



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 28th Avenue between Lake & 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-729-8358

Web site: www.htlcmpls.org email: office@htlcmpls.org

Volume 90, Issue 53

December 31, 2006

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

Are We Moved?

Special thanks to Holy Trinity’s fine music staff and choirs for the ways in which they made each of the five festive worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day moving for all those in attendance. As we close out this year and enter into a new one, how will our faith move us in the journey ahead? Consider Soren Kierkegaard’s words below comparing the journey of the magi versus the lack of a journey on the part of the religiously enlightened, theologically educated scribes...

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written...’ ”

(Matthew 2:1-5)

Although the scribes could explain where the Messiah should be born, they remained quite unperturbed in Jerusalem. They did not accompany the Wise Men to seek him. Similarly we may know the whole of Christianity, yet make no movement. The power that moved heaven and earth leaves us completely unmoved.

What a difference! The three kings had only a rumor to go by. But it moved them to make that long journey. The scribes were much better informed, much better versed. They sat and studied the Scriptures like so many dons, but it did not make them move.

Who had the more truth? The three kings who followed a rumor, or the scribes who remained sitting with all their knowledge?

What a vexation it must have been for the kings, that the scribes who gave them the news they wanted remained quiet in Jerusalem! We are being mocked, the kings might have thought. For indeed what an atrocious self-contradiction that the scribes should have the knowledge and yet remain still. This is as bad as if a person knows all about Christ and his teachings, and his own life expresses the opposite. We are tempted to suppose that such a person wishes to fool us, unless we admit that he is only fooling himself.

- Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher, 1813-1855

Bruce C. Arnevik, Interim Pastor arnevik@htlcmpls.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 31

The Holy Family is the focus of Christmastide. We, too, are part of the family of God, seeking to manifest those qualities that reflect God’s presence.



LESSONS

- I Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am

December 31 Congregational Breakfast (in the gym)
 All are invited for this traditional holiday brunch and celebration. Music and a holiday reading will be part of the festivities. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested for this meal.

January 7, 2007 Epiphany
Rick Prescott

January 14 COMPASS Team Update

COMPASS TEAM REPORT

Thirty-two surveys were turned in Sunday, Dec 17th. If you took yours home, please be sure to return it to us at the Compass Corner table. Surveys will continue to be distributed through Jan. 7th. A Compass Team e-mail address has been set up. If you wish to contact us via e-mail, address is compass@htlcmpls.org.

Copies of a short resource book titled “Critical Moment of Ministry: A Change of Pastors” by Loren Mead are available through the church library.

Team members will be interviewing the Church Council and committees through the month of January.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL CHALLENGE UPDATE

Budget Requirement for the year	\$567,100.00
Budget Receipts to date	<u>\$553,786.64</u>
Balance yet to receive	\$ 13,313.36

Our fiscal year concludes on December 31!

PARISH INFORMATION

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

December has been a deadly month in Iraq. Our Christian commitment to peace and our prayers are especially needed. Holy Trinity is a sponsor of the Annual Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq and Other Child Victims of War. It will be held on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Thursday, **December 28, 6:30 pm** at St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South. The Youth Ensemble of Holy Trinity will sing at this service.

NOW THAT WE HAVE TIME TO READ...

Credo by William Sloane Coffin is a book of brief quotations on a variety of topics ranging from charity and justice, politics, economic and environmental issues, and nuclear disarmament to the meaning of faith, the church, and a pastor's responsibility. *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* is a resource guide that invites you to honor the faith traditions represented in North America such as Buddhism, Eastern Orthodox, Moravian, Baptist, and so on in a 2-3 page summary form. There is a table of comparison with the Lutheran tradition in each section. Both books are available in the church library.

LAST CALL: INVITATIONAL NEW YEAR SYMPHONIA

On Saturday, December 30, from 10 am - noon, you are invited to the inaugural gathering of the **Holy Trinity Symphonia**. Contact Ann Schrooten for more details.

THEATRE CIRCLE 2007 PRODUCTION

Auditions will be held mid-January, with rehearsals starting shortly after that for the Holy Trinity Theatre Circle 2007 production. The classic play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, is a riotous comedy similar in style to Marx Brothers, this should prove to be a great deal of fun for performers, backstage workers, and audiences. An informational meeting about the production will be in early January. Contact Peter Johnson with any questions.

SWAHILI CONGREGATION FEATURED

Recently MPR reported on an exhibit of music and images from multicultural congregations. They played an excerpt from the Holy Trinity Swahili service. "A Mighty Fortress, Far from Lake Wobegon" is on exhibit through Dec. 28 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., UMN. It will open March 16 at the Olson Campus Center at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. www.luthersem.edu or 651-641-3456.

FROM THE MPLS SYNOD

The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1161 in Worthington and Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network support ongoing efforts for families and workers affected by the immigration raids. Many families are losing loved ones who used to contribute financially to the home expenses. UFCW General Relief Fund is used to aid families with rent and bills, and other expenses. Local 1161 ICE Victims Relief Fund, 1039 Oxford Street, Worthington, MN 56187.

PASTORAL ACTS: Baptisms: 11/19 Taylor Nicole Godbout; Theodore Robert Busche Tangen; 12/19 Evelynn Augusta Hensgens

SUNDAY, 31st	8:45, 11am Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:55 am Congregational Breakfast
MONDAY	New Year's Day – office closed

SPECIAL GIFTS by Sharon Anderson, Cathryn Olson and in honor of
 - **new granddaughter** by Cathryn Olson
GIFT TO AFRICAN PASTORS FUND by Dennis Hauck
GIFTS TO AFRICAN AIDS FUND by Birgit Birkeland, Dennis Hauck
GIFT TO NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE by Nathan/Nicki Hines
GIFT TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT by Dennis Hauck
GIFT TO LATINO MINISTRY in memory of
 - **Friend/undocumented worker who died in Mexico** by Ray Sanders
GIFTS TO HYMNALS FUND in honor of
 - **Pastor Ronald K. and Barbara Johnson** by Sandra Hoverson and in memory of – **parents Jack and Evelyn Hanson and friend Maureen Milbrath** by Sandra Hoverson
 - **Delbert and Virginia Severance, grandparents Christian and Matilda Knutson** by Cynthia Severance Larsen and Jane Severance
GIFT TO WORLD HUNGER in memory of
 - **Loved ones** by Irene Blodgett

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS December 31, 2006	
Preacher	Susan Masters / Celebrant Bruce Arnevik
Liturgist	8:45 am Carol Masters / 11:00 am Susan Wootten
Communion Asst	8:45 am Sally Kohlstedt, David Kohlstedt
	11:00 am Liz Rudrud, Cliff Brown
Acolytes	8:45 am Tyler Spratt / 11 am Nayef Albinali, Megan Libra
Greeters	8:45 am Joyce Peterson/11 am Margaret/Ron Peterson
Ushers	8:45 am Bob Peschiutta, Sally Kohlstedt, Aaron Crawford, Al Mohr
	11:00 am Rod Johnson, George Madich, Alan Libra, John Kelly
Altar Guild	8:45 am Carol Berg, Sandra Thornby
	11:00 am Rosemary Foley, Linda Woytasek
Nursery	8:40 am Sean Gosiewski / 10:30 am Dave Krig
Coffee servers	8:45 am Congregational breakfast /11 Andrea Hansen

MEALS ON WHEELS: It is Holy Trinity's responsibility to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of January 15-19. A sign-up sheet is in the Community Room. The time commitment is about an hour at mid-day.

CHICAGO RAIL TRIP March 30 – April 2

All generations invited! Leave Friday March 30, return Monday April 2. \$400 adults; \$350 youth 16+; \$300 youth 15 and under. Contact Kris Bogen.

SPECIAL FUNDS	December 24	Year to date
World Hunger	1,720.00	9,278.90
Capital Improvements	133.00	17,803.50
Nonviolent PeaceForce	10.00	944.00
African AIDS Fund	573.93	2,962.73
African Pastors Fund	-.	1,736.34
Urban Latino Ministry	-.	2,050.00
Hymnals	105.00	4,528.00
Central America Fund	1,378.98	1,487.42