

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church *January 2020 Newsletter*

104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This winter promises to be a cold one. All the supposed sign pointed to lots of snow-squirrels gathering lots of nuts, lots of acorns, pigs gathering sticks... Many of us enjoy watching the snow fall and rest of the tree branches, and of course as much as we complain about having to shovel, we all enjoy a good snow day. Author Amanda McMillan writes beautifully on what this fluffy white stuff tells us as people of faith. She writes:

“Enough snow means that an ordinary day becomes the kind of day when you have all the plans in the world and you can’t do ANY of them because you can’t safely leave the house. I live for those days. There’s no use attempting to get to the gym before work, or even to work at all for that matter, when you live in Virginia, and it snows a few inches, and no one knows how driving works anymore. So you stay home and watch “It’s a Wonderful Life” because who can blame you?? It’s dangerous out there

“This is a humbling moment, realizing that we can do nothing to stop the weather. The snow comes, whether we consider ourselves ready for it or not, and all we can do is sit inside and look out the window, wondering what’s going to get cancelled the next day. And it can either be an exciting experience, when you don’t have anywhere urgently to get to, or a unsettling one as we reckon with the lack of control and a growing to-do list.

We let go of control when we have no choice but to do so, and in my experience, not before then. Weather teaches me this. In being forced to let go of our lack of God-hood and embracing our messy, mortal, out-of-our-control lives (through a snow day or otherwise), we find that the presence of God, like snow cancelling all our plans, can be a sweet balm to our souls and a moment to finally rest. When we are forced to let go of control of the weather, we receive the magic of snow like a child.

“When snow comes, it comes to everyone and everything the same. It levels the ground, so that you can’t tell where your porch steps start and end. It covers both the meticulously manicured lawns, as well as my own yard, with its unraked leaves and random “compost piles”. It covers all of it the same, in a beautiful redemptive blanket.

God’s work through repentance is kind of like this, too. As Isaiah says, “every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.” When forced to realize our lack of God-hood and lack of control, we find that we all have more in common with one another than maybe we’d like to admit.

“The playing field is leveled. There is no manicured lawn or messy lawn — just a blanket of snow. God does not look at the human family and see divisions of socioeconomic status, political affiliation, or church attendance stats — we do this, God does not. He sees his children, each one in deep need of a Savior. And this view of ourselves as children in need, while humbling, is a gift from God that allows us to feel compassion for our neighbor.

“God comes to us like snow: quietly, gently. He levels the playing field through the completed work on the cross. He brings all bustling activity to a stop, and He allows us to rest, finally, in his promise of salvation. It is here, in embracing the out-of-control “snow day” of our lives, where healing begins, too. As Isaiah says, “all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Let it be, Lord.”

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom



The following video will take you from the conception of our Lord in Nazareth to His birth in Bethlehem. While carrying Jesus Mary actually made the journey twice! First to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was 6 months pregnant with John the Baptist. The cousins stayed with her until John's birth and she returned to Nazareth 3 months Pregnant. The second when traveling to Bethlehem 9 months Pregnant. This is a 90 mile trip on foot. This video will give you an idea of the path she took. For those receiving this electronically simply click the link,

<https://youtu.be/lmUuXlPdCUc>

Pastoral Care

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Office Phone-860-684-7571

Church – htlc-church@att.net

Website – htlcstafford.org

Pastor Tom (860-806-2440)

Email tsd33@cam.ac.uk

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobeno

President – Andrew Fisher

Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny

Treasurer –

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 Drobeno, Melissa Fisher, Cathy
& Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity

Attn: Barbara Bulick

The Ivy at Ellington

123 West Road Apt 115

Ellington. CT 06029-5730

Ms. Shirley Kaba

7 High St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1215

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

The Train At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you all a joyful journey ~

(“The Train” was taken from facebook)

† Feel God’s daily blessings as you complete the day’s tasks.

January

Birthdays

13 – Vera Marko

15 – Steve Marvonek

15 – Eric Mercier

- 15 – Paul Mercier
- 21 – Bob Titus
- 22 – Leonard Lichanec
- 26 – Michael Marvonek
- 27 – Ashley Titus

Anniversaries

We don't have any Anniversaries listed. If this is incorrect, please let us know.

