

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

December 2021 Newsletter



Click on the picture and play the video of Mary's journey to Bethlehem.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Christmas represents an in-breaking of the Kingdom of God into the world. I say it “represents” rather than “remembers” because what Christmas means—what God did at Christmas—was not a one-and-done event. Rather Christmas started a new thing, where God took on flesh and dwelt among His people as promised. In Jesus we see Emmanuel: “God who is with us.” But when we celebrate Christmas, it is as a people who know the whole story of Jesus. That God chose to become one of us, and in a wonderful mystery remains with us “even to the end of the age.” And while now we recognize Him among us through faith, we confess that He will come again as victorious Lord of all.

So, at Christmas we consider the Lord's three-fold coming (the word “Advent,” our season of preparation for Christmas, means “arrival” in Latin). He came to us in Bethlehem; He comes to

us today, in the Word and Sacraments and in the “least of these” our brothers and sisters; And he will come again at the end of the world to make all things new.

These three things are related. And recognizing how they’re related is something that helps us live our lives abundantly. Each of these arrivals of Jesus into the world is something unexpected. Despite all the prophecies and forewarning, the Bible tells us that Jesus “came to his own, but his own did not recognize him.” This doesn’t just refer to the wise men who expected to find the King born in a palace instead of a stable, but it refers to the whole human race. The world was not expecting this kind of Savior. Instead, we expected (and often still want) one made in our own image. Likewise, Jesus tells his disciples something unexpected where to find him after his ascension. He tells us to receive him in the Word and in the Sacraments, and to serve him by serving the needy and our neighbor.

We spend so much time trying to worship God in our own way, according to our preferences, but God sends us flesh and blood humans and says that he will meet us in those encounters—often encounters that make us uncomfortable and force us to grow. And lastly Jesus says that his return at the end of time will be unexpected “like a thief in the night.” He tells us that no one knows the hour of his return. This is said not to scare us or make us wonder, but to encourage us to live the kind of lives that don’t need to scramble to prepare. We are to be always ready for our judgment and our end, whether our end comes unexpectedly or the whole world ends unexpectedly. We should always have confidence in God’s goodness and a clean conscience. “Ready to go.”

We don’t merely commemorate something that happened a long time ago, as if Jesus came once and has left us on our own. No! He is with us always, even to the end of time, he promises. And this is important because if we believe that Jesus IS with us, even now, then we should be living different lives. We don’t act as if Jesus was once with us and isn’t now. Instead, we believe that we are filled with his life and should strive to live like him. Loving all people, serving one another, glorifying God the Father with our every action.

We don’t act as if Jesus has left us puzzling how to serve him. Instead, we recognize that he has given us to each other and told us to love our neighbor and our enemy and the stranger as if they were the Lord himself. This is hard at times but in loving all people, we not only fulfill the Lord’s command, but learn something about ourselves. After all, as Dorothy Day put it paraphrasing the Apostle John, “I only really love God as much as I love the person whom I love the least.”

And lastly, we don’t act as if Jesus has promised us a Kingdom that is somewhere far away and in a distant future. Instead, we recognize that Jesus is already King, and that his Kingdom has already begun. That all the things described above are part of living in God’s Kingdom and as citizens of God’s Kingdom already now. Someday, when Jesus returns, everyone will experience this way of living. But already now, we are supposed to be living as citizens of the Kingdom of God. That means that we don’t put our trust in earthly rulers to establish God’s Kingdom on earth.

We don't elect politicians to enforce what we think is God's will through coercion. But we live in a Kingdom of the heart, where we love our enemies until they become our siblings and where we care less for our rights and exercising our privileges and more about using what we have to imitate Jesus and persuade people of his goodness with lives of humility and holiness.

God is in our midst. He is now and will be forever. Let us encourage one another to live lives convinced that Jesus is strengthening us, Jesus is challenging us, Jesus is showing us what truly matters, and that Jesus is with us in our joys and in our sorrows, making all things new.

