

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*May 2017*

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



## **“My prayers are so distracted! Are they worth anything?”**

Do you know how many times I’ve opened my Bible or a spiritual reading book only to momentarily be summoned back into something else from life? Then when I do manage to escape the external demands on my attention, suddenly a host of interior distractions come welling up from my subconscious: “Don’t forget to put the laundry in the dryer! I need to call so-and-so... And what on earth am I going to make for dinner?”

Distractions happen, but don’t let them get you down. Our prayers, however imperfect, are still beneficial and pleasing to God! At least that’s what St. Thomas Aquinas says.

“The human mind is unable to remain aloft for long ... because human weakness weighs down the soul to the level of inferior things.”

O merciful, comforting day! What a relief to hear a saint say, “You’re normal!” They were human too, and yet that didn’t stop them from attaining holiness.

Thomas goes on to say that “purposely to allow ones mind to wander in prayer is sinful ... but to wander in mind unintentionally does not deprive prayer of its fruit.”

In prayer, St. Thomas explains, there is a kind of attention by which we turn our minds to God. If, by my prayer, I initially turn my mind from other things and direct my being towards God, this intention affects the whole of my imperfect prayer. “The force of the original intention with which one sets about praying renders the whole prayer meritorious.”



What a merciful God we have! As Psalm 103 tells us, “He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.” We shouldn’t turn away from prayer because we don’t seem to be any good at it. If God accepts my failure to pay attention, if He is so patient with me, I can also be patient with myself.

Of course, we do have to try. We should make an effort to stay focused. But even if I should fall into deliberate distractions, His mercy can lift me up—His mercy can turn my fall to my advantage, offering me another opportunity to return to Him. “A contrite and humble heart, O God, You will not despise.”

My heart is never too divided, my head never too scattered, my life never too disjointed for me to bring myself before my Lord. I should never be discouraged, and neither should you. Turn to Him again in prayer. Even if you forget what you are doing in the midst of the first sentence, do not lose hope! Your imperfection can yet be to your sanctification. He hears and He blesses your little prayers.

Be at peace,  
Pastor Thomas



**This is the Lions Gate, also known as St. Stephens Gate.** So named because of the two pairs of lions flanking the entrance. It is also believed that St. Stephen was taken out of this gate and was stoned to death, becoming the first martyr for the faith. This is also the beginning of the Via Dolorosa, the path Christ took to Calvary to be crucified. For those receiving this electronically you may click the link above and take a video pilgrimage thru the Old City of Jerusalem, following the Way of the Cross.

## **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 will be on sabbatical. During this time, he will return messages left on his phone (860) 806-2440 or email as quickly as possible.

Pastor Tom announced the dates for his next sabbatical are late April 30 to June 10.

**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.

Pastor Thomas Mailing Address  
Revd. 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  
**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

## **May Birthdays**

05 – Sarah Bauer  
07 – Madeline Bauer ~ Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
07 – Henry Bauer ~ Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
21 – Terry Hoss  
28 – Richard “Rik” Hayden



## Anniversaries

14 – Michael & Sheila Welch

15 – Richard & Carol Mottes

25 – Bill & Claudia Sevcik

## STAFFORD'S ECUMENICAL PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will be meeting on the  
**SECOND TUESDAY** of the  
month from **6:00- 7:30 pm**  
at the Stafford Public Library.  
Our next meeting is  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2017.**

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!**



## May / June Service Schedule

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

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worships Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<b>May 7, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Easter White</b>			
Acts 2: 42 – 47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19 – 25; John 10: 1 – 10			
Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		

<b>May 14, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White</b>			
Acts 7: 55 – 60; Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 – 16; 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10; John 14: 1 – 14			
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		

<b>May 21, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White</b>			
Acts 17: 22 – 31; Psalm 66: 8 – 20; 1 Peter 3: 13 – 22; John 14: 15 – 21			
Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Leonard Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		

<b>May 28, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – Ascension of Our Lord – Easter White</b>			
Acts 1: 1 – 11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Luke 24: 44 – 53			
Melissa Fisher	Rick Bednar	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny		

<b>June 4, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red</b>			
Numbers 11: 24 – 30; Psalm 104: 24 – 34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b – 13; John 20: 19 – 23			
Walter Kovaciny	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. Thanks to everyone for their assistance with this. Walter Kovaciny, part of the newsletter team.

# May *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7 The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Committee meeting 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	8 Deadline for submitting articles for the June newsletter	9	10	11	12	13 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>14 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	14	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>28 The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	29	30	31			





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

