

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

March 2022 Newsletter



The Mount of Olives. Double click on the pictures to watch a short YouTube video.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During Lent we cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit. Or rather, by engaging in a discipline (literally, “being a disciple” together), we make room in our hurried and much-preoccupied lives for God to cultivate the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in us.

Saint Paul tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). But easier said than done! Often times in our Christian life we get excited about things like love and joy and peace—“I can do that!” But these fruits are not on a menu—they are on the branch that the Christian is (that you and I are), which is grafted onto the vine that is Christ. God desires for us to produce *all* these fruits—not just the ones we feel like. And this is important because in the world we live in, many of these Fruits of the Spirit are not considered virtues.

Everyone says that they want peace, yet many embrace justifications for war, or hold grudges against their neighbor. Everyone says to be kind and to be good, yet many turn their face away when a beggar asks for change, or don’t help a friend in need. Most people say that being faithful is good, yet

many repeat things they don't know to be true or rationalize being dishonest at home or in business. Fewer still believe that gentleness is a virtue. It might befit grandma, but we end up idolizing and emulating bullies because we think acting tough is a sign of strength. And perhaps the fewest people of all appreciate self-control. After all, I can get almost anything I want, and the shipping is free! "I can do whatever I want and who are you to stop me?"

But these Fruits of the Spirit—these qualities seen most clearly in Jesus Christ, the most free and the most holy and the most perfect one—are what God seeks to cultivate in us.

And if we can't be disciplined to bear good fruit, it's hard to call ourselves disciples. If we live out only some of these virtues that sound good to us and conveniently ignore others that are less appealing, then it's hard to say we are living in the Spirit, instead of just living inside ourselves.

Saint Paul makes this observation a couple verses down in Galatians 5:25: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." So if we really do have the Holy Spirit within us by having received "the gift of the Holy Spirit" in Baptism, there is nothing holding us back from that life in the Spirit but ourselves, dear friends.

So how do we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit? Is it just to try to exhibit all these fruits? Just try hard, and that proves you're walking in the Spirit? No, that's not how you get fruit! To get fruit from a tree, it has to be planted well, watered, fertilized, pruned, and so on. And we ourselves, remember have been planted in the Church by Holy Baptism. We are watered and fertilized—nourished by Jesus' own Body and Blood, by the forgiveness of sins and by the Holy Scriptures, and by prayer. And we have to be pruned by cutting out those things that are bad for us, the things that waste our nutrients and energy, by living simply and giving of ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

It's not insignificant that it's called "walking in the Spirit" and "living in the Spirit." This life, the *Spiritual life*, puts us in direct contact with the Holy Spirit. Indeed it immerses us and fills us with the presence of God. And that presence should change us. Transform us. Not merely into moral people (although morality will result from living in the Spirit), but into a *holy* people.

What makes you different from others in the world? What makes you different from your former self? You are to be growing in holiness. And each time we come together we are renewed in all these good things. We are fortified in the gifts and the very freedom that Jesus has won for us with his precious death and resurrection. And as our faith is strengthened, our life in the Spirit is strengthened, so that everything we do is marked by this love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Let these things be how you do everything you set your hand and mind to. And let the Holy Spirit cultivate them in you, and make you fruitful.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Tom

Pastoral Care

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Church – htlc-church@att.net

Website – htlcstafford.org

Pastor Tom (860-806-2440)

Email t.s.drobena@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Thomas Drobena

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

(Non-Council position)

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

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

Attn: Shirley Kaba
Douglas Manor
103 North Rd. Room #205
Windham, CT 06280
Ms. Anna Mandak
21 Old Monson Rd.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343

Attn: Vera Marko

Brookdale

1715 Ellington Rd. Room # 219

South Windsor, CT 06074-2702

Death Announcement

Tonia ‘Toni’ Marvonek passed peacefully on Friday, February 4, 2022. A funeral was held at church on Saturday, February 12, 2022 for Toni and Steve Marvonek. When Steve passed during the pandemic, the funeral couldn’t be held then.

March Calendar

There are a lot of activities listed in the March 2022 calendar for your worship opportunities with the start of Lent. Please take advantage of the different events.

Holy Week Services

The signup sheet for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services is posted in the Narthex. Please volunteer to help with the readings. Thanks to everyone for helping.

Social Hours

Please remember the social hour is scheduled after church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday after church. Please sign up to bring food for the socials hours. Baked goods either made at home or store bought, cheese and crackers or anything you like to share with your church family.

Offering Envelopes for 2022

The envelopes are in the Narthex waiting for you to take your envelopes home. Then remember to fill the envelopes and put in the offering plate or mail to church. If you would like your envelopes delivered to you, please let us know.