Annual Congregation Meeting

Everyone's input is needed when we have the Annual Meeting.

\$ - The proposed Budget needs to be discussed and voted on. Hopefully you have taken time to review the proposed Budget and asked questions of a member of Council if you were concerned about any part of the budget.

☞ - Our church is in need of a new or gently used computer.

♦ - Is anyone interested in joining the church Council? The Council presently meets the 2nd Sunday of the month after church. Most of the meetings take less than an hour to discuss reports and agenda topics. A new pair of eyes is always welcome. You need to be confirmed to be a member of council.

Man Requests Christmas Cards

PRAIRIE DU SAC, WI (WSET) One man from Wisconsin is requesting Christmas cards as his dying wish after doctors told him he only has months to live.

According to WISC, in January, Gene Weittenhiller said he had his prostate gland removed after cancer was cancer was detected.

He said his family celebrated, thinking he was cancer-free but when a radiology report came back, he learned that a tumor was

growing on this pancreas. The cancer then spread to his liver.

WISC says Weittenhiller started chemotherapy in mid-August but it wasn't working that well.

"It unfortunately showed that it hadn't caused any shrinkage at all in the primary tumor on my pancreas and, in fact, some of the sessions on my liver where it was growing, had increased in size." Weittenhiller told WISC.

After choosing to stop treatment three weeks ago, his doctor says he has months left to live.

His wife, Linda, says this whole experience has been "devastating. Mostly because we just retired, we are just enjoying being close to our kids and our grandchildren.

Now, his family is hoping to make this Christmas the most memorable one for Weittenhiller.

His son, Ross, is asking everyone to send as many Christmas cards as possible to his dad to show him that he isn't alone.

Weittenhiller says he is excited to see how many Christmas cards he gets and anticipated an "overwhelming outpouring of support of people that I've never met and probably never will, but who cares:" according to WISC.

If you would like to send a Christmas card to Gene, you can mail it here:

Mr. Gene Weittenhiller
410 20th St.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

This was published by the United Methodist Church, Stafford Springs, CT

January – February Service Schedule

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

Tellers Ushers Worship Assistants Reader

January 5, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord – Green

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14; Ephesians 3: 1 – 12; Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny Leigh Maxa Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny _____

January 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – The Baptism of Our Lord – White

Isaiah 42: 1 – 9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34 – 43; Matthew 3: 13 – 17

Sheila Welch Walter Kovaciny Sheila Welch Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch _____

January 19, 2020 – 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

Catherine Lichanec Daniel Lichanec Leigh Maxa Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec Leonard Lichanec

January 23, 2020 – 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 Leigh Maxa Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny _____

January 30, 2020 – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – Green

Micah 6: 1 – 8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 31; Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Walter Kovaciny Walter Kovaciny Leigh Maxa Daniel Lichanec

Michael Marvonek _____

February 2, 2020 – 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

Walter Kovaciny _____

This symbol, _____, means a volunteer is needed as an Usher for a specific service.
Please consider offering your talents and volunteer. Thanks.

January Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Circumcision of our Lord 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting 7:30 p.m. Vespers	2	3	4
5 Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion and Confirmation 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	6	7 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	8 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	9	10	11 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
12 The Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 Council meeting	13 Deadline for submitting Articles / Information for the February newsletter	14 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	15 Martin Luther King Jr., <i>Renewer of Society</i> 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	16	17	18 Confession of Peter <i>(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins)</i>
19 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregation meeting	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21 Agnes, Martyr 7:30 p.m. Vespers	22 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	23 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. WIC	24	25 Conversion of Paul 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
26 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	27	28 Thomas Aquinas, Teacher <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	29 5:00 p.m. Refuge Church Meeting	30	31	

*** Coming Events ***

January

1 – Vespers 7:30 p.m.

5 – Social Hour – 11:15 a.m.

11 & 25 – Safe Net Distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

12 – Council meeting – 11:15 a.m.

13 – Does anyone have information to be included in the newsletter?

19 – Annual Congregation meeting – 11:15 a.m.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting and stay the entire time so there is a Quorum.

21 – Vespers – 7:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Web site address www.holytrinitystafford.org Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA Address Correction Requested

