

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

May 2023 Newsletter



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Forty days after the Resurrection (May 18 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 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

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

May

Birthdays

06 – Soren Tremblay

28 – Richard “Rik” Hayden

Anniversaries

14 – Michael & Sheila Welch

Musical Event

The Tapestry Singers, directed by Paula Kern
will be performing two concerts to benefit
Kateri Medical Services.

The dates and times for the concerts are:

7 p.m.; Saturday, May 20, 2023

2 p.m.; Sunday, May 21, 2023

The concerts will be at:

Trinity Church

11 Church St.

Tariffville, CT

The songs and music performed contribute to
an excellent event.

May – June 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> |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|

May 7, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 7: 55 – 60; Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 – 16; 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10; John 14: 1 – 14

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns: **Entrance: 380 Hymn of the Day: 369 Communion: 758 Closing: 389**

May 14, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts: 17: 22 – 31; Psalm 66: 8 – 20; 1 Peter 3: 13 – 22; John 14: 15 – 21

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Hymns: **Entrance: 408 Hymn of the Day: 392 Communion: 470 Closing: 449**

May 21, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Ascension of Our Lord – Easter White

Acts 1: 1 – 11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Luke 24: 44 – 53

Jennifer Welch

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Hymns – **Entrance: 855 Hymn of the Day: 430 Communion: 595 Closing: 393**

May 28, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Day of Pentecost – Red

Acts 2: 1 – 21; Psalm 104:24 – 34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b – 13; John 20: 19 – 23

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Laurel Rose

Hymns: **Entrance: 398 Hymn of the Day: 403 Communion: 396 Closing: 400**

June 4, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. – The Holy Trinity – White

Deuteronomy 11: 18-21, 26-28; Psalm 31: 1-5, 19-24; Romans 1: 16-17, 22b-28 [29-31] Matthew 7: 21-29

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns: **Entrance: 413 Hymn of the Day: 408 Communion: 673 Closing: 415**

May *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|----------|--------|---|
| | 1 Philip and James, <i>Apostles</i> | 2 Athanasius, <i>Bishop</i> Pastor Tom's day off | 3 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 The Fifth Sunday after Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour 11:15 a.m. Council meeting | 8 Julian of Norwich, <i>Renewer of the Church</i> | 9 7:00 p.m. Bible Study Studying the Book of Exodus | 10 Pastor Tom's day off | 11 | 12 | 13 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution |
| 14 The Sixth Sunday after Easter 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Mother's Day | 15 Matthias, <i>Apostle</i> | 16 Pastor Tom's day off | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Ascension of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour | 22 Helena and Constantine, <i>Christian Rulers</i> | 23 7:00 p.m. Bible Study Studying the Book of Exodus | 24 Esther, <i>Matriarch</i> Pastor Tom's day off | 25 | 26 | 27 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution |
| 28 The Day of Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion | 29 Juraj Tranovsky, <i>Hymnwriter</i> | 30 Pastor Tom's day off | 31 Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth | | | |

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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

