

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church *December 2019 Newsletter*

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Christmas season approaches faster and faster every year it seems. Some stores began putting out Christmas decorations and items in August. The rest of them seem to have put everything Christmas out the day after Halloween. Despite the consumer temptation to celebrate Christmas as soon as the shelves are stocked and to observe it by buying as much as we can, the Christians remember that (to quote Dr. Seuss) “Christmas doesn’t come from a store... Christmas means a little bit more.”

Christmas is more than a time for gift giving, or family gatherings and nostalgia. Christmas is more than even remembering the story of how Jesus was born. Christmas is about a

relationship. This relationship is one that seems almost the opposite of what many people think Christmas is supposed to be about. This relationship is one that doesn't rush about, doesn't show affection by buying things, and it doesn't stress about finding time for people

This relationship is the perfect communion of God and humanity in the person of Jesus. Jesus is God-with-us. God born in space and time to show us his unconditional regard and love for us by giving his own self. Jesus was born to take on our nature and our lot and to share our experience.

But Jesus in doing so does something beyond what a secular Christmas season promises. Jesus shares his time and presence with us not simply for our consolation, but to be our strength. He saves us not just to comfort us, but to renew us. And so, Christians don't simply remember the birth of Christ to feel better about our situation in this life. We remember the birth of Christ because it reminds us who we are. We are a new creation. We are the people with whom God dwells and in whom God dwells.

And this changes us not for a season, but for the whole of our lives. This is why despite the carefully kept Christmas season the Church observes, we sing the Christmas song of the angels throughout the year at Holy Communion: "Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to God's people on earth."

Christmas should be a special time of year for people who are changed by the Gift of Christmas all year round. This season isn't one of saccharine sentimentality but of thanksgiving for God's loving and amazing rescue mission. It is the time when we remember that God kept his promise to us and that because of his coming everything has changed.

This is not just another holiday. We are preparing to celebrate the day the world began to change. Let us celebrate the newness and the peace this day brought to humanity in lives of praise and in fearlessly glorifying God.

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 tsd33@cam.ac.uk

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená
President – Andrew Fisher
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny
Treasurer –
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

December Birthdays

05 – The Rev. Thomas S. Drobená
08 – Danny Lichanec
09 – Jennifer Welch
17 – Paul Hockla
19 – Carl ‘Tim’ Mercier
20 – Melissa Fisher
23 – Finnegan Cooley
27 – Anna Mae Hockl

Goodies Needed

Please be willing to make some Cookies,
Pastry and Candy so gift plates can be made
for the church members that we go singing
Carols to. Bring your donations to church on
December 15th.

Christmas Caroling

Bring some joy to our shut-in members
of HTLC and join us with singing some
familiar Christmas Carols; Sunday,
December 15th @ 1 p.m.

Offering Deadline Sunday, December 29,
2019 is the last day in 2019 to get your
offering to church to receive credit in 2019.
Any offering received after that date will be
credited to you in 2020.

Christmas Party!!!

Tuesday December 10th

6:00pm

**Come join the fun and
fellowship.**



December – January Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants Reader

December 1, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Advent – Blue

Isaiah 2: 1 – 5; Psalm 122; Romans 13: 11 – 14; Matthew 24: 36 – 44

Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek Pat Marvonek

December 8, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent – Blue

Isaiah 11: 1 – 10; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 18 – 19; Romans 15: 9 – 13; Matthew 3: 1 – 12

Sheila Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

December 15, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Advent – Blue

Isaiah 35: 1 – 10; Psalm 146: 5 – 10; James 5: 7 – 10; Matthew 11: 2 – 11

Catherine Lichanec Daniel Lichanec

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec Leonard Lichanec

December 22, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Blue

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16; Psalm 80: 1 – 7, 17 – 19; Romans 1: 1 – 7; Matthew 1: 18 – 25

Melissa Fisher Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

December 24, 2019 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve with Candles – White

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 1 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]

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Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

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December 25, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day – White

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1 – 4 [5 – 12]; John 1: 1 – 14

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Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Sheila Welch

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December 29, 2019 – The First Sunday after Christmas – White

Isaiah 63: 7 – 9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10 – 18; Matthew 2: 13 – 23

Walter Kovaciny Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

January 5, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord – Green

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14; Ephesians 3: 1 – 12; Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

December *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The First Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	2	3 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	4 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	5	6 Nicholas, Bishop	7 Ambrose, Bishop
8 The Second Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Tree Trimming	9 Deadline for submitting information for the January newsletter	10 6:00 p.m. Christmas Party	11 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	12	13 Lucy, Bishop	14 9 a.m. to 12:45 a.m. Safe Net Distribution
15 The Third Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. Meet at Church for Caroling	16	17 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	18 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	19 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. W.I.C.	20	21
22 The Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	23 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	24 Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	26 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Stephen, <i>Deacon and First Martyr</i>	27 John, Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents 7:30 p.m. Vespers 9 a.m. to 12:45 a.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 The First Sunday after Christmas 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 4:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	30 This is the last day to make contributions for credit in 2019.	31 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	1 Circumcision of our Lord 7:30 p.m. Vespers			

Christmas Poinsettias

The members and friends of Holy Trinity are encouraged to donate poinsettias each Christmas in order to give Glory to God and beautify our sanctuary during the Nativity liturgies. Those who donate the poinsettias may take them after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25th. The cost of each poinsettia is \$7.00.

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

OR

Given in loving memory of (for the deceased) _____

Please return this form to Walter Kovaciny with the correct payment, by Sunday, December 1st. The florist wants count on Monday, December 2nd. If paying by check, it should be payable to the: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please indicate what color and quantity poinsettia(s) you would like, red ____ or white _____. **Instead of marking the color with a check mark or the letter 'x', please put the quantity in the area instead.** Hopefully that will prevent me from guessing. **Thank you.** Christmas Poinsettias

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**** Coming Events ****

December

- 1 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.
- 8 – Tree Trimming – 11:15 a.m.
- 10 – Christmas Party – 6:00 p.m.
- 14 & 28 – Safe Net Distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- 15 – Christmas Caroling – 1:00 p.m.
- 24 – Christmas Eve worship – 8:00 p.m.
- 25 – Christmas Day worship – 10:00 a.m.
- 26 – Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.
- 28 – Vespers – 7:30 p.m.

January

- 1 – Vespers 7:30 p.m.

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

Web site address
www.holytrinitystafford.org
Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA
Address Correction Requested

