

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2016
104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076

“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.” –Hebrews 10:25

The writer of the book of Hebrews exhorts his readers to be sure to assemble for worship with the rest of the community. This seems like an obvious thing for the apostle to say, given Jesus’ command to gather for the Eucharist and his promise that where “two or more are gathered, there I am in the midst of them.”

Indeed we read in the Acts of the Apostles of the disciples’ unwavering commitment to gathering for prayer, the reading of scripture, and the Lord’s Supper, especially on Sunday, “the Lord’s Day.”



Why were some people not attending worship when Hebrews was written? We can only conjecture what some of the problems were in the Early Church to which the letters in the New Testament respond, but given the proximity to Jesus own life, and the fact that there were still witnesses among them who had seen Jesus’ ministry, his death, and his resurrection, I’m sure if you were a Christian back then, you were a real believer, especially in a time of persecution for the faith.

I imagine something much more familiar keeping people away from worship when the author of Hebrews wrote—conflict. Disagreements. People having problems with other people. It makes sense when one looks at the letters of Paul and sees the things that were scandalizing and causing difficulty for congregations like Corinth. People not always getting along isn’t a new thing.

It’s a difficult thing to bear when people don’t get along in a church. Church is for many of us a sanctuary, a place of safety and comfort. When we feel uncomfortable it’s easy to “neglect our meeting together.” We ask ourselves, “What am I getting out of church?”

When such a question, we'll inevitably get the answer we're looking for. It's too easy for us to be tempted into thinking we don't "get anything" out of church. The truth is that we are called to be the church. We only get as much out of church as we put into it.

Whenever conflicts arise, whether in the early accounts of the church or in our own contexts, I'm reminded of a quote by the Lutheran philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, who said, "***People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, blaming or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; he (the preacher) is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines.***"

What we call our church, our congregation, is our place for assembling together. But for what purpose? It is where we practice being the church. When we meet together we practice the work of being Christ to one another, we practice forgiving, we practice loving, and we practice letting go of anger and resentment because as the author of Hebrews continues, "***If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God***" (10:27). Too often when we feel pain in church, or hurt by a fellow Christian, we point the finger at their failure to be kind, instead of considering our own failure to forgive others the same way we have been forgiven.

Because the church is made of imperfect humans, it is going to sadly reflect our own failures in its day to day life. What makes it different is that in this assembly we are given the tools to overcome adversity. We are nourished by God's word and by the sacraments so that we can practice forgiveness and love. We receive from God in the family of the church not unconditional comfort and ease, but we receive a safe and loving space in which to practice what it means to be a Christian and to be strengthened by Jesus.

Let us not neglect our meeting together. Let us not avoid those from whom we feel estranged. All are welcome in our assembly and all are important because we all need practice forgiving, loving, and we all hope to be made more and more like Jesus. - Pastor Thomas



October / November Service Schedule

With the new church season starting, the reading for the next year are from Series C.

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worships Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
October 2, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Green			
Habakkuk 1: 1 – 4, 2: 1 – 4; Psalm 37: 1 – 9; 2 Timothy 1: 1 – 14; Luke 17: 5 – 10			
Amelia Hinchliffe	A Volunteer	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		
October 9, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – Green			
2 Kings 5: 1 – 3, 7 – 15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8 – 15			
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Ruth Boyles
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		
October 16, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – Green			
Genesis 32: 22 – 31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3: 14 to 4: 5; Luke 18: 1 – 8			
Leonard Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Patricia Marvonek	Leonard Lichanec		
October 23, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – Green			
Jeremiah 14: 7–10, 19 – 22; Psalm 84: 1 – 7; 2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, 16 – 18; Luke 18: 9 – 14			
Melissa Fisher	A Volunteer	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Cathy Lichanec	Walter Kovaciny		
October 30, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Green			
Isaiah 1: 10 – 18; Psalm 32: 1 – 7; 2 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 4, 11 – 12; Luke 19: 1 – 10			
Michael Marvonek	Rick Bednar	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny		
November 6, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – All Saints Sunday – White			
Daniel 7: 1 – 3, 15 – 18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1: 11 – 23; Luke 6: 20 – 31			
Amelia Hinchliffe	A Volunteer	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		

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 or send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Tom will be on sabbatical October 1 to December 1.

