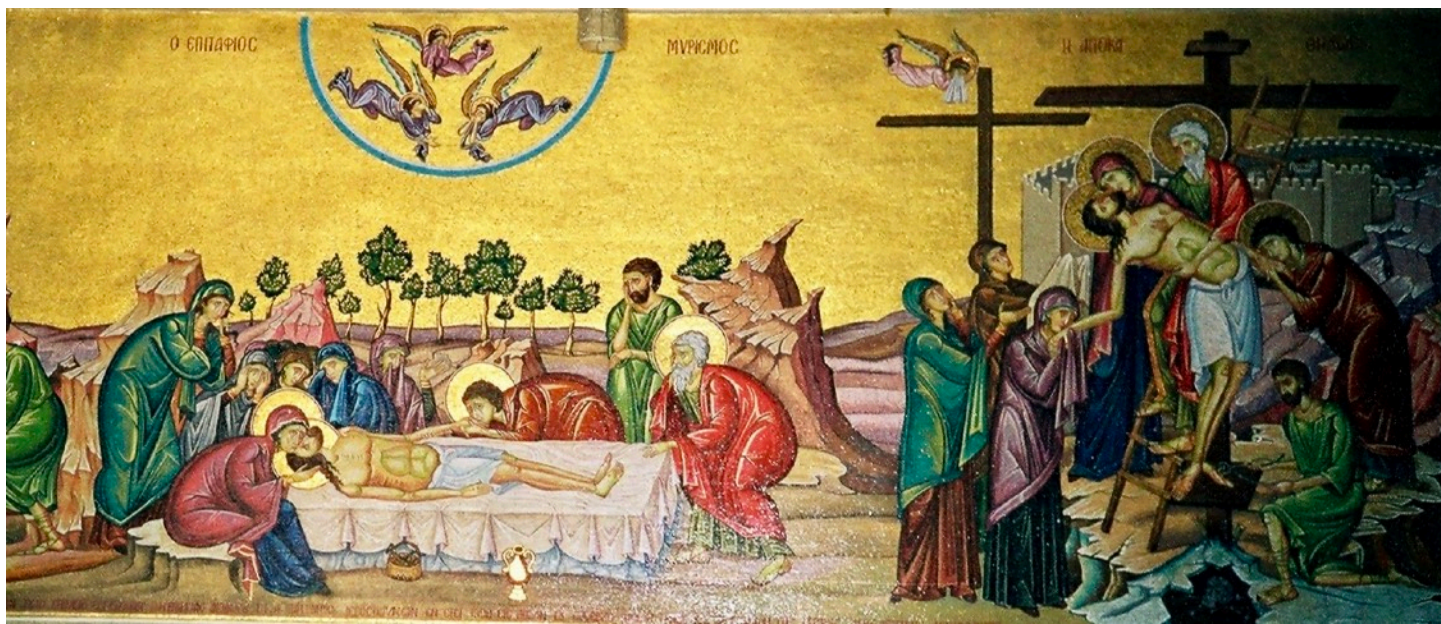


HTLC Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care March 2021



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During Lent we cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit. Or rather, by engaging in a discipline (literally, “being a disciple” together), we make room in our hurried and much-preoccupied lives for God to cultivate the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in us.

Saint Paul tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). But easier said than done! Often times in our Christian life we get excited about things like love and joy and peace—“I can do that!” But these fruits are not on a menu—they are on the branch that the Christian is (that you and I are), which is grafted onto the vine that is Christ. God desires for us to produce *all* these fruits—not just the ones we feel like. And this is important because in the world we live in, many of these Fruits of the Spirit are not considered virtues.

Everyone says that they want peace, yet many embrace justifications for war, or hold grudges against their neighbor. Everyone says to be kind and to be good, yet many turn their face away when a beggar asks for change, or don’t help a friend in need. Most people say that being faithful is good, yet many repeat things they don’t know to be true or rationalize being dishonest at home or in business. Fewer still believe that gentleness is a virtue. It might befit grandma, but we end up idolizing and emulating bullies because we think acting tough is a sign of strength. And perhaps the fewest people of all appreciate self-control. After all, I can get

almost anything I want, and the shipping is free! “I can do whatever I want and who are you to stop me?”

But these Fruits of the Spirit—these qualities seen most clearly in Jesus Christ, the most free and the most holy and the most perfect one—are what God seeks to cultivate in us.

And if we can't be disciplined to bear good fruit, it's hard to call ourselves disciples. If we live out only some of these virtues that sound good to us and conveniently ignore others that are less appealing, then it's hard to say we are living in the Spirit, instead of just living inside ourselves.

Saint Paul makes this observation a couple verses down in Galatians 5:25: “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” So if we really do have the Holy Spirit within us by having received “the gift of the Holy Spirit” in Baptism, there is nothing holding us back from that life in the Spirit but ourselves, dear friends.

