



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Volume 100, Issue 50 • December 11, 2016

On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

## THE HABIT OF ADVENT

*This article by Rose Marie Berger was published ten years ago but offers powerful reminders about the season. Advent blessings to each of you.*  
—Pastor Jay Carlson

"Advent is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ," wrote Trappist monk Thomas Merton. It is the time Christians set aside for spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ celebrated at Christmas. Even as Christmas has become more secular, the Advent season still brings joy and the observance of ancient customs. Christian families find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent wreath; children use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas arrives.

Advent is also a pilgrimage. A time of sacred travel. It is a way that we answer what Goethe called "the holy longing." During Advent we will leave the place of our birth to journey to the birthplace of another. It is an invitation to be born again.

"There is great virtue in practicing patience in small things," wrote the 20th-century English mystic and artist Caryl Houselander, "until the habit of Advent returns to us." The disciplines of Advent are ones that teach us to do small things greatly, to do few things but do them well, to love in particular, rather than in general. This habit of small "successes" generates creativity, a sense of well-being, a generosity of spirit rooted in satisfaction. It generates hope.

Christians engaged in social transformation often get discouraged. We are acutely aware of the evils of the world. At times we despair or allow our anger at injustice to be the source of energy in our lives. Sometimes we actually create despair and depression in our lives when we only fight losing battles. It is mandatory that we yoke ourselves to disciplines that generate hope.

We light the Advent candles to remind us that things are not always as they seem, and that hope springs forward at the sound of its name. What habits do you have that generate hope?

In William Blake's poem "Jerusalem," he wrote: "I give you the end of a gold string./Only wind it into a ball,/It will lead you in at Heaven's gate/built in Jerusalem's wall."

The followers of The Way in the first century wove together a "gold string" that reached back to the creation of light in the Genesis story and forward to this very Advent. There is a golden thread that sews us together as students of Jesus. Paul calls this thread the "grace of apostleship." It is passed, hand to hand, from one generation to the next. Like kindergartners on a field trip through the big world, we are given a rope and told to hold on. We know that the rope reaches all the way back to the teacher, the anchor, the shepherd.

Advent is a time to marvel at the golden thread and to make sure that we have not become separated from it. If, by chance, you have become separated from it, do not be afraid. Jesus extends the end of the string to you again. What glistens in your life? What sweetens your days? Your answer is the beginning of the thread. "Only wind it into a ball," my friend, and "it will lead you in at Heaven's gate."

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*



### READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

### ADULT CHOIRS LEAD WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 11

Trinity Singers and the Adult Choir will join together to lead worship at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services. This year they will present anthems, readings, and scripture on the theme "Advent Landscapes: Mountain, Valley, Wilderness, and Dawn." The congregation will join them as well by singing hymns both familiar and brand new.

### ADULT FORUM

10:00 am—in the Library

DECEMBER 11 "How Can the Bible Help Us in the Time of Climate Change?"

Tyler Sit

This class will begin to explore how the Bible combines faith, social justice, and creation care in important and life-saving ways. No background knowledge of the Bible is required. This class is taught by Tyler Sit, pastor of a local church that focuses on environmental justice (New City Church). Learn more at [www.GrowNewCity.church](http://www.GrowNewCity.church).

DECEMBER 18 "Climate Change Initiatives in Minnesota" Peace with Justice Committee

Members Kathy Hollander and Sean Gosiewski will discuss their efforts, personal and occupational, to directly address climate change initiatives in the Twin Cities and the entire state of Minnesota, and to alert Minnesotans to the urgency of climate change.

### POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you'd like to buy a poinsettia for the altar area at Christmas, please call the church office. \$14 each.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every year Holy Trinity anticipates and relies on a year-end increase in offerings that help support the work of the church. This holiday season, please consider making an additional contribution to Holy Trinity or to our special appeals, Refugee Resettlement Program and ELCA World Hunger. To donate online, visit the church website at [htlcmpls.org](http://htlcmpls.org) and locate the link to the giving page. ***Please remember: contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2016, to be counted as a 2016 donation. Thank you!***

### ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS AND EVENING SERVICES

All are invited to partake in the Advent soup suppers on Wednesdays, December 14 and 21, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Community Room. Soup and bread are provided; free-will donations are accepted. The community moves downstairs at 7:00 p.m. for the Service of Evening Prayer in the Bartsch Room. This year's Advent theme is "For the Healing of Creation."

### GAME NIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Snacks and games galore! Holy Trinity members and friends of all ages are invited to an evening of comfort food, laughter, and some fun competition playing games. Bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Confirmation students bring your sponsor! Come, snack, and play between 7-9 p.m. Sign up in the Community Room by January 1.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DEC. 18, 11:00 A.M.

Children age 4 through grade 5 will help lead our 11:00 a.m. worship service on this day, the fourth and final Sunday of the Advent season. Join us for songs and stories on the journey to Bethlehem.

### ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 12:00 P.M.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, all are invited to the gym for a free meal and the annual congregational meeting, as we celebrate the 113th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2016 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

Office phone: 612-729-8358  
Jay Carlson and Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastors

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### PARISH EVENTS December 11-17, 2016

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday	2:00 pm	Swahili Service
	7:00 pm	Financial Stewardship
Tuesday	11:00 am	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Writers' Circle
	5:30 pm	Trinity Singers
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	6:00 pm	Youth Choirs
	7:00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday	7:45 pm	Adult Choir
	8:00 am	Encore! at Turtle Bread
Saturday	9:30-11:30 am	Godly Play/Trinity Village rehearse
	3:30 pm	Confirmation Serve Dinner at Trinity Apts.

World Hunger by Neil Anderson  
Special Gift in memory of Bev McGee by Deb Sodt

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS DECEMBER 11, 2016

8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Maggie Weiss, Peter Weiss	Acolytes Elena Alpizar, Bea Martin
Paul Thorson	Crucifer Sam Kleven
Linda Berglin, Lisa Martens	Communion Stephanie Cole, Kari Kleven
Linda/Gerry Berglin	Altar Guild Pat Lundquist, Cori Gershon
Bob Peschiutta, Sally/David Kohlstedt	Ushers Judy Davison, Molly Davison, Lynda/Dennis Nordholm
Waddick Family	Coffee Servers needed
Julie Cahoy, Annie Hines	Counters John Sulzbach, Scott Cole
	Closer Vicki Mann

Financial Report	December 4	Year to date
Budget requirement	14,432.69	707,201.92
Budget Receipts	16,880.78	652,702.05
Longfellow Alt. H.S.	60.00	760.00
Opening Doors	9,053.37	335,723.42
World Hunger	50.00	6,579.68