

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

One thing I enjoy immensely during my study time is walking among the gothic buildings in the town center, admiring the architecture of chapels and churches, some of which have been worshipped in for a thousand years. From almost any vantage in town one can see a church tower or hear a church bell chiming the hour or calling people to worship. I learned that in fact there were so many that in the Middle Ages there was a regulation introduced controlling how far apart from each other bell tower had to be. This was to try and keep the noise down, especially in a world without precisely timed clocks where bells might ring at the same time or might spread out over several minutes.

To no one's surprise, these churches aren't all filled to capacity every Sunday like they once were. However to me what is more important than that sad fact is to hear from the people who do find their way inside what it is that brought them there. For many young faces, they were not brought up in the church. However for many more young people, although they were brought up in the church, they weren't given a clear understanding of why church was important, or what it meant that they themselves were Christians.

What brought them back to the church? For many it was tragedy. A personal life event that brought them back through the church doors because of desperation for a sense of meaning and for peace. For others it was curiosity and the beauty or the antiquity of these immense buildings and of the worship that happened inside them.

What kept them there in the end was not the beauty of the building but the beauty of the Gospel. Of course this was the same Gospel they were always aware of, the story that is familiar both to believers and nowadays to unbelievers as well. But the beauty of the Gospel was for many of them realized in the power it has to transform and change people's lives. The Good News is not philosophy or logic. It is the work of God and the power of God to forgive sins and to transform lives into ones of love and good works. Throughout scripture God's work becomes personal and touches people's lives when they see it's transformative power—when the Word is seen in action.

Very often in Scripture, the song of those who come to believe is “God has visited his people” (Luke 7:16). This is the attitude of the people who have seen God working in people's lives from the beginning, and it invites us to remember that God will also be seen and known in and through what he does in our lives. When people visit us, will they see the power and the beauty of the Gospel in our lives? Will they see that we are a people who love the way we have been loved and who forgive the way we have been forgiven?

Luther expresses this relationship between the saving experience and the proclamation of the Gospel to others:

For once a Christian begins to know Christ as his Lord and Savior, through whom he is redeemed from death and brought into His dominion and inheritance, God completely permeates his heart. Now he is eager to help everyone acquire the same benefits. For his greatest delight is in this treasure, the knowledge of Christ.

Therefore he steps forth boldly, teaches and admonishes others, praises and confesses his treasure before everybody, prays and yearns that they too, may obtain such mercy. There is a spirit of restlessness amid the greatest calm, that is, in God's grace and peace. A Christian cannot be still or idle. He constantly strives and struggles with all his might, as one who has no other object in life than to disseminate God's honor and glory among the people, that others may also receive such a spirit of grace...” (Luther's Works 24:87-88)

Let us pray that we would allow God to work in us mightily and that we might reflect Jesus in all our doings, even when because of sin and circumstance it is difficult. Let us pray that God's Spirit would help us lay aside our pride and our selfish preoccupation with the way things “should be” and want to be like Jesus, so that we might help, forgive, and love imperfect people with our own imperfect hearts.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

A Meditation on Unity By Michael Welch

Recently Sheila and I were out of town and we attended a Sunday morning worship before returning home. The preacher, Michael Anthony, was teaching on unity. He brought up the following points: In marriage God creates a Suitable helpmate; unmerited grace requires it; nothing can compensate for a lack of unity; a life that doesn't promote it is a life lived in futility; unity is not uniformity; humiliation does not lead to humility, but humility leads to unity. Marriages, congregations and organizations fail due to a lack of humility. The scripture says that unity is like the Anointing Oil used in the temple by the High Priest and it will cause the dew of Mount Herman to fall on Mount Zion, which is Jerusalem, a very dry place.

The Anointing Oil was a very special compound only for use in the Temple by the High Priest. Anyone who tried to make it was to be cut off from the community, it was sacred and for the Lord's House only. The quantity made was about a gallon and a half of olive oil and about 12 pounds of spices. The Priest was to anoint the Ark of the Covenant, Temple Furniture and himself once a year. He was to pour it over his head and cover his beard and the collar of his robes to the hems. He was saturated. The elements that went into it were costly and very rare. Exodus 30;22-33

*22 Then the Lord said to Moses, 23 "Collect choice spices—12 1/2 pounds of pure myrrh, 6 1/4 pounds of fragrant cinnamon, 6 1/4 pounds of fragrant calamus,[h] 24 and 12 1/2 pounds of cassia[i]—as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel. Also get one gallon of olive oil.[j] 25 Like a skilled incense maker, blend these ingredients to make a holy anointing oil. 26 Use this sacred oil to anoint the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, 27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and all its accessories, the incense altar, 28 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the washbasin with its stand. 29 Consecrate them to make them absolutely holy. After this, whatever touches them will also become holy. 30 "Anoint Aaron and his sons also, consecrating them to serve me as priests. 31 And say to the people of Israel, 'This holy anointing oil is reserved for me from generation to generation. 32 It must never be used to anoint anyone else, and you must never make any blend like it for yourselves. It is holy, and you must treat it as holy. 33 **Anyone who makes a blend like it or anoints someone other than a priest will be cut off from the community.***

David, who experienced both a unified nation under one God and the anguish of divisions in his own house: attempted assassinations; revolts by his own family and outside forces; believed that its importance was comparable to the Lord's own anointing oil, fore being without unity was the same as being cut off from one's own community **and the Lord Himself.** He thought so much of it that he wrote Psalm 133. Having had it and lost it, I can imagine him

struggling to find the words to describe the peace that comes with the anointing of the LORD.
Let us all be saturated with the anointing of the Holy Spirit in unity of Christ Jesus.

