

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2019

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



**ZIPPORI - SEPPHORIS THEATER FOUR MILES FROM NAZARETH. JESUS AND HIS FATHER MOST LIKLY WORKED HERE. CLICK LINK FOR VIDEO**

[https://youtu.be/Y\\_lUOk3T1SQ](https://youtu.be/Y_lUOk3T1SQ)

**Dear Sisters and Brothers** God's plan of salvation is simple, but living as a Christian is not. Unfortunately there are many voices that would try and tell us otherwise. Preachers who only talk about prosperity or make the Gospel a self-help program are simply wrong. And even the most well-meaning assertion that the church is there just to make us feel good is misleading.

Consider the command from Jesus, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34-35). That seems simple enough, and we can easily call this a lifestyle and give lip service to it. But what does it mean to love one another? Jesus certainly doesn't qualify his command to say "once in a while" or "when it is easy." Jesus doesn't even say, "Love those who are nice to you" or "love those who will love you back." Jesus says there's no merit in that because "even sinners love those who love them." Rather Jesus gives us a radical command, and explains that we are to even love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us.

It's one thing to admire Jesus' words. It's another thing entirely to try and live by them. We say we will pray for our enemies, but somehow we can find it hard to spend time with even friends who irritate us or who have upset us. We can understand how it is a loving thing to give correction to someone, but we ourselves hate being corrected.

When we think of the church only as a place to make us feel better, then it's not a place we are going to want to remain when we feel uncomfortable. If we focus on the church being a place where I come for comfort, then the presence of sinners and hypocrites is going to bother me,

and I'll likely end up ignoring my own sin. But when we see the church for what it is, the bride of Christ, made up of broken people who want to become holy for Jesus' sake, then we'll be a little more forgiving and more open to forgiveness.

I think it's uplifting that no matter how imperfect any of us may be, God works his purposes among us. It's inspiring to me that God wants even our struggles to be an opportunity to grow and practice loving each other. When loving our neighbor is hard to do, God gives us the Church to be a safe place to work at it instead of throwing in the towel.

This is part of the reason why we need the Church. We need to wrestle with each other, to be stretched together as we grow, and to be strengthened by Christ. We may not want to wrestle with our family members but it's unrealistic to think that we're going to only share positive, happy experiences with them, and never need to forgive one of them or be forgiven by one of them. So this struggle, when it happens, is a good thing. It's a sign that we're growing and being challenged to forgive others the way we have been forgiven. We need to be reminded constantly of our forgiveness in Christ. Of the forgiveness we so desperately need to receive, and the forgiveness in him we are called to give: the forgiveness that is born out of love for one another.

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Tom



**Church Of The Beatitudes**

## February – March 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

#### **February 3, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Green**

Jeremiah 1: 4 – 10; Psalm 71: 1 – 6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13; Luke 4: 21 – 30

Amelia Hinchliffe

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Pat Marvonek

#### **February 10, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Green**

Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 [9 – 13]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11; Luke 5: 1 – 11

Sheila Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Cathy Lichanec

#### **February 17, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – Green**

Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10; Psalm 1: 1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20; Luke 6: 17 – 26

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec Leonard Lichanec

#### **February 24, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany – Green**

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Psalm 27: 1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50; Luke 6: 27-38

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Cathy Lichanec

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

#### **March 3, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. The Transfiguration of Our Lord – White**

Exodus 34: 29 – 35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12 to 4: 2; Luke 9: 28 – 36 [37 – 43]

Amelia Hinchliffe

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Pat Marvonek

#### **March 6, 2019 – 7:30 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

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Walter Kovaciny

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

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Leonard Lichanec

## **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 until  
Sunday, February 10, 2019.

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.

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

his address during this time is:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena  
Selwyn College, Cambridge University  
Grange Rd  
Cambridge CB3 9DQ  
United Kingdom

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

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

## **Service Teams**

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Maxa  
† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,  
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and †  
Learning & Youth Group Team:  
Rev. Thomas Drobena, Melissa Fisher, 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. 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

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



## **Annual Meeting for 2018**

Due to the snow and ice storm on January 20, 2019 The Rev. Thomas S. Drobeno and Vice-President Walter Kovaciny made the decision to cancel the church service and the Congregational meeting. After some thought including consulting the members of council a decision was made to reschedule the Congregational meeting to Sunday, March 10, 2019. Hopefully by then the weather will not be as bad and the meeting can be held.

### **Flower and Candle Chart**

The Flower and Candle Chart for 2019 has been posted. Please consider donating flowers or the Sanctuary Candle in honor or memory of a loved one. To order flowers or the candle, please put your name on the chart. Talk to Pat Marvonek about the type of flowers you would like so Pat can work with your wishes. The price for the 2-arrangements depends on the type of flowers ordered.

The Sanctuary Candle remains at \$5.00 each.

Thanks to Leigh Maxa for making the chart this year.

## **February Birthdays**

01 – Dorothy Tonoli  
08 – William ‘Bill’ Sevcik  
13 – Joan Fittz  
13 – Donald Hoffman  
20 – Kathy Hinchliffe  
20 – Tyler Murray  
24 – Patricia Marvonek  
28 – Matthew Mordasky

### **Anniversaries**

We don't have any anniversaries listed.  
If this is incorrect, please let us know.

## **Entrance to the Large parking lot**

You'll notice orange cones blocking the entrance to the lot. This is to prevent people from using the lot without permission. There should be enough room in the small parking lot, along the sidewalk on Converse St. and the sides of Green St. for the current parishioners to park.



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

### February

6 & 23 – Safe Net Distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:45 a.m

10 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.

10 – Church Council meeting – 11:45 a.m.

11 – Deadline for submitting information for the March newsletter.

12 – Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.

28 – WIC 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.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

