

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*April 2017*

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



**When it comes to questions of love and wisdom**, it can be difficult to know what to do. What should we do when it comes to the issues that many people disagree about? Actions or habits that are not explicitly condemned or condoned in Scripture are difficult to think through (e.g. drinking, smoking, whether to go to something "extra" at church, or things like yoga).

Scripture provides a way through such difficult issues with one overarching purpose—love for God and each other. Love is the most basic expression of the Christian's faith. At the end of the day, if what a person is doing is not in line with love and *the God who is love*, then it is sin. We are called to let *love* drive our decisions.

After discussing Christian liberty, Paul writes the great "love chapter" of 1 Corinthians 13:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1–3)

Even with questions of wisdom, there is still a governing principle or goal:

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Tim. 1:5)

First, Christians need to realize that men and women are primarily *loving beings*. Christ himself states that the greatest commandments that summarize God's will for our lives are the commands to love God, our neighbor, and self (Matt. 22). This is our identity. We act and treat things according to what we love the most. If we love God, our faculties (our minds and affections) should follow that love wherever it is aimed. The same is true of our neighbors and ourselves.

Yet, it is easy for us to see everything in terms of personal *rights* and how we *feel* about ourselves. When we look at issues of wisdom and Christian liberty, we often consider the practice in terms of the thinking "Is this good for me?" or "Is this thing going to help promote my image in the eyes of others?" We often look at personal rights as things we cannot live without. If it is convenient, we abstain. If it is about how good something makes us feel, we wrongly believe there is no harm in acting in certain ways.

Second, we must understand that we shape our lives according to what we believe to be our highest good. Keeping the order of God, others, and self straight in our minds makes all the difference. If we place ourselves at the center, we will abuse God's good gifts regardless of whether or not we hurt others.

Freedom, according to Paul, is not an end in itself. Rather, the building up of those around us is the true goal. The love of God and others must be at the center of wisdom and liberty to pass Paul's test (1 Cor. 8: 11–13). Love affects everything. Love directs our whole existence, the question is towards whom. As Ashley Null once said, "What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies." The question, then, is not whether we will let love guide us but towards what end will it be pointed, ourselves or others. Our actions and minds follow whatever the heart is aimed at.

Therefore, we need to ask what is the aim or goal of our actions. To whom are we primarily directing them? What purpose, function, or vision of life is being expressed when we do something? Does this action promote the good of others and their betterment to the glory of God? If we find ourselves at the center of the above order, it's a good bet that the action is not loving, and therefore not wise.

May the Peace and Grace of Our Lord be with you always,

Pastor Thomas



## A Virtual Tour of the Garden Tomb



**The Garden Tomb** gives us a wonderful example of what Joseph of Arimathea's tomb may have looked like. While archeology gives the edge to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as the burial place of Jesus, there is mounting evidence that this could be where Christ was sealed in the unfinished tomb. While the world debates, it is not necessary to our faith as to which is which, but we as human beings are always looking for a point of contact. Upon entering the Church of the Holy Sepulcher I feel a the weight of disunity. So many denominations engaged in territorial disputes. It became so bad that the keys to the church were given to a Muslim family, who for generations have opened the church each day. We feel at peace here as we celebrate the Eucharist and a renewing of our spirits. This place has been sanctified by the prayers of millions. Below there is a link to a very short Youtube video I made. I hope it gives you a moment to reflect on the weight of our sins that He bore for us, and that His Grace Has set us free. There is no condemnation for those who believe.

Click the following link

<https://youtu.be/ybRugwLWAgO>

## **Pastoral Care**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
7 Green St. Stafford Springs, CT  
06076-1334

Office Phone-860-684-7571

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

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

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:(203)903-8352), or the synod office at [\(860\) 482-6100](tel:(860)482-6100).

If you'd like to write Pastor Tom via snail-mail, his address during this time is:

Rev'd Thomas S. Drobená  
Selwyn College, Cambridge University  
Grange Rd  
Cambridge CB3 9DQ  
United Kingdom

## **Members of the Council are:**

Rev. Thomas S. Drobená  
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 Drobená, Melissa Fisher,  
Walter Kovaciny, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

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

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



## Thank You

On behalf of my Wife, Brenda, Son, Steve and Myself...we want to thank our Friends (Family) at Holy Trinity Church for the get well cards and continued prayers! They are working and thank you! Miss all of you! Hope to see you soon. Fight & Pray! Sincerely, Rick, Brenda and Steve Bednar

## April Birthdays

03 – Hayden Verney  
04 – Jevon Baarck  
06 – James Bulick  
18 – Phil Renn  
20 – Timothy Mottes  
21 – Jessica Cooley  
22 – Ruth Boyles  
24 – Derek Bauer  
28 – Sheila Welch

## Anniversaries

16 – Paul & Anna Mae Hockla  
22 – Steve & Tonia Marvonek  
27 – Adam & Cassandra Tremblay



## 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 **Tuesday, April 11, 2017.**

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.



**It has pleased almighty God** to call to our eternal home the spirit of John Hinchliffe who died March 30. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 8, at 11 a.m. in our church. We thank God for our brother John, for the new life given to him in baptism, and for the promise of reunion and eternal life at the resurrection. We pray for his family during this time and the comfort only our Lord can give.

## April/May 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>
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### 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		

### April 9, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – Sunday of the Passion; Palm Sunday – Purple

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a; Psalm 31: 9 – 16; Philippians 2: 5 – 11; Matthew 26: 14 to 27: 66

Michael Welch	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch	Cathy Lichanec		

### April 13, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday – White

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

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### April 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday – No Paraments

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

### April 15, 2017 – 8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter – Ends with Easter White

For the 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson and Psalm, reference the reading below-Romans 6: 3-11; John 20: 1-18

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

Exodus 14: 10 – 31; Lenny Lichanec      Isaiah 55: 1 – 11; Jen Welch

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14      Daniel 3: 1 – 29 Daniel Lichanec

### April 16, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter White

Acts 10: 34 – 43; Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24; Colossians 3: 1 – 4; Matthew 28: 1 – 10

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~~~~~	Leonard Lichanec		

### April 23, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 2: 14a, 22 – 32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9; John 20: 19 – 31

Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Michael Welch
Leonard Lichanec			

### April 30, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Easter – Easter White

Acts 2: 14a, 36 – 41; Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 – 19; 1 Peter 1: 17 – 23; Luke 24: 13 – 35

Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Amelia Hinchliffe			

# April *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2017

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2 The Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Learning Committee 11:20 a.m. Social Hour Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies	3	4 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	5	6	7 7 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	8 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>9 Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Potluck lunch	10 <b>Fig Monday</b>  <b>10 a.m. Morning Prayer</b>	11 <b>Holy Tuesday</b>  <i>Deadline to submit for the May newsletter</i>	12 <b>Spy Wednesday</b>	13 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  <b>7 p.m. Holy Communion</b>	14 <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>7 p.m. Worship</b>	15 <b>Holy Saturday</b>  <b>8 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter</b>
<b>16 The Resurrection of Our Lord</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	17 <b>Bright Monday</b>  <b>10 a.m. Morning Prayer</b>	18 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	19	20 <b>Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor</b>	21	22 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>23 The Second Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Church Council meeting	24	25 <b>Mark, Evangelist</b>  <b>7 p.m. Vespers</b>	26 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27	28	29 <b>Catherine of Siena, Theologian</b>
<b>30 The Third Sunday of Easter</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

## Coming Events

### April

- 7 – Stations of the Cross – 7:00 p.m.
- 09 – Palm Sunday worship – 10:00 a.m. Followed immediately by the Potluck Lunch
- 10 – Fig Monday, Morning Prayer – 10:00 a.m.
- 13 – Maundy Thursday worship – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 – Good Friday worship – 7:00 p.m.
- 15 – Easter Vigil worship – 8:00 p.m.
- 16 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday worship – 10:00 a.m.
- 17 – Bright Monday, Morning Prayer – 10:00 a.m.
- 23 – Church Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.
- 25 – Mark, Evangelist, Vespers – 7:00 p.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

