

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2018

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

February, for many people, is a dreary month. The Christmas decorations have come down, and the spring flowers have not yet come up. The weather can be dreary as well- cold and rainy, the last throws of winter during which people are ready for nicer weather, new holidays, and a return outdoors. The ancient Romans agreed that February was their least favorite time of year, and so days were taken from it and added to more favored months like July and August (both named after Roman Emperors).

This year, February witnesses the beginning of the season of Lent. On February 14th, the Commemoration of Cyril and Methodius, the missionaries to the Slavic people (more popularly Saint Valentine's Day), the Church begins her fasting, confession, and almsgiving, to prepare for Easter.

The concept of fasting, confession, and almsgiving, are surprisingly not as foreign to the world around us as we might pretend. People go on fasts all the time- but they call it dieting. In the world, people may go on diets for health reasons, or frequently because they want to change their appearance and look good at the beach or in a new outfit. As Christians, we don't fast to be trendy, but we do it to wean ourselves off of a bodily pleasures that distract us from spiritual life. In the world, people confess too. If you walk past the restaurant bar you'll hear all kinds of gossiping, people bragging about what they've done- both good and bad. We share all sorts of details about our lives on social media, and a score of TV shows air people's dirty laundry for fame and gain. However, the Christian does not confess her sins to impress people or for attention. The Christian confesses her sins so that God may forgive her wrongs and set her aright. Almsgiving likewise is everywhere in our culture. At the grocery store you can donate to one charitable cause, at your hairdresser to another. But the Christian does not give alms to support their ideology or to get a good feeling about themselves. The Christian gives charity because God has been charitable to him, and because he sees Christ in his neighbour in need.

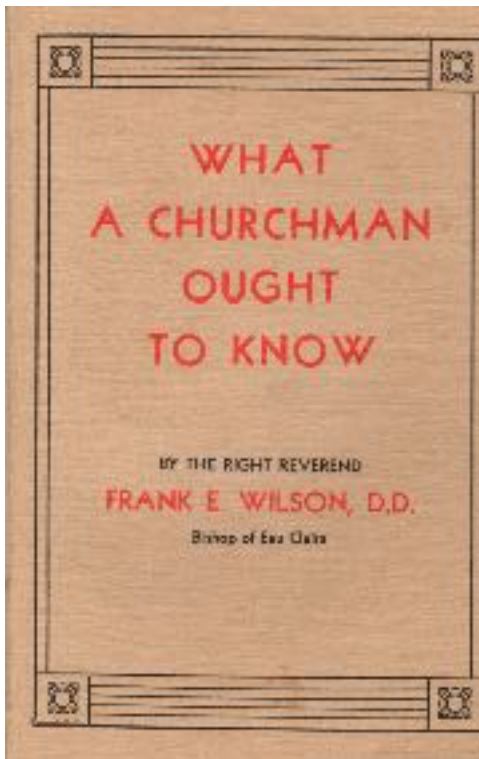
All these Lenten activities in the context of faith and not consumerism are means of purging ourselves of bad motivation, selfish intention, and sinful preoccupation. We purge ourselves of those things that distract us from Christ and the Good News. February in fact comes from the word februus, 'to purge.' Already in ancient Rome it was a time of spring-cleaning. For the Christian Lent is a time for spiritual 'spring-cleaning.' A time to renew, to release, and to clean the cobwebs out of our hearts.

Of course, just like regular cleaning, once a year isn't enough! As Luther writes in the first of his 95 Theses, 'when our Lord and master Jesus Christ said 'repent,' He willed that the entire life of the believer should be repentance.' As Paul said, we must die daily to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Those hearts in which at Christmas we sang we must prepare Christ room must be swept and cleaned regularly. Our spiritual spring-cleaning helps us to set this goal, set our expectations, and keep it all our life.

May we pray that God would strengthen us this season to be renewed, and that we would encourage one another to keep a holy Lent: fast in a holy way, confess in a holy way, give of our self and our treasure in a holy way, so that we might—emptied of self—be filled with the risen life of Christ our God.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom



Just recently I found this little book published in 1921. Maybe I should say rediscovered it. It was passed on to me about 53 years ago by my grandfather. As I reread it I immediately became aware of how differently we think about things today. Many of its principles have laid dormant within me. I thought that I would share it with you and I will be printing excerpts from it over the next few months.. Perhaps we shall rediscover some core beliefs that we have forgotten over the years.

“The Church cannot live for itself. It is essentially missionary. It passes on its treasures. It is never a club for the enjoyment of its members. It is a society for service. (St. Matthew 28:19 and Ephesians 3:8)”

Michael Welch



“In Christian love you have presented Soren Michael Tremblay for Holy Baptism. You should therefore, faithfully bring Soren to the services of God’s house and teach him the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place into his hands the Holy Scriptures, and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the church, he may lead a *godly life* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Having promised to fulfill these obligations we welcome Soren Michael Tremblay into the Lord’s family. We receive him as a fellow member of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.”

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 will be on sabbatical **February 5 to March 8, 2018.**

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. Droben
Selwyn College, Cambridge University
Grange Rd
Cambridge CB3 9DQ
United Kingdom

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Droben
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 Droben, Melissa Fisher, Cathy
& Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Attn: Mrs. Barbara Bulick

Brookdale

1715 Ellington Rd. Room # 212

South Windsor, CT 06074-2702

Ms. Shirley Kaba

7 High St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1215

Attn: Ms. Barbara Kovaciny

Evergreen Health Care Center

205 Chestnut Hill Rd., Room # 1101

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

Mr. Paul C. Kovaciny

242 East St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3923

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

Flowers & Sanctuary Candle Chart

The chart for 2018 is posted in the narthex. When you put your name on the chart for flowers or the sanctuary candle please make out one of the slips at the bottom of the chart. The cost of the Sanctuary Candle is \$5.00 each. Please discuss the type of flowers you wish to have with Pat Marvonek. The cost of the flowers will depend on the type of flowers you wish to have.

Ash Wednesday service

We will once again have Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. with the service led by Rev. Thomas J. Drobeno. The Rev. Thomas J. Drobeno has graciously agreed to come up from Holy Trinity, Torrington, CT so we can have Ash Wednesday worship. .

