

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2016
104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



It occurs to me that all too often, we forget what worship is for. All too often, “worship” becomes a synonym (or a euphemism) for many things: fellowship, teaching, service, or perhaps just attendance. Certainly all of these things can and should be done worshipfully, but they are not necessarily the same thing as worship.

When we come together as a church, or specifically as a congregation, it is primarily for worship. To worship God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Holy and Blessed Trinity for whom our congregation is named. Our Christian life flows out of worship and certainly involves learning, service, fellowship, and other such things, but they’re distinct from the worship from which they flow and which permeates them. In the interest of helping us understand and be able to grow in our worshipfulness and to worship well, let’s reflect on what worship is.

So, what is worship? The word “worship” comes from the Old English *weorthscipe*, “worth-ship,” meaning showing something’s worth or worthiness. Some of you may remember from royal weddings or even old movies the wedding vows in Elizabethan English: “With this ring I thee wed, with my body I thee *worship*, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” In this nuptial promise lies a witness to the ancient origin and implication of this word as one pledges to show their spouse’s worth partner’s worth

by fidelity and forsaking all others. I particularly like this etymology because at the end of the day this is how we judge the “effectiveness” of our worship. Does it reflect God’s worthiness, or the worth we are to rightly ascribe to Him. All too often, worship styles and practices fall under the critique of how effectively they hold our attention. Our cultural preoccupation with novelty and amusement sneak into our worship lives and we begin to approach worship (the same could be said for prayer or bible study), “What do I get out of this?” as opposed to feeling compelled and delighted to put ourselves into it.

Worship is not entertainment. But to complicate things even more, it should not be entertaining. It should be engaging, enlivening, uplifting, motivating, and transforming—all things that worship is when it glorifies God by setting our minds on heavenly things. Warren and David Wiersbe astutely write, “When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment, and man’s applause and approval become the measure of success. But when ministry is for the glory of God, his presence moves into the sanctuary. Even the unsaved visitor will fall down on his face, worship God, and confess that God is among us.”

C.S. Lewis warns us against going through the motions without being fully present and allowing ourselves to get caught up in the experience of being in the presence of God: “The modern habit of doing ceremonial things unceremoniously is no proof of humility; rather it proves the offender’s inability to forget himself in the rite, and his readiness to spoil for every one else the proper pleasure of ritual.”

Jesus says in John 4:24, “*God is spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*” When we become consumers of worship rather than full participants in it we worry about what is pleasing to us rather than what is pleasing to God, that is to say, we start to desire the things that make us comfortable rather than the things that stir our spirits with desire for something greater. We introduce novelty just to say that we did or focus on individuals instead of focusing on our creator. In worship we strive to imitate the heavenly worship which is described in scripture and which redirects our minds away from ourselves and to God instead. We strive to become open to the movement of God’s Spirit and enriched by the things that God will call our attention to rather than those things we ourselves want to make a point of. When we worship we break away from the habits of a culture that has taught us to take in as much as we can for the sake of having and to make everything accessible for the sake of our ease. Instead we should invite God to overwhelm us in the best way. Rather than worry about what we’ve “learned” in a sermon or what we’ve “taken away” from the experience, we should allow ourselves to feel God’s love and grow in love.

We worship because God is worthy of our attention, and our devotion. That should be enough. But what we “get” out of worship should be nothing less than an ever-deepening sense of wonder. More important than learning something new is regaining the sense of awe we so easily lose. Better than receiving instruction is falling deeper in love with the One who first loved us,

and yearning for relationship with the God who captivates and makes us want more.

Worship is not primarily education. Worship is primarily a sense of wonder at who God is and what God is doing with us. With the patriarch Jacob (Genesis 28:17) we say, “How awesome is this place. This is the house of God and the gate of heaven.”

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

Pastor

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Members of the Council are:

President Michael Welch
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Vice-President – Leonard Lichanec
Acting Treasurer – Sheila Welch
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa
Andrew Fisher
Cathy Lichanec
Michael Marvonek
Patricia Marvonek

Service Teams

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Tremblay
† Property Team: Andrew Fisher,
Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and
Michael Welch
† Learning & Youth Group Team:
Rev. Thomas Drobená, Melissa Fisher, Nan
Hayden, Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard
Lichanec

February**Birthdays**

01 – Dorothy Tonoli
05 – David Molitoris
08 – William Sevcik
13 – John Fittz
13 – Donald Hoffman
20 – Kathy Hinchliffe

20 – Tyler Murray
24 – Patricia Marvonek
28 – Matthew Mordasky

Anniversaries

03 – David & Shirley Molitoris
22 – Richard & Jean Palacko

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity**Attn: Mr. Harold Barton**

Fox Hill Center
1253 Hartford Tpke. Room #49A
Vernon, CT 06066-4560

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

Mr. Paul C. Kovaciny

242 East St.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3923

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

Time of Ash Wednesday service

Please note that the start of the Ash
Wednesday service will be **10:00 a.m.** on
February 10, 2016.

Signup Sheet

There is a signup sheet posted in the narthex for worship services in Holy Week:

Palm Sunday – March 20 – 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – March 24

Good Friday, March 25

Holy Saturday, March 26

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday
– March 27 – 10:00 a.m.

Flower and Candle Chart

There is a new chart posted in the narthex. Mark your dates early so you're not disappointed. Please be open to sharing a date if another member wants to have the same Sunday you've previously marked.

Service Schedule

When you read the enclosed schedule for February / March, you'll notice there isn't any Ushers listed. The main reason for the omission is we're running out of Ushers. Perhaps more people can volunteer to help or the service can be done self-service. The bulletins will be found on the sideboard like normal. A credence table would be found in the narthex with an offering plate for everyone to put their offering in and you go up for communion without the usher indicating it's your turn.

(For those that don't know, myself, Walter Kovaciny will be hospitalized on Wednesday, February 3rd to have Colon Cancer surgically removed. As such, I don't know when I'll feel up to serving as an usher. My friend Rick Bednar has offered to pick me up each Sunday and bring me to church as well as other friends have offered rides and assistance as needed.)

And yes, I realize I'm not the center brick in the archway. The church will function fine without me.

Thanks for all the prayers I've received from those I've already about my condition and the additional prayers that will be coming.



STAFFORD PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We will be meeting on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month from **6:00-7:30 pm** at the Stafford Public Library. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 9, 2016.**

We welcome individuals who would like to attend and knit, crochet, or quilt these much needed prayer shawls. (We'll even teach you to knit or crochet!) Join in a ministry that brings God's grace, peace, comfort, love, joy, and hope to those in need. If you cannot make the meeting but want to make prayer shawls at home, we'll even pick them up. If you or your pastor knows of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, we'll arrange for one to be picked up. Please contact Kathy Aborn at 860-684-9484 for information or pick up arrangements.

*NOTE: Please note that Prayer Shawl will be **cancelled** according to the winter weather conditions. If you are unsure about venturing out for this meeting due to weather conditions, please call the number above to check if the meeting is being held or is cancelled. Thank you!*

February / March Service Schedule

With the new church season starting, the reading for the next year are from Series C. These readings are from page 26 to 28 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Tellers

Ushers

Worships Assistants

Reader

February 7, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Transfiguration of Our Lord – White

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

Stacy Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Daniel Lichanec

Sheila Welch

February 10, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Ash Wednesday – Purple

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February 14, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday in Lent – Purple

Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11; Psalm 91: 1 – 2, 9 – 16; Romans 10: 8b – 13; Luke 4: 1 – 13

Amelia Hinchliffe

Stacy Fisher

Ruth Boyles

Cathy Lichanec

February 21, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday in Lent – Purple

Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 – 18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17 to 4: 1; Luke 13: 31 – 35

Leonard Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Stacy Fisher

Michael Welch

February 28, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday in Lent – Purple

Isaiah 55: 1 – 9; Psalm 63: 1 – 8; 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13; Luke 13: 1 – 9

Cathy Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Michael Welch

Leonard Lichanec

March 6, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday in Lent – Purple

Joshua 5: 9 – 12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21; Luke 15: 1 – 3

Stacy Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Daniel Lichanec

Sheila Welch

Typist

February – Leigh Maxa

March – Stacy Fisher

February

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Presentation of the Lord in the Temple 7:30 p.m. Vespers	3 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	4	5 The Martyrs of Japan 7:30 p.m. Vespers	6
7 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	8	9 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	10 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	11 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. WIC	12	13 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Camp 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
14 The First Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning / Youth Group Committee meeting	15 Cyril & Methodius, Missionaries 7:30 p.m. Communion	16 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	17	18 Martin Luther, Reformer 7:30 p.m. Vespers	19	20
21 The Second Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	22 Deadline for submitting articles for the March newsletter	23 Polycarp, Bishop <i>(no service)</i>	24	25	26	27 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution

*** Coming Events ***

February

- 2 – Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, Vespers – 7:30 p.m.
- 5 – The Martyrs of Japan, Vespers – 7:30 p.m.
- 7 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 10 – Ash Wednesday service, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.
- 13 – Saturday Camp – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 13 & 27 – Safe Net food Distribution – 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- 15 Cyril & Methodius, Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 – Martin Luther, Reformer, Vespers – 7:30 p.m.
- 28 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.

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

Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