March - April Service Schedule

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

Tellers

Worship Assistants

Reader

March 2, 2022 – 7:30 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

Hymns – **Hymn of the Day:** 601, **Closing:** 328

March 6, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday in Lent – Purple

Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11; Psalm 91: 1 – 2, 9 – 16; Romans 10: 8b – 13; Luke 4: 1 – 13

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns – **Entrance:** 618, **Hymn of the Day:** 504 **Communion:** 768, **Closing:** 624

March 13, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday in Lent – Purple

Genesis 15: 1– 12, 17 – 18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17 to 4: 1; Luke 13: 31 – 35

Jennifer Welch

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Michael Welch

Hymns – **Entrance:** 468: **Hymn of the Day:** 335, **Communion:** 613, **Closing:** 324

March 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday in Lent – Purple

Isaiah 55: 1 – 9; Psalm 63: 1 – 8; 1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13; Luke 13: 1 – 9

Walter Kovaciny

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Leonard Lichanec

Hymns – **Entrance:** 328, **Hymn of the Day:** 332, **Communion:** 542, **Closing:** 705

March 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday in Lent – Purple

Joshua 5: 9 – 12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21; Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11b – 32

Amelia Hinchliffe

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns – **Entrance:** 666; **Hymn of the Day:** 779, **Communion:** 592, **Closing:** 807

April 3, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fifth Sunday in Lent – Purple

Isaiah 43: 16 – 21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b – 14; John 12: 1 – 8

Amelia Hinchliffe

Leigh Maxa

Daniel Lichanec

Walter Kovaciny

Hymns – **Entrance:** 338, **Hymn of the Day:** 754 **Communion:** 336, **Closing:** 339

March *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	2 Ash Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion & Ashes	3	4	5
6 The First Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	7 Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs	8 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	9 6:30p.m. Soup 7p.m. Evening Prayer	10	11	12 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
13 The Second Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting	14	15 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	16	17 Patrick, Bishop St. Patrick's Day Dinner Pickup 5-6p.m.	18	19 Joseph, Guardian of our Lord
20 The Third Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour	21	22 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	23 6:30p.m. Soup 7p.m. Evening Prayer	24 Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr	25 The Annunciation 7p.m. Evening Prayer	26 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
27 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	28	29 <i>Pastor Tom's day off</i>	30 6:30p.m. Soup 7p.m. Evening Prayer	31		

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Saint Patrick's Dinner

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Curb Side Pick- Up 5 to 6pm

Shepherd's Pie

*Savory Pie with Ground Beef, Veggies,
and Gravy topped with Mashed Potatoes*

Garden Salad and Dinner Roll

Chocolate Mint Cake

*Rich Chocolate Cake
Creamy Mint Frosting*

\$15 Per Person

**Pre-Order by
calling or texting
860-806-2440**

*All orders need to be placed by
Wednesday, March 16 at noon*

104 Main St., Stafford Springs



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CONCERT
**Lyrics of Lament, Laughter
and Love**

**Saturday
March 5, 2022
2:00 PM**

with
*Wayne Dixon
Thomas Drobena
Martha Houlroyd
Kit Randall
Emery Austin Smith*

STAFFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
12 Leonard Road
Stafford, CT

*free will offering
for more information call 617-442-1641*

A message from Bishop Wilma S. Kucharek on Ukrainian Refugee Aid
Slovak Zion Synod-ELCA

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Over the past several days, we have been horribly saddened to see a new and unprovoked war break out in our world. Our hearts break for those in Ukraine who are under attack and whose lives are put at risk by political ambition and confused ideology.

We pray for a peaceful and quick resolution to the conflict, for those soldiers and civilians defending their homes, for diplomats and leaders of the nations who are working for peace, for leaders in the Church and society who are serving their neighbor amidst the turmoil of war, for medical professionals who are preserving life, and for all those who watch, work on behalf of others, and who wait and weep these days.

Among those who have set their hand to service of neighbor are our siblings in the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia. Slovakia, of course, shares a border with Ukraine and, like neighboring Poland, Hungary, and Romania, is seeing a massive influx of refugees. As of this writing, the Slovak Interior Ministry reports that over 10,526 people were processed through a single border crossing (Ubl'a) into Slovakia in just 24 hours, approximately 10 times the usual traffic.

We have already heard from our friends and partners in Slovakia, including those who have been trainees in, and supported by, Slovak Zion Synod's programs; they report that many of our sister churches are already opening their doors to house refugees. In coming days, we hope to share their stories. In the meantime, we hold in prayer our sister churches in Slovakia, their pastors and lay leaders, as well as their bishop, Ivan El'ko, as they respond to this humanitarian crisis by being Christ's hands and feet for their neighbors in need.

Therefore, in addition to your prayers and intercessions for the people of Ukraine, I am inviting all the faithful in our congregations to also remember in prayer our friends and co-workers in the Lord's vineyard in Slovakia, especially tomorrow, the Transfiguration of our Lord, and on Ash Wednesday, and the first Sunday of Lent. I am also inviting our congregations to collect a special offering which our Synod will send ahead to support the hard work of these pastors and congregations in the days to come; these special donations, made out and sent to the Slovak Zion Synod should indicate "Ukraine" on the memo line of the check.

In Lent, the Church clothes itself in prayer and fasting and preparation. At the same time, we mourn with our siblings in Ukraine who are hurting and at risk and lift them up in prayer. As we join our hearts to theirs as Lent begins, we pray that our merciful Lord would soon bring us all to a joyful Easter, that we may all share in the abundant life of Christ.

+Bishop Wilma S. Kucharek
Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

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Website address www.holytrinitystafford.org Slovak Zion Synod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested



