

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2019

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 0607



Dear Brothers and Sisters

The New Year brings with it a tradition of resolutions. Of optimism. Of looking forward to the new. The resolutions and renewals for a new you in the new year often come informed by the old year, the old you, and the insights you've attained. The joys we've experienced, the pain we've suffered, and the love we've shared move us to want more of the good and something different than the bad.

Many preachers and thinkers and motivational speakers will happily talk about the power of positive thinking. "If you want things to change for you, just change your outlook!" This might work for some, but it doesn't always work for everyone. Indeed, if it was within our power to always change things with just a simple attitude adjustment, we wouldn't need a Savior, would we?

At Christmas we heard the news that Jesus comes into the world to enlighten it. To be a “light shining in the darkness” so that “those who walked in darkness might see a great light.” To be “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.” As C.S. Lewis wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

Something in us changes, when the light of Christ enters our world and dispels our darkness. The new us, and new life, and indeed new year have less to do with us being able to change things by the way we think about them. Instead we are able to see clearly and our understanding of things changes the way in which we, ourselves, are affected by them.

Christians are not self-help gurus: It is not all within our power to control, to pick ourselves up by our bootstraps. Neither are we hopeless fatalists: It is not all predestined and determined and outside our control. Rather we are people in a relationship with Jesus, the One in whom power and powerlessness meet and are reconciled. The one in whom our world is illuminated so that we can see purpose and potential through God’s own eyes.

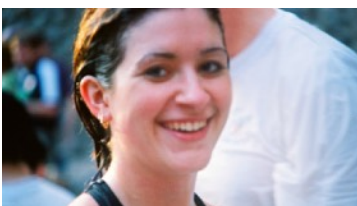
In Jesus—with the coming of Jesus into the world—our perception of things change. One of my favourite examples of this awareness is in the Eucharistic Prayer as used by our Orthodox brothers and sisters. In it they say, “On the night in which He was betrayed—*or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world*—He took bread, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples...”

“*Or rather!*” What a wonderful phrase for us Christians to learn! It is jarring in its awkwardness and beautiful in its profundity. “*Or rather*” is the stuff of theology. It is an acknowledgment that things are not always as they appear. An acknowledgement and a celebration that God is working invisibly. Sometimes through us, sometimes in spite of us, but always *for us*. “*Or rather*” does not negate suffering. It does not belittle our joys or accomplishments. Rather it points us to something much deeper that we can only appreciate when we see things in the context of God’s working among us.

Perhaps, our resolutions for this coming year can be to notice the “or rather” in our lives. “This year, I experienced a lot of loss.... *Or rather*, this year God taught me the value of what I have.” “This year, I was blessed with much... *or rather*, I was given the means to bless others.” “This year I have been hurt... *or rather*, I have been challenged to forgive, the way I have been forgiven.” The idea of “*or rather*” reframes our understanding of Who is in control of our lives, and what story we are a part of, according to the example of the One “who was betrayed... *or rather*, gave Himself up for the life of the world.”

Let us entrust our lives— and with them the year to come— to Him who opens our eyes to how great a story we are part of.

Pastor Thomas



The John The Baptist Cave Video

<https://youtu.be/ZOPPFfoSPB4>

Just click the link and rediscover what was lost in antiquity.

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.
January 22- February 25, 2019
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
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

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

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

January Birthdays

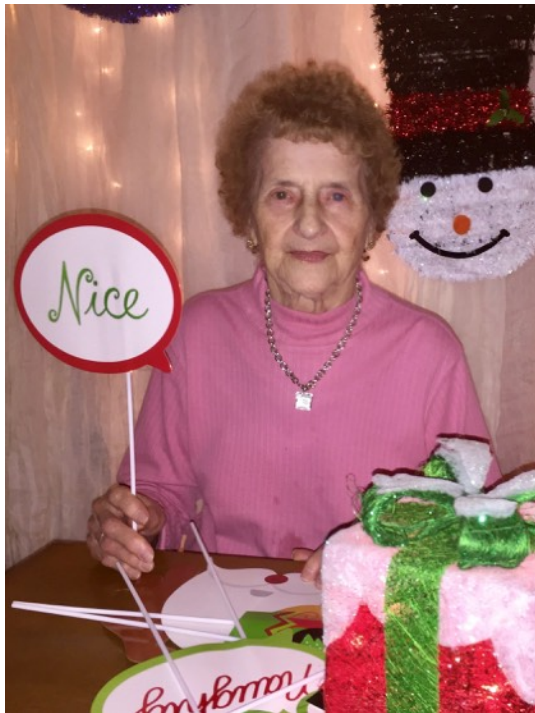
13 – Vera Marko
13 – Olga M. Panciera
15 – Steve Marvonek
15 – Eric Mercier
15 – Paul Mercier
22 – Leonard Lichanec
26 – Michael Marvonek
27 – Ashley Titus

Sunday, December 30, 2018

😊 All committee reports are due today.

😊 This is the last day to make contributions for credit in 2018.

We do not morn the passing, we morn the absence.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Congregation will be Sunday, **January 20, 2019** after church. If there aren't enough attendees to make a quorum, the meeting will be scheduled to be held each Sunday following until a quorum stays for the meeting. But you can't leave the meeting once you've been counted as part of the quorum.



January – February 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

January 6, 2019 – 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

Michael Marvonek

Pat Marvonek

January 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Baptism of Our Lord – White

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14 – 17; Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22

Sheila Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Cathy Lichanec

January 20, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Epiphany – Green

Isaiah 62: 1 – 5; Psalm 36: 5 – 10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11; John 2: 1 – 11

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec Leonard Lichanec

January 27, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Epiphany – Green

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 112 – 31a; Luke 4: 14 – 21

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| | | 1 Circumcision of our Lord 7:00 p.m. Vespers | 2 <i>Pastor's Day off</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>Pastor's Day off</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution |
| 13 The Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting | 14 Deadline for submitting articles / information for the February newsletter | 15 <i>Bible Study At Parsonage 7:00 p.m.</i> | 16 <i>Pastor's Day off</i> | 17 | 18 Confession of Saint Peter | 19 |
| 20 The Second Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:10 a.m. Annual Meeting | 21 Agnes, Martyr | 22 | 23 <i>Pastor's Day off</i> | 24 | 25 Conversion of Saint Paul | 26 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution |
| 27 The Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion | 28 | 29 <i>Pastor's Day off</i> | 30 | 31 | | |

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

January

- 1 – Vespers – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.
- 12 & 26 – Safe Net Distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:45 a.m.
- 13 – Church Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 15 – Bible Study at the Parsonage – 7:00 p.m.
- 20 – Annual Congregation meeting – 11:10 a.m.
- 24 – 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

Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

Address Correction Requested

