

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2015
104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Someone said to me recently that they found a quote where Luther says that God is foremost the God of the weak and powerless. They asked, "What on earth does this mean?!"

To put it in a bit more modern language, Christianity is a religion for people that the world thinks are losers. Why? Because we don't value the same things they do. Christianity is countercultural. It's radical. It loves those whom the world hates, those whom the world has no use for. Those that the world thinks are unproductive. And it takes no pride or consolation in fame or fortune.

And when the church forgets that, when people forget that, we need to return to the root of our faith. It's time for us to look at the cross and get a reality check of how weak and out of touch the world can be. And how shallow the world actually is when we experience the abundance of life in Jesus and fullness of relationships by living according to Jesus example For this reason the Holy Spirit, Jesus' own promised spirit is given to us in Baptism and every time we invite him in through the reception of the word and of the sacraments.

That's why we worship, that's why we receive the gifts of grace, the Body and Blood of Christ, the washing of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins- to be present in this world of truth. To abide in the Word of truth that God alone gives. That's how we become more like Jesus.

We are reformed, the church is reformed, the world is reformed when we fix our gaze on the perfect love that is Christ crucified. There our vision is arrested and all our focus is placed on our God. And if we but keep our eyes on Jesus—if we just keep our eyes on Jesus, we find that the things we have enslaved ourselves to and that the devil tempts and teases us with just don't matter. Beneath the cross we have no choice but to look up and away from our bellies and shelves that we've been obsessed with filling and we realize we all are equal and all are loved by the one who did not withhold his own life for us sinners.

We obsess as a culture over being independent. So many aspire to be a self made man, being told to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. But then again there are also many who simply can't and who become fixated on the opposite extreme and obsess over their victimhood and learn to love just as narrowly as those who only esteem success.

God teaches us a different kind of love in Christ. He gives us a different kind of dependence that teaches us appreciation for unconditional love rather than resentment for what we or others have or have not.

Only the truth can free us. Only the truth liberates us from the illusions and obsessions of our dissatisfaction or the vain promises of a world that takes advantage of human longing. We are a community dedicated to speaking truth. To boldly proclaiming what humanity is, what humanity needs, and that our God is great and our God is faithful.

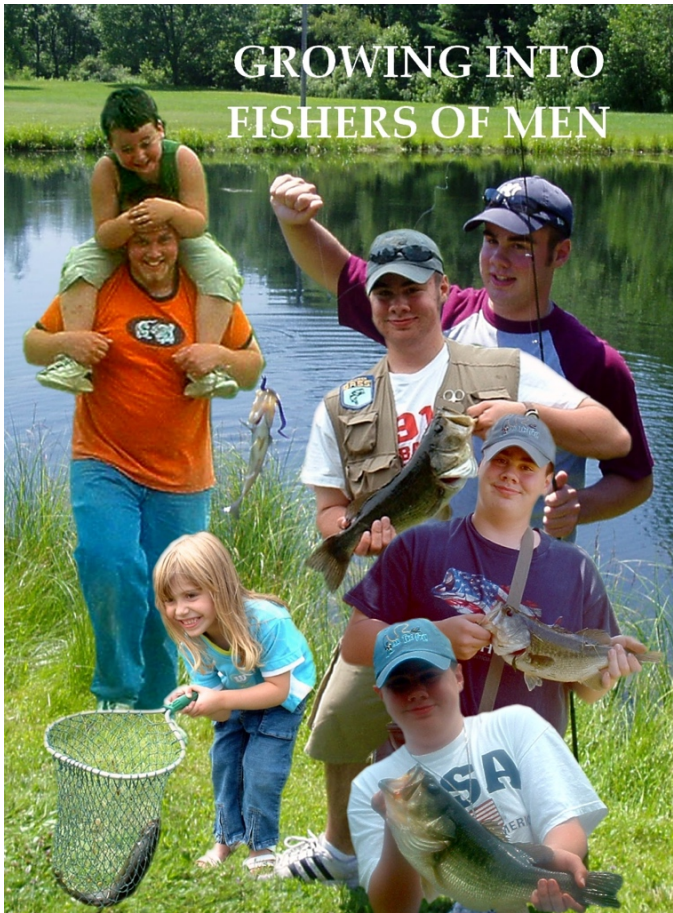
A gospel that the doesn't radically transform us cannot possibly be the true gospel. A church that doesn't challenge the world and rattle the structures of power and the systems of oppression cannot possibly be the body of Christ. And a Christian who doesn't set the world on fire is simply holding back.

Live lives that show you're free. And desire the freedom of others. Let your light so shine in you that others will give glory to your Father in Heaven. This is the greatest and simplest witness you can give.

Pastor Tom

Reciprocity By Michael S. Welch

Jesus teaches whatever we want we must first give it up. If we want to save our life we must first give it to the Lord. If we want money we must deny ourselves the use of it. If we want time we must first be willing to give it up, so we can earn it in the future. If we want to live we must die daily. If we want to grow our congregation we have to be willing to give up control, and that's the scary part. This is called reciprocity.



Sometimes are perception of our young people as children even into there twenties and thirties remains unchanged. I have constantly over the past 40 years been trying to explain to my family I am not the same guy that shot my little brother between the eyes during a bee bee gun war. (This was before the movie) We as parents and aunts and uncles have witnessed every foolish thing that our children nephews and nieces have done. Sometimes it takes an outsider with a different perspective to point out how much they have grown into responsible adults. For me this occurred when my then 16 year old son asked me to drop him off for work at Valley Hobby in Simsbury. As we pulled up to the store Ian reached into his pocket and pulled out a ring of keys. I asked, are you opening this morning and he said "Greg, the owner, went to visit his mother in florida, who was sick and that he was managing the store for the next 2 weeks." I was stunned. Here I am, his father, worried about leaving him alone for a weekend when a stranger was willing to place

his livelihood in my son's hands, not to mention the million dollar antique train collection housed in the store.

If we are not willing to place our trust in our children they will seek council elsewhere. They will go where they are accepted and recognized for their true qualities, which we are often blind to. Could that be why our children even those in their 40's and 50's are not attending church anywhere. We wonder why new members and younger members don't have the same level of commitment that our older members have. We often hear it said "how come they won't take ownership of a job or task, after all I've been peeling the potatoes for the church dinner for 50 years". The reason is we haven't let anyone else do it. What makes something

yours? In days of old when all things were held in common and you were walking a long and spotted an apple tree, you could walk up to it and pick as many apples as you could carry. Anyone could do this. Now you're walking along and someone comes up to you and says "give me your apples. You might say no these are my apples, if you want some apples go and pick them yourself. What made them your property? You attached your labor to it. That is what made it yours. If we want to grow we need to allow others to work in order for them to take ownership and deepen their commitment. We need to teach them how and stand back. We must not only trust in them, we must encourage them and be open to new and different ways of doing things.

We demonstrate our trust in them when we support dinners and events that they stage for the benefit of our congregation. That means our physical presence must be there, because they want so much for us to see what they are doing. They long for you to experience what they are doing. Do you not remember as a child calling your parents and saying look what I did. Well this will never change. Don't we ourselves wonder what our departed parents would say about all that we have accomplished. We can say this is how we did it, but you can do the job any way you want as long as it gets done. We then can marvel at how ingenious and creative they are.

This is what will bring us confidence in the future and peace. When they know we have confidence in them they will seek us out when they are in need of council. They will invite some friends to be on their team and they may not belong to our church! This is a way to attract new members. They are investing their labor into the organization before they become members and when they do join they already feel at home and part of a team. Our task is to learn a job, do our job, teach our job and give our job away, so we can grow into another job. Just keep repeating the cycle. Be the servant. We need to guide not dictate. *To rejoice in your labor; this is the gift of God* (Ecc.5:19). Not allowing someone to work is denying them one of Gods gifts. Amen.



Pastoral Care

Contact information for

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená; ‘Pastor Tom’

Office phone: 860-684-7571

Email address: thomas.drobená@yale.edu

Mailing address:

7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT

06076-1334

President Michael Welch

Cellphone: 860-982-3697

Email – mikeswelch49@gmail.com

Church – htlc-church@att.net

Website – 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



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

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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

Attn: Mrs. Tonia Marvonek

Evergreen Health Care Center

201 Chestnut Hill Rd., Rm. # 2107

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005



Birth Announcement

It is with great joy we announce the birth of
Caleb John Christian Tremblay. Caleb is the
son of Adam and Cassandra Tremblay. He
was born on Sunday, September 13th at
10:06 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 15 ounces. May
God continue to shower the entire family
with His countless blessings.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

The annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday, November 22, 2015 starting at 5:30 p.m. St Edward Church, 55 High Street is hosting the service.

The offering is designated to help Safe Net Ministries Food Cupboard; some suggestions are *Grocery gift cards, non-perishable items.*



Holiday Mail for Heroes

Let's remember our American Soldiers this year. When you are filling out your Christmas Cards, add a card and send to this address:

Joint Base MDL Red Cross Service Center
Attn: TSM Holiday Mail for Heroes
Building 6051

8th St & Doughboy Loop
Joint Base MDL, NJ 08640

The deadline to send this mail is December 1st

Please pass this on – just think how many cards these wonderful and special people who have sacrificed so much would be so please share with your family and friends and post on your social media accounts.

Thank you and God Bless!



