

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

December, 2018  
104 West Main Street, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076

*The most wise Lord comes to be born,  
Receiving hospitality from His own creatures.  
Let us also receive Him,  
That this divine Child in the cave may make us His guests  
In the paradise of delights!*



The Birth of Christ has always been celebrated and hymned by Christians in some way or other, as it is central to the Faith. The Word of God in past times may have appeared as an angel of the Lord, or the divine fire of the burning bush, but now, from this time onwards, He has become one of us; and not just as a fully-grown man descended from Heaven, but in humility God is born of a woman, and comes to us as a tiny, speechless, infant. This is what is shown in the Nativity Icon, and around this central historical event other stories surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ are depicted.

The common form of the Nativity Icon, with few variations, dates from around the 15th century, though it draws upon sources much older: the Old Testament Prophecies, the New Testament Gospel accounts, and ancient narratives on the life of the Virgin Mary.

## **The New Testament in the Nativity Icon**

The child-Christ and His mother are shown in a cave, surrounded by impossibly sharp, inhospitable, rocks which reflect the cruel world into which Jesus was born. The Gospels record that Joseph and Mary could not find a room at any inn when they came to take part in the census at Bethlehem, and so Jesus was laid in a manger, an animal's feeding trough. Common to the time, animals were not sheltered in wooden barns, but in caves and recesses in the hills, and so this "stable" is shown in the Icon.

High in the skies is a star which sends down a single shaft towards the baby Jesus. This star is being followed by the Magi, the wise Persians from the East, who are bearing gifts to the Christ. But they are shown in the distance, still on their journey. They are not there.

Thronged in the skies are a host of angels bringing the glad tidings of the birth of the world's Saviour. On the right, the shepherds – people not regarded by anyone else – are the first to be given the Good News of Jesus' birth. But they are also shown outside of the cave, still by their flocks. They too are not at Christ's side yet.

Besides His mother, the only company Jesus Christ has in the first few hours of His earthly life are a lowly ox and donkey. This is the humility of God's incarnation on earth.

## **The Old Testament in the Nativity Icon**

A prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled

The humbleness of Christ's origins should not surprise us, as the manner of His birth was prophesied many hundreds of years prior to the event. The presence of the Ox and the Donkey in the Nativity icon fulfills one of many prophecies in the Old Testament book of Isaiah:

*"The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib"* (Isaiah 1:3) . Here the animals are also shown providing warmth to Jesus by their breath.

Mary gazes toward the Jesse Tree

Also found somewhere in most icons of the Nativity is a "Jesse Tree." Named after an Old Testament patriarch, the tree's presence is to remind us of another fulfilled prophecy from Isaiah:

*"A shoot shall sprout from the stump (tree) of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him"* (Isaiah 11:1-2). In the flesh, Jesus can trace his ancestry through both His mother and adoptive father Joseph, all the way back to Jesse.

This season is rich in symbols that point to our Lord and the "reason for the season." Let us so love God and rejoice at our Lord's birth among us, that we see Jesus everywhere this season.

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 Thomas Drobena  
Phone: 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 – 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 Drobena, Melissa Fisher, Cathy  
& Leonard Lichanec

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

Attn: Mrs. Barbara Bulick  
Brookdale  
1715 Ellington Rd. Room # 212  
South Windsor, CT 06074-2702

Mrs. Christine Gaulin  
5 West End St.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-1329

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

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

## **Pastry and Candy for the Shut-ins**

Everyone's help is needed with donating goodies to be handed to the shut-ins when we go Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Please bring your donations with you when you come to church in the morning. Everyone is invited to join us singing to the shut-ins. The more singers, the better. The smiles from the shut-ins make the visit more enjoyable.

## **December**

### **Birthdays**

02 – Debra 'Debbie' Lewis  
05 – The Rev. Thomas S. Drobena  
08 – Daniel Lichanec  
09 – Jennifer Welch  
17 – Paul Hockla  
19 – Carl 'Tim' Mercier  
20 – Melissa Fisher  
27 – Anna Mae Hockla

### **Anniversaries**

10 – Richard & Nan Hayden  
30 – Phil & Janet Renn

There are lots of activities during the month of December. Please read the calendar and Coming Events list on the cover of the newsletter.

### **Sunday, December 30, 2018**

😊 This is the last day to make contributions for credit in 2018.

### **Monday, December 31, 2018**

😊 All committee reports are due today. You can always submit your report earlier to make it easy for person compiling the reports and writing an agenda.

### **Annual Meeting**

**The Annual Meeting for the Congregation will be Sunday, January 20, 2019 after church.**

### **Council Members needed**

Your assistance is needed to serve on council. Please let a member of council know if you would like to offer your services on council.

### **Poinsettia Order Blank**

When reading the order blank for the Poinsettias, you'll notice 2-dates. Please order the Poinsettias early. The florist has additional customers this year and needs orders early to keep everyone happy. Thanks for your cooperation with this. Walter

# **Christmas Party**

## **12/16/2018 11:15AM**

**Come and join us in fellowship remembering the past enjoying the present and looking forward to the future.**



# December *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 The First Sunday of Advent</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  11:20 a.m. Social Hour	3	4  7:30 p.m. Bible Study at Mike & Sheila's home	5  <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	6	7	8  9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>9 The Second Sunday of Advent</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  11:15 a.m. Tree Trimming	10  Deadline for submitting articles / information for the January newsletter	11	12  <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	13	14	15
<b>16 The Third Sunday of Advent</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Christmas Party	17	18  7:30 p.m. Bible Study at Mike & Sheila's home	19  <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	20	21	22  9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
<b>23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	<b>24 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day</b>	26  <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. WIC	28	29
<b>30 The First Sunday after Christmas</b>  10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  This is the last day to make contributions for credit in 2018.	31					

## December - January 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>Ushers</u>	<u>Worship Assistants</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<b>December 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>			
Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16; Psalm 25: 1 – 10; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13; Luke 21: 25 – 36			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		
<b>December 9, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent - Blue</b>			
Baruch 5: 1 – 9; Luke 1: 68 – 79; Philippians 1: 3 – 11; Luke 3: 1 – 6			
Walter Kovaciny	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Melissa Fisher	Cathy Lichanec		
<b>December 16, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>			
Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20; Isaiah 12: 2 – 6; Philippians 4: 4 – 7; Luke 3: 7 – 18			
Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec	Cathy Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec	Leonard Lichanec		
<b>December 23, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Blue</b>			
Micah 5: 2 – 5a; Luke 1: 46b – 55; Hebrews 10: 5 – 10; Luke 1: 39 – 45 [46 – 55]			
Melissa Fisher	Walter Kovaciny	Cathy Lichanec	Daniel Lichanec
Walter Kovaciny	_____		
<b>December 24, 2018 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve – White</b>			
Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]			
~~~~~	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	Daniel Lichanec
~~~~~	Leonard or Cathy Lichanec		
<b>December 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day – White</b>			
Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Psalm 98; Hebrew 1: 1 – 4 [5 – 12]; John 1: 1 – 14			
~~~~~	Walter Kovaciny	Sheila Welch	_____
~~~~~	_____		
<b>December 30, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday after Christmas – White</b>			
1 Samuel 2: 18 20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12 – 17; Luke 2: 41 – 52			
Cathy Lichanec	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Leonard Lichanec			
<b>January 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord - Green</b>			
Isaiah 60: 1 – 6; Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 – 14; Ephesians 3: 1 – 12			
Amelia Hinchliffe	Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	Daniel Lichanec
Michael Marvonek	Pat Marvonek		

## Christmas 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 \$6.75.

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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The florist wants a count for the amount of plants everyone is purchasing early this year. For those who know they are purchasing Poinsettias, please return this form to Walter Kovaciny with the correct **payment**, by Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The florist wants a tentative count by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Then he wants the final count by Monday, December 10<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.**

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**\*\*\* Coming Events \*\*\***

**December**

- 2 – Social Hour – 11:20 a.m.
- 4& 18 Bible Study at Mike & Sheila Welch's home – 7:30 p.m.
- 8 & 22 – Safe Net Distribution – 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- 9 – Tree Trimming – 11:15 a.m.
- 16 – Christmas Party – 11:15 a.m.
- 23 – Christmas Caroling – 2:00 p.m.
- 24 – Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion – 8:00 p.m.
- 25 – Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

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

Web site address

[www.holytrinitystafford.org](http://www.holytrinitystafford.org)

Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA

Address Correction Requested