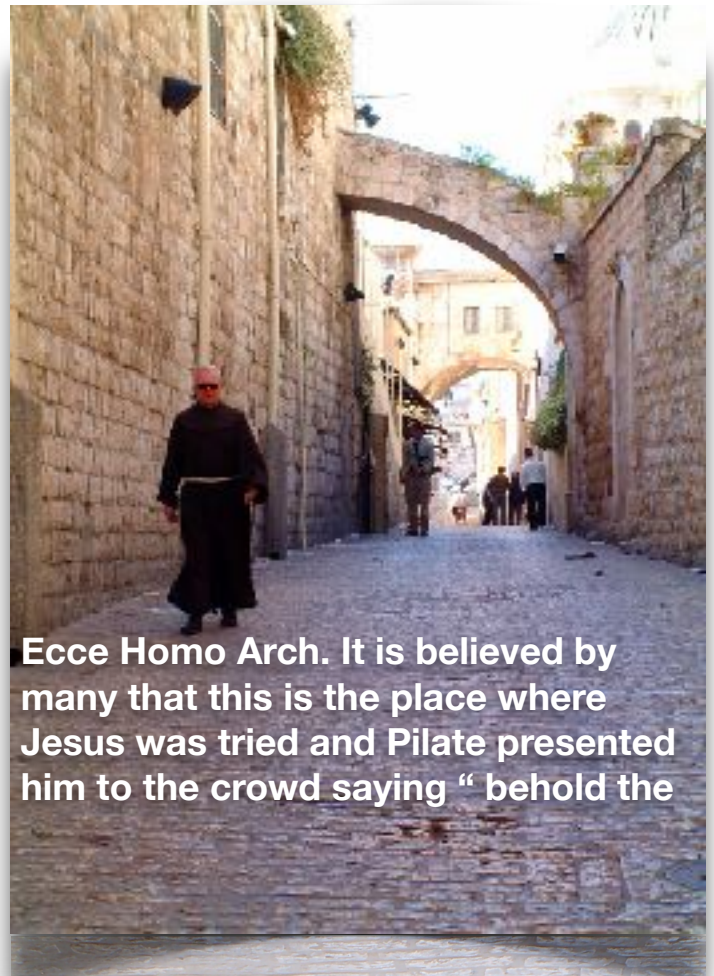
February

Birthdays

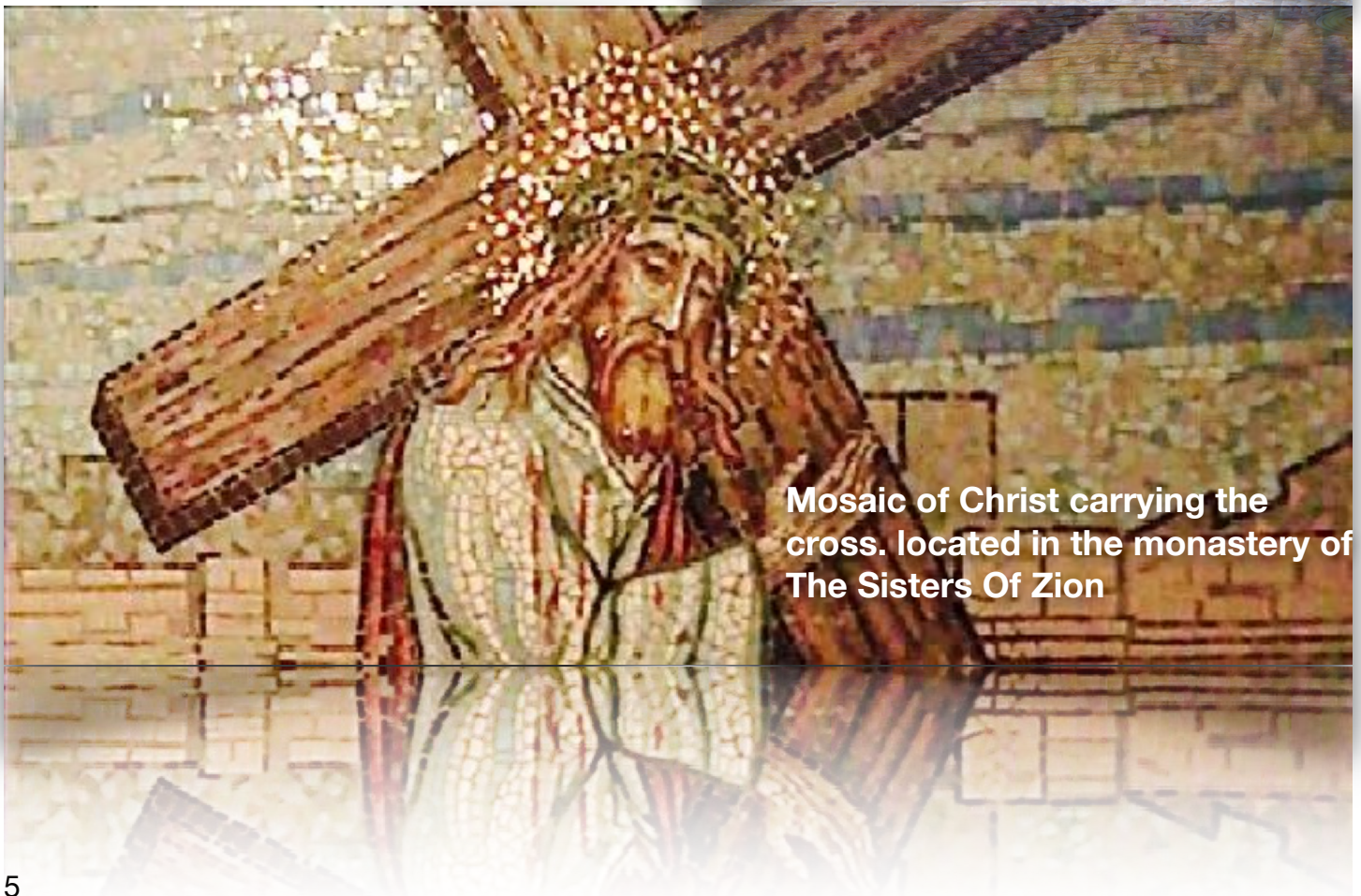
01 – Dorothy Tonoli
05 – David Molitoris
13 – Joan Fittz
20 – Kathy Hinchliffe
20 – Tyler Murray
24 – Patricia Marvonek

Anniversaries

03 – David & Shirley Molitoris
22 – Richard & Jean Palacko



Ecce Homo Arch. It is believed by many that this is the place where Jesus was tried and Pilate presented him to the crowd saying “ behold the



Mosaic of Christ carrying the cross. located in the monastery of The Sisters Of Zion

February – March Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants/Reader

February 4, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Green

Isaiah 40: 21 – 31; Psalm 147: 1 – 11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16 – 23; Mark 1: 29 – 39

Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		

February 11, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Transfiguration of Our Lord - White

2 Kings 2: 1 – 12; Psalm 50: 1 – 6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6; Mark 9: 2 – 9

Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		

February 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday – Purple

Isaiah 58: 1 – 12; Psalm 51: 1 – 17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b to 6: 10; Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

Cathy Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec	Walter Kovaciny		

February 18, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday in Lent – Purple

Genesis 9: 8 – 17; Psalm 25: 1 – 10; 1 Peter 3: 18 – 22; Mark 1: 9 – 15

Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		

February 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday in Lent – Purple

Genesis 17: 1 – 7, 15 – 16; Psalm 22: 23 – 31; Romans 4: 13 – 25; Mark 8: 31 – 38

Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	A Volunteer		

March 4, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday in Lent – Purple

Exodus 20: 1 – 17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25; John 2: 13 – 22

Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		

Attention all Lay Assistants and Volunteers that help with services

This includes Council Members, (Tellers), Ushers, Worship Assistants and Readers.

Please let me know dates and days of when you aren't available to serve in your position. It's much easier to find a replacement (when available) prior to typing the Monthly Service Schedule rather than finding a replacement after the schedule is typed or you just don't show up.

You can hand me a piece of paper when we see each other at church; or send me an email at walterkovaciny@cox.net or send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally. Thanks to everyone for their assistance for this. Walter Kovaciny, Part of the newspaper team.

February *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Presentation of our Lord	3
4 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	5 The Martyrs of Japan (1597)	6	7 6:30 a.m. Troop 81 Cub Scouts	8	9	10 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
11 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting	12 Deadline for submitting articles / information for the March newsletter	13	14 6:30 a.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	15 Cyril, Monk; Methodius, Bishop (observed)	16	17
18 The First Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	19 Martin Luther, Reformer (observed)	20	21	22	23 Polycarp, Bishop	24 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
25 The Second Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	26	27	28 6:30 a.m. Troop 81 Cub Scouts			

***** Coming Events *****

7 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.

7, 14 & 28 – Troop 81, Cub scouts – 6:30 p.m.

10 & 24 – Safe Net Distribution – 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

11 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.

12 – Deadline for Submitting Articles / Information for the March newsletter

14 – Ash Wednesday Worship service with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes – 7 p.m.

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

Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

