

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2017

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Lent is often a reminder of two facts: God's plan of salvation is simple, but living as a Christian is not.

Unfortunately there are many voices that would try and tell us otherwise. Television preachers who only talk about prosperity or make the Gospel a self-help program are simply wrong. And even the most well-meaning assertion that the church is there to make us feel good is misleading.

Consider the command from Jesus, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34-35). That seems simple enough, and we can easily call this a lifestyle and give lip service to it. But what does it mean to love one another? Jesus certainly doesn't qualify his command to say "once in a while" or "when it is easy." Jesus doesn't even say, "Love those who are nice to you" or "love those who will love you back." Jesus says there's no merit in that because "even sinners love those who love them." Rather Jesus gives us a radical command, and explains that we are to even love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us.

It's one thing to admire Jesus' words. It's another thing entirely to try and live by them. We say we will pray for our enemies, but somehow we find it hard to spend time with even friends who irritate us or who have upset us. We can understand how it is a loving thing to give correction to someone, but we ourselves resent being corrected.

When we think of the church as primarily a place to make us feel better, then it's not a place we are going to want to remain when we feel uncomfortable. If we focus on the church being a place where I come for comfort, then the presence of sinners and hypocrites is going to bother me, and I'll likely end up ignoring my own sin. But when we see the church for what it is, the bride of Christ, made up of broken people who want to become holy for Jesus' sake, then we'll be a little more forgiving of its imperfections. We'll see in the church and in the community of the baptized a family and a place of safety where:

1. We can admit our sin- not just in theory, but in specifics,
2. We learn of God's forgiveness and love from the mouth of the pastor and from the words of the Scriptures,
3. We receive inspiration and solace from the history of God's people throughout time,
4. We are strengthened by the sacraments, so that Christ's new life might be within us and make us more than we are,
5. We practice forgiving, and we practice loving.

It's this last point that I so often return to with hope for our Christian communities and thanksgiving to God for the gift of community, because I am more and more convinced of its importance. If we can't forgive people who hurt us, and can't love people who are different from us, in the safety of the Church, then we have no chance at being able to do it out in the world.

We have a mission to fulfill in the world, to show the love of Christ in it and thus transform it. But it is a mission that is impossible if we are not first transformed ourselves.

So often we take Christianity too lightly. It would be easy to just take the cross and Christ's forgiveness and stop wrestling with what the best thing to do is. To take for granted the gift we have been given and feel at liberty to focus on me, myself, my comfort and my needs. But it's just as easy to place too much emphasis on our actions. To remember our shortcomings and be sure we aren't good enough to belong, or to remember all the good work we've done that never quite got enough attention, and feel like we are too good to belong. Both are easy, and both happen when we focus on ourselves.

We need to constantly wrestle with how to live a Christ-centered life, rather than a self-centered life. How to live with such joy and such freedom that we don't need to only look inward and

worry about ourselves but can look up towards God and outwards towards Christ who as Saint Patrick (whom we commemorate this month) says is “beneath me, above me, in quiet, in danger, in hearts of all that love me, in mouth of friend and stranger.”

This is why we need community, which is part of the reason why we need this church. We need to wrestle with each other, to be stretched together as we grow, and to be strengthened by Christ. We need to be reminded constantly of our forgiveness in Christ. Of the forgiveness we so desperately need to receive, and the forgiveness in him we are called to give.

May you grow this Lent in the knowledge of what you have yet to give, what you have yet to receive, what you have yet to learn, and as always of the immeasurable love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Tom



Two Thousand year old olive Trees In the Garden Of Gethsemane. They witnessed our Lords agony yet they still bare Fruit.

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 information for

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 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

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
28 – Aidan Cooley
28 – Ian Cooley

Easter Lilies

The cost of each Lily will be \$7.00, the same as last year. This is the price the florist is charging us, we aren't making any money on the flowers. Please give the order blank and payment to Walter Kovaciny, not in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies will be Sunday, April 2nd.

Attn: all Council Members, Ushers, Lay Ministers and Readers

Please review your calendars and let me know when you aren't available to help at a worship service. It's much easier to find a volunteer prior to the monthly service schedule than after the document is published. Once you've checked your schedule, please give the information to Walter so his records are current. I'm fairly sure some of you have already taken trips so we had to backpedal just prior to a worship service.

Volunteer Readers are needed for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil services

There will be a signup sheet posted in the narthex for everyone to indicate what reading they can help with.

Date to submit information for the monthly newsletter

Hopefully you'll notice this a week earlier than in the past so we have time to get the newsletter out by the 4th Sunday of each month. Earlier submittal is always better. Thanks in advance for everyone's cooperation with this.

Your Assistance is needed

As a reader of this newsletter your assistance is needed. Please submit cartoons, short stories, full page articles. Rather than having to put a page in the newsletter that are mailed stating "You are missing anything, this page is being used to make an even number of pages." For the members that still get a hardcopy of the newsletter, this request is old news.

Granted I've been writing this newsletter for many years, I always need help. I stare at the computer screen or a pad of paper and nothing pops out of my memory.

Sincerely, Walter

† Share with others how important they are to you.

† Reach out and help someone by sharing your love and time.

† Face every situation with faith in your heart.

Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch

The members of the Learning and Youth Committee cordially invite you to attend and perhaps bring a dish to share for a gathering after church on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017. From comments made after last year's Palm Sunday Brunch everyone that attended enjoyed themselves. There will be a goodwill offering jar on the table for those to use that wish to make a donation that will go into the General Fund. The tables and chairs will be set up similar to the shape the tables are presently positioned, (probably with another table to make the sides longer). There will be a signup sheet posted in the narthex to indicate the amount attending so we have enough chairs sent up.

Again all are welcome,

Committee Chairman, Walter Kovaciny

We Lift in Prayer

The family of Millicent "Millie" Witkoske. Millicent. Millicent entered into eternal rest Saturday, February 11, 2017, at her residence, comforted by her loving family. Millicent was 95 when our Lord called her home.

Millie was a nurse's on the home front effort during World War II and first met her husband, Art at a USO dance before he was deployed to Europe. Arthur "Art" and Millie were married 67 years. Millie leaves three daughters, a brother, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many friends.

Veteran's Coffee Social

At Bonnie Jeans Kitchen (Formerly Chelle's)
Free coffee; Reconnect with old friends; Get to know new ones.

Breakfast available – Veteran's Discount

Sponsored by Stafford AMVETS Post 13

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Date: Every Wednesday, (weather permitting)

Location: 107 West Stafford Rd.

Stafford Springs, CT

A Suggested Prayer

When there is nothing left but God; that is when you find out that God is all you need. All you do is simply say the following small prayer for the person you are thinking of. Father, God bless _____ in

whatever it is that you know they may be needing this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power as _____ seeks to have a closer relationship with you. Amen.

♥ The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

♥ Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Peace begins with a smile. 😊

♥I've learned that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.



March / April Service Schedule

These readings are from Series A and can be found in the front of the Evangelical Lutheran
Worship hymnal.

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worships Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
----------------	---------------	----------------------------	---------------

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

~~~~~	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	A Volunteer Needed
	A Volunteer Needed		

### 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 Needed		

### March 12, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday in Lent – Purple

Genesis 12: 1 – 4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4: 1 – 5, 13 – 18; John 3: 1 – 17

Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	A Volunteer
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		

### March 19, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday in Lent – Purple

Exodus 17: 1 - 7; Psalm 95; Romans 5: 1 – 11; John 4: 5 – 42

Walter Kovaciny	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Steve Marvonek
Cathy Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		

### March 26, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday in Lent – Purple

1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8 – 14; John 5: 1 – 41

Leonard Lichanec	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Patricia Marvonek	A Volunteer Needed		

### April 2, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday in Lent – Purple

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6 – 11; John 11: 1 – 45

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. [walterkovaciny@cox.net](mailto:walterkovaciny@cox.net)

# March    *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*    2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> 7 p.m. Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	2	3	4
<b>5 The First Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning & Youth Committee mtg. 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	6	<b>7 Perpetua &amp; Felicity, Martyrs</b>	8	9	10	11 9 a. to 12:45p. Safe Net Distribution
<b>12 The Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting <hr/> Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 <b>Gregory, Bishop</b> <hr/> Deadline for newsletter submissions for April	14 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	15	16	17 <b>Patrick, Bishop &amp; Missionary</b>	18
<b>19 The Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	20 <b>Joseph, Guardian of the Lord</b>  7 p.m. Vespers	21 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	22	23	24 <b>Oscar Romero, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b>	25 <b>Annunciation of Our Lord</b>  7 p.m. Holy Communion <hr/> 9 a. -12:45 p. Safe Net Distribution
<b>26 The Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	27	28 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	29	30	31	

## Easter Lilies

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, April 16th. The cost of each Lily is \$7.00

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

---

**OR**

Given in memory of (for the dead) _____

---

Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, April 2nd. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. All the flowers will be White Lilies, no colors. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered _____.

## Easter Lilies

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, April 16th. The cost of each Lily is \$7.00

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

---

**OR**

Given in memory of (for the dead) _____

---

Return this form to Walter Kovaciny, (don't put in the offering plate), with the exact amount, by Sunday, April 2nd. If paying by check, make the check payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please write Flowers on the "For" line on the check. All the flowers will be White Lilies, no colors. Please indicate the amount of Lilies ordered _____.

### *** Coming Events ***

#### March

- 1 – Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Learning and Youth Committee meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 5 & 19 – Social Hour – 11:20 p.m.
- 12 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 13 – Please hand in any information that you'd like to see in the newsletter by this date.
- 20 – **Joseph**, Guardian of the Lord, Vespers – 7:00 p.m.
- 25 – **Annunciation of Our Lord**, Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.
- 11 & 25 – Safe Net distribution – 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

#### April

- 02 – Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies
- 09 – Palm Sunday worship – 10:00 a.m. Followed immediately by the Potluck Brunch
- 13 – Maundy Thursday worship – Time to be Determined
- 14 – Good Friday worship – Time to be Determined
- 15 – Easter Vigil worship – Time to be Determined
- 16 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday worship – 10:00 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

