

HTLC Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care January 2021



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.



The Pinnacle where tradition holds Satan tempted Christ

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 favorite 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 Tom



Pastoral Care

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Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena
President – Andrew Fisher
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny
Treasurer – Sheila Welch
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Melissa Fisher
Cathy Lichanec
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 Drobena, 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

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

January Birthdays

01 – Carol Caisse
13 – Vera Marko
13 – Olga M. Panciera
15 – Eric Mercier
15 – Paul Mercier
21 – Bob Titus
22 – Leonard Lichanec
26 – Michael Marvonek

Annual Reports

All reports are due by, Sunday, January 10,
2021. Earlier is appreciated.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for Sunday,
January 17, 2021 after church. The members
worshiping via phone or ZOOM will be able
to take part in the meeting. Please make
every effort to attend the meeting so we meet
the quorum. If we don't have a quorum, the
meeting will be scheduled for each Sunday
until a quorum is met.

Hymn Numbers

The hymn numbers are now included with
the readings shown in the Service Schedule.
This is an effort to help members and friends
that worship via Telephone or ZOOM.

Thanks...

To everyone who helped with the Christmas
Bake Sale.

January – February Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Worship Assistant

Reader

January 3, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Christmas – White

Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Psalm Wisdom 10: 15-21; Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: [1-9] 10-18

Hymns – **Entrance:** 270, **Hymn of Day:** 283, **Offertory:** 296, **Communion:** 295, **Closing:** 287

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Pat Marvonek

January 10, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Epiphany of Our Lord – White

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

Hymns – **Entrance:** 302, **Hymn of Day:** 308, **Communion:** 275, **Closing:** 310

Michael Welch

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Sheila Welch

January 17, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Baptism of Our Lord – White

Genesis 1: 1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11

Hymns – **Entrance:** 310, **Hymn of Day:** 311, **Communion:** 396, **Closing:** 673

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

January 24, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Epiphany – Green

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20; John 1: 43-51

Hymns – **Entrance:** 810, **Hymn of Day:** 574, **Communion:** 747, **Closing:** 676

Amelia Hinchliffe

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

January 31, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Epiphany – Green

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

Hymns – **Entrance:** 675, **Hymn of Day:** 696, **Communion:** 512, **Closing:** 661

Michael Welch

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Sheila Welch

February 7, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Green

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13; Mark 1: 21 – 28

Hymns – **Entrance:** 311, **Hymn of Day:** 434, **Communion:** 614, **Closing:** 886

Pat Marvonek

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Amelia Hinchliffe

While we're maintaining Social Distancing, the Ushers wouldn't be scheduled.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Please consider volunteering as an **Teller, Lay Assistant or Reader**. The signup sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex. Thanks.

January *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Circumcision of our Lord	2
3 The Second Sunday of Christmas 10 a.m. Holy Communion	4	5 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	6	7	8	9 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Ministry
10 Epiphany of Our Lord 10 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting Deadline for submitting annual Reports	11	12 <i>Pastor's day off</i> Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter	13	14	15	16
17 Baptism of Our Lord 10 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational meeting	18 Confession of Peter	19 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	20	21 <i>Agnes, Martyr</i>	22	23 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Ministry
24 The Second Sunday after Epiphany 10 a.m. Holy Communion	25 Conversion of Paul	26 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	27	28 Thomas Aquinas, Teacher	29	30
31 The Third Sunday after Epiphany 10 a.m. Holy Communion						

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Website address www.holytrinitystafford.org Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested



