

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church October 2023 Newsletter



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Every year we see more and more Halloween decorations. Halloween is increasingly observed with the amount of decorating that only Christmas used to get. Of course Halloween is a shortened form of “All Hallows’ Eve,” the Eve of All Saints Day which is November 1. In our culture, Halloween has been in a way coopted and secularized like other Christian holidays have. However instead of Santa and the Easter Bunny, Halloween has become society’s outlet for celebrating horror and the macabre. Some inaccurately claim that Halloween was a pagan holiday celebrated by druids which was taken over by Christians. In fact, these three days on the church calendar have their origin in Rome in the year 609, when Pope Boniface dedicated the Pantheon to Saint Mary and all the Martyrs, and later, in the year 735, when Pope Gregory dedicated a chapel to “All Saints” on November 1st. (In many parts of Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, the Christian meaning of these days is kept, and cemeteries are visited and filled with candles by those who visit family graves, thinking about the resurrection that awaits those buried there.)

The word “saint” comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, meaning “holy.” When we take a day to remember and give thanks for “all saints,” we are celebrating God’s holy ones. Luther points out that each of us is a saint by virtue of our baptism—someone who has been made holy and set apart by God to be a people who serve Him. Often though, and on this day in particular, we give thanks for the

saints who have died and now live and reign with Christ Jesus in Heaven. These men and women are examples for us of holy living, and of faithfulness in this life: prophets, priests, laborers, mothers, fathers, virgins, martyrs, doctors, artists, caretakers, rulers, teachers—people from every walk of life who had one thing in common, a deep love of Jesus and a life that was changed by Him.

But we remember these saints not only because they are examples to us, but because thinking on those who have gone before us reminds us that our God “is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive” (Luke 20:38). Jesus spoke these words to explain the resurrection to the Sadducees who challenged him. Our Lord pointed out that even when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He said “*I am* the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” He did not say “*I was* their God,” because those saintly patriarchs, though in Heaven, are very much alive.

Christians have always had an unusually comfortable relationship with death for exactly this reason. Jesus taught us—and most importantly proved to us!— that death is not the end, but it the gateway to Eternal Life. The early Christians were thought strange for treating the bodies of their dead with respect, but they did so because they firmly believed that at the resurrection, that body will rise. When persecuted, they worshipped in cemeteries, on the very graves of the martyrs. In later centuries when the Black Death took hold in Europe and death became a daily reality, Christians took comfort in the sufferings of Jesus, knowing that those who share in death like Jesus, will share in a resurrection like his.

Saint Francis of Assisi, wrote in his famous poem sweetly of death, as a result. We sing, “And you most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia. Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home.” In a world where many either avoid talking about death or make of it something scary, Christians are called to remember that death is inevitable, but that it is has been conquered by Jesus. It does not have the last word. Death is not an executioner. Our Lord has made it into a gardener.

This month, as where we live the earth begins its rest and the days become shorter, we will reflect on this relationship that Christians share with death. We will give thanks for the heroes of the faith whom the Church celebrates, and we will give thanks for those faithful men and women in our lives who now rest and reign in Jesus’ Kingdom. We will remember that those who have died are but sleeping until Jesus returns for them and us, and we will reflect on how we can live boldly and faithfully as a people who believe in the life everlasting.

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
Laurel 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 Lutheran Church

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

Electronic Giving

For those who are not able to attend in person regularly, we have an online giving page that can be used for recurring giving or for one-time Donations. The cost of the service is 2.75% for using a credit card and only 1% for direct debit. You will have the option to add the fee to your donation.

We would much prefer to see you in person.

We have social hour after church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Join us for fellowship.

To donate copy this link <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ24> The website is very easy to navigate.

October

Birthdays

01 – Bryan Maxa
14 – Owen R. Baarck
20 – Andrew Fisher
21 – Craig Fisher
25 – Laurel Rose
28 – Barbara Bulick

Anniversaries

05 – Jevon & Jenny Baarck
05 – Craig & Stacy Fisher

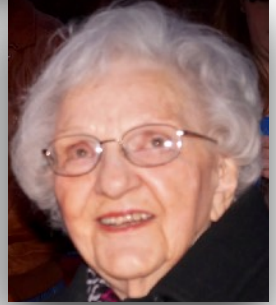
October – November Service Schedule

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>
October 1, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25: 1 – 9; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns – Entrance: 712, Hymn of the Day: 517, Communion: 496, Closing: 818		
October 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Isaiah 5: 1 – 7; Psalm 80: 7 – 15; Philippians 3: 4 b – 14; Matthew 21: 33 – 46		
Jennifer Welch Michael Welch	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns: Entrance: 769 Hymn of the Day: 729 Communion: 595 Closing: 838		
October 15, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Isaiah 25: 1 – 9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4: 1 – 9; Matthew 22: 1 – 14		
Cathy Lichanec Leonard Lichanec	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns – Entrance: 468 Hymn of the Day: 462 Communion: 396 Closing: 825		
October 22, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Isaiah 45: 1 – 7; Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10; Matthew 22: 15 – 12		
Walter Kovaciny Laurel Rose	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns: Entrance: 526 Hymn of the Day: 790 Communion: 485 Closing: 705		
October 29, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – Reformation Sunday – Red		
Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34; Psalm 46; Romans 3: 19 – 28; John 31 – 36		
Walter Kovaciny Michael Marvonek	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns: Entrance: 504 Hymn of the Day: 654 Communion: 592 Closing: 793		
November 5, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Micah 3: 5 – 12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9 – 13; Matthew 23: 1 – 12		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Hymns: Entrance: 532 Hymn of the Day: 635 Communion: 632 Closing: 634		

October *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	2	3 Pastor Tom's day off	4 Francis of Assisi, Reformer 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	5	6	7
8 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting	9	10 Bible Study 7 p.m.	11	12	13 Harvest Sale Set-up/Drop off 10-11am	14 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution <hr/> Harvest Sale 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
15 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour Deadline to submit articles for the November newsletter	16 Theresa of Avila, Reformer	17 Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr Pastor Tom's day off	18 Luke, Physician & Evangelist	19	20	20
22 The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	23 James of Jerusalem, Brother of the Lord	24 Bible Study 7 p.m.	25	26	27	28 Simon & Jude, Apostles 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 Reformation Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	30	31 Reformation Day				



OCTOBER

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH HARVEST BAKE SALE

104 W Main St, Stafford Springs
10am to 1pm

- Fresh Baked Goods including Slovak style Kolach (Nut and Poppy Rolls),
- Breads, Cookies, Pastries,
- Peanut Brittle & Fudge
- Homemade Stuffed Cabbage (Halupki)
- Handmade

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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