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.

*How wonderful and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!*

*For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard
and onto the border of his robe.*

*Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.
And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
even life everlasting.*

Let us all strive for it, all the days of our lives. Amen



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).

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

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

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená
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 Drobená, Melissa Fisher,
Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

† Believe in what you can become.

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

† Lord, all things are possible if we believe.
Thank you for loving us enough to send what we need.

Heartfelt Thanks

I want to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who assisted with this year's Harvest Sale!!! There are so many people to thank, I do not want to miss anyone so I will just say whatever you did to assist, it is truly appreciated.

The pastries, fudge, and homemade applesauce looked delicious and everyone walked out of the sale with lots of goodies to enjoy at home. The stuffed cabbage smelled heavenly and people couldn't get enough of them (yes, we sold out of them!). The dried flower and gourd arrangements were creatively decorated and were a hit with everyone. The raffle prizes were also a big hit. Of course, the pumpkins were a great hit as well.

The winners of this year's raffle prizes are as follows:

Anna Mae Hockla: Flower watering can
Virginia Neri: Flowers in tin watering can
Carolyn O'Konis: Yankee Candle
Crocheted afghan: Vera Marko
Breakfast Goodies Basket: Debbie Hockla
Kaba
Bath Goodies Basket: Rick Bednar
Kitchen Goodies Basket: Betty Mottes

I am pleased to report this year's Harvest Sale generated a total profit of \$1,720.77.

Again, my heartfelt appreciation to everyone. Many hands working together made for light work and a successful sale.
Leigh Maxa

*****Roast Pork Dinner*****

Hosted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
104 West Main Street
Stafford Springs, Connecticut

Menu:

Roast Pork with gravy
Roasted new Potatoes
Braised Cabbage
Apple Sauce
Vegetable
Dinner roll
Coffee

Dessert

Cost:

Adult \$14.00
Children \$7.00

Thursday, November 10, 2016
Served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex for the helpers that are needed.

Contact Walter H. Kovaciny, 860-684-7247 for tickets.

Christmas Party Scheduled

At the October 9, 2016 Council meeting, a day / date was set for our Christmas Party.

Day / Date: Thursday, December 15th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10.00 each

The menu will be Roast Pork with different side dishes.

Also the council would like the attendees to bring a potluck appetizer or Dessert.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex to indicate you'll be attending.

November

Birthdays

04 – Kim Valery

05 – Shirley Kaba

06 – Diane Bulick

09 – Judy Howlett

10 – Charlie Bauer

15 – Walter Kovaciny

15 – Leigh Maxa

18 – Jean Palacko

19 – Jenny Baarck

20 – Barbara Kovaciny

22 – Ryan Cooley

27 – Shirley Molitoris

Anniversaries

None known.

Note: If your special day isn't listed in the newsletter, there is a good chance we aren't aware of it. Please let Walter Kovaciny know if your special day isn't listed. You can also ask to look at the lists of Birthdays and Anniversaries to verify the records are correct. Thanks.

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24th this year so that puts Christmas Day on a Sunday.

Usually I post a signup sheet in the narthex looking for lay ministers for Christmas Eve and Day. For the past 4-years I have calendars saved in my computer, the Christmas Eve service has started at 9:00 p.m. in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Last year, (2015) we changed the start time to 7:00 p.m.

At this point, I'm not sure if I'll post a signup sheet or not for Christmas Eve worship. You can always let me know you'd like to serve on Christmas Eve with Holy Communion

With Christmas Day on Sunday, I'll schedule the normal Ushers, Lay Assistant and Reader that serves on the 4th Sunday unless the people that normally serve on the 4th Sunday let me know they'll be out of town on that day.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

As noted in the calendar, the United Methodist Church will be hosting the Thanksgiving service this year. The service will be on Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Poinsettias

I stopped at the Growth Company who we've purchased the poinsettias from recently to inquire what the price would be this year. The employee I talked to didn't know that information so he left a note for the owner to let me know the price. The order blank for the poinsettias will be in the next newsletter.

November / December Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Ushers

Worships Assistants

Reader

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

November 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Malachi 4: 1 – 2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3: 6 – 13; Luke 21: 5 – 19

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Ruth Boyles

Sheila Welch

Cathy Lichanec

November 20, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Christ the King – White

Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1: 11 – 20; Luke 23: 33 – 43

Leonard Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Steve Marvonek

Patricia Marvonek

Leonard Lichanec

(Note: The Season of Advent is the first Sunday of the church year so we'll be using reading from Series A.)

November 27, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Advent - Blue

Isaiah 2: 1 – 5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 11 – 14; Matthew 24: 36 – 44

Melissa Fisher

A Volunteer

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

December 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent - Blue

Isaiah 11: 1 – 10; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 18 – 19; Romans 15: 9 – 13; Matthew 3: 1 – 12

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.

November

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
		1 All Saints Day	2	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning and Youth Committee meeting Daylight Savings Time ends	7	8	9	10 5 – 7 p.m. Roast Pork Dinner More information in this newsletter.	11	12 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distributio n
13 The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	15 Deadline for submitting articles for the December newsletter	16	17	18	19	20
20 Christ the King 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	21	22 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Thanksgivin g Worship service at First United Methodist Church	23	24	25	26 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distributio n
27 The First Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	28	29				

*** Coming Events ***

November

- 6 – Learning and Youth Committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 10 – Roast Pork dinner – 5 to 7 p.m.
- 13 – Church Council – 11:15 a.m.
- 22 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at United Methodist Church – 6:00 p.m.

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

Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

