

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*  
*September 2017*  
*104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076*



**“Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Jesus promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against his Church. But what exactly does that mean? Often the image of the church build on a rock, a fortress against which the waves of invaders and of storm crash to no avail is the image that immediately comes to mind when we reflect on this verse. The Church, a place of refuge and safety, is however much more than that. Her mission is one that she shares with Jesus, her divine Spouse, and one that forbids her from being stationary!

When Jesus speaks these words to the disciples, Simon Peter has just made a profound profession of faith in an unusual place. Peter declares Jesus to be “the Christ, the Son of the living God,” perhaps only a stone’s throw from one of the most infamous pagan temples in the Holy Land. Caesarea Phillipi, the location of this Gospel encounter was home to a pagan temple dedicated to the pagan god Pan, a mischief maker associated with the underworld. The deep cave at the site was considered by some to be the portal to Hades. A video detailing this place and its history is accompanying this message. It is near this place that Jesus praises Simon Peter’s confession of faith saying that it is on the solid rock of this confession that His church will be built. But what about those gates of hell?

Jesus says that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Gates, in the ancient world, were a critical part of any city's fortification. They were the most vulnerable point during siege, and if the gates could prevail against an enemy, the city would be safe. However the city in question in this discourse is hell. And the invaders? Christ and his Church! When we celebrate the Paschal mystery at Easter we reflect on Jesus' conquering work on the cross. In the crucifixion our Lord is not a victim, but rather he is the Victor, and his victory is over sin, death, and the devil, whose impressive stronghold has been broken down. We profess this amazing event in perhaps unimpressive words when we confess in the creed "he descended into hell." Christ, having died, descended to hell to break down the gates that hold humanity imprisoned. Having risen from the dead, he leads the captives to freedom.

When Jesus speaks of the gates of hell not prevailing against His Church, it is a promise to us. When we share in His work of liberating, of freeing those imprisoned to sin and death, we are assured a victory because it is Christ who leads us. We live in a time of surprising discord and strife in our country and our world. Is the Church's witness in the face of the sins of racism, greed, hatred, lust, and other injustices to be only a silent one? We are called throughout Scripture to defend and to lift up the lowly and to preach Good News to the oppressed. It's wishing thinking to think this can be done from a safe distance. Jesus describes a spiritual warfare, one that wages around us and in us—whether we choose to participate in it or not. But in the strong rock of the Church, Jesus promises that when we share in His work, when we bring the Good News of victory in Christ to others in word and in action, we are assured that evil will not prevail. With such a calling and such an assurance, we must be bold to push forward with Jesus, whom we, with Peter, confess to be the Christ, the Son of the living God.

In Genesis 24, the matriarch Rebekah (an ancestor of Jesus) was blessed by her sisters who said to her, "May your descendants possess the gates of their enemies." In Christ, this blessing has been fulfilled. But it is not the gates of an earthly city that Christ has taken control of. Neither is it a spiritual enemy that Rebekah's Descendant has defeated. Christ has won for us an eternal conquest, and so in Him, if we fight for what He died, and what He loves, we are assured eternal victory with Him.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Tom

Click The Red Youtube Link  
And Explore With Us This Very  
Special Place.

<https://youtu.be/ClxriOcQ3wg>





## **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 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:

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

## **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  
**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

† Pray for your faith to grow deeper and your hope in Christ to overshadow any doubts you may have.

† Today, be kind in all that you do and say.

## September

### Birthdays

07 – Pat Kovaciny  
11 – Nan Hayden  
12 – Pauline Valery  
14 – Zachary VanDyk  
15 – Stacy Fisher  
15 – Luke Hoss  
16 – George Pallanck  
18 – Marc Verney  
19 – Shirley Pufahl  
21 – Julia Hlobik  
23 – Amy VanDyk  
30 – Donna Palacko

### Anniversaries

01 – James & Diane Bulick  
02 – William & Elizabeth Mottes  
04 – Neil Hoss  
09 – Gary & Cynthia Brown  
13 – Adam & Jamie Murray  
14 – Bryan & Leigh Maxa  
19 – Tim Mercier & Amelia Hinchliffe  
29 – James & Carol Schraffenberger

## Harvest Sale

Our annual harvest sale will be held on October 14, 2017. Please Contact Cathy Lichanec or Leigh Maxa.

**Today we gave thanks for Dr. Liza Anderson's** participation in our community, and prayed for her as she begins her journey to California where she will be serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology at Claremont School of Theology.

## This Strange English Language

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes;  
But the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice;  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.  
If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?  
Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
and the plural of cat is cats, not cose.  
We speak of a brother and also a brethren,  
but though we say mother, we never say methren.





## September *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

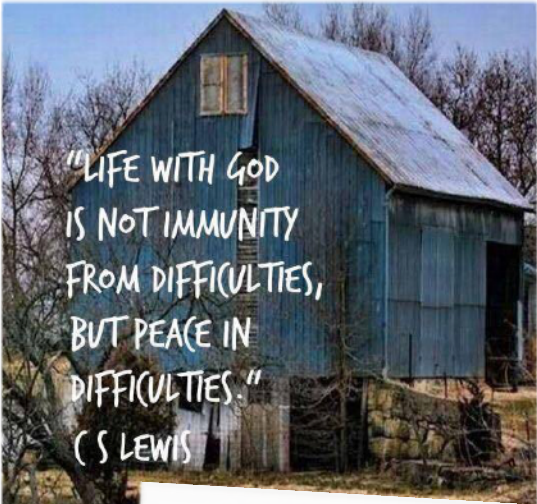
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning Committee meeting 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	4	5 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	6 Bible Study:  Luther Movie at Church  7:00 p.m.	7	8	9 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>10 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting	11 Deadline for submitting articles for the October newsletter	12 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	13 <b>John Chrysostom, Bishop</b>	14 <b>Holy Cross Day</b>	15	16
<b>17 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	18	19 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	20 Bible Study  7:30 p.m.	21 <b>Matthew, Evangelist</b>  Vespers 7:00 p.m.	22	23 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>24 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	25	26 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27	28	29 <b>Michael and All Angels</b>  Vespers 7:00 p.m.	30 <b>Jerome, Bible Translator</b>

## September – October 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>September 3, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green</b>			
Jeremiah 15: 15 – 21; Psalm 26; 1 – 8; Romans 12: 9 – 21; Matthew 16: 21 – 28			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		
<b>September 10, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green</b>			
Ezekiel 33: 7 - 11; Psalm 119: 33 – 40; Romans 13: 8 – 14; Matthew 18: 15 – 20			
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		
<b>September 17, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green</b>			
Genesis 50: 15 – 21; Psalm 103: [1 – 7] 8 – 13; Romans 14: 1 – 12; Matthew 18: 21 – 35			
Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Leonard Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		
<b>September 24, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green</b>			
Jonah 3: 10 to 4: 11; Psalm 145: 1 – 8; Philippians 1: 21 – 30; Matthew 20: 1 – 6			
Melissa Fisher	Rick Bednar	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny		
<b>October 1, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green</b>			
Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4, 25 – 32; Psalm 25: 1 – 9; Philippians 2: 1 – 13; Matthew 21: 23 – 32			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Rick Bednar	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		





**\*\*\* Coming Events \*\*\***

**September**

- 3 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.  
6 – Bible Study at Church to watch the Luther Movie – 7:00 p.m.  
9 & 23 – Safe Net Distribution 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
10 – Church Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.  
17 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.  
20 – Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.  
21 – Matthew, Evangelist; Vespers – 7:00 p.m.  
29 – Michael and All Angels, Vespers – 7:00 p.m.

**October**

- 14 – Annual Harvest Sale

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

