

# *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*

## *January 2022 Newsletter*



**View from the Mt. of The Beatitudes overlooking the Sea Of Galilee to the Golan Heights**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

The New Year brings with it a tradition of resolutions. Of optimism. Of looking forward to the new. The resolutions and renewals for a new you in the new year often come informed by the old year, the old you, and the insights you've attained. The joys we've experienced, the pain we've suffered, and the love we've shared move us to want more of the good and something different than the bad.

Many preachers and thinkers and motivational speakers will happily talk about the power of positive thinking. "If you want things to change for you, just change your outlook!" This might work for some, but it doesn't always work for everyone. Indeed, if it was within our power to always change things with just a simple attitude adjustment, we wouldn't need a Saviour, would we?

At Christmas we heard the news that Jesus comes into the world to enlighten it. To be a “light shining in the darkness” so that “those who walked in darkness might see a great light.” To be “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.” As C.S. Lewis wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

Something in us changes, when the light of Christ enters our world and dispels our darkness. The new us, and new life, and indeed new year have less to do with us being able to change things by the way we think about them. Instead we are able to see clearly and our understanding of things changes the way in which we, ourselves, are affected by them.

Christians are not self-help gurus: It is not all within our power to control, to pick ourselves up by our bootstraps. Neither are we hopeless fatalists: It is not all predestined and determined and outside our control. Rather we are people in a relationship with Jesus, the One in whom power and powerlessness meet and are reconciled. The one in whom our world is illuminated so that we can see purpose and potential through God’s own eyes.

In Jesus—with the coming of Jesus into the world—our perception of things change. One of my favourite examples of this awareness is in the Eucharistic Prayer as used by our Orthodox brothers and sisters. In it they say, “On the night in which He was betrayed—*or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world*—He took bread, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples...”

“*Or rather!*” What a wonderful phrase for us Christians to learn! It is jarring in its awkwardness and beautiful in its profundity. “*Or rather*” is the stuff of theology. It is an acknowledgment that things are not always as they appear. An acknowledgement and a celebration that God is working invisibly. Sometimes through us, sometimes in spite of us, but always *for us*. “*Or rather*” does not negate suffering. It does not belittle our joys or accomplishments. Rather it points us to something much deeper that we can only appreciate when we see things in the context of God’s working among us.

Perhaps, our resolutions for this coming year can be to notice the “or rather” in our lives. “This year, I experienced a lot of loss.... *Or rather*, this year God taught me the value of what I have.” “This year, I was blessed with much... *or rather*, I was given the means to bless others.” “This year I have been hurt... *or rather*, I have been challenged to forgive, the way I have been forgiven.” The idea of “*or rather*” reframes our understanding of Who is in control of our lives, and what story we are a part of, according to the example of the One “who was betrayed... *or rather*, gave Himself up for the life of the world.”

Let us entrust our lives— and with them the year to come— to Him who opens our eyes to how great a story we are part of.

Peace and joy,  
Pastor Tom

## **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 [t.s.drobena@gmail.com](mailto:t.s.drobena@gmail.com)

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

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena  
President – Andrew Fisher  
Vice-President – Walter Kovaciny  
Treasurer – Sheila Welch  
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe  
Melissa Fisher  
Leonard Lichanec  
Michael Marvonek  
Patricia Marvonek  
Financial Secretary – Leigh Maxa

## **Service Teams**

† Worship & Music Team: Leigh Maxa  
† Hospitality Committee: Amelia Hinchliffe and Jennifer Welch  
† 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 Lutheran Church**

Attn: Barbara Bulick  
The Ivy at Ellington  
123 West Road Apt 115  
Ellington. CT 06029-5730

Attn: Ms. Shirley Kaba  
Douglas Manor  
103 North Rd.  
Windham, CT 06280

Ms. Anna Mandak  
21 Old Monson Rd.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

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

## **January**

### **Birthdays**

13 – Vera Marko  
13 – Olga Panciera  
15 – Eric Mercier  
15 – Paul Mercier  
21 – Bob Titus  
22 – Leonard Lichanec  
26 – Michael Marvonek

### **Anniversaries**

We aren't aware of any anniversaries in January. Please let Pastor Tom and Walter Kovaciny know if there are names to list. Thanks.

## **Annual Meeting**

As noted in the January calendar, the meeting will be held, Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 11:10 a.m.

Please review the Proposed Budget for 2022 that is included in this newsletter. There will also be elections for Council. There is a 2-year and a 3-year term available. If you wish to put your name up for election, please let a member of council know.

## **Thanks...**

... To everyone who assisted with the Turkey dinner and the Cookie sale. Everyone's help spreads the work around.

## **Annual Reports**

Please get annual reports to Walter Kovaciny by Sunday, January 9, 2022. Thanks.

# January *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>The Circumcision of the Lord (8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas)</b>
<b>2 Epiphany Sunday</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:10 a.m. Social Hour	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor's Day off	<b>5 (12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas)</b>	<b>6 The Day of Epiphany</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>9 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:10 a.m. Council meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor's Day off	<b>12</b>	<b>13 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Martin Luther King Junior, Renewer of Society</b>
<b>16 The Second Sunday after Epiphany</b> 11:10 a.m. Annual Congregation meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Confession of Saint Peter</b> 7:00 p.m. Vespers	<b>19</b> Pastor's Day off	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Agnes, Martyr</b>	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>23 The Third Sunday after Epiphany</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Conversion of Saint Paul</b>	<b>26</b> Pastor's Day off	<b>27 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>February 2</b> <b>The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple</b> 7:00 p.m. Vespers			

## January – February Service Schedule

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

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Worship Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<b>January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord – White</b>		
Isaiah 60: 1 – 6; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14; Ephesians 3: 1 – 12; Matthew 2: 1 – 12		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 302, <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 311, <b>Communion:</b> 677, <b>Closing:</b> 310		
<b>January 9, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Baptism of Our Lord – White</b>		
Isaiah 43: 1– 7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14 – 17; Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22		
Jennifer Welch	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Welch		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 305, <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 456, <b>Communion:</b> 396, <b>Closing:</b> 800		
<b>January 16, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday after Epiphany – Green</b>		
Isaiah 62: 1 – 5; Psalm 36: 5 – 10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 11; John 2: 1 – 11		
Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 487, <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 488, <b>Communion:</b> 312, <b>Closing:</b> 315		
<b>January 23, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Epiphany – Green</b>		
Nehemiah 8: 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 31a; Luke 4: 14 – 21		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 239; <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 843, <b>Communion:</b> 496, <b>Closing:</b> 668		
<b>January 30, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Green</b>		
Jeremiah 1: 4 – 10; Psalm 71: 1 – 6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13; Luke 4: 21 – 30		
Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Mike Marvonek		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 836, <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 737, <b>Communion:</b> 359, <b>Closing:</b> 705		
<b>February 6, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Green</b>		
Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 [9 – 13]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11; Luke 5: 1 – 11		
Amelia Hinchliffe	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny		
Hymns – <b>Entrance:</b> 413, <b>Hymn of the Day:</b> 574 <b>Communion:</b> 490, <b>Closing:</b> 696		









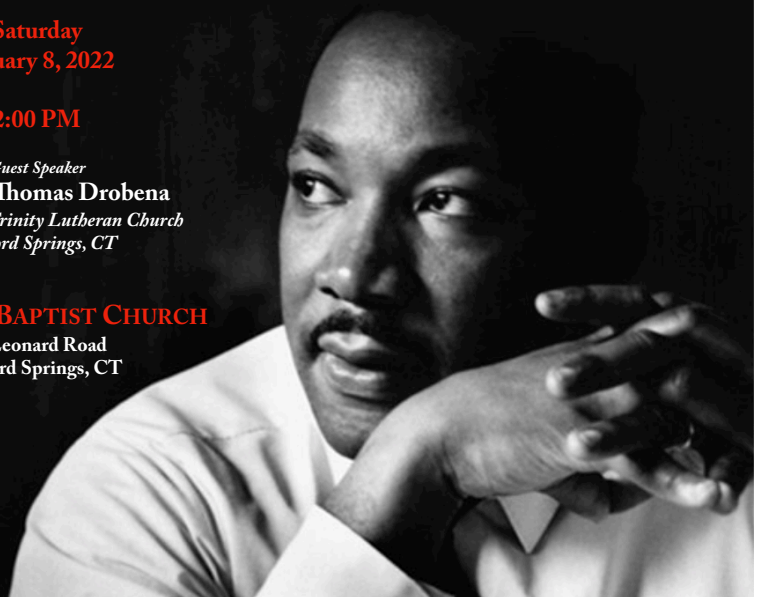
## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE

Saturday  
January 8, 2022

2:00 PM

Guest Speaker  
**Rev. Dr. Thomas Drobenia**  
Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Stafford Springs, CT

**STAFFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
12 Leonard Road  
Stafford Springs, CT



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

ELCA Address Correction Requested

