

HTLC

June 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

Congratulations to Caleb and Soren Tremblay for receiving their first communion from Bishop Wilma Kucharek on Sunday June 26, 2024.



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
(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.

June

Birthdays

15 – Cathy Lichanec
17 – Cassandra ‘Cassie’ Tremblay
26 – Barbara Hoffman
28 – Dianne Pallo

Anniversaries

03 – Bob & Judy Titus
22 – Leonard & Cathy Lichanec

Happy 39th Anniversary

First Communion

Caleb and Soren Tremblay received 1st Communion on Sunday, May 26, 2024. Congratulations to Caleb and Soren for completing this milestone.

June *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Justin, <i>Martyr at Rome</i>
2 The Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	3	4 Pastor Tom's day off 7 p.m. Bible Study	5 Boniface, <i>Missionary to the Germans</i> 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	6	7	8 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
9 The Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting	10 Columba, <i>Missionary to the Picts</i>	11 Barnabas, <i>Apostle</i> Pastor Tom's day off	12 First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea (325)	13	14 Basil, Gregory, & Gregory, <i>Bishops</i> Macrina, <i>Theologian</i>	15
16 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour Father's Day BBQ Dinner 5-6 p.m.	17 Deadline for submitting articles for the July newsletter	18 Pastor Tom's day off 7 p.m. Bible Study	19	20	21	22 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
23 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	24 Nativity of John the Baptist	25 Pastor Tom's day off	26	27 Cyril, <i>Bishop of Alexandria</i>	28 Irenaeus, <i>Bishop of Lyons</i>	29 Peter and Paul, <i>Apostles</i>
30 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

June Service Schedule

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

Tellers**Worship Assistant****Reader****June 2 – Second Sunday after Pentecost – Green**

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Walter Kovaciny

Readings: Deuteronomy 5: 12-15
 Psalm 81: 1-10
 2 Corinthians 4: 5-12
 Mark 2: 23 – 3:6

Hymns: #729 Opening
 #468 Hymn of Day
 #520 Communion
 #805 Closing

June 9 – Third Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Jennifer Welch

Sheila Welch

The Hinchliffe Family

Michael Welch

Readings: Genesis 3: 8-15
 Psalm 130
 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1
 Mark 3: 20-35

Hymns: #504 Opening
 #462 Hymn of Day
 #860 Communion
 #537 Closing

June 16 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Cathy Lichanec

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Lenny Lichanec

Readings: Ezekiel 17: 22-24
 Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15
 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17
 Mark 4: 26-34

Hymns: #679 Opening
 #449 Hymn of Day
 #635 Communion
 #547 Closing

June 23 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

The Welch Family

A Volunteer

Readings: Job 38: 1-11
 Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32
 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13
 Mark 4: 35-41

Hymns: #632 Opening
 #773 Hymn of Day
 #496 Communion
 #763 Closing

June 30 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

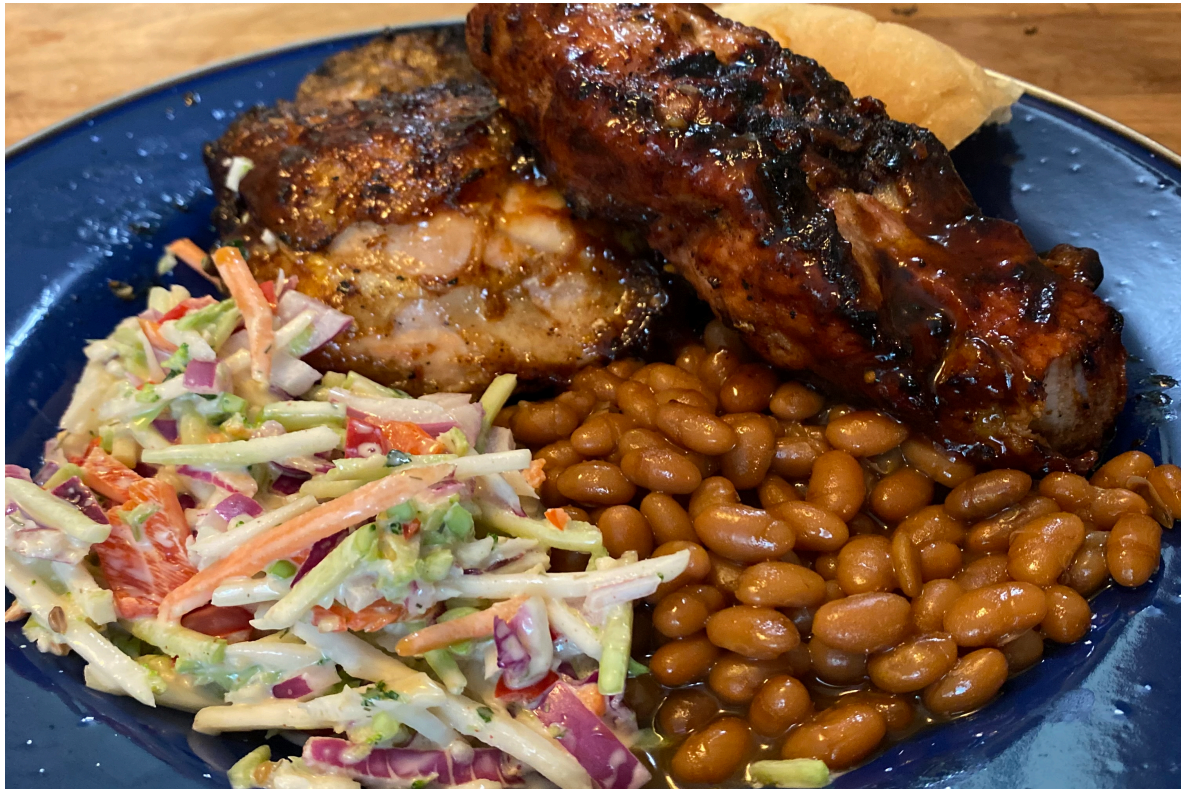
A Volunteer

Readings: Lamentations 3: 22-33
 Psalm 30
 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15
 Mark 5: 21-43

Hymns: #858 Opening
 #617 Hymn of Day
 #733 Communion
 #886 Closing

Congregations to Eric and Paul Mercier on their confirmation on May 19, 2024.





Holy
Trinity
Lutheran

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Father's Day
BBQ Dinner

Sunday, June 16

5 to 6pm - Curbside Pick Up

**BBQ Country Style Pork Ribs,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread, and Dessert**

Individual \$15

Family (feeds 4-6 ppl) \$55

Order By Friday, June 14th, Call or Txt 860-806-2440

104 W Main St, Stafford Springs CT, Green St Entrance

Church

104 West Main St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

