

HTLC

MAY, 2025 Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Forty days after the Resurrection (May 29 this year) we remember Jesus' Ascension into heaven. It is a day that is often overlooked—so much so that, while it always falls on a Thursday, it frequently it is moved to the nearest Sunday so that this important feast doesn't go unnoticed. But it's an odd celebration in a lot of ways. The disciples were troubled at the Last Supper when Jesus spoke of his going up to the Father (John 13:22). Then after the Ascension, they were "standing there looking at the sky" before being reassured by the angels that Jesus would return to them (Acts 1:11). Why did Jesus have to ascend to heaven only 40 days after the Resurrection? Why could he not have remained walking among his followers for many ages?

Scripture shows us that the Ascension is connected closely with the Paschal Mystery and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spent a good amount of time at the Last Supper tenderly explaining it to his apostles (John 13-16). In John 16:7 Jesus tells the apostles, "But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go." Saint Paul explains for us how the Old Testament prophesized that Jesus would

ascend into heaven and prepare the place for us that He promised when he said “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be” (John 14:2-3).

Jesus himself is the way to heaven, and so it is fitting that he should reign from there. Hebrews (7:25) tells us that in heaven Jesus intercedes for us always and appears before God on our behalf (9:24). But being at God’s right hand does not mean that Jesus is far away from us! Luther writes about the mystery of Jesus’ presence here on earth in the sacraments. Because God is everywhere, he writes, the right hand of God is everywhere. And so Jesus by ascending into heaven- not on some cloud or in some distant galaxy, but withdrawing from our dimensions of space and time as we understand them, is more present for us than He could be walking around in in Jerusalem in his body made manifest in one place for us to see.

God who wishes to increase in us faith and love, in Christ makes his body present in the Eucharist all over the world. Rather than being bound to space and time so that we can see him, He ascended beyond those things so that His body can fill us, nourish us, and transform us. Yet again, in a wonderful mystery, Emmanuel—“God with us”—comes to us in great humility so that he might be present fully and for each of us.

Saint John Chrysostom once preached a sermon acknowledging how many of us wish we could see and touch Jesus in this life. But, he continued, God does something even greater for us. Jesus does not wish to be enthroned in an earthly temple, but in the human heart. And even more, He wishes for us to be enthroned in heaven with Him. For us and for our salvation Jesus ascended into heaven so that he could in His own body bring our humanity into God’s presence. And here on earth His body ascended into a realm beyond our comprehension wonderfully and mysteriously is present for us in bread and wine to be our nourishment and to be how our Lord’s own life comes to live in us.



Peace and Joy,
Pastor Tom

Pastoral Care

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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.

May Birthdays

06 – Soren Tremblay
28 – Richard ‘Rik’ Hayden

Anniversaries 14 – Michael & Sheila Welch



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

Tellers

Worship Assistant

Reader

May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter – White

Amelia Hinchliffe
Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Acts 9: 1-6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5: 11-14
John 21: 1-19

Hymns: #361 Opening
#377 Hymn of Day
#496 Communion
#365 Closing

May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter - White

Jennifer Welch
Michael Welch

Sheila Welch

The Hinchliffe Family

Readings: Acts 9: 36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7: 9-17
John 10: 22-30

Hymns: #369 Opening
#825 Hymn of Day
#502 Communion
#385 Closing

May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter - White

Cathy Lichanec
Lenny Lichanec

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Acts 11: 1-8
Psalm 148
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 13: 31-35

Hymns: #377 Opening
#359 Hymn of Day
#623 Communion
#389 Closing

May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

Walter Kovaciny
Volunteer

Sheila Welch

The Welch Family

Readings: Acts 16: 9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5
John 14: 23-29

Hymns: #836 Opening
#632 Hymn of Day
#403 Communion
#763

June 1 – Ascension of Our Lord Sunday – White

Amelia Hinchliffe
Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44-53

Hymns: #855 Opening
#430 Hymn of Day
#838 Communion
#393 Closing

May *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Philip & James, <i>Apostles</i>	2 Athanasius, <i>Bishop</i>	3
4 The Third Sunday of Easter 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 Julian of Norwich, <i>Mystic</i>	9	10 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
11 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting Mother's Day	12	13 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 The Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	19	20 Pastor's day off	21 Helena, <i>Christian Ruler</i>	22	23	24 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	26	27 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	28	29 Juraj Tranovsky, <i>Hymnwriter</i>	30	31 Visit of Elizabeth to Mary

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

