

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Newsletter

October 2018

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs Ct. 06076

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last week I had lunch with a gentleman from town who recounted how years ago, you couldn't do business in town unless you were a registered democrat. He said to me, "When we moved to Stafford, I registered as a republican. You know why? Because I love an underdog."

Everybody loves the underdog. It's part of our American mythos, I think. Our stories and folk tales, our super-hero comics and movies and sports fandoms love cheering for someone who has come up from behind. "A real Cinderella story!" we like to say. Everyone cheers for the underdog. But being the underdog doesn't always feel so good. In a society that measures success by size and convenience. We're often encouraged to think that we have a right to the picture-perfect life and community, but little challenged to grow where we are planted. When we chase after some picture-perfect life, we obscure the fact that God measures success not by size, not by perfection, but by faithfulness.

The idea that others have it better than us is an age-old trick of the devil to keep us focused on ourselves and not others.



The idea that things were better in “the good old days” is a lie the devil tells us to try and keep us from living fully right now. Too many marriages, fortunes, property, relationships, and yes—even churches, have been sacrificed because we think that someone else’s stuff is better than ours.

King Solomon in the wonderful sermon called Ecclesiastes, warns us about “the-grass-is-always-greener syndrome” (chapters 6-8). What the world considers prosperity isn’t always good for us. What the world considers adversity isn’t always bad. Our Lord Jesus himself warns us not to judge as the world does, but to judge the way God judges. Jesus reminds us that appearances are not always what they seem, in a vivid image: “Who to you scribes and Pharisees! You are like whitewashed tombs. They appear beautiful from the outside, but inside they are full of dead bones” (Matthew 23:27). Jesus isn’t telling us that behind everything that looks ideal is hypocrisy, but he gives us a serious warning—don’t judge based on what is on the outside.

Whether we have it easy or have it hard, whether we have a lot or a little, whatever we have comes from God’s hands. The goal of being a Christian isn’t to be poor, or small, or an underdog, but part of being a Christian is realizing that God is the God of the weak, of the dirty, of the lonely, of those on the margins. God raises up the lowly. God loves an underdog.

The great King David was the underdog in his battle with Goliath: a small shepherd boy with a sling and a stone standing before a giant in armor. His own family thought so little of David that when the prophet Samuel came to visit Jesse and his sons, they left the runt of a boy out in the fields. It wasn’t the strong or the popular or the smartest son who God chose, though. It was the faithful one. “The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his stature... the Lord does not look at the things people look at. The Lord looks at the heart’” (1 Samuel 16:7).

How many such examples do we have in Scripture! Joseph the youngest, hated by his brothers. Moses, an ousted prince with a stutter. Ruth a foreigner, outside of Israel. Gideon, “the weakest in Manasseh and least in his father’s house.” Peter, who denied the Lord. Thomas, who doubted. Paul who called himself “the chief of sinners.” All these and more were nothing in the eyes of people, but great in the eyes of God and faithful in adversity.

Our God does great things with exactly the people that the world has given up on. Our call, our mission, our challenge, is to not give up on God. To thank him for all we have, and to ask for the gifts of faithfulness, of patience, and of love.

Sometimes we might feel weak. Sometimes we might feel small. Sometimes we might feel insignificant. And that’s no fun. Sometimes it’s no fun to feel like an underdog. But God loves an underdog, and sees them through to victory.

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
Website – htlcstafford.org
Pastor Tom will be on sabbatical from
October 8th to November 8th 2018
During this time you can contact him on his
cell **(860-806-2440)** or email
t.s.drobena@gmail.com

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**.

Pastors Mailing Address 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 S. Drobena, Melissa Fisher,
Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity

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

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

September Birthdays

07 – Pat Kovaciny
11 – Nan Hayden
12 – Pauline Valery
13 – Caleb Tremblay
15 – Stacy Fisher
15 – Luke Hoss
16 – George Pallanck
19 – Shirley Pufahl
30 – Donna Palacko

September Anniversaries

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

HTLC Harvest Sale

Saturday, October 13, 2018.





**Jazz in the Afternoon with
Emery Austin Smith and Friends
Saturday, October 13, 2018
4:00PM
Autumn Leaves**

**Stafford Baptist Church
12 Leonard Road
Stafford, *Freewill offering***



**St. Edward Ladies Guild Tag Sale
Saturday --- October 27, 2018
8:30 am – 12 :00 noon
St. Edward Hall
27 Church Street
Stafford Springs, Ct. 06076**

October – November Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants Reader

October 7, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Genesis 2:18 – 24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1: 1 – 4; 2: 5 – 12; Mark 10: 2 – 16

Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		

October 14, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Amos 5: 6 – 7; Psalm 90: 12 – 17; Hebrew 4: 12 – 16; Mark 10: 17 – 31

Mike Welch	Cathy Lichanec	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Leonard Lichanec		

October 21, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 53: 4 – 12; Psalm 91: 9 – 16; Hebrews 5: 1 – 10; Mark 10: 35 – 45

Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		

October 28, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – Reformation Sunday – Red

Wisdom 1: 16 to 2: 1, 12 – 22; Psalm 54; James 3: 13 – 4: 3, 7 – 8a; Mark 9:30 – 37

Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Michael Welch
Walter Kovaciny			

November 4, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – All Saints Sunday – White

Isaiah 25:6-9 or Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21: 1 – 6a; John 11:32-44

Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael 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 or send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally. Thanks to everyone for their assistance for this. Walter Kovaciny, Part of the newspaper team.

October *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	3	4 Francis of Assisi	5	6
7 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour 11:50 a.m. Council meeting	8	9	10	11	12 4 – 7 p.m. Setup for Harvest Sale	13 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Harvest Sale <hr/> 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
14 The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	15 Deadline for submitting articles / information for the November newsletter	16	17 Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop	18 Luke, Evangelist	19	20
21 The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	22	23	24	25 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. WIC	26	27 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
28 Reformation Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	29	30	31			

*** Coming Events ***

October

- 4 – Francis of Assisi
- 7 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.
- 7 – Church Council Meeting – 11: 50 a.m.
- 12 – Setup for the Annual Harvest – 4 to 7 p.m.
- 12 & 27 – Safe Net Distribution – 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- 13 – Annual Harvest Sale – 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 15 – Deadline for submitting articles / information for the newsletter
- 17 – Ignatius of Antioch
- 18 – Luke, Evangelist
- 25 – WIC – 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

Web site address
www.holytrinitystafford.org
Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA
Address Correction Requested

