



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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December 30, 2007

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

NOTHING IS EVER THE SAME AGAIN

The Christ child born in the night among beasts. The sweet breath and steaming dung of beasts. And nothing is ever the same again. Those who believe in God can never be sure of him again. Once they have seen God in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear, to what lengths God will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation God will descend in the wild pursuit of humankind. If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant's child, then there is no place or time so lowly and earthbound but that holiness can be present there too.

And this means that we are never safe, that there is no place where we can hide from God... no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and re-create the human heart. It is just where God seems most helpless that God is most strong. It is just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.

For those who believe in God, this birth means that God himself is never safe from us. Maybe that is the dark side of Christmas, the terror of the silence. God comes in such a way that we can always turn him down, or nail him up when he gets too big. God comes to us in the hungry man we do not have to feed, comes to us in the lonely man we do not have to comfort, comes to us in all the desperate human need of people everywhere that we are always free to turn our backs on...

Nothing is every the same again for those who believe in God. And nothing is ever the same again for those who do not believe in God either... For those who do not believe, all the great poetry of the birth – the angels, the star, the three kings coming out of the night to lay their gifts in the straw – can be only words which for all their beauty are written on the sand. They cannot be that poetry that points beyond the power of time and change to touch.

But what of those who both believe and do not believe, cannot believe – which is some people all of the time and all people some of the time. For them, the night deepens and grows still, and maybe the only sound is the birth-cry, the little agony of new life coming alive. For them too, the believing unbelievers, nothing is ever quite the same again either, because what they have seen and heard in that moment of stillness is, just possibly, the hope of the world. And what they feel in their hearts is the stirring of new life, new courage, new gladness seeking to be born in them even as Christ is born.

Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*, 1969.

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please pray for recovery for **Irene Blodgett**, at Redeemer Residence after a broken wrist, and **Pat McGee** at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

Congratulations to **Susan Masters** on graduating with her M.Div. from Luther Seminary!

First Sunday of Christmas

Joseph and Mary are warned to flee from danger to their child. Evil is present in the world, but the birth brings light to humankind. The Light illumines our path and frees us from fear.



LESSONS

Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am Library

December 30 "Waging a Living" Part II Lyle Steinfeldt

This is a continuation of a video presentation of four persons/families trying to make a living in today's economic climate. We cannot address poverty without understanding the effort people go through to make a living.

January 6 St. Francis of Assisi and Albert Schweitzer: "Get All You Can Get or Give All You Can Give?" Dan Burrow

The lives of two saints of the church will provide insight into lifestyle decisions that reflect economic values.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

FINANCIAL REPORT	December 23	Year to date
Budget Requirement	11,244.23	573,455.73
Budget Receipts	17,364.26	516,291.63
Balance yet to receive:		57,164.10

Holy Trinity has a long-standing tradition of fulfilling our budget by year end. This is the last opportunity for you to help us reach our goal. All 2007 contributions need to be sent by year end and received in the office by January 7, 2008. Please help us fulfill our obligations and be well-positioned to begin the new year and call our new pastor, by:

- Completing your financial commitment on time
- Giving an extra offering if you are able

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity!

PARISH INFORMATION

ADULT RETREAT: *Save the date* Feb 1-2, Fri night and Saturday, in the metro area. More information to follow.

JESUS IN GUANTANAMO: One-Man Play Monday, January 7

Every Church a Peace Church sponsors a performance of the one-man play about Jesus, who is suspected of being a terrorist and interned at the Guantanamo prison camp. January 7, 6:30 pm, Potluck supper, 7:30 pm, Performance and discussion. Howard Conn Theater at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Av., Minneapolis. Written and performed by Mathew Vaky. Admission by requested donation. The play will also be performed **Friday, January 18, 7 pm**, performance and discussion at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, 4200 Lake Road, Robbinsdale

MIDTOWN FARMERS' MARKET – As the weather gets colder and the nights longer, the Midtown Farmers' Market is experiencing its own cold spell: this time of year is very hard on our budget and we need your help. You may not be aware that it takes a year round effort to produce a market that's diverse, abundant and lively in the warmer months. As a non-profit organization, the Midtown Farmers' Market has three main funding sources: vendor fees, grants, and donations from businesses and individuals. With no vendor fees coming in and few business sponsorships during these months, **we need your help now more than any other time of the year**. Please consider what the Midtown Farmers' Market means to you and your community, and give what you can this holiday season. Drop by or send checks to: Midtown Farmers' Market 3451 Cedar Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55407

ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

Lutheran World Relief offers an opportunity to participate in the 2008 Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. from March 7-10. The theme is "2008: Claiming a Vision of True Security," Experts will train participants to advocate for policies toward a new vision of human security—one which seeks not only the "absence of tension but the presence of justice" (M. L. King, Jr.). LWR will award 10 scholarships to grassroots activists interested in attending the conference. For more information please see: www.advocacydays.org.

SPECIAL FUNDS	December 23	Year to date
World Hunger	75.00	7,624.76
Capital Improvements	100.00	8,992.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	--	634.00
African AIDS Fund	10.00	1,805.41
African Pastors Fund	50.00	555.00
Central American Fund	25.00	289.00

PARISH EVENTS December 30 – January 5, 2008		
SUNDAY	8:45, 11am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:45 am	No Sunday School
	9:55 am	Adult Forum
		Cantate! to Ordway for Sound of Music
TUESDAY		Office closed
WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
SATURDAY	9:30 am	Call Committee

GIFTS TO WORLD HUNGER by Dorothy Krumrei and Mary Ellen Olson and in memory of

-Silas Erickson by Andrea Hansen;

and in honor of

-Church Staff by Betty Fredrickson

SPECIAL GIFTS by Virginia Smith;

and in memory of

-Winthrop Lewison by Martha Lewison

GIFTS TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS by Aldora Ferrian and Matt Kane/Liz Conway

GIFT TO CHILDREN'S CHOIRS in memory of

-Harold Fredrickson by Betty Fredrickson and family

GIFT TO CENTRAL AMERICAN FUND by Mary Ellen Olson

GIFTS TO TRINITY APTS EVENT FUND in memory of

-Irene Pederson by Darrell Bower and Edith Johnson

RIC FESTIVAL WORSHIP January 27, 2008, 7 pm

You are invited to gather with members of Reconciling in Christ churches from across the metro area to celebrate the welcome we extend to the whole people of God. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave S, Mpls. Refreshments and social time will follow the service.

Rev. Emily Meyer, presiding; Rev. Mary Halvorson, preaching.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS December 30, 2007		
Preacher		John Buzza
Celebrant		Bruce Arnevik
Cantor		Ann Schrooten
Liturgist	8:45 am	Andrew Johnson
	11:00 am	Cliff Brown
Communion Asst	8:45 am	Richard Liedholm, Carol Masters
	11:00 am	Linda McMahon, Mary Lindell
Acolyte	8:45 am	Nathan Parshall
	11:00 am	Megan Libra, Nyssa Capman
Greeters	8:45 am	Kevin Proescholdt
	11:00 am	Pat Libra, Chelsea Rolfzen
Ushers	8:45 am	Bob Peschiutta, Ron Mack Murphy, Chris Engen
	11:00 am	Rod Johnson, Alan Libra, Kathy Ohler, Ron Peterson
Altar Guild	8:45 am	Bev Peschiutta, Karrie Cable Spratt
	11:00 am	Rosemary Foley, Linda Gawthrop
Nursery	8:40 am	Amy Neal / 11:00 am Kari Kleven
Coffee Servers	9:45 am	/ 11:00 am Annie Hines, Nicki/Nate Hines