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](tel:2039038352), or the synod office at [\(860\) 482-6100](tel:8604826100).

If you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail-mail, his address during this time is:

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

Please keep him in prayer, as we are in his.

Mailing address:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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

† Ask God to lift any burdens that weigh heavily on your mind.

Shut-in Members

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

Jokes

For those members that have a computer and internet service, please consider sending Pastor Tom a joke every so often while he's on Sabbatical.

Annual Harvest Sale

It's that time of year again. We will be holding our annual Harvest Sale on Saturday,

October 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In order for the sale to be a success, we will need **everyone's** help. Our church is blessed as we have so many fantastic bakers, cooks and farmers in our congregation. Please plan on donating items that are your specialty; whether that is baked goods, homemade pickles, jellies/jams, fruits/vegetables, flowers, making fudge, peanut brittle, raffle prizes. The only thing holding you back is your imagination of what to donate. Remember **YOUR** church depends on everyone making donations.

There will be at least 3 baskets and a handmade afghan donated for raffles.

Also we will need people to help work at the tables on the day of the sale.

Setup will be Friday, October 14th from 3 to 8 p.m.

Please consider collecting some flat cardboard trays for our customers to place their purchases. Also if you have plastic bags from the grocery, bring some of those for our use.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the co-chairs; Leigh Maxa or Cathy Lichanec.

God's Cake

Submitted by Sharon Rodriguez, Cake Club Member Recipe Courtesy of www.CakeClubRecipes.com

Author Unknown (If you know the original author of this writing please contact the editor, thank you!)

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong; she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake." "Here, have some cooking oil," her mother offers. "Yuck," says her daughter. "How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake! God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!"

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

I hope your day is a "piece of cake!" Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

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
*Happy 40th Anniversary
04 – Marc & Cheryl Verney
05 – Jevon & Jenny Baarck
05 – Craig & Stacy Fisher
05 – Emil & Evelyn Kucko,
* Happy 70th Anniversary





Masada

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gu8w8jh5yi18wnb/Masada.m4v?dl=0>

This past August Sheila and I returned to Israel. We returned with a purpose, to Masada and realized one of our dreams to climb the Snake Path to the top of this legendary “Fortress in the Sky”, made famous by the Roman Historian Josephus. The Snake Path winds its way to the top of the plateau and stretches a little over 2 Kilometers or about 2.4 miles. The path has 780 steps plus trail. my iPhone app said 67 flights of stairs. It was thrilling for Sheila and I to make this climb. When we told our friends and family they became very concerned, but we prepared for the track and walked over 2 miles on rough ground 3 or 4 times a week for 2 months. We made the climb in a little over an hour. We began at 5am in total darkness, because it was a cool 90 degrees(not Dry Heat). We used head lights, like miners ware, for the first half of the climb. our goal was to reach the top to watch the sunrise, which we accomplished. It was breath taking!

Herod the great built this fortress to secure his escape to Edom if he had to flee. The top is a little over 20 acres and had millions of gallons of water contained in cisterns, which was used to water crops, drink and feed baths, even a steam baths. there were 2 palaces, smith shops even a tannery. This place was seized by Jewish zealots who held off ten thousand Roman soldiers for three years. The night before the walls were breached all 960 killed themselves rather than be enslaved. only a woman, 2 girls and 2 infants survived and were taken to Rome where they told there story to Josephus.

As an experiment I have attached a video of our climb and the history of Masada for those who receive this electronically. We do so much want to share our adventure with you. Click The link and enjoy.

October

14 – Setup for the Harvest Sale – 3 to 8 p.m.

15 – Annual Harvest Sale – 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod

