

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*February 2017*  
*104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076*



“The Church doesn’t need our opinion, she needs our holiness,” begins a message by Sr. Theresa Noble which I think is important for us as Christians living in such an opinionated age. *A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.*  
—Proverbs 18:2

We live in a world full of opinions. And the internet has amplified the number of opinions we hear each day. People who used to grouse about life to their best friend or next-door neighbors now have websites, blogs, and social media accounts through which they can announce their opinions on any given subject to the world.

“I can be silent no more!” This sentiment is widespread, as if typing out our grievances will somehow solve the world’s problems. The democratizing force of the internet makes us all feel like our opinions are much more valuable than they really are.

It sounds harsh but most of our opinions don’t really matter. The only thing that matters is truth and action, and that is not the same as opinion. Of course, the problem is that we often confuse having an opinion with knowing the truth. We step onto our soapboxes and pontificate as if we have a full and comprehensive understanding of the truth. But we don’t.

The closest we can get to knowing and understanding truth is to enter and live within the Church. Like a mother, the Church takes us close to her breast and feeds us the milk of truth. But this truth is not given to us to wield against others like a whip. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, we are called to speak “the truth in love” so that we may “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Eph 4:15).

Paul’s image of “growing up” is right on target. We remain as children if we do not learn the art of speaking boldly both truth and love. If we emphasize one rather than the other, we are still being called to a greater maturity in Christ. And most of us will admit that we do not speak the truth in love perfectly. As humans, we almost never speak a full truth to another person, at least not the Truth that is a person, Jesus Christ.

Instead, we speak a mishmash of opinion, truth, lies, and love all at once. We often don’t realize it. But once in a while, God reveals to us how little we actually know. It is a mercy when he does this because we are revealed to ourselves in our nakedness. For “no creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account” (Heb 4:13). Only when we realize our nakedness can we cling more closely to Christ in the Church and trust in his guidance.

Though it is woefully unpopular to say, the Church does not need our opinion in matters of faith and morals. She is not a democracy. Even if some of us find ourselves in disagreement with Church teaching or we disapprove of something a pope has said, we often can find maturity and truth in doing something our egoistic, self-centered world disdains: remaining silent. As the book of Sirach tells us, “There is a man who keeps silent but is wise” (20:1).

The Church needs us to speak the truth in love, but She does not need our correction in matters of faith and morals. The Holy Spirit corrects the Church, and he taps people like Saint Paul, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Saint Athanasius to play the part. But it is doubtful that the Holy Spirit needs the voice of every Christian with a blog and a Twitter account to set things straight. In fact, it seems likely that the devil uses our obsession with such matters to distract us from what really matters.

What the Church does need is our holiness. She needs us to preach the Gospel to all creatures (Mk 16:15). She needs us to pull our eyes away from the internal politics of the Church and focus our eyes on spreading the Gospel and the Body of Christ. The Church needs us to desire and thirst for sanctity.

In the words of Saint Paul, the Church needs us to “increase and abound in love [for] one another...so that he may establish your hearts un-blamable in holiness before our God” (1 Thess 3:12-13).

Pastor Thomas

The letter below is to explain to our church members and friends why you see WIC listed in the monthly calendar in the newsletter. I learned from reading the letter that the church is one of their satellite locations. I honestly forgot that designation.

If you know of a family that could possibly benefit from this program please have them call us at 860-528-1458.

Newsletter team member, Walter Kovaciny

### WIC – Women, Infants and Children Program

WIC is a federally funded nutrition education and supplemental food program for Women who are pregnant, breastfeeding an infant up to one year of age or just recently gave birth up to 6 weeks postpartum, Infants up to one year of age or Children up until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

To be eligible for WIC the participant needs to be in one of the above categories. Dads and grandparents who have custody of an infant or child under 5 years of age can also apply for that child.

Along with being in one of the eligible categories, you must live in Connecticut (if you live in another state, you can apply for WIC there, it is a nationwide program) and the family must be at or below an income guideline. That income guideline is 185% of the federal poverty level, for a family of 4 that would be \$44,945 per year, the complete income guidelines are available on the Department of Public Health web site. A family that is eligible for the SNAP program or if the eligible woman or child receives health insurance through the HUSKY A program, they are considered adjunctively eligible for WIC.

There is one last criteria for WIC and that is medical or nutritional need. To determine that, WIC employs dieticians and nutritionists to work with the families. There is certain medical information that is asked for from the participant's doctor to help determine needs.

Once enrolled on the WIC program the eligible woman or parent/guardian of the infant or child meets with a nutritionist a minimum of 4 times a year to discuss growth and nutrition needs. The family also receives an e-WIC card which the family can use to purchase specific foods that have been chosen for the eligible person. For women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum or children over 1 year that will include milk or another calcium source such as cheese yogurt or tofu, eggs, beans or peanut butter, cereals that are fortified with iron and low in



sugar, whole grains such as bread, pasta or brown rice, juice and fruits and vegetables. Infants receive infant foods as 6 months including cereal, fruits and vegetable. If the infant is exclusively breastfed they will also receive the infant meats. An infant who is not breastfed



exclusively or not at all will receive infant formula.

The WIC program in East Hartford serves an additional 18 towns including Andover, Bolton, Colchester, East Granby, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon and Windsor Locks.

Along with our main office at 50 Chapman Place in East Hartford there are 4 satellite locations. The satellites are Monday in Vernon at 3 Elm Street, Wednesdays in Enfield at 110 High Street, Fridays in Manchester at 100 North Main Street and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in Stafford Springs, right here.

## 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).

It 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 information for

Office phone: 860-684-7571

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

Mailing address:

7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT  
06076-1334

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

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

## 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

Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

## 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

## 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



## **February Birthdays**

01 – Dorothy Tonoli  
08 – William ‘Bill’ Sevcik  
13 – Donald Hoffman  
13 – Joan Fittz  
20 – Kathy Hinchliffe  
20 – Tyler Murray  
24 – Patricia ‘Pat’ Marvonek  
28 – Matthew Mordasky

## **Anniversaries**

22 – Richard & Jean Palacko

## **Jesus**

Never thought of it this way!  
Jesus died over 2000 years ago. Nobody has ever referred to him as the last Jesus.  
Not even the heathens.  
Nowhere in history.  
Nowhere has He EVER been referred to in the past tense!  
He is the Living God!  
When Jesus died on the cross He was thinking of us!

## **Thrivent Choice**

Thanks to members and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church that have insurance with Thrivent. They choose to direct their Choice Dollars to our church. HTLC received \$55.00 in charitable outreach funding in 2016.

## **Annual Meeting / Harvest Sale**

Our Annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 15, 2017. As part of the discussion, Leigh Maxa announced that she would be co-chair of the Harvest Sale again this year. The actual date still needs to be set. So for members that make contributions to the annual event, please start thinking of what you wish to donate this year so the sale can be successful.



## February / March Service Schedule

These readings are from Series A and can be found between pg. 18 – 53 in the front of the Evangelical Lutheran

Worship hymnal.

Tellers

Ushers

Worships Assistants

Reader

### **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

### **February 12, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green**

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Psalm 119: 1 – 8; 1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9; Matthew 5: 21 – 37

Michael Welch

Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

A Volunteer

Sheila Welch

Cathy Lichanec

### **February 19, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – Green**

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119: 33-40; 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5: 38-48

Leonard Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Cathy Lichanec

Steve Marvonek

Patricia Marvonek

Leonard Lichanec

### **February 26, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Transaction of Our Lord – White**

Exodus 24: 12 – 18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1: 16 – 21; Matthew 17: 1 – 9

Melissa Fisher

Walter Kovaciny

Cathy Lichanec

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

A Volunteer

### **March 1, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday – Purple**

Joel 2: 1 – 2, 12 – 17; Psalm 51: 1 – 17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b to 6: 10; Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

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Walter Kovaciny

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### **March 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday Lent – Purple**

Genesis 2: 15 – 17; 3: 1 – 7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12 – 19; Matthew 4: 1 – 11

Amelia Hinchliffe

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek

A Volunteer

### **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](mailto: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 team.

**February      *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*      2017**

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                           | Monday                                                                         | Tues.                                                 | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                           | Friday | Saturday                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                |                                                       | 1         | 2<br><b>Presentation<br/>of Our Lord</b>                                           | 3      | 4                                                            |
| 5 <b>The Fifth Sunday after<br/>the Epiphany</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy<br>Communion<br>11:15 a.m. Learning and<br>Youth Committee meeting<br>11:15 a.m. Social Hour | 6                                                                              | 7                                                     | 8         | 9                                                                                  | 10     | 11<br>8:45 a.m. to<br>12:45 a.m.<br>Safe Net<br>Distribution |
| 12 <b>The Sixth Sunday<br/>after the Epiphany</b><br>10:00 a.m. Service of the<br>Word                                                                           | 13<br>Deadline<br>for<br>submitting<br>articles for<br>the March<br>newsletter | 14<br><b>Cyril and<br/>Methodius,</b><br>Missionaries | 15        | 16                                                                                 | 17     | 18<br><b>Martin<br/>Luther,</b><br>Renewer of<br>the Church  |
| 19 <b>The Seventh Sunday<br/>After the Epiphany</b><br>10:00 a.m. Service of the<br>Word<br>11:15 a.m. Social Hour                                               | 20                                                                             | 21                                                    | 22        | 23<br><b>Polycarp,<br/>Bishop &amp;<br/>Martyr</b><br><hr/> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.<br>WIC | 24     | 25<br>8:45 a.m. to<br>12:45 a.m.<br>Safe Net<br>Distribution |
| 26 <b>The Transfiguration<br/>of Our Lord</b><br>10:00 a.m. Holy<br>Communion                                                                                    | 27                                                                             | 28                                                    |           |                                                                                    |        |                                                              |



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

