

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

April 2023 Newsletter



“From the Mt of Olives To The Empty Tomb”. Click on the picture above to watch video

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the days before Palm Sunday, the Lord’s friend died. By the time Jesus and the disciples make it to Bethany, we’re told that Lazarus had already been dead four days. The dead man’s sister, Martha, meets Jesus and in her grief speaks some heart-breaking words: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

There are so many emotions caught up in this little phrase. Even in her grief, Martha shows amazing faith. She has seen Jesus heal and believes in his power. Jesus has sat at their table. They’ve eaten together, laughed together, prayed together. Now they cry together. If only he had been there, she thinks, he could have prevented this. She tells Jesus she knows even now God will give him

whatever he asks. Jesus assures her that Lazarus will rise again. Martha says, “I know he will rise again. In the resurrection on the Last Day.” Martha believes in Jesus. She has hope in the resurrection and trusts in God’s power and goodness. If Jesus wasn’t there to save Lazarus, maybe it’s not too late



for a miracle. But she doesn’t quite get the point. Martha wants the resurrection to happen. Now if ever. But the resurrection isn’t just an event to wait for. The Resurrection is a person.

Jesus says to her, “I am the Resurrection. And the life.”

Jesus commands that the stone be removed from the tomb. He prays. And he commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb. And Lazarus comes back to life.

The disciples and Jesus’ friends at Bethany rejoice. But for some who had come from Jerusalem and witnessed the miracle, we’re told this was the final straw. Those in authority are threatened by this miracle, and rather than rejoicing in God’s goodness, they seek to put Jesus to death soon.

In his compassion for his friend Lazarus, Jesus points to his own resurrection and confirms the resurrection of all who believe in him. But like Martha, we often miss the point. We are so caught up in our own stories, in our own experiences that we want resolved. We believe in God, we trust in his goodness and we want it fixed now. But the resurrection isn’t just an event. The Resurrection is a person, and he is with us now.

He who is the Resurrection weeps when his friend dies. He who is Life itself and the giver of life commands the dead to rise. Indeed, Lazarus comes forth, but we’re told still bound by the wrappings and burial shroud. He is alive, and he is with Jesus, but death still clings to him for a time. In a little over a week, however, Jesus too will rise. But unlike Lazarus who died a second time, Jesus lives forevermore. Unlike Lazarus to whom the



wrappings of death still clung, Jesus will leave behind his shroud in the tomb as a testimony. Christ on the cross has conquered death, and in his rising he has condemned death itself to stay in the grave.

In our fears and our anxieties we are ready for a miracle. Like Martha we want to feel and see the resurrection now. But the resurrection isn't just an event. The Resurrection is a person. He weeps with us, he comforts us, he heals us, and yes he raises us from the dead. But whether in our joys or our sorrows we are equally assured that because He lives, we will live also. Even we who are brought back to life are sometimes like Lazarus bound by the death that stubbornly clings to us. But our life is transformed. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, as David prophesied, we fear no evil. We know him who is the Resurrection. Until all our shrouds are left behind in the tomb, never to cling to us again, Jesus still raises us. Death is no match for our Saviour and our friend.

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 (860-806-2440)
Email t.s.drobena@gmail.com
Rev. Dr. Thomas Drobena

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena
President – Walter Kovaciny
Vice-President – Michael Marvonek
Treasurer – Sheila Welch
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Leonard Lichanec
Patricia Marvonek
Laura Rose

(Non-Council position)

Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

Service Teams

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Maxa
† Hospitality Committee: Amelia Hinchliffe and Jennifer Welch
† Property Team: Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and Michael Welch
† Learning & Youth Group Team:
Rev. Thomas Drobena, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity

Attn: Barbara Bulick
The Ivy at Ellington
123 West Road Apt 115
Ellington. CT 06029-5730

Attn: Ms. Shirley Kaba
Douglas Manor
103 North Rd.
Windham, CT 06280

Ms. Anna Mandak
21 Old Monson Rd.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

Attn: Vera Marko Room #219
The Buckland Court
432 Buckland Rd.
South Windsor, CT 06074

Mr. George Pallanck
8 Park St.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Mrs. Olga Panciera
10 Franklin Woods Dr.
Somers, CT 06071

Mrs. Pauline Valery
24 Holburn Ave.
Cranston, RI 02910

April Birthdays

04 – Jevon Baarck
06 – James Bulick
22 – Ruth Kaiser
28 – Sheila Welch

Anniversaries

27 – Adam & Cassandra Tremblay

Musical Event

The Tapestry Singers will be performing a concert May 20-21, 2023 to benefit Kateri Medical Services.

The concert will be at:

Trinity Church
11 Church St.
Tariffville, CT

Some of you may remember their director, Paula Kern who was the substitute organist when John Fittz was our organist.

April – May Service Schedule

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

<u>Teller</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Reader</u>
April 2, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – Sunday of the Passion – Palm Sunday – Purple		
Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a; Psalm 31: 9 – 16; Philippians 2: 5 – 11; Passion Gospel		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny		
Hymns: Entrance: 344 Hymn of the Day: 335 Communion: 339 Closing: 338		

April 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday – White
 Exodus 12: 1-4 [5-10] 11-14; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
 Sheila Welch Cathy Lichanec
 Hymns: **Entrance: 357 Hymn of the Day: 359 Communion: 462**

April 7, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday – No Paraments
 Isaiah 52: 13 to 53: 12; Psalm 22: 1-23; Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9; John 18: 1 to 19: 42
Sheila Welch
 Hymns: **Hymn of the Day: 637 Closing: 355**

April 8, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter – Easter White

Lesson	Name
Genesis 1: 1-2: 4	Cathy Lichanec
Genesis 22: 1-18	Cathy Lichanec
Exodus 14: 10-31; 15: 20-21	Leonard Lichanec
Isaiah 55: 1-11	Sheila Welch
Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Sheila Welch
Daniel 3: 1-29	Daniel Lichanec

Romans 6: 3 – 11; John 20: 1 – 18
 Sheila Welch Sheila Welch
 Hymns: **Gospel Acclamation 367 Communion 362 Closing 382**

April 9, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday – Easter White
 Acts 10: 34 – 43; Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24; Colossians 3: 1 – 4; Matthew 28: 1 – 10
 Leigh Maxa Daniel Lichanec
 Hymns: **Entrance: 365 Hymn of the Day: 385 Communion: 362 Closing: 382**

April 16, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts: 14a, 22 – 32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9; John 20: 19 – 31

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Hymns: **Entrance: 376 Hymn of the Day: 635 Communion: 496 Closing: 377**

April 23, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 2: 14a, 36 – 41; Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 – 19; 1 Peter 1: 17 – 23; Luke 24: 13 – 35

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Laurel Rose

Hymns – **Entrance: 362 (verses 1-4) Hymn of the Day: 362 (verses 5-8)**

Communion: 522 Closing: 373

April 30, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 2: 42 – 47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19 – 25; John 10: 1 – 10

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

A Volunteer

Hymns: **Entrance: 385 Hymn of the Day: 502 Communion: 468 Closing: 873**

May 7, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 7: 55 – 60; Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 – 16; 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10; John 14: 1 – 14

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns: **Entrance: 380 Hymn of the Day: 369 Communion: 758 Closing: 369**



April Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lazarus Saturday
2 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:10 a.m. Social Hour Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies	3 Holy Monday 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer	4 Fig Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer	5 Spy Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion	7 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Worship	8 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution The Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion
9 The Resurrection of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	10 Bright Monday	11 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	12 Pastor Tom's day off	13	14	15
16 The Second Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:10 a.m. Council Meeting 11:10 a.m. Social Hour	17	18 Pastor Tom's day off	19	20	21	22 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
23 The Third Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	24	25 Mark, Evangelist 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	26 Pastor Tom's day off	27	28	29
30 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

Easter Lilies

The members and friends of Holy Trinity are encouraged to donate Lilies each Easter to give Glory to God and beautify our sanctuary during the Easter liturgies. Those who donate the Lilies may take them after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Easter Sunday, April 9th. The cost of each Lily is \$10.00.

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

OR

Given in loving memory of (for the dead) _____

Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, April 2nd. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. All the flowers will be White Lilies, no colors. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered _____.

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076
Website address www.holytrinitystafford.org Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested

