremblay

## **Thanks**

To everyone that helped prepare the food and purchased tickets for the St. Patrick's dinner. Everyone's participation is much appreciated.

## May – June Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Worship Assistant

Reader

### **May 2, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 8: 26 – 40; Psalm 22: 25 – 31; 1 John 4: 7 – 21; John 15: 1 – 8

Hymns – **Entrance:** 359, **Hymn of the Day:** 449, **Communion:** 403, **Closing:** 367

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

### **May 9, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 10: 44 – 48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1 – 6; John 15: 9 – 17

Hymns – **Entrance:** 838, **Hymn of the Day:** 380, **Communion:** 470, **Closing:** 389

Jennifer Welch

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

### **May 16, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – Ascension of Our Lord – White**

Acts 1 – 11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Luke 24: 44 – 53

Hymns – **Entrance:** 855, **Hymn of the Day:** 430, **Communion:** 604, **Closing:** 393

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

### **May 23, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red**

Acts 2: 1 – 21; Psalm 104: 24 – 35; Romans 8: 22 – 27; John 15: 26 – 27; 16: 4b – 15

Hymns – **Entrance:** 398, **Hymn of the Day:** 403, **Communion:** 396, **Closing:** 400

Amelia Hinchliffe

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

### **May 30, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Holy Trinity – White**

Isaiah 6: 1 – 8; Psalm 29; Romans 8: 12 – 17; John 3: 1 – 17

Hymns – **Entrance:** 413, **Hymn of the Day:** 415, **Communion:** 456, **Closing:** 414

### **June 6, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Pentecost – Green**

Genesis 3: 8 – 15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4: 13 to 5: 1; Mark 3: 20 – 35

Hymns – **Entrance:** 504, **Hymn of the Day:** 462, **Communion:** 860, **Closing:** 537

# May Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>Philip &amp; James,</b> <i>Apostles</i>
<b>2 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Food Distribution
<b>9 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Matthias,</b> <i>Apostle</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Ascension of Our Lord</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Helena,</b> <i>Empress &amp; Builder of Churches</i>	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Food Distribution
<b>23 The Day of Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  5 to 6 p.m. Curbside Pickup Dinner	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Juraj</b> <b>Tranovsky,</b> <i>Hymnwriter</i>
<b>30 The Holy Trinity</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>31</b> <b>The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>					

# Spring Chicken Dinner

*Curbside Pick-Up on*  
**Sunday, May 23**  
**Between 5 and 6 p.m.**

Grilled, Marinated Chicken Kabobs  
Rice Pilaf  
Veggies  
Garden Salad  
Lemon Meringue Pie



**\$10 Individual meal**  
**\$20 Small Family Pack (2-3 people)**  
**\$40 Large Family Pack (4-6 people)**

**Call or Text your Order to 860-806-2440**  
**by Thursday, May 20.**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**104 W. Main Street**  
**Stafford Springs, CT 06076**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076 Website address  
[www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org) Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested

