

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2017

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



As members of the body of Christ, our new year has begun the same way our lives as Christians began, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. On January 1 the church celebrates The Name of Jesus. This celebration of our Lord's name falls on the 8th day of Christmas, because it was on the 8th day after birth that Jewish males were circumcised and received their name. For Jesus this was a name given to the Child not by Mary, His mother, nor Joseph, His foster father, but by His heavenly Father, as His angel spoke to them: "You shall call His Name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins".

Words mean things. In biblical times, names had meanings. The angel of the Lord gave Mary and Joseph the name the Child was to have as well as the reason why the Child was to receive the Name that is above all names. This Child would save His people from their sins. The Name "Jesus" means "The LORD saves," as does its Hebrew cognate Joshua, as the Lord through Joshua saved His people and took them to the Promised Land, out of the hands of their oppressors. So also this Child would grow to save His people, bringing them to heaven by way of the cross, where His Name was displayed for the entire world to see.

The world has seen the Name of Jesus and wandered as though blind. The world has heard the Name of Jesus and turned a deaf ear. At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, but the world acts as though crippled. The Lord commands that His Name not be misused, not to be taken in vain. Yet all too often we toss His Name about as if we were shooting darts and speaking in a pub, invoking His Name to call down curses on things and people He would not curse.

But perhaps worse, when we do so, we who are named after Christ take his name in vain when we fail to reflect His love. We wear and bear God's name dishonorably if we call ourselves Christians but are stubborn in giving, slow to forgive, quick to anger and false witness, and absent from worship. How will the world honor Jesus' Name, if his own people don't?

We are to be moved by the Holy Spirit to boldly confess the Name of Jesus. With our lips but also with our lifestyle. Our whole lives should be inspired by the Psalmist who writes: "I will praise You with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your Name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth, for You have magnified Your word above all Your Name" and we remember the hymn refrain: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim / Till all the world adore His sacred Name".

God grant this in Jesus' Name and for His sake.

Pastor Thomas



The Megiddo Paradigm By Michael Welch



Megiddo is one of the oldest cities in the world. Archeologists have uncovered 77 layers or civilizations, one built upon another. It stood guard over a major trade route for centuries and was destroyed and rebuilt through out its history. It was first fortified about 5,000 years ago. As each civilization appeared the Tel or mound grew. This

city stood high over the Jezreel Valley looking across to Nazareth, hence its name Har Megiddo, or high city. This is where we get the name Armageddon. Solomon and Ahab fortified the city about 2,900 years ago. This was a chariot city standing guard over the fertile valley below. I find it interesting that Christ grew up overlooking the Valley of Armageddon. I wonder if he felt the weight of all that had happened, wars past and future, both earthly and spiritual along with the burden that he would carry for us upon the cross,. Pictured above and to the left is an altar or platform built for the worship of the Canaanite/Phoenician fertility god Baal. The Canaanite worshipers of this deity believed that he would bring the rains each year, that were so necessary to their prosperity. In order to encourage this they would engage in temple prostitution and infant sacrifice. Their first born children would be placed upon a heated caldron on this circular altar and burned alive. They sacrificed their children for financial gain.

Here we are 5,000 years later and what has changed? This January we marked the anniversary of Roe vs, Wade, which was decided by the supreme court in 1973. Millions of babies have

been aborted since then. In New York City alone there were 73,815 babies aborted in 2012 according to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Vital Statistics entitled *Summary of Vital Statistics 2012 the City of New York Pregnancy Outcomes* NYC Health 2012..pdf. Even more startling the report showed there were 56,086 non-Hispanic Black pregnancies and only 24,758 survived! About 55% of Black and Hispanic pregnancies end in abortion the rest is spread across other ethnic groups. Rev. John J. Raphael of Howard University has calculated that since 1973 there have been approximately 13 million black children killed reducing the Black population by nearly one quarter. This is genocide on the grandest scale. This is not by accident it was by design from the beginning. Margaret Sanger founder of Planed Parenthood wrote “*The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. We don't want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man to straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members.*”

This past year it was revealed to the world that Planned Parenthood has been selling aborted baby body parts for a profit. Yet we hear more outrage about the tragic death of Cecil the lion, who by the way, killed the male cubs of the lion he defeated to gain dominance over his pride and to infuse his DNA into the group.

