

HTLC

September 2024 Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the book of Hebrews (11:1) we read, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.” Faith is a central part of the spiritual life. It is the way in which despite the limitations of our senses and of space and time, we are able to commune with God. And yet what faith is itself is very often misunderstood.

Many times, we imagine that faith and belief are thinking the right things—knowing about something or knowing something to be true. That is certainly part of it, but only the beginning in fact. Saint James in his letter (2:19) commends his reader for knowing *about* God, but points out that even demons know that God is real and who He is. To know about God is not enough. James concludes that “faith without works is dead.” By this he means that if your faith doesn’t change the way you live or shape your actions, then it’s not really faith. Faith is a living thing, and it brings people to life.

The author of Hebrews spends all of chapter eleven (40 verses!) giving examples of what the Old Testament saints were able to do because they had faith. He describes the great

adventures they were able to set out on, the miracles they performed and witnessed, and the hardships they were able to endure. Yet we are told that though they were commended for their faith, “none of them received what had been promised, since God planned something better for us so that only together with us they would be made perfect.”

Jesus is of course God’s plan for us. He is the fulfillment of every promise of God—the essence of what humanity has hoped for and the very embodiment of God unseen. It is in Him and because of Him that the saints of old and we are made perfect. In the book of Hebrews, the heroes of the faith are shown to be those who persevered because they trusted in God’s plan for them. When they were blessed and prosperous, they trusted that God had an even greater purpose for them; When they suffered, they trusted that God was still good and would make the world right.

Luther defines faith with this in mind. He wrote, “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a person would stake their life on it a thousand times.” To have faith in God means to trust in God’s goodness and rely on God’s grace. When we say, “I believe in God,” we are signifying that we are putting our trust in God and depending on His goodness. This is something that none of us do perfectly, but we make it our goal to grow in trust, and to be reproved and encouraged in faithful living, so that we can pray “I believe. Lord help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).

If then having faith means that our trust is in God, and our confidence in God’s goodness is what propels us, that means not putting our trust in ourselves or our works. If faith is the conviction of things unseen, then when we cling to things we do see we risk missing out on the benefits of faith. The things of this world, my good works, other people and their efforts or accomplishments can be blessings, but putting our trust in them is not faith. God invites us to hope for something greater than we can do ourselves—something greater than we can even see! In Jesus we know that there is no height or depth or distance that God will not go to bring us close. He calls us to, as Luther says, trust *daringly* in God’s grace and not be dependent on the things we can see, but to stake our life and our way of living on God’s goodness alone.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Tom



Pastoral Care

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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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

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.

September Birthdays

07 – Patricia Kovaciny
11 – Nan Hayden
12 – Pauline Valery
13 – Caleb Tremblay
15 – Stacy Fisher
16 – George Pallanck
23 – Frank Paris

Anniversaries

01 – James & Diane Bulick
28 – Bryan & Leigh Maxa
29 – James & Carol Schraffenberger

Upcoming Events

Ziti and Meatball Dinner, September 22, 2024 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Hopefully everyone can support this event so funds are available to pay our obligations.

The Annual Harvest will be held October 2024. Please start thinking of what you can donate to make the event amazing and be willing to help make Kolach.

September Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Worship Assistant

Reader

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: #772 Opening
#759 Hymn of Day
#182 Offertory
#512 Communion
#717 Closing

September 8 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Jennifer Welch
Michael Welch

Sheila Welch

The Hinchliffe Family

Readings: Isaiah 35: 4-7
Psalm 146
James 2: 1-17
Mark 7: 24-37

Hymns: #673 Opening
#612 Hymn of Day
#617 Communion
#620 Closing

September 15 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Cathy Lichanec
Lenny Lichanec

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9
Psalm 116: 1-9
James 3: 1-12
Mark 8: 27-38

Hymns: #774 Opening
#660 Hymn of Day
#468 Communion
#810 Closing

September 22 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Walter Kovaciny
A Volunteer

Sheila Welch

The Welch Family

Readings: Jeremiah 11: 18-20
Psalm 54
James 3: 15 – 4:3, 7-8
Mark 9: 30-37

Hymns: #836 Opening
#781 Hymn of Day
#462 Communion
#807 Closing

September 29 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Walter Kovaciny
A Volunteer

Leigh Maxa

The Lichanec Family

Readings: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19: 7-14
James 5: 13-20
Mark 9: 38-50

Hymns: #719 Opening
#838 Hymn of Day
#396 Communion
#656 Closing

September *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	2	3 Gregory, Bishop Pastor's day off	4 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	5 Zachariah & Elizabeth	6	7
8 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council Meeting	9 Peter Claver, Missionary	10 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	11	12	13 John Chrysostom, Bishop	14 Holy Cross Day 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
15 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	16 Cyprian, Martyr Deadline for articles for the October newsletter	17 Pastor's day off	18	19	20	21 Matthew, Apostle
22 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Ziti and Meatball Dinner 5-6 pm	23	24 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	25	26	27	28 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 Saint Michael and All Angels (The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost) 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	30 Jerome, Translator					

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
STAFFORD SPRINGS



PASTA & MEATBALLS DINNER

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Curb Side Pick-up 5 to 6 pm

(104 W Main St, Stafford Springs, Green St Entrance)

**PENNE PASTA AND MEATBALLS
GARDEN SALAD, FRESH-BAKED BREAD AND DESSERT**

Pre-Order by Calling or Texting
860-806-2440 or 860-458-9397

All orders need to be placed by Friday, September 20 at 5 pm

**Individual \$15, Dinner for Two \$25
Family Dinner for Four \$50**

UP-COMING EVENTS & DINNERS

PASTA AND MEATBALL DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

STAFFORD APPLE FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

*Stop by our booth for some yummy
Halusky and Apple Strudel*

HOLY TRINITY HARVEST SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

*Fresh baked goods, Raffle, Crafts,
Fall Fun, Luncheon Cafe with the Slovak Rieben*

TURKEY DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

*Friends Giving or Turkey Pregame
we have Individual and Large Family Meals for You!*

CHRISTMAS KOLACHE AND COOKIES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21

*Cookie Platters, Poppyseed, Nut, and Apricot Kolache
Pre Order Your Holiday Treats, Hostess Gifts*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

104 West Main St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

www.holytrinitystafford.Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested

