



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

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February 24, 2008

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

WALKING THROUGH WILDERNESS

In the Gospels, Jesus' baptism is immediately followed by his time of testing and temptation in the desolate Judean desert the Bible calls the wilderness. This time in the wilderness confirmed his identity and purpose and prepared him for his public ministry. The Spirit led him there. It was a necessary part of his journey.

Wilderness in the Bible represents a time and place of spiritual confrontation. In Jesus' day, people believed the wilderness to be the special haunt of supernatural evil where evil spirits dwelt in great numbers. Wilderness was also a place with a high crime rate. Leaving the security of a walled town to travel through wilderness to another town made you vulnerable to the robbers and thugs who hung out there. Yet Biblical wilderness was also a place of encounter with God – think Moses and the Israelites; Elijah and the still, small voice; John the Baptist and his ministry.

In a similar way, our baptismal calling leads us into the wilderness – times and places we don't choose but which somehow choose us. (Mark's Gospel says Jesus was *driven* by the Spirit into the wilderness. If you are driven, perhaps it means you are sometimes compelled or forced to be there?)

What has or what might be the *wilderness* in your life – that place or period of spiritual confrontation when testing or temptation threaten to tear you in two? A physical health crisis? The death of a loved one? Unemployment? Financial crisis? A mental health crisis – depression, anxiety or addiction? How about hanging in there with a child who seems to have made all the wrong choices...or a time of testing with a spouse...or a crisis of faith when it seems as though God has walked away from you or the whole faith thing feels like an illusion?

The wilderness can feel like it lasts forever. It can appear to be a desolate place without purpose or meaning. Fred Craddock writes, *Faithfulness is forged in the desert*. It's in the desert, as much as we don't want to be there, that our baptismal waters surround and shape us. It's in the wilderness that we deepen our understanding of who we are and what and who we really believe in.

So take heart...as you've been led or driven into your wilderness, the grace of God who has called you in baptism is present to sustain you. Even as your faithfulness is being forged there, God who is faithful will grant you the strength to walk through it.

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

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please pray for recovery for **Molly Davison**, hospitalized for surgery; **Betty Fredrickson**, transferring to Mt. Olivet Careview Home; **Mike Mann**, being treated for prostate cancer; and **JoAnn Norheim** after knee surgery.

Third Sunday in Lent

In the gospel lesson, the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism.



LESSONS

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am Library

February 24

“Ending Poverty: A 20/20 Vision”

Nancy Maeker

This vision to end poverty by 2020 is bold and challenging. One of the architects of that vision in the St. Paul Area Synod, Nancy Maeker, will lead the discussion.

March 2

Holy Trinity Youth Recital

In the Sanctuary

All ages are invited to attend a recital presented by some of Holy Trinity's very finest young musicians.

UPDATE ON RESOURCE CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

Following the recent annual meeting of the membership, the new board – which includes Chris Engen and Joy Nelson – is pursuing a responsible sale of the building. It appears the result will be renters who would be consistent with the organization's mission, and likely a space for RCA itself, to carry on its education and advocacy. Holy Trinity's Library has acquired 20 books remaining after the bookstore sale. If you can help in the process of emptying the Center's building, please contact Chris or Joy.
 – Jay, for the RCA

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE (FEB 18)

This chapter in the call process of moving beyond the initial stage of interviews carries with it a real sense of excitement, while also bittersweet. We have been enriched by meeting candidates with considerable talents that dovetail with the ministry of Holy Trinity, yet in the course of narrowing the field of candidates for further consideration, are obliged to release from the process pastors with great depth and passion for ministry.

With the assurance that each pastor chosen for final interviews is formidably matched with Holy Trinity's ministry, we set about the task of discerning which is best suited. In this time before hearing candidates preach at the end of February and early March, we continue to fine-tune questions for our second conversations to follow.

– Lynda Nordholm, for the Call Committee

PARISH INFORMATION

From the Heart, Too – Lent 2008

During Lent the congregation gathers on Wednesday evenings through March 12 for soup at 6:15 (please make a reservation) and evening prayer services at 7:00. The theme of these services will be *From the Heart, Too*. Each Wednesday a member of the congregation shares a word about their own faith and what Holy Trinity means to them. February 20 – Kirk Jensen; February 27 – Cathryn Olson; March 5 – Rachel Trelstad Porter; March 12 – Margaret Peterson

YOUTH RECITAL

On Sunday, March 2, all ages are invited to attend a recital presented by some of Holy Trinity's very finest young musicians. This presentation will take place in the sanctuary during the education hour. Please come and support our young people and the musical gifts they contribute to our community!

NONVIOLENCE - RELEVANCE TO TERRORISM?

David Cortright examines this question at a Dialogue Luncheon Tuesday, March 4, 12 noon. David Cortright is a celebrated author and research fellow for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. \$10 includes luncheon and presentation. Sign up in the community room or contact the office, 612-729-8358 office@htlcmpls.org.

UNCOUNTED FILM TO BE SHOWN

The Peace with Justice Committee is sponsoring showings of the documentary *Uncounted*, Thurs, Feb 28, 7 pm and Sunday, March 2, 12:30 pm at Holy Trinity. The film by David Earnhardt documents problems with the 2000, 2004, and 2006 election process. Although Minnesota's voting process is held up as a model across the nation, this documentary explains some general problems, particularly with paperless electronic voting machines. Popcorn and beverages will be available.

ACTION ALERT E-LIST

If you would like to be on the congregational Action Alert email list, please sign up with your name and email in the Community Room. The Peace with Justice Committee selects one alert per month from ELCA, Lutheran Social Service, Bread for the World, or local environmental networks. Requests are to advocate (phone, letter, email, legislative visit) on legislative issues or in crisis situations.

ECAPC POTLUCK & PROGRAM: Is our church a Peace Church?

Every Church a Peace Church -MN on Monday, March 10, 6:30 pm (potluck) discusses progress and problems with listing one's church on the National Registry. Churches to be represented include: Macalester Plymouth UCC, St. Joan of Arc Catholic, Pilgrim Lutheran (St. Paul), Edina Community Lutheran, and the Basilica of St. Mary Catholic. University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave SE, Mpls, 55414 612-331-5988; <http://www.ulch.org>

PARISH EVENTS February 24-March 1, 2008		
SUNDAY	8:45, 11am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	9:55 am Adult Forum Call Committee
MONDAY	11:00 am	AARP tax assistance
TUESDAY	11:00 am	AARP tax assistance
	7:00 pm	Tutoring
WEDNESDAY	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	6:30 pm	Children's choir
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Service
	7:45 pm	Adult choir
THURSDAY	7:00 pm	Movie night - "Uncounted" documentary
	8:00 pm	Adult basketball
FRIDAY	8:00 pm	Youth college visits
		Lock-in at Christ Church Lutheran – Longfellow Lutheran Parish youth event

SPECIAL GIFT in memory of

- Viola Christiansen, "Nanny," by Missy Ledin

GIFT TO WORLD HUNGER in honor of

- Christine Olson on her birthday by Kathryn M. Nevers

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS February 24, 2008		
Preacher	Bruce Arnevik	
Celebrant	8:45 am	Caroline Garman / 11:00 am Gary Sartain
Crucifer	8:45 am	Brian Lenz / 11:00 am Wayne Vetter
Cantor	8:45 am	Andrea Hansen / 11:00 am Emma Capman
Acolytes	8:45 am	Nathan Parshall/11:00 Nyssa Capman, Megan Libra
Liturgist	8:45 am	Andrew Johnson / 11:00 am Korla Masters
Communion Asst	8:45 am	Joyce Peterson, David Kohlstedt
	11:00 am	Dennis and Lynda Nordholm
Greeters	8:45 am	Needed / 11:00 am Maggie Kane
Ushers	8:45 am	Bob Peschiutta, DeWayne Townsend, Vern Michaelson
	11:00 am	Lee Kampinen, Alan Libra, Kathy Ohler, Ron Peterson
Altar Guild	8:45 am	Jeanette Brown, Carol Schneiders
	11:00 am	Rosemary Foley, Linda Gawthrop
Nursery	8:40 am	Sara Jensen / 11:00 am Troy Davison
Coffee Servers	9:45 am	Lyle Steinfeldt, Jim Hartsoe
	Noon	Bill Capman, Laura Simms
Church closer	Deb Sodt	

"Reclaiming Government as a Source for Good" Thursday, February 21, Noon-1:00 p.m. Macalester College, Weyerhaeuser Chapel, 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul. In collaboration with Westminster Town Hall Forum, Jim Wallis, founder of *Sojourners* magazine speaks on "Reclaiming Government as a Source for Good."

FINANCIAL REPORT Feb 17, 2008 Year to Date

Budget Requirements	\$10,978.85	\$76,851.95
Budget Receipts	11,340.40	70,746.10
World Hunger	50.00	287.00
Capital Improvements	-	300.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	-	50.00
African AIDS Fund	10.00	80.50
African Pastors Endowment	-	50.00