

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

March 2023 Newsletter



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the book of Hebrews (11:1) we read, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.” Faith is a central part of the spiritual life. It is the way in which despite the limitations of our senses and of space and time, we are able to commune with God. And yet what faith is itself is very often misunderstood.

Many times, we imagine that faith and belief are thinking the right things—knowing about something or knowing something to be true. That is certainly part of it, but only the beginning in fact. Saint James in his letter (2:19) commends his reader for knowing *about* God, but points out that even demons know that God is real and who He is. To know about God is not enough. James concludes that “faith without works is dead.” By this he means that if your faith doesn’t change the way you live or shape your actions, then it’s not really faith. Faith is a living thing, and it brings people to life.

The author of Hebrews spends all of chapter eleven (40 verses!) giving examples of what the Old Testament saints were able to do because they had faith. He describes the great adventures they were able to set out on, the miracles they performed and witnessed, and the hardships they were able to endure. Yet we are told that though they were commended for their faith, “none of them received what had been promised, since God planned something better for us so that only together with us they would be made perfect.”

Jesus is of course God’s plan for us. He is the fulfillment of every promise of God—the essence of what humanity has hoped for and the very embodiment of God unseen. It is in Him and because of Him that the saints of old and we are made perfect. In the book of Hebrews, the heroes of the faith are shown to be those who persevered because they trusted in God’s plan for them. When they were blessed and prosperous, they trusted that God had an even greater purpose for them; When they suffered, they trusted that God was still good and would make the world right.

Luther defines faith with this in mind. He wrote, “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a person would stake their life on it a thousand times.” To have faith in God means to trust in God’s goodness and rely on God’s grace. When we say, “I believe in God,” we are signifying that we are putting our trust in God and depending on His goodness. This is something that none of us do perfectly, but we make it our goal to grow in trust, and to be reproved and encouraged in faithful living, so that we can pray “I believe. Lord help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).

If then having faith means that our trust is in God, and our confidence in God’s goodness is what propels us, that means not putting our trust in ourselves or our works. If faith is the conviction of things unseen, then when we cling to things we do see we risk missing out on the benefits of faith. The things of this world, my good works, other people and their efforts or accomplishments can be blessings, but putting our trust in them is not faith. God invites us to hope for something greater than we can do ourselves—something greater than we can even see! In Jesus we know that there is no height or depth or distance that God will not go to bring us close. He calls us to, as Luther says, trust *daringly* in God’s grace and not be dependent on the things we can see, but to stake our life and our way of living on God’s goodness alone.

Peace and jo

Pastor Tom



Pastoral Care

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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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

Congratulations to Graduates...

... To Paul and Eric Mercier, they graduated from 8th grade at Hall Memorial School. The ceremony was Thursday, June 15, 2023. Paul and Eric graduated with Honors and received several other awards. They will be attending E. O. Smith High School in Mansfield, when school starts the end of summer.

Birth Announcement

Andrew and Natalia Fisher, Proud parents want to introduce their son to everyone. Eric John Frederick Fisher was born on Friday, July 7th at 3:30 a.m., weighing 6 lbs 15.5 oz and 20.5 inches long. (The next line was copied from the Facebook post.) Both Andrew and Natalia are over the moon with him, he is the most perfect baby ever?

September

Birthdays

07 – Pat Kovaciny
11 – Nan Hayden
12 – Pauline Valery
13 – Caleb Tremblay
15 – Stacy Fisher
16 – George Pallanck
24 – Frank Paris

Anniversaries

01 – James & Diane Bulick
28 – Bryan & Leigh Maxa

2023 Picnic

The picnic was well attended and many delicious dishes were provided. Everyone is invited to submit the recipe they used to be included in future newsletters. We sat in front and to the side of the parsonage. Some people used chairs they brought. Tables and some chairs were already supplied. Before and after enjoying the food there was lots of conversations and visiting.

Newsletter Deadline

The 3rd Sunday of each month has been set as the deadline for the next month's newsletter. With everyone helping with submitting articles and news for the monthly newsletter, Pastor Tom, Mike Welch and Walter Kovaciny wouldn't have to guess what people want included in the newsletter. Thanks in advance for everyone's assistance.



September – October Service Schedule

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

Teller Worship Assistant Reader

September 3, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

Jeremiah 15: 15 – 21; Psalm 26: 1 – 8; Romans 12: 9 – 21; Matthew 16: 21 – 28

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns – **Entrance: 655, Hymn of the Day: 656, Communion: 515, Closing: 624**

September 10, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Ezekiel 33: 7 – 11; Psalm 119: 33 – 40; Romans 13:8 – 14; Matthew 18: 15 – 20

Jennifer Welch

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Hymns: **Entrance: 836 Hymn of the Day: 359 Communion: 470 Closing: 781**

September 17, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Genesis 50: 15 – 21; Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13; Romans 14: 1 – 12; Matthew 18: 21-35

Cathy Lichanec

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Hymns – **Entrance: 520 Hymn of the Day: 522 Communion: 496 Closing: 544**

September 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Jonah 3: 10 to 4: 11; Psalm 145:1 – 8; Philippians 1: 21 – 30; Matthew 20: 1 – 16

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Laurel Rose

Hymns: **Entrance: 669 Hymn of the Day: 623 Communion: 685 Closing: 765**

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

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns: **Entrance: 712 Hymn of the Day: 517 Communion: 496 Closing: 818**

September *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2023

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

OCTOBER
14



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

