

# HTLC Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care    December 2020



## **Dear Sisters and Brothers**

The season of Advent is a season of preparation. Like Lent, it originally was a time of fasting, study, and preparation to joyfully celebrate and fully appreciate the feast that it leads up to. Preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior is for Christians more than just cleaning and buying and planning.

We prepare to receive our Lord anew, and reflect on how as he did once in Bethlehem, God comes to us at unexpected times and in unexpected places. While the prophets foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, among the cattle and the donkeys, it was nevertheless a surprise to many that a king would be born in such a humble place. Indeed, even the Three Wise Men, who travelled to worship the newborn King, stopped first in Jerusalem, perhaps naturally assuming that the newborn King of the Jews would be born in a palace in the capital of Judea.

But it is not only this first-coming that was unexpected. During this time we think about the other unexpected places God comes to us again to still be Emmanuel, “God who is with us.” We reflect on Jesus coming to us and nourishing us in the humble meal of bread and wine that we share together. We reflect on Jesus coming to us in “the least of these, his brothers and sisters,” telling us that whatever we do (or do not do) for our neighbor in need, we do to him. And lastly we reflect on Jesus coming to us at the end of time, “unexpectedly... like a thief in the night.” Whether we see our Lord’s second-coming on the last day and the end of history when he will come in glory on the clouds, or whether we see our Lord’s second coming when he comes for us individually at the end of our life to take us home, we do not want to be unprepared. For this reason Saint Ireneus (a student of Saint Polycarp, who himself was a student of Saint John, the Evangelist) said, “The business of a Christian is nothing else but preparing for death.” This sounds harsh to our modern ears but the saint is of course right. We prepare to die to self and our egos so that we can live for others, until we die to our bodies so that we can live with Christ forever.

The year that has drawn to a close has been a challenge. We have been given ample opportunity to love and serve our neighbors. We have been reminded of death and the uncertainty of our own futures. And so perhaps more than ever in our lifetimes, we are called to be prepared. Prepared to love others and prepared and to meet Jesus whether he comes to us in the form of one in need or at the last day – or our last day – on the clouds of heaven.

Phillip Nicolai, a Lutheran pastor born in 1556 in Germany, penned a beautiful Advent hymn that embraces this mystery and calls Christians to “wake up” and prepare. When the plague hit his town of Unna, Nicolai lost two sisters and 1,300 parishioners in the course of a year. One day, he records, they dug 30 graves. Overwhelmed, he took solace in Christ’s promises and wrote these words, recalling the parable of the wise and foolish virgins we read only a few weeks ago (Matthew 25:1-13):

Wake, awake, for night is flying;  
the watchmen on the heights are crying:  
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices;  
come forth, ye virgins, night is past;  
the Bridegroom comes, awake;  
your lamps with gladness take:  
Alleluia!





And for his marriage feast prepare,

## A Journey to Bethlehem Follow in Mary's Foot Steps

for ye must go and meet him there.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing;  
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her Star is risen; her Light is come.  
Ah come, thou blessed One,  
God's own beloved Son:  
Alleluia!

We follow till the halls we see  
where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

Now let all the heavens adore thee,  
and saints and angels sing before thee,  
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone;  
of one pearl each shining portal,  
where we are with the choir immortal  
of angels round thy dazzling throne;  
nor eye hath seen, nor ear  
hath yet attained to hear  
what there is ours;  
but we rejoice and sing to thee  
our hymn of joy eternally.

Let us also take such comfort from our Lord's promise to be with us until that day he comes to take us home that we might also always rejoice to greet him when he comes to us, recognize him in the humble bread and wine and friend and stranger, and serve him, knowing that in such love we get a glimpse of eternity.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

Manger Square Bethlehem  
Christmas Celebration Video.



## **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 (860-806-2440)  
Email [tsd33@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tsd33@cam.ac.uk)

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

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena  
President – Andrew Fisher  
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny  
Treasurer – Sheila Welch  
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe  
Melissa Fisher  
Cathy Lichanec  
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 Drobena, 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

Evergreen Health Care Center  
c/o Mrs. Tonia Marvonek  
201 Chestnut Hill Rd., Rm. # 2107  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-4005

## **Thanks to everyone**

Thanks to everyone that helped with the Harvest Sale and the Turkey Dinner events we've held. The response for the Turkey dinner was fantastic with 150 dinners being sold. The Harvest Sale, granted it was a reduced from normal due to the Pandemic. The council voted the profits from the Harvest Sale and Turkey Dinner will go to pay current expenses.

The weather was typical fall weather. The results were great though. Thank you to the many hands that helped making the Kolach and Pies.

**The next event will be held Saturday, December 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** You'll be able to order / purchase platters of cookies with fudge, or Kolach. The deadline to place your order is Wednesday, December 16. The order blank is included in this newsletter.

## **December Birthdays**

05 – The Reverend Thomas S. Drobena  
08 – Danny Lichanec  
09 – Jennifer Welch  
19 – Carl “Tim” Mercier  
20 – Melissa Fisher  
27 – Anna Mae Hockla

## **Anniversaries**

10 – Richard & Nan Hayden

## **Let Us Pray**

Heavenly Father May the Doctor's and healthcare workers that continue treating all your children know your loving care. Amen.

## **Christmas Caroling**

The tentative date for Christmas Caroling is Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. With the pandemic, the caroling will probably be different this year. The carolers will stand outside the homes of our shut-ins. Another change may be everyone driving their own vehicle rather than carpooling like past years.

## **Do To The Pandemic**

Christmas tree trimming and the annual Christmas Party will not be held this year. The events were discussed during the November council meeting. The council felt it's better to keep members healthy rather than holding these events.

## **Poinsettias**

The price of the 6" poinsettias increased this year to \$8.00 each. The deadline for order the plants is Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Walter Kovaciny.

This fourteen pointed star marks the traditional birth place of our Lord.



# December *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>John of Damascus,</b> <i>Hymnwriter</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 The Second Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  <b>Nicholas,</b> <i>Bishop of Myra</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Ambrose,</b> <i>Bishop of Milan</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>  Deadline to submit articles for the January newsletter	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>13 The Third Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting  <b>Lucy,</b> <i>Martyr</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Christmas Cookie &amp; Kolach Pickup</b>  <b>1-3pm</b>
<b>20 The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 1:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Christmas Eve</b>  <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Christmas Day</b>  <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Stephen, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>27 The First Sunday of Christmas</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  <b>John,</b> <i>Evangelist</i>  Last day to make contributions for credit in 2020.	<b>28</b>  <b>The Holy Innocents of Bethlehem,</b> <i>Martyrs</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>Sylvester,</b> <i>Bishop of Rome</i>	<b>1</b>  <b>The Circumcision of our Lord</b>	



## December – January Service Schedule

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

Tellers	Worship Assistant	Reader
<b>December 6, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>		
Isaiah 40: 1 – 11; Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13; 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a; Mark 1: 1 – 8		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Pat Marvonek		

<b>December 13, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>		
Amos 5: 18 – 24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18; Matthew 25: 1 – 13		
Michael Welch	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Sheila Welch		

<b>December 20, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>		
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18; Psalm 90: 1-8, [9-11] 12; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30		
Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec		

<b>December 24, 2020 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Communion Service – White</b>		
Isaiah 9k: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]		
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<b>December 25, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Communion Service – White</b>		
Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1 – 4 [5 – 12]; John 1: 1 – 14		
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<b>December 27, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Christmas – White</b>		
Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24; Psalm 95: 1 – 7a; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Matthew 25: 31 – 46		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Sheila Welch	Michael Welch
Walter Kovaciny		

<b>January 3, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Christmas – White</b>		
Jeremiah 31: 7 – 14; Psalm Wisdom 10: 15 – 21; Ephesians 1: 3 – 14; John 1: [1 – 9] 10 – 18		
Pat Marvonek	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Amelia Hinchliffe		

While we're maintaining Social Distancing, the Ushers wouldn't be scheduled

## Poinsettias

The members and friends of Holy Trinity are encouraged to donate poinsettias each Christmas in order to give Glory to God and beautify our sanctuary during the Nativity liturgies. Those who donate the poinsettias may take them after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each poinsettia is \$8.00.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of (for the living) \_\_\_\_\_

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**OR**

Given in loving memory of (for the deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Christmas Poinsettias

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**OR**

Given in loving memory of (for the deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form to Walter Kovaciny with the correct payment, by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The florist wants count on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. If paying by check, it should be payable to the: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please indicate what color and quantity poinsettia(s) you would like, red \_\_\_\_ or white \_\_\_\_\_. **Instead of marking the color with a check mark or the letter 'x', please put the quantity in the area instead.** Hopefully that will prevent me from guessing. **Thank you**



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 104 Main St - Stafford Springs CT 06076

# Christmas Bake Sale

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

Curb-Side Pickup 1pm to 3pm

## Cookies and Kolache

### Cookie Platters

An Assortment of Cookies

*Chocolate Chip, Molasses, Snicker Doodle, Oatmeal Nut, Fudge, Lemon Tea Cake, Spritz, Pizzelles, Double Chocolate, Pfeffernusse, Peanut Butter*

**Small Platter (24) \$10      Medium (36) \$15**  
**Large Platter (60) \$25**

### Kolach

*Sweet Raised Bread Roll*

*filled with nuts, poppy seed, prune, or apricot*

**Whole \$14 Half \$7**

**All orders must be received by  
 Wednesday, December 16**

## Order Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**     Check Enclosed     Payment at Pick Up

**All orders must be received by Wednesday, December 16**

Item	Quantity	Price Each	Total Price
Small Cookie Platter		\$10	
Medium Cookie Platter		\$15	
Large Cookie Platter		\$25	
Whole Nut Kolach		\$14	
Half Nut Kolach		\$7	
Whole Poppy Kolach		\$14	
Half Poppy Kolach		\$7	
Whole Prune Kolach		\$14	
Half Prune Kolach		\$7	
Whole Apricot Kolach		\$14	
Half Apricot Kolach		\$7	
		Grand Total	

**Mail Orders to:**    *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*  
                                   104 Main St  
                                   Stafford Springs CT 06076

**Or Drop Off in Mail Slot at the  
 Converse St Entrance**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 104 West Main St. Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Website address [www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org) Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA Address Correction Requested