So how do we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit? Is it just to try to exhibit all these fruits? Just try hard, and that proves you're walking in the Spirit? No, that's not how you get fruit! To get fruit from a tree, it has to be planted well, watered, fertilized, pruned, and so on. And we ourselves, remember have been planted in the Church by Holy Baptism. We are watered and fertilized—nourished by Jesus' own Body and Blood, by the forgiveness of sins and by the Holy Scriptures, and by prayer. And we have to be pruned by cutting out those things that are bad for us, the things that waste our nutrients and energy, by living simply and giving of ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

It's not insignificant that it's called “walking in the Spirit” and “living in the Spirit.” This life, the *spiritual life*, puts us in direct contact with the Holy Spirit. Indeed it immerses us and fills us with the presence of God. And that presence should change us. Transform us. Not merely into moral people (although morality will result from living in the Spirit), but into a *holy* people.

What makes you different from others in the world? What makes you different from your former self? You are to be growing in holiness. And each time we come together we are renewed in all these good things. We are fortified in the gifts and the very freedom that Jesus has won for us with his precious death and resurrection. And as our faith is strengthened, our life in the Spirit is strengthened, so that everything we do it marked by this love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Let these things be how you do everything you set your hand and mind to. And let the Holy Spirit cultivate them in you, and make you fruitful.

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. Drobena
President – Andrew Fisher
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny
Treasurer – Sheila Welch
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
† Hospitality Committee: Amelia Hinchliffe
and Jennifer Welch
† 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

Attn: Ms. Shirley Kaba
Douglas Manor
103 North Rd.
Windham, CT 06230

Ms. Anna Mandak
21 Old Monson Rd.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

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

March

Birthdays

02 – Amelia Hinchliffe
06 – Michael Welch
11 – James Scharffenberger
18 – Tonia Marvonek

Anniversaries

We aren't aware of any anniversaries
in March. If this is wrong, please let us
know.

Thanks to everyone...

... who helped at or purchased meals for the
Valentine's Day Pork Dinner. The next meal
will be March 14th, Saint Patrick's Day
Dinner. The menu includes Irish stew, (a rich
beef stew with potatoes, root vegetables and
a bit of Irish Stout), garden salad, dinner rolls
and chocolate mint cake for dessert. The
price is \$10.00 per person.

Entering Church

For those members that like to enter church
using the front door, we're asking that you
use the handicap ramp rather than the stairs
leading to the front door. The metal railing
on the right side of the stairs is broken at the
base. You can also enter downstairs into the
Social Hall and walk in the hallway and
climb the stairs into the Narthex. The repair
has to wait for warm weather to be done
properly. Thanks for everyone's cooperation
with this.

Sincerely,
The Church Council

March / April *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	3	4	5	6
7 The Third Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	8 Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs	9 Pastor's day off	10	11	12 Gregory, Bishop of Rome	13 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
14 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Pick-Up: 5-6pm	15	16 Pastor's day off	17 Patrick, Missionary & Bishop of Ireland	18	19 Joseph, Guardian of our Lord	20
21 The Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Deadline to order Easter Lilies	22	23 Pastor's day off	24 Oscar Romero, Martyr	25 The Annunciation 7:30 p.m. Vespers	26	27 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
28 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	29 Holy Monday	30 Fig Tuesday	31 Spy Wednesday	April 1 Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion	April 2 Good Friday 7:30 p.m. Worship	April 3 The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion
April 4 The Resurrection of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

Easter Lilies

The members and friends of Holy Trinity are encouraged to donate Lilies each Easter to give Glory to God and beautify our sanctuary during the Easter liturgies. Those who donate the Lilies may take them after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Easter Sunday, April 4th. The cost of each Lily is \$8.00.

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

OR

Given in loving memory of (for the dead) _____

Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, April 28th. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. All the flowers will be White Lilies, no colors. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered _____. If you don't want to take your Lilies, please check here _____ and the plants will be given away.

Easter Lilies

The members and friends of Holy Trinity are encouraged to donate Lilies each Easter to give Glory to God and beautify our sanctuary during the Easter liturgies. Those who donate the Lilies may take them after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Easter Sunday, April 4th. The cost of each Lily is \$8.00.

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

OR

Given in loving memory of (for the dead) _____

Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, April 28th. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. All the flowers will be White Lilies, no colors. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered _____. If you don't want to take your Lilies, please check here _____ and the plants will be given away.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Saint Patrick's Dinner

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Curb Side Pick- Up 5 to 6pm

Irish Stew

*Rich Beef Stew with potatoes, root vegetables
and a bit of Irish Stout*

Garden Salad and Dinner Rolls

Chocolate Mint Cake

Rich chocolate cake whipped Mint Frosting

\$10 Per Person

**Pre-Order by
calling or texting
860-806-2440**

*All orders need to be placed by
Thursday, March 11 at 5pm
For Contactless Pick Up
please mail or drop payment with
your order at the church
(mail slot is on the Converse Street entrance).
Food will be placed in your trunk when you arrive.*



104 Main St., Stafford Springs

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

Website address www.holytrinitystafford.org Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested



