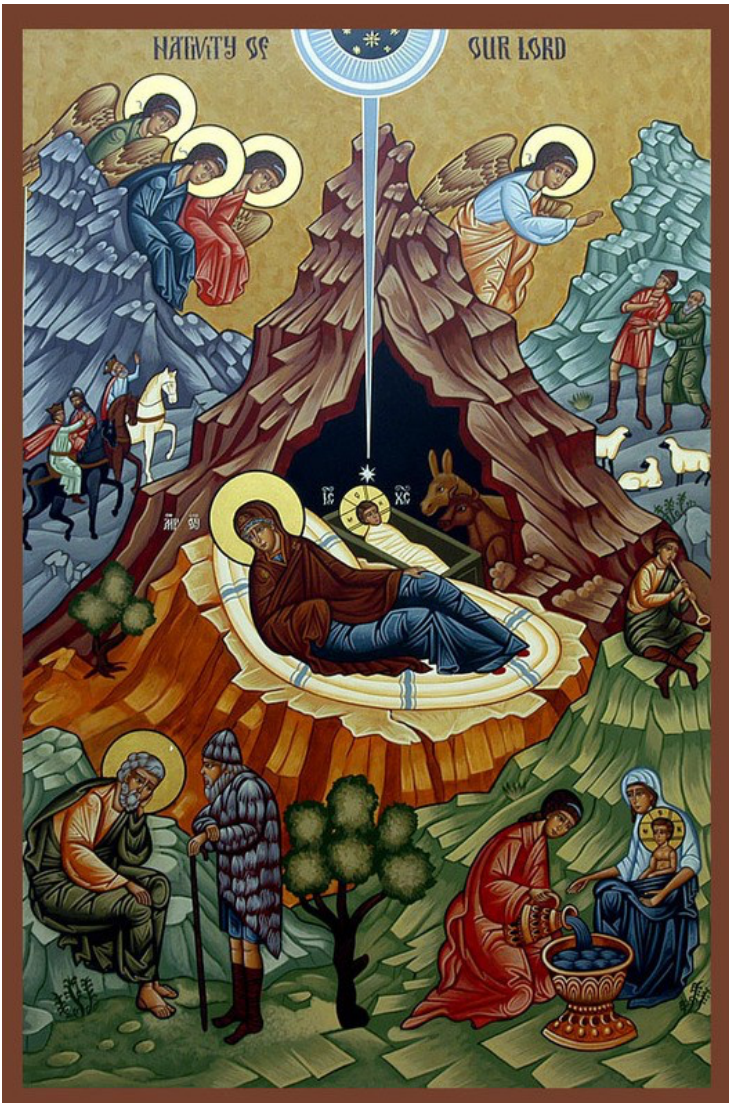


Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

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
Website – htlcstafford.org
Pastor Thomas Drobeno
Phone: 860-806-2440
Email: t.s.drobeno@gmail.com

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobeno
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 Drobeno, 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 23rd 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. Drobeno
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
2 The First Sunday of Advent 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
9 The Second Sunday of Advent 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
16 The Third Sunday of Advent 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
23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	24 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve	25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day	26 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	27 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. WIC	28	29
30 The First Sunday after Christmas 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.

Tellers

Ushers

Worship Assistants Reader

December 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday of Advent – Blue

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

December 9, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Second Sunday of Advent - Blue

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

December 16, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday of Advent – Blue

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

December 23, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Blue

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

December 24, 2018 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve – White

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14 [15 – 20]

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Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

Daniel Lichanec

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Leonard or Cathy Lichanec

December 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day – White

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Psalm 98; Hebrew 1: 1 – 4 [5 – 12]; John 1: 1 – 14

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Walter Kovaciny

Sheila Welch

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December 30, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – The First Sunday after Christmas – White

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

January 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany of Our Lord - Green

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 25th. The cost of each poinsettia is \$6.75.

Your Name: _____

Given in honor of (for the living) _____

OR

Given in loving memory of (for the deceased) _____

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 2nd. The florist wants a tentative count by December 5th. Then he wants the final count by Monday, December 10th. 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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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.

***** 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
Slovak Zion Synod – ELCA
Address Correction Requested

