

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*

## *March 2016*

*104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076*



Dear Beloved in the Lord,

Lent is not for everybody. It is only for faithful Christians who are already doing their best to live a disciplined and Christ-centered life. I like Lent, because unlike Christmas and Easter, it has not been taken over and commercialized by the popular culture. There are fewer preconceptions for Christians to compete with when observing it. During Lent, the faithful have the opportunity to practice more intensively those virtues and spiritual exercises that they regularly practice throughout the year.

What are some of those virtues and practices?

During Lent, the faithful are encouraged to attend various special services in addition to regular Sunday worship. We set aside this time of year to not only try and increase the frequency with which we gather as the family of God, but we reevaluate our personal and private prayer at home. We yearn to be closer to God in our daily living.

During Lent we traditionally fast. This is one part of Lent that the popular culture knows about and seems to have a lot to say about. It's almost made a joke of—"What are you giving up for Lent?" As Christians we don't give up sweets or bad habits as a type of punishment (one would hope we abstain from things that are bad for us all year!), but we identify things that we have become dependent on and that distract us from our living a holy and charitable life.

We ask ourselves in what ways do we now contribute to charity, and how faithful we are with our material blessings. How we spend our money says so much about our values (or lack of values) and our true priorities in life.

So many "faithful Christians" are seriously under-nourished, if not starving, because they do not adequately feed their souls. What we eat and drink can give us life and health, or it can poison and kill us. In addition to worship and prayer, we need to turn off the TV - make time – pray and have holy conversation more, especially during Lent.

As often as necessary, we should repent of our sins, return to God in confession, and thus be restored in the grace and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Lent is an excellent special opportunity to take time, evaluate our moral and spiritual condition, and think about our spiritual health and spiritual needs with our pastor as a spiritual parent.

Whether you are focusing on Lent or any other special time of the year, don't lose sight of "the whole picture." Your entire life belongs to God. All of your time, your money, your energy, your body, your soul, your desires, your plans, your everything, should be "in Christ." Only in Him can you be saved, healed, sanctified, and glorified.

May you grow closer to Christ in this holy season!

Pastor Tom

### Reflections By Michael Welch

This past Sunday as I sat in church I began to glance around to see who was there and as I did I began to meditate on why we were all here. These are the people who always come no matter what. Cold, snow, ice, heat, rain or shine. Old and young alike. It is almost as though they are willing to fight to get to worship. I thought about what brought me here. This was a trying week for me. I attended two funerals. One for Ellen Lichanec whom the Lord called home at 83 and the other, the son of dear friends who lost his battle at 35 to drug addiction. While attending these services I began observing the different reactions of the mourners. Many were sorrowful, yet at the same time were able to be joyful. They would laugh and tell stories and recount what their friend and loved one had meant to them and how they would be missed, yet they were consoled by the fact that they were at peace and in the loving arms of Jesus. These were the Believers, confident in the saving Grace of our Lord and Savior and the promise of the resurrection and life to come. Others were terrified of death and forced to come to terms with their mortality. Those not believing in an afterlife and, that they would live and die and that would be it, were having a very difficult time coming to terms with it. Now I am not saying that the loss of a loved one is not difficult for a believer, but we have a more healthy outlook and are consoled by Christ and seek solace in Him, whereas those who don't are most fearful. We all know we are going to die. The non believer will tend to think about the here and now, you only live once, make the best of it, watch out for yourself. They are in effect the



walking dead. They do not have the promise. I wonder if that is why there are so many zombi and vampire movies.

I look around the sanctuary again and I see the widow and the widower, those who are



dealing with health issues, fractures and illness, age and those rejoicing because they have survived cancer. I see a young mother with infant twins overcoming the challenges of attendance. We attend worship to give thanks and praise and to ask for our Fathers help in meeting our own needs, but most often we put our own needs aside to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and in the process we forget ourselves and are healed. We cast our worries

upon Him. We come together as one body, we praise God, give thanks, seek direction and comfort each other. This is why we attend and this is why it is so important for our selves and our church family members. ***For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18)***

## **Pastoral Care**

Contact information for

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená; ‘Pastor Tom’

Office phone: 860-684-7571

Email address: [thomas.drobená@yale.edu](mailto:thomas.drobená@yale.edu)

Mailing address:

7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT

06076-1334

Contact information for President Michael Welch

Cellphone: 860-982-3697

Email – [mikeswelch49@gmail.com](mailto:mikeswelch49@gmail.com)

Church – [htlc-church@att.net](http://htlc-church@att.net)

Website – [holytrinitystafford.org](http://holytrinitystafford.org)

### **☞Members of the Council are:**

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená

President – Michael Welch

Vice-President – Leonard Lichanec

Acting Treasurer – Sheila Welch

Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe

Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

Andrew Fisher

Cathy Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

Patricia Marvonek

Walter Kovaciny

☞

## **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, Nan  
Hayden, Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard  
Lichanec

☞

## **Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

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

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

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† Ask God to lift any burdens that weigh  
heavily on your mind.

† Face every situation with faith in your  
heart.

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## \*\*\*\*\*Easter Vigil Service\*\*\*\*\*

The four Slovak Zion Synod congregations in Connecticut will be gathering at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Trumbull, CT to worship together on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for everyone interested in attending. Please indicate your name, amount going, if you can drive, if you need a ride. We'll leave our church at 6:00 p.m. If you wish to be a reader, please see Pastor Tom, (no one volunteered yet). This will be interesting worshiping together with our sister congregations from Trumbull, Danbury and Torrington, as members of the same synod and same wider church family.

### **March**

#### **Birthdays**

01 – Amelia Hinchliffe  
01 – Lauren Markell  
03 – Paul Kovaciny  
06 – Michael Welch  
07 – Al VanDyk  
10 – Christine Gaulin  
11 – Andrew Hlobik  
11 – James Schraffenberger  
13 – Betty Mottes  
16 – Neil Hoss  
18 – Tonia Marvonek  
26 – Christian Kovaciny  
28 – Aidan Cooley  
28 – Ian Cooley  
30 – Millie Witkoske

#### **Anniversaries**

We don't have anniversaries listed. If this is incorrect, please let us know.



† Share with others how important they are to you.

#### **Thanks to Everyone**

I put an article in the February newsletter letting everyone know I had been diagnosed with Colon Cancer. Now a month later, I can happily state that I'm cancer free. The surgeon did an excellent job removing all the cancer. When I saw Dr. Steven Brown for a follow-up appointment on February 16, he reported that he felt he had gotten all the cancer and the lab report confirmed that. Dr. Brown then said we were at the end of his expertise and suggested me follow-up and see an Oncologist which I did. On February 29, I saw Dr. Jay Thumar and he said that indeed that I was Cancer Free.

I'm forever grateful for everyone's prayers and thoughts. The entire timeframe of getting sick last August while at Calumet, then getting an appointment for a colonoscopy on January 8, had to be God's timing. I haven't felt sick since being hospitalized last August so I wouldn't have requested a colonoscopy for no reason.

Sincerely, Walter H. Kovaciny



#### **Another Thank you**

We received the following Thank you care from Safe Net Ministries early January 2016. I apologize it wasn't included in the February newsletter.

“Dear Friends,

On behalf of Safe net Ministries, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of 58 pounds of miscellaneous items made during the months of November and December 2015. We appreciate your support of the cupboard



## 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 28 to 33 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

### Tellers

### Ushers

### Worships Assistants

### Reader

#### **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, 11b – 32

Amelia Hinchliffe

Melissa Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Cathy Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

#### **March 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday in Lent – Purple**

Isaiah 43: 16 – 21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b – 14; John 12: 1 – 8

Stacy Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Stacy Fisher

Ruth Boyles

Sheila Welch

Cathy Lichanec

#### **March 20, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday – Purple**

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a; Psalm 31: 9 – 16; Philippians 2: 5 – 11; Luke 22: 14 to 23: 56

Leonard Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Steve Marvonek

Michael Marvonek

Leonard Lichanec

#### **March 24, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday – White**

Exodus 12: 1-4 [5-10]11-14; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

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Walter Kovaciny

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#### **March 25, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. – Good Friday – no paraments**

Isaiah 52: 13 to 53: 12; Psalm 22: 1-23; Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9; John 18: 1 to 19: 42

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

#### **March 26, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter – held at**

#### **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Trumbull, CT**

For the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson and psalm, reference the readings below - Romans 6: 3-11; John 20: 1-18

Genesis 1: 1 to 2: 4

Genesis 7: 1-5, 11-18, 8: 6-18, 9: 8-13

Exodus 14: 10 – 31

Isaiah 55: 1 – 11

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14

Daniel 3: 1 – 29

If you would like to read any of the readings listed, please let Pastor Tom know.

**March 27, 2016-10:00 a.m.-Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day-Easter White**

Acts 10: 34 – 43; Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24; 1 Corinthians 15: 19 – 26; Luke 24: 1 – 12

~~~~~ Melissa Fisher Cathy Lichanec Daniel Lichanec  
~~~~~ Walter Kovaciny

**April 3, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Easter – Easter White**

Acts 5: 27 – 32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1: 4 – 8; John 20: 19 – 31;

Amelia Hinchliffe Melissa Fisher Stacy Fisher Daniel Lichanec  
Cathy Lichanec Walter Kovaciny

**Typist:**

**March:** Stacy Fisher

**April:** Leigh Maxa

**March**

***Holy Trinity Lutheran Church***

**2016**

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday                         | Thursday  | Friday                                 | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
|   |   | 1  | 2                                 | 3   | 4                                      | 5  |
| 6 <b>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy Communion   | 7   | 8<br><i>Pastor's Day off</i>   | 9                                 | 10  | 11                                     | 12<br>8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.<br>Safe Net Distribution   |
| 13 <b>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy Communion<br>11:15 a.m. Council Meeting<br><br>Daylight Savings Time begins | 14  | 15<br><i>Pastor's Day off</i>  | 16                                | 17<br><b>Patrick,<br/>Bishop</b><br>7:30<br>Vespers   | 18                                     | 19<br><b>Joseph,</b><br><i>Spouse of Mary and<br/>Guardian of the Lord</i><br><br>(no service)   |
| 20 <b>Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  | 21<br>Deadline for<br>submitting<br>articles for<br>the April<br>newsletter | 22<br>12 p.m. – 1 p.m.<br>6 p.m. – 7 p.m.<br><br>Pastor in Church<br>Available for<br>Individual<br>Confession | 23<br><i>Pastor's Day<br/>off</i> | 24<br>8 a.m. to 4 p.m.<br>WIC<br><br>5:00 p.m.<br><b>Maundy<br/>Thursday<br/>Holy<br/>Communion</b> | 25<br><b>5:00 p.m.<br/>Good Friday</b> | 26<br><b>7:30 p.m.*<br/>The Great Vigil of<br/>Easter</b><br><br>*Combined service<br>in Trumbull with<br>other Connecticut<br>SZS churches.<br><br>8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.<br>Safe Net Distribution |
| 27 <b>Resurrection of Our Lord<br/>Easter Sunday</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy Communion<br>11:15 a.m. Social Hour                       | 28  | 29   | 30                                | 31  |  |  |

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, March 27<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each Lily is \$7.00

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

Given in honor of (for the living) \_\_\_\_\_

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**OR**

Given in memory of (for the dead) \_\_\_\_\_

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Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered \_\_\_\_\_.

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## \*\*\* Coming Events \*\*\*

### March

- 12 & 26 – Safe Net Distribution – 8:45 to 12:45 a.m.
- 13 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 17 - Vespers to commemorate Patrick, Bishop – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 – Deadline for submitting articles for the April newsletter
- 22 – Pastor Tom will be at church for individual Confession – 12 to 1 p.m. & 6 p to 7 p.m.
- 24 – Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion – 5:00 p.m.
- 25 – Good Friday worship – 5:00 p.m.
- 26 – The Great Vigil of Easter held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Trumbull – 7:30 p.m.
- 27 – Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday – 10:00 a.m.
- 27 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Web site address [www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org)

Address Correction Requested Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

