

HTLC

July / August 2024 Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As summer comes into full swing, we journey through the Gospels together and in the weeks after Pentecost think about what life as a Christian means for us, much as the disciples did in the weeks and month after Jesus ascended into Heaven and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Like they, we joyfully declare that Jesus has made everything new! And yet we struggle with our day-to-day activities, sometimes wondering, how do we go about our lives in a Christian way? Is there anything different about the way that I live because of Jesus? Is there anything in the way I act that makes people stop and think that whatever I do is for God's glory and not for myself? With Independence Day approaching, it gives a good opportunity to reflect on how it is that a Christian—

someone who knows that she is freed from sin, death, and the devil—lives out their freedom. And how that is different than the way many around us understand freedom.

We often hear about freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. People talk about free markets and free trade, as in efforts to de-regulate businesses, for example. There's also freedom of religion, of course, as in the right to practice one's faith without the state interfering. It all quickly becomes very complicated with lots of strong feelings and opinions on one side or the other. One person's exercise of freedom may seem to infringe on the freedoms of others. We often hear the phrase, "It's a free country," which usually means that "I can do anything I please." That's how people most-often think of freedom: as self-governance, being able to decide for yourself what is best for you and not having anyone infringe on your autonomy as long as you're not hurting anybody else.

That type of freedom is fine and dandy in terms of civic life. In fact, that's why government exists: to maintain order and to punish evildoers. Beyond that, it's very much up for debate how much role the government should play in our lives, with some wanting more involvement, and some wanting as little as possible. But what if the tyranny and the chains that you need to be freed from aren't of some oppressive power. What if they're inside your heart? Luther describes the way most people think of freedom like an addict being free to feed an addiction. "We do whatever we want! That is our bondage!"

This is where Christianity offers something more than a civic understanding of freedom does. God desires the physical liberty and well-being of every creature. In fact, in Scripture, God reveals Himself again and again as precisely the God of liberated slaves! But it is not enough for God that we should be free from physical bonds just to be enslaved to sin, to self, and to devil's empty promises. In Jesus we see that God is intent on freeing us from so much more. In Him we have a clean conscience before God and are able to be perfectly content with all we have. We don't need to chase after fame or fortune or worry about making a name for ourselves or impressing others. We don't have to worry about impressing God or buying our way out of Hell.

Luther's treatise "The Freedom of a Christian" is a commentary on a paradox. He writes, "**A Christian person is a free sovereign, above all things, subject to no one; A Christian is a dutiful servant in all things, subject to everyone.**" That is to say, because we are saved and made right with God by grace, we do not need to be anxious, striving in life when it comes to trying to work out our salvation. Our salvation is completely ours and we don't have to prove ourselves to the devil or any person to claim it. Of course, Luther does not stop with the first statement in his paradox – though many in our society might wish he did. No, Luther continues, "**A Christian is a dutiful servant in all things, subject to everyone.**" That is to say, because we are free from the rat-race of life, from impressing by making a name for ourselves or lording over others, we are *freed-up* to devote all our attention to God's service and our neighbor's well-being.

While civil freedom is freedom *from* something, Christian freedom is freedom *for* something. When countries and peoples celebrate their independence days, they celebrate freedom *from* other people. We, the baptized, are freed *for* other people.

Because we are saved by God's grace, we are free to love the neighbor without any strings attached. The Christian way of living short-circuits self-centered living. It short-circuits this perpetual

adolescence we're so used to, where we're always trying to be independent and assert ourselves and justify our views. Our horizons open up for us to embrace and love our neighbors, just because God loves them and that's good enough a reason for me to love them too, undistracted the mindless pursuit of stuff or pathological need to be right.

For the early Church, this new way of living meant leaving everything behind or sharing everything in common. For many throughout history, they've accepted to challenge to live simple lives of service too. But whether we have much or little, whether we have a lot of leisure time or have to work all the time, as Christians we are able to not be preoccupied with a shallow freedom that's just autonomy, but are freed to use our lives to love and live the way Jesus does.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

Ten foot waves crashing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Imagine how terrified the apostles must have been in that little 17 foot boat.



Pastoral Care

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Website – htlcstafford.org
Pastor Tom (860-806-2440)
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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
(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

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

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.

July

Birthdays

20 – Carl John “Jack” Mercier
23 – Melanie Mordasky

Anniversaries

28 – Michael & Patricia Marvonek

August

Birthdays

05 – Madeleine E. Mercier
07 – Adam Tremblay
17 – John Fittz
19 – Carol Schraffenberger
23 – Cynthia Brown
27 – July Titus

Anniversaries

15 – John & Joan Fittz
31 – Donald & Barbara Hoffman
Happy 67th Anniversary

Attention Graduates

Please let Walter Kovaciny or Pastor Tom know if you're graduating from any schooling this year. Then that information can be included in the September 2024 newsletter. Thanks for sharing this news with other members of the church family. The deadline for submitting information for the September newsletter is the 3rd Monday, September 19th.

Annual Church Picnic

Hopefully everyone reads the calendar pages included in this newsletter and marks their calendar that this year's church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 18, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m.

Invite a friend and watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

The picnic gives everyone a chance to share their favorite dish and visit with everyone. Bring lawn chairs to have a place to sit. Tables are brought over from church. Perhaps even offer help so the tables are setup on Saturday.

Stafford Baptist Church

On Saturday July 27, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. the church is having an Ecumenical Worship Service honoring Emery Austin Smith. After the approximately 2 Hour service everyone is invited to enjoy a variety of food including beverage.

A Big Thank you

to everyone that helped to make our annual Father's Day BBQ dinner a success. As always, the food was delicious.



Join us for BIBLE Study on Tuesday nights at 7pm and find out why this 75 pound solid 24k gold lamp stand has been made.



July *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Pastor's day off ----- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	3 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	4	5	6 John Hus, <i>Reformer,</i> <i>Martyr</i>
7 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	8	9 Pastor's day off	11	11 Benedict, <i>Renewer of the Church,</i> <i>Abbot</i>	12	13 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
14 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	15	16 Ruth, Matriarch ----- 7:00 p.m. Vespers	17	18	19	20 Elijah, <i>Prophet</i>
21 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	22 Mary Magdalene, <i>Apostle</i> <i>Vespers</i> 7:00 p.m.	23 Pastor's day off	24	25 James, <i>Apostle</i>	26	27 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
28 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	29 Mary, Martha, & Lazarus, <i>Friends of the Lord</i>	30 Pastor's day off ----- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	31 Joseph of Arimathea, <i>Disciple</i>			

July Service Schedule

These readings are from Series B and can be found in the front of the ELCA hymnal

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Reader</u>
July 7 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Ezekiel 2: 1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 Mark 6: 1-13	Hymns: #796 Opening #790 Hymn of Day #737 Communion #876 Closing	
July 14 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Jennifer Welch Michael Welch	Sheila Welch	The Hinchliffe Family
Readings: Amos 7: 7-15 Psalm 85: 8-13 Ephesians 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29	Hymns: #414 Opening #786 Hymn of Day #697 Communion #805 Closing	
July 21 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Cathy Lichanec Lenny Lichanec	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	Hymns: #654 Opening #611 Hymn of Day #470 Communion #807 Closing	
July 28 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Walter Kovaciny A Volunteer	Sheila Welch	The Welch Family
Readings: 2 Kings 4: 42-44 Psalm 145: 10-18 Ephesians 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21	Hymns: #729 Opening #515 Hymn of Day #484 Communion #843 Closing	
August 4 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78: 23-29 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	Hymns: #623 Opening #487 Hymn of Day #474 Communion #618 Closing	

August *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Joanna, Mary, & Salome, <i>Disciples</i> 7:00 p.m Vespers
4 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	5	6 Pastor's day off	7 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	8 Dominic, <i>Renewer of the Church</i>	9	10 Lawrence, <i>Deacon</i> 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
11 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council Mtg.	12	13 Pastor's day off 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	14 Maximilian Kolbe, <i>Martyr</i>	15 Mary, <i>Mother of our Lord</i> 7:00 p.m. Vespers	16	17
18 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Church Picnic 1pm	19 Deadline for articles for the September newsletter	20 Bernard, <i>Abbot</i> Pastor's day off	21	22	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
25 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	25	26 Pastor's day off 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	27 Monica, <i>Mother of Augustine</i>	28 Augustine, <i>Bishop</i>	29 Martyrdom of John the Baptist	30

August Service Schedule

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<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Reader</u>
August 4 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78: 23-29 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	Hymns:	#623 Opening #487 Hymn of Day #474 Communion #618 Closing
August 11 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Jennifer Welch Michael Welch	Sheila Welch	The Hinchliffe Family
Readings: 1 Kings 19: 4-8 Psalm 34: 1-8 Ephesians 4: 25 – 5:2 John 6: 35, 41-51	Hymns:	#574 Opening #658 Hymn of Day #485 Communion #542 Closing
August 18 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Cathy Lichanec Lenny Lichanec	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Proverbs 9: 1-6 Psalm 34: 9-14 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	Hymns:	#793 Opening #779 Hymn of Day #592 Communion #772 Closing
August 25 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Walter Kovaciny A Volunteer	Sheila Welch	The Welch Family
Readings: Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34: 15–22 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	Hymns:	#408 Opening #810 Hymn of Day #494 Communion #705 Closing
September 1 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Hymns:	#879 Opening #759 Hymn of Day #182 Offertory #512 Communion #717 Closing

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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[www.holytrinitystafford.Slovak Zion Synod](http://www.holytrinitystafford.SlovakZionSynod) –

ELCA Address Correction Requested

