

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2019

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

**Forty days after the Resurrection (May 30, 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 prophesied that Jesus would ascend into heaven and prepare the place for us that He promised



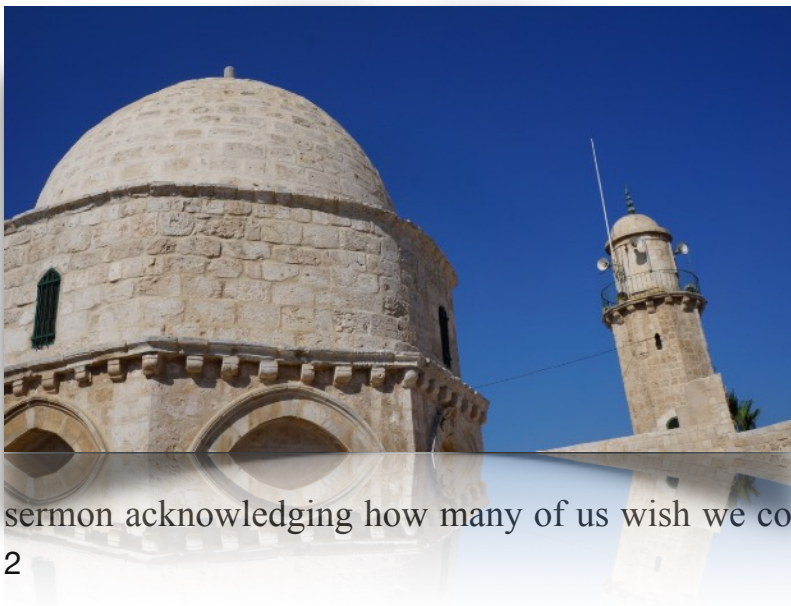
when he said “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be” (John 14:2-3).

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



The Chapel Of The Ascension

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

**Tradition holds that this impression in the rock is Christ's foot print marking where he ascended into heaven.**



## **The History Of Mothers Day**

The History of Mother's Day dates back to the 19th century, when women's peace groups in United States of America often tried to establish holidays and regular activities in favor of peace and against war. A common regular activity was the meeting of groups of mothers whose sons had fought or died in the American Civil War.

In 1868, Ann Jarvis, created a committee to establish a "Mother's Friendship Day" in order to reunite families that had been divided during the Civil War. There were several limited observances in the 1870s and the 1880s but none achieved recognition beyond that. At the time, Protestant schools in the United States already held many celebrations and In New York City, Julia Ward Howe led an anti-war observance (Mother's Day for Peace) on June 2, 1872 which was accompanied by a holiday nowadays known as Mother's Day Proclamation.

Several years later a Mother's Day observance on May 13, 1877 was held in Albion, Michigan over a dispute related to the temperance movement which celebrates Juliet Calhoun Blakeley who stepped up to complete the sermon of the distraught Rev. Myron Daughterty and because of her actions, her sons paid tribute to her each year and urged others to honour their mothers.

In the early 1880s, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Albion set aside the second Sunday in May to recognize the special contributions of mothers. In its present form, Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis with the help of John Wanamaker following the death of her mother, Ann Jarvis, on May 9, 1905. The official service was on May 10, 1908, and the next year the day was reported to be widely celebrated in New York.

Jarvis then campaigned to establish Mother's Day as a United States national holiday and then later as an international holiday. The holiday was declared officially by the state of West Virginia in 1910, and the rest of the states followed quickly.

## **Pastoral Care**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1334  
Office Phone-860-684-7571

Church – [htlc-church@att.net](mailto:htlc-church@att.net)

Website – [htlcstafford.org](http://htlcstafford.org)

Pastor Tom will be on sabbatical.

During this time, he will return messages left to his phone (860-806-2440) and email as quickly as possible.

**In the event of an immediate need or emergency**, you may contact Pastor Ryan or Pastor Kathleen Mills (Holy Trinity Trumbull) at (203) 903-8352, or the synod office at (860) 482-6100.

It you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail mail,

his address during this time is:

Revd. Thomas S. Drobená  
Selwyn College, Cambridge University  
Grange Rd  
Cambridge CB3 9DQ  
United Kingdom

## **Members of the Council are:**

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená  
President – Andrew Fisher  
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny  
Treasurer – Catherine Lichanec  
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe  
Melissa Fisher  
Leonard Lichanec  
Michael Marvonek  
Patricia Marvonek

(Non-Council position)  
Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

## **Service Teams**

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Maxa  
† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,  
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and  
Michael Welch

† Learning & Youth Group Team:  
Rev. Thomas Drobená, Melissa Fisher, 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. Shirley Kaba  
7 High St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1215

Ms. Anna Mandak  
21 Old Monson Rd.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

Mrs. Tonia Marvonek  
Evergreen Health Care Center  
201 Chestnut Hill Rd., Rm. # 2107  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

## **Thanks ...**

... to everyone for the sympathy upon the passing of Barbara Kovaciny. The sympathy cards, posts on Face book and verbal condolences were much appreciated.

Sincerely, The Family of Barbara Kovaciny

## **May Birthdays**

05 – Sarah Bauer  
06 – Soren Tremblay  
07 – Madeline E Bauer;  
07 – Henry R. Bauer  
21 – Terry Hoss  
28 – Richard ‘Rik’ Hayden

## **Anniversaries**

14 – Michael & Sheila Welch  
15 – Richard & Carol Mottes

## May – June Service Schedule

These readings are from Series C and can be found in the front of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants Reader

### **May 5, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 9: 1 – 6 [7 – 20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5: 11 – 14; John 21: 1 – 19

Amelia Hinchliffe

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

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### **May 12, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 9: 36 – 43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7: 9 – 17; John 10: 22 – 30

Sheila Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

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### **May 19, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 11: 1 – 18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21: 1 – 6; John 13: 31 – 35

Catherine Lichanec Daniel Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec Leonard Lichanec

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### **May 26, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 16: 9 – 15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21: 10 to 22: 5; John 14: 23-29 or John 5: 1-9

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

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### **June 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventh Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 16: 16 – 34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17: 20 – 26

Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek Pat Marvonek

This symbol, \_\_\_\_\_, means a volunteer is needed as an Usher, Lay Assistant or Reader. Please consider offering your talents and volunteer. Thanks.

# May *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2019

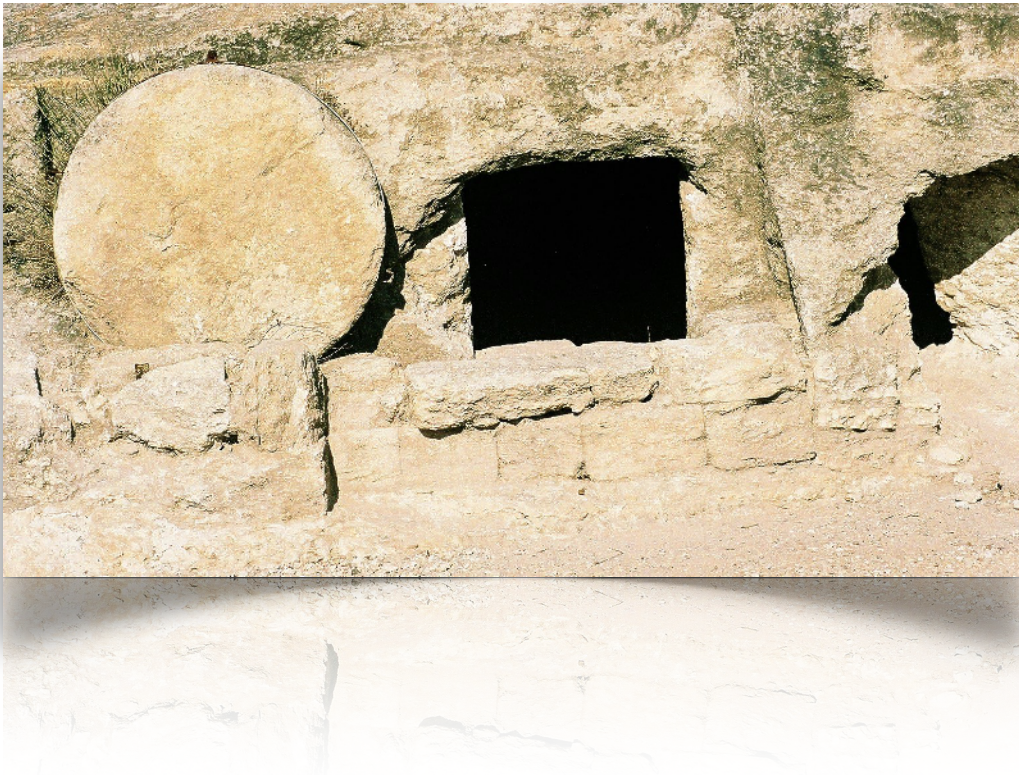
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Philip &amp; James</b> <i>Apostles</i>	2	3	4
<b>5 The Third Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  11:15 a.m. Social Hour	6	7 <i>Pastors Day off</i>	8 <b>Julian of Norwich,</b> <i>Renewer of the Church</i>	9	10	11 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>12 The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting  Mothers Day	13 Deadline for submitting articles / information for the June newsletter	14 <b>Matthias,</b> <i>Apostle</i>	15	16	17	18
<b>19 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	20	21 <i>Pastors Day off</i>	22	23 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. W. I. C.	24	25 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>26 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	27	28 <i>Pastors Day off</i>	29 <b>Juraj Tranovsky,</b> <i>Hymnwriter</i>	30 <b>Ascension Day</b>	31 <b>The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth</b>	



## \*\*\* Coming Events \*\*\*

### May

11, 25 – Safe Net Ministries distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
12: Church Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
104 West Main St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Web site address  
[www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org)  
Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA  
Address Correction Requested