How long must we repeat this paradigm, the sacrifice of our children for personal gain. Placing them on an altar of malfeasance that grows with every sacrificial lamb offered up to the Baal's for the illusion of a better life, when the only result is pain, anguish and poverty. How many cures for cancer have been lost; how many vaccines; how many cures for diabetes and glaucoma; which murdered child would end starvation in our world? How many seeds of greatness have been lost. It must stop or the fabric of our society will come undone, and as Megiddo has been relegated to the dust bin of history, so shall we. We are wonderfully made. Within each and every cell in our bodies there is a strand of DNA, that when uncoiled is 6 feet long. The Scripture says “*while you were yet in the womb I did knit you together.*” Will we learn from history

THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION

1128 Royal Palm Beach Blvd - Suite 347

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



Hurricane Matthew Relief Effort in Haiti

The Good Shepherd Foundation (TGSF) response to the humanitarian crisis in Grande Saline, Haiti

Many people are asking about the small part of the world we have been working together to help for 5 years.

Yet again, the Haitian people are faced with another environmental catastrophe: all water is contaminated and unsafe for drinking, bathing, or anything else. Malaria, typhoid, dengue fever, zika and severe skin diseases will explode due to the hurricane flooding. They do not have enough medical care to deal with this crisis. We need your help now. While emergency shelters, food and water are a high priority, disease outbreak remains a major concern. Cases of cholera have already been reported.

The patients we serve now face life-threatening water borne diseases, without even basic medicines like Tylenol for a fever or salve for a skin disease. We all know the discomfort of high fevers and other illnesses. We are grateful for simple medications that ease our ailments. Without our intervention our patients will most likely face a deadly epidemic alone.



With the support of our donors, in five years we have saved lives and eased suffering for over 15,000 people who have no other access to medical care. The Good Shepherd Foundation Haitian staff is in place and is able to act quickly but we need your help. We are in urgent need of financial assistance to double our monthly clinics and to provide desperately needed medication. With your generous donation we will be able to provide the needed medical care by supplying hygiene kits, water treatment supplies, antibiotics, IV fluids, rehydration solutions and education materials on how to reduce the spread of disease.

- *Since 100% of your donation will go directly to serve the needs of the people from Grande Saline, we ask you to donate today to help us double our clinics until this medical crisis is under control.*
- *Your gift of even \$10 dollars could save the life one person by providing essential medical and sanitation supplies necessary to prevent or treat diseases directly attributable to conditions caused by Hurricane Matthew.*
- *A gift of \$1,000 will enable us to provide one additional clinic that continues to ease pain, heal wounds, cure infections and, now, distribute cholera and malaria medications for 100 patients.*

As our staff works to provide medical relief, we ask that you pray for those that have been devastated. Thank you in advance for your financial support. With deep gratitude,

Linda McGurn, Vice President

www.thegoodshepherdfoundation.org

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Hurricane Matthew Emergency Medical Relief Donor Form

Yes, I want to help with the medical crisis caused by the recent hurricane in Haiti. Some ways you can help...

- \$2,500 provides an emergency clinic to serve 250 patients.
- \$1,000 provides a clinic day for 100 patients with simple medications.
- \$500 provides 20 families with safe water treatment kits.
- \$100 provides clinical care for ten people, including basic medications.
- \$25 buys one family a water treatment kit.
- \$10 can save the life of one person – simple as that!

Maximize your donation by mailing your check to:

The Good Shepherd Foundation

1128 Royal Palm Beach Blvd - Suite 347

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

OR

Donate online at the website above using paypal

For more information please contact Linda McGurn at 860-805-1006, or rlmcgurn@gmail.com
(use" Haiti" in the subject line).

Pastoral Care

Pastor Tom will be on sabbatical. During this time, he will return messages left to his phone (860-806-2440) and email as quickly as possible.

In the event of an immediate need or emergency, you may contact Pastor Ryan or Pastor Kathleen Mills (Holy Trinity Trumbull) at [\(203\) 903-8352](tel:2039038352), or the synod office at [\(860\) 482-6100](tel:8604826100).

If you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail-mail, his address during this time is:
Rev'd Thomas S. Droben
Selwyn College, Cambridge University
Grange Rd
Cambridge CB3 9DQ
United Kingdom

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Droben
President – Andrew Fisher
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny
Treasurer – Catherine Lichanec
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Melissa Fisher
Leonard Lichanec
Michael Marvonek
Patricia Marvonek

(Non-Council position)
Financial Secretary – Leigh Max

Service Teams

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

Reminder – The Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2017 immediately after church. Everyone's input is needed.

Shut-in Members

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

† Spread the spirit of Christmas by sharing and giving to those in need.

† Examine your past difficulties, and understand the lessons that have been shown to you.

† Open your heart to the beauty that surrounds you

January Birthdays

01 – Allison Verney
13 – Vera Marko
13 – Olga Panciera
15 – Steve Marvonek
15 – Eric Mercier
15 – Paul Mercier
21 – Bob Titus
22 – Leonard Lichanec
26 – Michael Marvonek
27 – Ashley Titus

Reminder – The Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2017 immediately after church. Everyone's input is needed.

Your church can use volunteers to serve as members of the Church Council. Please be willing to offer your name during the proper time in the agenda for the annual meeting.

Join Lutherans from several congregations for the exhibit Word and Image: Martin Luther's Reformation, Saturday, January 14, at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City. The exhibit from Germany celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation includes more than ninety objects, including Luther's vestments, one of the few existing copies of the Ninety-Five Theses, and nearly forty paintings, prints, and drawings by the celebrated German Renaissance artist Lucas Cranach the Elder. Also on view will be Luther's manuscript draft of his famous Old Testament translation. Admission is \$20, \$13 for seniors and students. Carpool from the church at 9 a.m., see exhibit at Noon, lunch options following. RSVP to Pastor Tom

Attention all Lay Assistants and Volunteers that help with services

This includes Council Members, (Tellers), Ushers, Worship Assistants and Readers.

Please let me know dates and days of when you aren't available to serve in your position. It's much easier to find a replacement (when available) prior to typing the Monthly Service Schedule rather than finding a replacement after the schedule is typed or you just don't show up.

You can hand me a piece of paper when we see each other at church; or send me an email at walterkovaciny@cox.net or send me the information via snail mail. Just don't tell me verbally.

Thanks to everyone for their assistance with this. Walter Kovaciny, part of the newsletter



St. Peters Tomb. The Vatican

team.

January / February Service Schedule

The Season of Advent is the first Sunday of the church year so we'll be using readings from Series A.

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worships Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
January 1, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – Holy Name of Jesus – White			
Numbers 6: 22 – 27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2: 5 – 11; Luke 2: 15 – 21			
Amelia Hinchliffe	A Volunteer	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		

January 8, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Baptism of Our Lord – White			
Isaiah 42: 1 – 9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34 – 43; Matthew 3: 13 – 17			
Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	A Volunteer
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		

January 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany – Green			
Isaiah 49: 1 – 7; Psalm 40: 1 – 11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1 – 9; John 1: 29 – 42			
Leonard Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Patricia Marvonek	Leonard Lichanec		

January 22, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany – Green			
Isaiah 9: 1 – 4; Psalm 27: 1, 4 – 9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10 – 18; Matthew 4: 12 – 23			
Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	A Volunteer		

January 29, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green			
Micah 6: 1 – 8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 31; Matthew 5: 1 – 12			
Cathy Lichanec	Rick Bednar	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Walter Kovaciny		

February 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green			
Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9[10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	A Volunteer		

January *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Name of Jesus 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Group Committee meeting	2 Deadline for submitting reports to be included in the annual report booklet.	3 <i>Pastor's day off.</i>	4	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 7:30 p.m. Vespers	7
8 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council	9	10 <i>Pastor's day off.</i>	11	12	13	14 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
15 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion <u>11:15 a.m. Annual meeting</u>	16 Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter	17 <i>Pastor's day off.</i>	18 Confession of Saint Peter (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)	19	20	21
22 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word	23	24 <i>Pastor's day off.</i>	25 Conversion of Saint Paul	26 Timothy, Titus, & Silas Missionaries	27 Lydia, Dorcas & Silas, Missionaries	28 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
29 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	30	31 <i>Pastor's day off.</i>				

*** Coming Events ***

January

1 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.

1 – Learning and Youth Group committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.

2 – Deadline for submitting reports for the Annual Report

6 – Epiphany of Our Lord, Vespers – 7:30 p.m.

*******15 – Annual Meeting – 11:15 a.m.*******

16 – Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter

22 – Service of the Word – 10:00 a.m.

29 – Holy Communion – 10:00 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

