

HTLC

February, 2025 Newsletter

Holy Tender Loving Care



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This year, February is bookended by two of the most interesting feasts in the Church year. February 2, the Presentation of our Lord, remembers Mary and Joseph bringing the 40-day-old child Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated, and the prophets Simeon and Anna recognizing the tiny child as the Chosen One of God. On March 2 falls the last Sunday before Lent, when the Transfiguration of the Lord is remembered—the disciples being given a vision of Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus discussing his road to the Cross, and the voice of God the Father declaring him to be his Son.

These stories from the life of our Lord, like much of Epiphany, are ripe with the symbolism of light. Simeon calls the child Jesus “a light to enlighten the nations” and at his transfiguration, the disciples can only describe the vision as a dazzling light surrounding the Lord.



But beyond the imagery of light shining into our world, these events are little apocalypses. Apocalypse is often misunderstood as meaning “destruction” or “catastrophe,” but really an apocalypse simply means “revelation.” It is an unveiling, so that what lies behind what our senses perceive can be seen and understood.

When Jesus was born, God took on flesh, “veiling” his glory so that he might live among us, heal us, become our friend, become our servant, and having shown us the fullness of life, die for us and rise for us so that we might have life without end.

Throughout this ministry Jesus’ goodness and his glory is repeatedly made visible. The veil is lifted so that behind the Perfect Man we might see the True God. And again and again, Jesus is recognized for who he really is by those who are open to his word. Those who are willing to recognize God’s work in their lives see him in action, and see him in Jesus. Not because they had some special insight or quality, but because they were willing like the holy women, or because they were curious like the first disciples, or because they were searching like Simeon and Anna.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” Isaiah wrote. We too are invited to be among those who are enlightened by God and who see clearly who God is and what God is doing. All we need to

do is not hide from him- not keep to the shadows. Instead we’re called to pay attention to the miracles of the world God has given us, the wonder of creation, the love of friend and neighbor, and the promise of Christ to be with us even to the end of time. When we slow our rushed lives, and quiet our busy minds, we find God showing us the richness of life, and enlivening us in the communion that he provides to his people.

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 Tom (860-806-2440)
Email t.s.drobena@gmail.com
Rev. Dr. Thomas Drobena

Members of the Council are:

Rev. Thomas S. Drobena
President – Walter Kovaciny
Vice-President – Michael Marvonek
Treasurer – Sheila Welch
Secretary – Amelia Hinchliffe
Leonard Lichanec
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: Michael Marvonek, Adam Tremblay and Michael Welch
† Learning & Youth Group Team:
Rev. Thomas Drobena, Cathy & Leonard Lichanec

Shut-in Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Mrs. Anne Mandak
116 Crystal Lake Rd.
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3343
Mrs. Olga Panciera
10 Franklin Woods Dr.
Somers, CT 06071
Mrs. Pauline Valery
24 Holburn Ave.
Cranston, RI 02910

Electronic Giving

For those who are not able to attend in person regularly, we have an online giving page that can be used for recurring giving or for one-time

Donations. The cost of the service is 2.75% for using a credit card and only 1% for direct debit. You will have the option to add the fee to your donation.

We would much prefer to see you in person.

We have social hour after church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Join us for fellowship.

To donate copy this link <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ24> The website is very easy to navigate.

February

Birthdays

08 – William ‘Bill’ Sevcik
13 – Joan Fittz
13 – Donald Hoffman
20 – Kathy Hinchliffe
24 – Patricia Marvonek

Anniversaries

We aren’t aware of any anniversaries in February. If this is error, please let Pastor Tom and Walter Kovaciny know. Thanks.

Thanks

To everyone that stayed for the Annual meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Your attendance was enough to make a quorum so the meeting could be held. After hearing and reading the financial problems for our church, perhaps you can increase your giving so obligations can be met. At a minimum, please support the different fundraisers held during the year.

For those members that couldn’t attend the meeting, there may be some annual reports available in the narthex.

Also, please pickup your envelopes for 2025 and use the envelopes.

The 2025 Flower/Sanctuary Lamp Chart is available in the narthex. Please sign up for those Sundays you want to place flowers on the Altar or light the Sanctuary Lamp.

February Service Schedule

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

<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Reader</u>
February 2 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – White		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Psalm 71: 1-6 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 Luke 4: 21-30	Hymns:	#836 Opening #737 Hymn of Day #359 Communion #705 Closing

February 9 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - White		
Jennifer Welch Michael Welch	Sheila Welch	The Hinchliffe Family
Readings: Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11	Hymns:	#413 Opening #574 Hymn of Day #490 Communion #696 Closing

February 16 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – White		
Cathy Lichanec Lenny Lichanec	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 17-26	Hymns:	#754 Opening #715 Hymn of Day #470 Communion #717 Closing

February 23 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany – White		
Walter Kovaciny A Volunteer	Sheila Welch	The Welch Family
Readings: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50 Luke 6: 27-38	Hymns:	#599 Opening #595 Hymn of Day #838 Communion #834 Closing

March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday – White		
Amelia Hinchliffe Walter Kovaciny	Leigh Maxa	The Lichanec Family
Readings: Exodus 34: 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4:2 Luke 9: 28-36	Hymns:	#315 Opening #838 Hymn of Day #779 Communion #658 Closing

February *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:20 a.m. Social Hour	3	4 Bible Study 7 p.m.	5 The Martyrs of Japan 5:30 – 7 p.m. Safe Net Distribution	6	7	8 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Safe Net Distribution
9 The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Council meeting	10	11 Pastor's day off	12	13	14 Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop 7 p.m. Vespers	15
16 The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Social Hour Valentine's Dinner 5 p.m. Pickup	17 Deadline for articles for the March newsletter	18 Martin Luther, Reformer Bible Study 7 p.m.	19	20	21	22 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safe Net Distribution (new time schedule)
23 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion	24 Polycarp, Bishop	25 Pastor's day off	26	27	28	

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAFFORD SPRINGS

Valentine's Dinner

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Curb Side Pick-up 5 to 6 pm

(104 W Main St, Stafford Springs, Green St Entrance)

Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Cherry Balsamic Glaze

Rosemary Potatoes - Green Beans

Valentine Cookies

Pre-Order by Calling or Texting: 860-806-2440

All orders need to be placed by Friday, Feb 14 at 5 pm

Individual \$15

Dinner for Two \$25

Family Dinner for Four \$50

Please inform of any food allergies when placing your order

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAFFORD SPRINGS

Valentine's Dinner

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Curb Side Pick-up 5 to 6 pm

(104 W Main St, Stafford Springs, Green St Entrance)

Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Cherry Balsamic Glaze

Rosemary Potatoes - Green Beans

Valentine Cookies

Pre-Order by Calling or Texting: 860-806-2440

All orders need to be placed by Friday, Feb 14 at 5 pm

Individual \$15

Dinner for Two \$25

Family Dinner for Four \$50

Please inform of any food allergies when placing your order

UP-COMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Valentines Dinner

Sunday, February 16

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes 7pm

St Patrick Corned Beef and Cabbage

Sunday, March 16

HOLY WEEK:

*We remember the events leading to
Jesus's crucifixion and celebrate His resurrection.*

Palm Sunday, April 13

*Celebration of Jesus's entering into Jerusalem with Palms,
The Passion Reading, Holy Communion, 10am*

Maunder Thursday, April 17

*The Last Super and Washing of the Feet,
Holy Communion 7 pm*

Good Friday, April 18

Remembrance of the Crucifixion, Worship 7 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 19

*Celebration of the Resurrection and the end of Lent,
Holy Communion 7 pm*

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, April 20

Holy Communion 10 am

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

104 West Main St.

Stafford Springs, CT 06076

www.holytrinitystafford.SlovakZionSynod –

ELCA Address Correction Requested

