



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabeb, and Doug Mork, Pastors

## CONFIRM NOT CONFORM

It is said of the ancient Church that those who were not yet baptized Christians would join the Sunday assembly, but only until the Great Thanksgiving took place. This is the moment when the pastor invites us to lift up our hearts to the Lord before receiving holy communion. It was at this time that the not yet baptized believers would head out to a different room to learn about the faith. After an extended period of learning, and missing out on the Eucharistic feast, these folks would be welcomed into the Church. They were baptized, confirmed, and first communed on Easter Vigils. Oh, what joyous gatherings those must have been!

As we enter the season of Lent this year, I feel like we have been in an extended period of learning. We have navigated these last few pandemic years as a community, at a distance. In many respects, it feels like we have been missing out on joy. I do not wish to seem glib in a time filled with so much uncertainty and violence. And I do not want to insinuate that the pandemic is over. I want to be clear that it is not. However, I do want us to approach the Easter celebration remembering those who have been kept from experiencing the full joy of gathering in Christian community: the youngest [and oldest] among us!

After this year's summer, an entire group of students will be entering their third and final year leading up to the rite of confirmation in 2023. They have journeyed alongside me full of grace as I have fumbled with Zooms, videos, outdoors, and indoor gatherings. Although we grieve that some families are unable to yet safely join in-person community life, we are tentatively hoping that this third year of confirmation will be a deeply meaningful one. As Easter draws near, we will begin to use a curriculum called *Confirm not Conform* that invites and celebrates questions in order to guide us. We will be planning events like a summer retreat that will include canoeing. And we will be relying on all of you who make up Holy Trinity to step up in order to create meaningful relationships.

It is my prayer that all of you will wonder if you would like to be a sponsor for one of the confirmation students who still needs one. It is my hope that you will open up some time in your calendars to volunteer on a Sunday or at an event in the upcoming months. I know that we who make up Holy Trinity care deeply and want to see our youth find meaning in the Christian faith into which they will be confirmed. I will be sending out information as events draw nearer, and you will notice these bits in the newsletters as well as bulletins. Please be on the lookout for ways by which you can be involved as we slowly and carefully return to life together. May the One who has redeemed us, gather us all into a season of joy!

Alongside you, Deacon David



## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

### READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

## ADULT FORUM

*Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations in the Bartsch Room beginning at 10:00 a.m. The presentations are also available via [Zoom](#) for those unable to attend in person.*

*ID and password remain the same:  
ID 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.*

### MARCH 6 "Religious Art Series"

Stepping Out in Faith Our Shared Home is co-hosting a series of adult forum sessions in March, exploring the history of stained glass and the use of art and iconography in the church and in culture. Today's guest is John Sandy, from Glass Endeavors. After earning a B.F.A in painting and drawing at Moorhead State and an M.F.A. at State University of New York at Buffalo, he taught painting and drawing at SUNY Buffalo for many years. Since 1996, he's co-owned Glass Endeavors. Each year John teaches 200-300 students in stained glass fundamentals, advanced stained glass, and color and design for drawing. John is excited to teach others the history and craft of stained glass.

### MARCH 13 "Religious Art Series, part 2"

Jennifer Awes Freeman is Assistant Professor and Program Director of Arts and Theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She came to United in 2018 after teaching at the University of St. Thomas as a Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow. She received her Ph.D. in 2016 from Vanderbilt University where she specialized in the relationship between art and theology in the early Middle Ages. Awes Freeman's publications have examined the role of images and material culture in religious meaning making during Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. Her research considers images as theological resources independent of texts, iconoclastic acts against images as constructive statements, and the dynamic interpretations of a given image in various communities and periods. At United, she teaches courses on the arts and historical theology.

## LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A live-stream of the 11:00 a.m. service is available online at 10:55 a.m. every Sunday. Click [here](#) to watch from your computer or smart phone. You can also access recordings of previous services through this link. To watch the Ash Wednesday service and to live stream Wednesday evening prayer services during Lent, click [here](#).

## INTERGENERATIONAL WINTER BONFIRE

The 20s, 30s, 40s group invites you to Laura Bolstad Grafstrom's home for a bonfire on Friday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. This event will be BYOB - and feel free to also bring a snack to share! All are welcome; come join us around a cozy fire for an evening of friendly connection. RSVP to [Laura](#).

## REMINDER: THE FILM "THE PRESENT" WED., MARCH 9

The Palestine/Israel Working Group will be showing "The Present" on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bartsch Room. The film runs 25 minutes and will be followed by a discussion. If you prefer not to attend in person, you may watch the film on Netflix and join the discussion via Zoom by clicking [here](#).

## ECO-FAITH PLASTIC REDUCTION INITIATIVE

This week the ELCA Minneapolis Synod's Eco-Faith team launched their plastic reduction initiative with a fun and engaging Zoom. See an excellent summary [here](#). If you can join a one-hour Zoom on any or all of the upcoming five Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m., here is the [link](#). This series is designed to engage in the spiritual reflection of giving up one type of single use plastic in order to help the earth and its creatures. This week's activity is to save every piece of single use plastic that you would normally throw away for one week.

## LIFE TOGETHER—NEXT STEPS DURING COVID

### *How long will we continue to wear KN95 masks?*

Right now Hennepin County is at "medium risk." We plan to require masks indoors until we are in the "low risk" category, at which point we may choose to make masks optional. We will continue to track the data and trust the science.

### *When might we reinstate coffee hour, soup suppers, etc.?*

We will reexamine our current practices when Hennepin County's numbers fall into the "low risk" category.

### *What about communion practices?*

Beginning on Palm Sunday, we plan to return to pre-COVID communion practices. Congregants will be invited to receive bread and wine at the front of the sanctuary, removing their masks briefly as they eat and drink. Single-serving communion kits will still be available for those who prefer to commune in their pew.

### *Any other considerations?*

As we consider changes, we are mindful that vaccines for congregants ages 0-5 won't be available until at least the end of April, and then it will take at least a few months for kids to get fully vaccinated. (The timeline depends on how fast the vaccines roll out, how many shots are required, and vaccination acceptance among parents of kids that age.) We do not want our decisions to be stumbling blocks to our youngest members' ability to participate in worship and other activities.

### *What about vaccinations and boosters?*

All pastors, deacons, staff, worship leaders, choir members, Sunday School teachers, lay communion ministers, and others who have close contact with congregants must be vaccinated **AND BOOSTED**, unless they have a medical exemption.



## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

You are invited to join one of four small groups which will meet from 6:00-6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent (March 9-April 6).

You need not attend all the sessions; come as your schedule allows.

### JOIN PASTOR INGRID FOR THE PRAYER OF EXAMEN

The Prayer of Examen is a spiritual exercise typically credited to St. Ignatius of Loyola [1491-1556]. At the heart of the practice is increasingly becoming aware of God's presence and the Holy Spirit's movement throughout your day. No prior experience necessary! If you're unable to attend in person but would like to participate, we can send a recording for you to use at home. Simply send a request to [Sue](#) to be added to the email distribution list.

### JOIN DEACON DAVID FOR PRAYING WHILE MOVING

Prayer does not have to be quiet nor do we have to do it while remaining still. God meets us as we run, dance, and play. A noisy Church is a living Church! This space is for everyone and families with children are especially encouraged to join a holy chaos of praying while moving. We'll meet in the gym. If the weather warms up enough, we'll try to be outdoors!

### JOIN PASTOR ANGELA FOR JOY & LAUGHTER

God's word teaches us, "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). Joy is a precious commodity, especially as we travel our Lenten journey in these uncertain and ambiguous times. Please gather as we explore the proven benefits of laughter and joy in our individual and communal lives. You are welcome to share\* your "all age appropriate" jokes. No prep is necessary.

Week one: Bible/theology/religion jokes. Week two: Punny time—favorite puns, and one-liners. Week three: Behold I stand at the door and knock—favorite knock-knock jokes. Week four: Riddles; Week five: Anecdotal jokes and a litany of JOY! If you're unable to attend in person, but you'd like to share a joke, simply email it to the [office](#). (\*sharing is completely optional).

### JOIN PASTOR DOUG FOR INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

Could the bible have some things to say about how we live together? What is church for? What does a "balanced" life even mean?

Each week we'll take a short excursion into scripture and consider how it might inform or challenge our faithful engagement with our world. We'll do our best to both celebrate and challenge the leaders and communities we meet, and consider how their words and stories might bring us into deeper dialog with God. Sessions will not be lectures but conversations—the more you bring your experiences, questions, and ideas to the table, the more fun we will have together!

## REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP WAPO

Registration for summer camp at Lake Wapogasset (Camp Wapo) is open! Some Holy Trinity kids are already registered, but we'd love to have more!

Our "Seeds Group" is grades 1-3 and the "Youth Group" is for grades 4-8. Camps happen in July 2022. Find exact dates that work for your family and register [here](#).

## A PRAYER FOR THE UKRAINE

God of Peace and justice,  
 we pray for the people of the Ukraine today.  
 We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
 We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow.  
 that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
 We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
 for wisdom, discernment, and compassion  
 to guide their decisions.  
 Above all, pray for all your precious children at risk  
 and in fear,  
 that you would hold and protect them.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*Archbishop Justin Welby*

*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



## SUMMARY: CHURCH COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

- New council members were welcomed: David Kohlstedt, Karen Kunze, Kathryn Howe, Katie Schroeder, Katy Benson. They join returning members: President, David Broberg, Vice President, Gretchen Lund, Treasurer, Scott Cole, Secretary, Connie Lien Adams, Allison Johnson-Heist, Erin Henry, and Mike Nevergall.
- Committee Reports:
  - ⇒ Stepping out in Faith (SOIF) Working Groups:
    - ◇ Our Shared Home - The working group is planning Adult Ed sessions focusing on the history of stained glass and iconography in churches. Also, a bit of dreaming and long-range planning with Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, looking at ways we might best use our building now and in the future.
    - ◇ Our Shared Community - The working group will take time, in a retreat format, to thoughtfully look at issues about how best to use our resources to support the community outside the walls of Holy Trinity.
- During Lent, the new inclusive language liturgy will be introduced - *Sighs Too Deep for Words*.

### 2021 THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Please consider recommending Holy Trinity for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you need help with Thrivent's website, click [here](#) for a step-by-step tutorial that Pam Blomgren has put together.

## EASTER LILIES

Holy Trinity has a tradition of placing lilies in the sanctuary for Easter. These beautiful flowers are celebratory and are a visual reminder of Christ's resurrection. If you'd like to sponsor a lily in honor of a loved one who is still living or in memory of a loved one who has died, please contact the church office by [email](#) or phone (612-729-8358). The names of the sponsors and the loved ones they are remembering will be listed in the Easter bulletin. This year, we are using a sliding scale for payment. We ask that you donate between \$3-\$20 per lily, depending on your ability. You may pay by check, cash, or by clicking on the Donate button on our [website](#) to donate electronically.

## HOLY TRINITY IN THE NEWS!

From [Living Lutheran](#), a piece about investing in the future with Ministry Growth Fund, featuring Pastor Ingrid.

## APPRECIATION FOR ANTI-BLACKNESS RESOURCES

These brief statements were crafted by the Racial Justice Working Group in appreciation of and strong support for the [Community Church article](#) written by Pr. Angela about "Anti-Blackness."

**Ryana:** *I was struck after watching the videos and reading the article shared in Community Church last week that if we are able to focus on anti-Black racism as a congregation, we will be focusing on the crux of racism across cultures. It indeed is entrenched in so many cultures and so obviously in our own. Amir Locke died because of it. Thanks for sharing, Pastor Angela!*

**Keith:** *Just as I so often appreciate your marvelous humor, Pastor Angela, I appreciate Trevor Noah's ability to make me laugh, even as the message behind the humor is so deep and so deeply disturbing. I appreciate your giving us not only profound insight into anti-Blackness, but also resources for sustaining our work to overcome it.*

**Corey:** *Pastor Angela's Community Church letter to our congregation really made me think about how the goal to end white supremacy and racism needs to include and start from anti-Blackness. Across all cultures and nations, there is a current of anti-Blackness that hinders the overall goal of equity and justice. Confronting it in myself and in our congregation will live out our goals and the message of Jesus.*

**Jeff:** *I deeply appreciate the videos and article on anti-Black racism shared by Pastor Angela in the Community Church recently. I've been watching 1-2 of the videos per day and end up thinking about them for the rest of the day. At first, watching 1-2 per day was a matter of convenience for me, but it has since turned into a daily reminder of the racism Black communities face from ALL angles—Every. Single. Day. and how actually dealing with racism can't be a matter of convenience for me or our church. Doing that work is hard, but we can and must do it. Thanks for sharing!*

**Libby:** *Pastor Angela's article on anti-Blackness was a good reminder to look hard at the ways we maintain individual and collective racism and privilege. It's not "out there" but in me and in us.*

Deacon David and some Holy Trinity families organized a sign-making party for our kids prior to our evening Ash Wednesday worship services. The signs were made to show solidarity with striking public school teachers.



### PARISH EVENTS MARCH 6-12

Sunday, March 6	8:45 AM	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	10:00 AM	<a href="#">Adult Forum</a>
	10:00 AM	Youth Education
	11:00 AM	<a href="#">Worship Service</a> of Holy Communion
	2:00 PM	Swahili Service
Tuesday, March 8	11:00 AM	<a href="#">Worship Readings Discussion</a>
	6:45 PM	Big Meeting Night
Wednesday, March 9	6:00 PM	Children's Choir and Cantate!
	6:00 PM	Small Groups with Pastors
	6:00 PM	Family Recreation
	6:00 PM	Palestine/Israel Film "The Present"
	7:00 PM	Lenten Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, March 10	6:00 PM	Confirmation Parents Meet

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH 6, 2022

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Doug Mork	<b>Preacher</b>	Doug Mork
Ingrid Rasmussen	<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Ingrid Rasmussen
Bob Aldrich	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Margaret Kelly
	<b>Crucifer</b>	Wayne Vetter
Ann Schrooten	<b>Cantor</b>	Ann Schrooten
Joyce Peterson, Julie Cahoy	<b>Counters</b>	Wayne Vetter, Scott Cole
Chris Engen, Mike Nevergall, Sally Kohlstedt, David Broberg	<b>Ushers</b>	DeWayne Townsend, Joshua Combs, Alan Libra, Joy Nelson, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson, Jeff Olson Biebighauser
	<b>Closer</b>	Roberta Shaw