Vacation Bible School for 2016

While this is indeed advance planning, the curriculum for the VBS is Jonah, a Whale of a Tale.

July 17-21, 2016

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church



November

Birthdays

04 – Kim Valery

05 – Shirley Kaba

06 – Diane Bulick

09 – Judy Howlett

10 – Charlie Bauer

15 – Walter Kovaciny

15 – Leigh Maxa

18 – Jean Palacko

19 – Jenny Baarck

20 – Barbara Kovaciny

22 – Ryan Cooley

27 – Shirley Molitoris

Anniversaries

We don't any anniversaries listed. Please update our records if anyone was married in the month of November.



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 **November 10, 2015.**

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. **Food Cupboard seeks Donations for Thanksgiving**



Safe Net Ministries is seeking donations for **Thanksgiving “fixings”**. We are in need of gravy, stuffing, cornbread mix, potatoes, pie filling, pie crust mix, or anything else that makes your holiday special.

Items are needed by November 15th. You may drop off your donations at the Food Cupboard on Saturdays, October 24 and November 14 between 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. OR in the boxes at Stafford Churches.

Thank you for your generosity. Please don’t forget us when you see **school supplies** on sale.

Safe Net is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. Safe Net’s mission is a multi-denominational nonprofit organization helping our Stafford and Union neighbors in need, to provide comfort and support as necessary utility / general assistance. Donations may be sent to Safe Net at Post Office Box 93, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 or visit our website www.safenetministries.com. You may contact Safe Net at 860-851-9987.



The 5 P’s –

Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance

The Financials

Through September 2015

Annual Budget	\$75,199
Budget to date	57,187
Regular Income	30,688
year to date expense	51,213
Net regular income	(20,525)
Special Donations	3,999 *
Net Income	(\$16,526)

*\$3,600 McGurn Challenge



It has pleased the LORD to call Win Boyles to our eternal home. We look to that time when we will be reunited in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at that great and notable wedding feast. We offer our prayers for Ruth, family and friends to help and guide them through this difficult time.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday, November 14, 2015

5:00 pm and 6:15 pm Seatings

Dinner Includes

All you can eat!

*Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy
Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter
Assorted Pastries for Dessert
Lemonade, Coffee, Tea*

\$15 per person

\$120 per table up to 10 people (advance purchase only)

Take Out Available

With pick up time at 5:30

Tickets Available

After Church on Sundays or at the Door

*For more information or to make a reservation
call 860-684-7571*

November / December Service Schedule

These readings are from the Evangelical Lutheran worship on page #52 through #53, Series B. The reading for All Saints Day is on page 59. With the new church season of Advent is on page 18 & 19 of the LBW, Series C.

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants

Reader

November 1, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – All Saints Day – White

Wisdom 3: 1-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21: 1-6a; John 11: 32-44

Stacy Fisher

Melissa Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

November 8, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

1 Kings 17: 8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44

Amelia Hinchliffe

Melissa Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Ruth Boyles

Cathy Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

November 15, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Green

Isaiah 53: 4-12; Psalm 91: 9-16; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 10: 35-45

Walter Kovaciny

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Steve Marvonek

Michael Welch

Leonard Lichanec

November 22, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – Christ the King – Red

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37

Cathy Lichanec

Melissa Fisher

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

November 29, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday in Advent – Blue

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36

Cathy Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Michael Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Sheila Welch

December 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday in Advent – Blue

Malachi 3: 1-4; Psalm, Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Stacy Fisher

Melissa Fisher

Stacy Fisher

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Typist

November – Stacy Fisher

December – Leigh Maxa

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saint's Day 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	2	3 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	4 7:30 p.m. Bible Class	5	6	7
8 The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Group meeting	9	10 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	11	12	13	14 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Camp 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net 2:00 p.m. Setup for the Roast Beef Dinner 5 & 6:15 p.m. Roast Beef Dinner
15 The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Golden Rule Kids Club	16	17 Elizabeth of Hungary, <i>Christian Ruler</i> 7:30 p.m. Vespers	18 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	19	20	21
22 Christ the King 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	23	24 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	25	26	27	28 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net
29 The First Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	30 Andrew, <i>Apostle</i> 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion					

*** Coming Events ***

November

- 1 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 4 – Bible class – 7:30 p.m.
- 8 – Learning & Youth Group meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 14 – Saturday Camp – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 14 & 28 – Safe Net – 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- 14 – Setup for the Roast Beef dinner – 2:00 p.m.
- 14 – Roast Beef dinner, sitting at 5 & 6:15 p.m.
- 15 – Golden Rule Kids club – 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- 17 – Vespers to commemorate **Elizabeth of Hungary**, *Christian Ruler* – 7:30 p.m.
- 22 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.
- 30 – Holy Communion to commemorate **Andrew**, *Apostle* – 7:30 p.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