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 t.s.drobena@gmail.com

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
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 h

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 06280
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

December Birthdays

05 – Rev. Thomas S. Drobena
08 – Danny Lichanec
09 – Jennifer Welch
19 – Carl “Tim” Mercier
20 – Melissa Fisher
27 – Anna Mae Hockla

Anniversaries

10 – Richard & Nan Hayden



COMING SOON!

A Jazz in the Afternoon Concert
with

Emery Austin Smith and Friends

Saturday
December 4, 2021
2:00 PM

STAFFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
12 Leonard Road
Stafford Springs, CT

freewill offering

For more information call 617-442-1641

When you look at the December 2021 calendar, you'll notice there are many activities listed for December 2021.

The Rev. Thomas S. Drobena will be in the UK receiving his doctorate from Cambridge University on Saturday, November 27. Pastor Tom will be coming back home on Friday, December 3. In the event of an emergency he can be reached on his cell phone and will arrange for pastoral care.

† Bible study is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th @ 6:30 p.m.

† Our Christmas Party and Tree Trimming are scheduled for Sunday, December 12th starting at 1:00 p.m. Come enjoy some potluck snacks, help trim the tree and finish with more food and fellowship. This is also the deadline for placing your order for Poinsettias. The Poinsettias can be donated in honor or remembrance of a loved one or a special occasion to beautify the Sanctuary. The order blank is included in this newsletter.

† Advent Evening Prayer will be held on Wednesday, December 15 & 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

† You'll find an order blank in this newsletter to place your order for Christmas Bake Sale, Cookies and Kolach platters in this newsletter. The deadline for placing your order is Wednesday, December 15th. Then on Saturday, December 18th, you'll be able to pick up your purchase of Christmas Cookie & Kolach platters.

† Sunday, December 19th, will be Christmas Caroling. Everyone voices make a joyful sound.

† Friday, December 24th will be our annual Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion @ 8:00 p.m.

† Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services to service as an Assistant and Reader. You'll notice there is only a line on the Service Schedule where someone's name is usually entered. Please

consider volunteering to help with those services.

† Saturday, December 25th will be our annual Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion @ 10:00 a.m. For those people that donated Poinsettias, you can take your plant / plants after this service.

Sunday, December 26, 2021 is the last day you can make a donation and get credit for the donation in 2021.

These appeals were in the November newsletter and weekly bulletins

The Church is in need of a new or gently used Computer

The computer the Financial Secretary has been using to keep track of everyone's offering has decided to quit working. So, if you happen to have a gently used computer that works and you would like to donate it to the church, please let a council member know. Thank you!

The Church is also in need of a new Vacuum Cleaner.

If you would like to donate or purchase a new vacuum cleaner, please let a member of Council know. A canister model with a metal handle and flexible floor attachment would work best. Thank you!

Please remember that while the term "The Church" was used for both of these appeal articles, it's actually YOUR CHURCH. Your offering is used to pay Pastor Tom's salary along with the normal expenses similar to your own house budget. Thanks to everyone for praying for the needs of YOUR CHURCH with these expenses.

December *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 John of Damascus, <i>Hymnwriter</i>
5 The Second Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	6 Nicholas, <i>Bishop</i>	7 Ambrose, <i>Bishop</i> <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	8	9 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	10	11 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
12 The Third Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. Christmas Party and Tree-Trimming Deadline to Order Poinsettias	13 Lucy, <i>Martyr</i>	14 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	15 Advent Evening Prayer 7 p.m.	16	17	18 Christmas Cookie & Kolach Sale 10 a.m. – 12 noon Pickup
19 The Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	20	21 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	22 Advent Evening Prayer 7 p.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve Holy Communion 8:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.
26 The First Sunday of Christmas (Stephen, Deacon & First Martyr) 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion This is the last day to make contributions for credit in 2021.	27 John, <i>Evangelist</i>	28 The Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, <i>Martyrs</i>	29 Thomas Becket, <i>Martyr</i> <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	30	31	

November – December Service Schedule

Tellers

Worship Assistants

Reader

December 5, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent – Blue

Malachi 3:1-4 (No Psalm) Luke 1: 68 – 79; Philippians 1: 3 – 11; Luke 3: 1 – 6

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns – **Entrance:** 239, **Gospel Acclamation:** 257 verses 3 – 4,

Hymn of the Day: 249 **Communion:** 240, **Closing:** 264

December 12, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Advent – Blue

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20; Psalm 12: 2 - 6; Philippians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 3: 7 – 18

Jennifer Welch

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Hymns – **Entrance:** 311, **Gospel Acclamation:** 257, verses 5 – 6;

Hymn of the Day: 253, **Communion:** 737, **Closing:** 260

December 19, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday in Advent – Blue

Micah 5: 2 – 5a; Psalm 80: 1 - 7; Hebrews 10: 5 – 10; Luke 1: 39 – 45 [46 – 55]

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Hymns – **Entrance:** 254, **Gospel Acclamation:** 257, verses 7 – 8;

Hymn of the Day: 263, **Communion:** 295, **Closing:** 267

December 24, 2021 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve – White

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]

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**Hymns – Entrance:** 283; **Gospel Acclamation:** 281, **Hymn of the Day:** 277,  
**Communion** 279 & 300, **Closing** 270

#### **December 25, 2021 – 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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Hymns – Entrance: 283; **Hymn of the Day:** 270, **Communion:** 288 & 300, **Closing:** 290

December 26, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Christmas – White

1 Samuel 2: 18 – 20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12 – 17; Luke 2: 41 – 52

Hymns – **Entrance:** 768, **Gospel Acclamation** 257, verses 1 – 2,

Hymn of the Day: 532, **Communion:** 521, **Closing:** 551

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Sheila Welch

Michael Welch

#### **January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord – White**

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

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Hymns – **Entrance:** 302, **Hymn of the Day:** 311, **Communion:** 677, **Closing:** 310

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each poinsettia is \$9.75.

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 12<sup>th</sup>. The florist wants count on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
104 Main St - Stafford Springs CT 06076

## Christmas Bake Sale

Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Curb-Side Pickup 10am to 12 noon

### Cookies and Kolache

#### Cookie Platters

An Assortment of Cookies  
*Chocolate Chip, Molasses, Oatmeal Nut,  
Fudge, Lemon Tea Cake, Spritz, Pizzelles, Double Chocolate,  
Sugar, Gingersnap, Peanut Butter*

**Small Platter (24) \$10      Medium (36) \$15**  
**Large Platter (60) \$25**

#### Kolach

*Sweet Raised Bread Roll  
filled with walnuts, cranberry-nut, poppy seed, or apricot*

**Whole \$14 Half \$7**

### Jam Gift Sets also Available

*The perfect hostess gift, holiday wrapped*

**All orders must be received by  
Wednesday, December 15**

### Order Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:     Check Enclosed     Payment at Pick Up

**All orders must be received by Wednesday, December 15**

| Item                       | Quantity | Price Each | Total Price |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Small Cookie Platter       |          | \$10       |             |
| Medium Cookie Platter      |          | \$15       |             |
| Large Cookie Platter       |          | \$25       |             |
| Whole Nut Kolach           |          | \$14       |             |
| Half Nut Kolach            |          | \$7        |             |
| Whole Poppy Kolach         |          | \$14       |             |
| Half Poppy Kolach          |          | \$7        |             |
| Whole Cranberry Nut Kolach |          | \$14       |             |
| Half Cranberry Nut Kolach  |          | \$7        |             |
| Whole Apricot Kolach       |          | \$14       |             |
| Half Apricot Kolach        |          | \$7        |             |
| Grand Total                |          |            |             |

**Mail Orders to:**    *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
104 Main St  
Stafford Springs CT 06076*

**Or Drop Off in Mail Slot at the  
Converse St Entrance**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
Website address [www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org) Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested



