

HTLC

April, 2025 Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care



The Garden Tomb. While the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is a more accurate location of the tomb this location will give a better idea Of what it may have looked like

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 prophesized, 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
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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
(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

Mrs. Anne Mandak
116 Crystal Lake Rd.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

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.

April

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

27 – Adam & Cassandra Tremblay

April *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pastor's day off	2 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	3	4	5
6 The Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	7	8 Pastor's day off	9 6 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Bible Study	10	11	12 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
13 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies	14 Holy Monday	15 “Fig” Tuesday	16 “Spy” Wednesday	17 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Holy Communion & Washing of the Feet	18 Good Friday 7 p.m. Remembrance of the Crucifixion	19 The Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m. Holy Communion
20 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	21 Deadline for articles for the May Newsletter	22 Pastor's day off	23	24	25 Mark, Evangelist	26 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
27 The Second Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	28 Anselm, Bishop	29 Catherine of Siena, Theologian	30			

April Service Schedule
These readings are from Series C and can be found in the front of the ELCA hymnal.

Tellers

Worship Assistant

Reader

April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent - Purple

Amelia Hinchliffe
Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Isaiah 43: 16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8

Hymns: #338 Opening
#754 Hymn of Day
#336 Communion
#339 Closing

April 13 – Palm Sunday – Purple

Jennifer Welch
Michael Welch

Sheila Welch

The Hinchliffe Family

Readings: Luke 19: 28-40 (Presentation w/Palms)
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22:14 - 23:56

Hymns: #344 Opening
#335 Hymn of Day
#336 & #339 Communion
#353 Closing

April 17 – Maundy Thursday – Purple

Leigh Maxa

Volunteer

Readings: Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14
Psalm 116 verses 1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Hymns: #357 Opening
#359 Hymn of Day
#468 Communion

April 18 – Good Friday

Leigh Maxa

Volunteer

Readings: Isaiah 52: 13 – 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10: 16-25
John 18: 1 – 19:42

Hymns: #351 Opening
#355 Hymn of Day

April 19 – Easter Vigil – Easter White

Sheila Welch

Volunteers

Readings: Too many to list

Hymns: #367 Hymn of Day
#362 Communion
#382 Closing

April 20 – Easter Sunday – Easter White

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Acts 10: 34-43
Psalm 118 verses 1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26
Luke 24: 1-12

Hymns: #365 Opening
#369 Hymn of Day
#362 & #373 Communion
#382 Closing

April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Walter Kovaciny
Volunteer

Sheila Welch

The Welch Family

Readings: Acts 5: 27-32
Psalm 118: 14-29
Revelation 1: 4-8
John 20: 19-31

Hymns: #376 Opening
#635 Hymn of Day
#485 Communion
#373 Closing

Pastor Thomas led us on a wonderful trip to Yale Museum of Art to see the Oldest known Church Wonderful time.. Being Lutheran we had to eat. Hamburgers for all at Louis" Lunch the home of the original Hamburger



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 20th. 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 13th. 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

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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

